MITSUBISHI MONSANTO CHEMICAL COMPANY

FROM LOCATION : Tokyo

DATE : February 14, 1969

SUBJECT :

REFERENCE : Your Memo 223/69

cc: b.c.c. Mr T. Katayama

TO : Dr. R. Emmet Kelly, M.D.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Emet:

Some additional information has been received. In conversations with the Ministry of Health and Welfare, we have been informed that the investigation of "poisoning" by chlorinated biphenyl is still underway with a review meeting scheduled for later this month.

We have in hand, however, a copy of the report prepared by a medical group of Kyushu University who have actually done the detail work on individual patients as the first stage of the investigation. Of course, this is in Japanese, and we are having a translation made, but some time will elapse. A brief summary indicates that 14,000 people were allegedly involved and suffered some kind of disturbance which was attributed to the chlorinated biphenyl exposure. On screening, however, this was reduced to 600 who could be shown to have had exposure. It appears that the symptoms were largely short-term and may have involved the skin more than internal organs. The white corpuscles count doubled from normal levels in some investigations of the blood. Our quick scanning of the medical report indicates one case of "liver malfunction" and one case of liver "swelling", but we cannot decide whether this was the same individual. The more informed translation may permit a distinction.

At this time, the Ministry of Health a nd Welfare reports that it is not planned to legally make chlorinated biphenyls a "poisonous drug". However, there will be some regulations imposed on equipment, including specification on materials of construction and periodic testing procedures.

I will pass along the translation when we have it for your detailed review. I am quite pleased that the establishing of chlorinated biphenyl as a "poisonous drug" is not planned.

Best regards,

J. R. Durland

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