REPORT OF MEETING WITH WIGGINS TEAPE

AT BEACONSFIELD, BUCKS

ON

16TH APRIL, 1970

Present for Wiggins Teape: C. Capps
G. Collingham

Present for Monsanto: D.S. Cameron

Copies to:

J.W. Barrett	-	London	R.A. Onians	-	Brussels
H.S. Bergen	-	St. Louis	W.B. Papageorge	-	St. Louis
H.N. Dahlström	-	Brussels	R.E. Soden	-	Brussels
K. Fletcher	-	London	J.E. Springgate	-	St. Louis
B.T. Garland	-	London	K.A. Summerside	-	London
J.C. Garrels	-	London	R.G. Veldeman	-	London
F. Macdonald	-	Newport	H.A. Vodden	-	Ruabon
H.R. Newman	-	Newport	E.P. Wheeler	-	St. Louis

C O N F I D E N T I A L

SUMMARY

Following the detection of what seemed to be a lower chlorinated PCB in a cardboard carton by Bailey of the Ministry of Agriculture Infestation Control Laboratory, Tolworth, Wiggins Teape decided that, in their own self interest, they could remain silent no longer about their usage of Aroclor 1242. They have arranged an interview at senior level with the Ministry of Technology for Friday 24th May. Their major concern is that if Bailey's findings are published in a scientific journal, as is likely, it could be picked up and exploited by the popular press particularly now that foodstuffs are involved.

As this situation has developed over the past seven days Wiggins Teape have liaised closely with NCR and ourselves. This enabled us to make our disclosure to the Ministry of Agriculture prior to Wiggins Teape approaching the Ministry of Technology.

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DETAIL

1) Bailey found PCB that he estimated to be 30-40% chlorinated in cashew nuts he was using as a control feed for test animals. Subsequently he found PCB in the cardboard carton the nuts were packed in, thus explaining how the nuts probably became contaminated. Ruabon have examined a sample of the cardboard and have confirmed PCB is present - the chromatogram is virtually identical to that for Aroclor 1242 and they estimated the concentration to be one part in 10^4.

2) Bailey is keen to publish a note on his findings in "Chemistry in Britain". His objective would be to alert analysts to the possibility that PCB may be present in cardboard cartons that could be used for feeding stuffs or wild life specimans, and the transfer of PCB from carton to contents could give misleading results. He still has to get his Director's approval and he has agreed to let us see his text before it is published, so it is unlikely to appear for 2-3 months.

3) Wiggins Teape are reasonably satisfied that some Treforest broke has been used in the manufacture of the cardboard. They believe they have traced the four stages from leaving Treforest to arrival at the carton manufacturer, Robinson and Sons Ltd of Chesterfield. These branded "Little John" cartons are fairly widely used for various foodstuffs - spices, herbs, cheeses, medicines and pills, salt and confectionery - and it seems the number of processing stages involved has defeated the intention to keep Treforest broke out of food packages.

4) Capps has bought 12 different products packed in "Little John" containers in his local supermarket and is having Arthur D. Little, Edinburgh, test them for PCB. Provisional qualitative results on three cartons so far examined show PCB to be present. Ruabon will repeat this work on articles purchased locally.

5) Wiggins Teape's Managing Director will attend the Ministry of Technology Meeting arranged for the 24th with the Deputy Secretary responsible for the paper, timber and metal industries. They know each other so their meeting can be on a personal basis. I urged Capps not to overplay the situation with the Ministry of Technology, and he subsequently told me that other items (e.g. pulp prices) would be included in the Agenda in order to avoid highlighting the NCR paper situation.

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6) I was shown a draft of a letter Wiggins Teape were to send to the Ministry of Technology on the 20th April as a brief for the meeting, and this indicated one objective would be to prevent Bailey publishing his findings. I subsequently 'phoned Capps stating we thought this to be dangerous, particularly if it misfired and subsequently became public knowledge. NCR had reacted in the same way so all references to supression of information were eliminated before the letter was mailed.

7) Wiggins Teape are thinking of retaining a Prof. Black as a pollution consultant. Evidently he is a very well known authority on river pollution and was an active participant at a recent conference in Edinburgh on this subject.

ACTION

H.A.V. - Test "Little John" containers for PCB.

D.S.C. - Determine outcome of Ministry of Technology Meeting.

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DSC:mcm
23 April 1970