S. TUROVER, BRUSSELS

OCTOBER 4, 1973

WHO MEETING ON PCB's

ST/nd

FILE

RA BAXTER/A VODDEN, LLN
RPW KUP, RUABON
J MASON/PJA MARSH/J HAGGART, DRO
WB PAPAGEORGE, ST LOUIS
EP WHEELER, ST LOUIS

OCT 8 1973

As agreed, I took advantage of a trip to Copenhagen to contact the WHO regional office for Europe and to attempt to find out about the meeting organized in Brussels, December 3-7, on PCB's. The approach was very low-keyed - under the guise of getting to know what WHO was doing. Spoke with Mr. J. Kumpf and Dr. Arne Jernelöv. Kumpf is Head of Environmental Health at WHO. The real locomotive behind PCB is obviously Dr. Jernlöv who used to be on the WHO staff but is now a consultant. His main connection is the Air and Water Pollution Institute in Sweden. He appears to be a hard-bitten rather smug environmentalist. The main purpose of the PCB Meeting is to review critically, the information available on long-term effects on health and ecological effects of PCB's in the environment. They will also try to forecast the effects of decisions already taken by the various governments and private industry to reduce the use and release of PCB's in the environment. Replacement products will be discussed, and analytical procedures will also be reviewed.

On the latter subject, Jernelöv expressed concern that in some cases the PCB's were being replaced by chlorinated terphenyls which they consider even more persistent. Increased levels of terphenyls were reported some time ago in the waters of the Dutch Delta. I pointed out that Monsanto has discontinued the manufacture and sale of terphenyls altogether, and left with them a list of documents (NEMA Purpose Standard, EPA's recent ruling and the US interdepartmental study on PCB's).

They would not release a list of participants to the meeting but I have been able to obtain same through another route. From the UK, AV Holden of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Scotland, is the only one to be going. From the US, Dr. V. T. Bowen of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Mass., Prof. Norton Nelson of the NY U. Medical Center, Institute of Environmental Medicine, and Dr. R. Risebrough of the Institute of Marine Research, Department of Nutritional Sciences, U. of Calif., Berkeley, will be going. The complete list is attached, together with some correspondence between Mr. Holden and WHO, which might be of interest.

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Dr M. Aubert		France	Directeur de CEBUSOM Nice
Dr V. T. Bowen	X	USA	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute Woods Hole, Massachusetts
Mr A. V. Holden	X	UK	DAFS, Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory Pitlochry, Scotland
Dr S. Jensen		Sweden	Swedish Environment Protection Board Lilla Frascati, Stockholm
Professor A. Johnels		Sweden	Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet Frescati, Stockholm
Professor S. Kagan		Ukraine	Chief, Dept. of External Toxicology Kiev
Professor P. Kalojanova		Bulgaria	Director, Institute of Hygiene Sofia
Professor M. Kuratsune		Japan	Department of Public Health, Kyushu Fukuoka City
Dr A. Lafontaine		Belgium	Director, Institute of Hygiene Brussels
Professor Norton Nelson	X	USA	New York University Medical Center Institute of Environmental Medicine New York
Professor F. Pocchiari		Italy	Director, Istituto Superiore di Sanità Rome
Dr N. Riseborough	X	USA	Institute of Marine Research Department of Nutrition University of California, Berkeley
Dr K.H. Schulz		FRG	Institut für Arbeitsmedizin Bonn
Professor K. Usui		Japan	Tokyo Dental College Tokyo
Dr J. G. van Esch		Netherlands	National Institute of Public Health Bilthoven
Dr J. G. Vos		Netherlands	Institute of Veterinary Pathology University of Utrecht Utrecht
Dr K. Wada		Canada	Fisheries Research Board Biological Station

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