More than Expected

High PCB Content Discovered in Fish

Fish caught off Japan were contaminated by polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) to a much wider extent than had been thought, a college professor reported.

Assistant Prof. Ryo Tatekawa of Ehime University, made the report during the Japan Oceanographic Congress held Wednesday. He blamed industrial waste containing the chemical that had been discharged into the sea.

The report was based on his study of PCB, which is rated as toxic as DDT, in fish sampled in the Inland Sea and Tokyo Bay.

He said a concentration of PCB as high as 119.6 ppm had been found in the fat of young bass caught in Tokyo Bay.

Tatekawa then warned that PCB might soon start affecting fishermen, who normally consume fish more than other people.

According to the professor, a study of reports from various countries showed that the PCB concentration in fish had rarely exceeded 1 ppm.

PCB measured 16.5 ppm in the liver of young bass and 4.5 ppm in that of flatfish caught in Tokyo Bay.

From the fat of gray mullet and other fish caught in the Inland Sea, up to 26.2 ppm of PCB, had been detected, he said.

PCB is known to accumulate once it enters human bodies. Tatekawa thought that the toxic chemical contamination was so extensive now that considerable amounts must already have entered human bodies.

"Doctors may be able to detect it in and around the fat near the stomach," he said.

PCB has found extensive use, because of its excellent chemical stability, as insulation and condenser oil in household electric appliances, printing ink and copying papers.

Family of Eight Poisoned by Meal

MATSUE (Kyodo)—A family of eight developed symptoms of chemical poisoning after eating supper Wednesday and were rushed to hospital in a serious condition.

Doctors said they were apparently poisoned by insecticide.

Kunichi Kurosaki, 80, a farmer in Tsisha west of here, his wife Kimi, 78, eldest son Hachiro, 56, and his wife Tsuneko, 56, were reported at noon Thursday to be in a critical condition.

Four others were also hospitalised but were reported to be less seriously ill.

Police were questioning Yasumasa, 31-year-old grandson of Kunichi Kurosaki, who ate the smallest amount of pork served at Wednesday's supper and had the lightest symptoms.

2) Osaka Pol:

MONS 033544