To Cecil Purina SF's WCP.

Ralston Purina (DRAFT RELEASE)

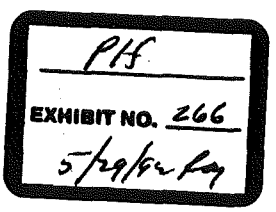
St. Louis, July 3 -- Ralston Purina Company today jointly announced with the United States Department of Agriculture that in line with its xxxxx survaliance and quality control procedures and as a precautionary measure, it is testing a number of turkeys suspected of containing minute amounts of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), an industrial chemical.

A company spokesman said there is no danger to human health indicated by this routine action. This is a regular part of our continuous monitoring and quality control program. In this program when screening tests indicate the possible occurrance of a foreign substance such as PCB then intensive tests are initiated.

The potential occurrance of the chemical is confined to one small area involving less than 10 turkey growers and less than 1.5% of the xxxxxxxxxxxx turkeys processed by Ralston Purina Co.

The company is working closely with and coordinating it efforts with the USDA.

-0-



TRAN 071599

HARTOLDMON0024985