A/L0837/JN19/1020/1024/1/CH880/QZQ

E V JOHN ST LOUIS
J D CARR BRUSSELS

RE YOU R QUERY ON MAENDY QUARRY SITUATION. THIS IS CHANGING DAY BY DAY AND THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE CONTROVERSY ARE QUITE CONSIDERABLE. DRAFTING A STANDARD STATEMENT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE AS IT WAS OUTDATED WITHIN HOURS. NEW SCIENTIST ARTICLE MAY BRING UP NEW FACTORS.

HOWEVER THE CRUX OF OUR ARGUMENT IS AS FOLLOWS - WE DO NOT AGREE WITH DOUGLAS GOWAN S FIGURES FOR LEVELS OF PCBS PRESENT /SEE PRESS CUTTINGS/ AND QUESTION THE ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES USED TO ARRIVE AT THESE FIGURES. WE HAVE FOUND LEVELS OF BETWEEN POINT 03 AND POINT 09 PARTS PER MILLION IN WATER AROUND QUARRY. THIS IS WELL BELOW ANY DANGER LEVEL AND CONSISTS MAINLY OF THE MORE SOLUBLE TYPES OF PCBS THAT ARE MORE BIO DEGRADABLE9" EVEN IF WE TAKE GOWAN S HIGHEST FIGURES THIS DOES NOT PRESENT A HAZARD AND IS EQUIVALENT TO A MERE ONE AND A HALF OUNCES PER DAY LEACHING FROM THE QUARRY.

WE MAINTAIN THAT MONSANTO HAVE ACTED RESPONSIBLY THROUGHOUT. TIPPING WAS CARRIED OUT BY OUR CONTRACTORS AT MAENDY BETWEEN 1966 AND 1970. THIS WAS THEN A DRY APPROVED SITE FOR TOXIC WASTE. IT IS ONLY IN RECENT YEARS THAT WATER HAS BECOME VISIBLE. ALTHOUGH WE NOW INCINERATE ALL PCB WASTE DRY LANDFIL IS STILL CONSIDERED IN THE UK TO BE AN APPROVED METHOD OF DISPOSING OF TOXIC MATERIALS.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WALES SAID IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON FRIDAY THAT LEVELS OF PCBS IN WATER AROUND MAENDY WERE WITHIN SAFETY LIMITS FOR INTERNATIONAL WATER STANDARDS. HIS LEVELS FIGURES AGREED WITH OURS.

THE PUBLIC ANALYST OF GLAMORGAN COUNTY HAS TAKEN SAMPLES OF MILK FROM COWS GRAZING ON LAND AROUND MAENDY AND FOUND NO PCBS IN MILK. OUR EXPERT DR A VODDEN SAYS THAT IF PCBS WERE PRESENT IN CATTLE IT WOULLD SHOW UP FIRST IN THE MILK.

I HOPE THIS HELPS TO CLARIFY THE POSITION FOR YOU. I AM CURRENTLY PREPARING A FULLY COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH WIL L BE MAILED TO YOU WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

IN THE MEANTIME I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD SEND ME SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT YOU CHICKEN LAW SUIT IN THE US IF POSSIBLE SOME GUIDELINES AS TO WHAT ARE THE PARTICULAR SENSITIVE AREAS IN THIS SUIT.

REGARDS
E BRACKEN LONDON
19 JUNE 1436

xcc - WBF
- JFS

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MONSANTO TC