Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) HN Dahlström, Brussels

DATE : October 30, 1969 CC: JJ Spano, St. Louis

SUBJECT : TOXICITY OF CHLORINATED DIPHENYLS

REFERENCE : HND/ls

TO : see list of distribution

Most of you will have seen the articles in the UK press this past weekend reporting on the death of thousands of seabirds on the West Coast and the claims that chlorinated diphenyls have been identified in ten birds analyzed at the Monks Wood Research Station.

For those of you who have not been close to this subject it is neither new nor unique to the UK. There have been rumblings in other European countries for a considerable period of time, and there was a major crisis in the US earlier this year, when a lot of unfavorable press comment was leveled at these materials. Monsanto, as sole US producer, had to put out a number of press statements.

The purpose of this memo is not to discuss the justification of these claims. I merely wish to point out to all who may become involved that this is a subject of major concern to the Organic Division and corporate Monsanto on a world-wide basis. Much has already been said and written in defence of our position. It is only a matter of time until someone discovers that we are the only manufacturers of chlorinated diphenyls in the UK. At this time many searching questions will be asked and our Public Relations department will have to answer these.

Under these circumstances it is absolutely essential that what we say is centrally controlled and coordinated with previous statements made in the US. On the commercial side I would like to nominate Don Cameron for this role. Technically I understand Jack Barrett has named Alf Vodden for a similar role, and I trust the two will liaise closely with one another. Would all involved please refrain from making individual comments and coordinate their actions with Don and Alf. They will work closely with the PR department in editing whatever statements are made on behalf of Monsanto. Please inform other members of your departments accordingly.

HN Dahlström

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