

Monsanto

JUN 10 1969

FROM (NAME & LOCATION)

Elmer P. Wheeler, Medical Dept.

DATE

June 12, 1969

cc: J. R. Durland - Tokyo
W. R. Richard

SUBJECT

Report on "Human Poisoning
With Kane-Chlor"

REFERENCE

TO

Dr. Robert E. Keller

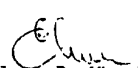
Attached is a summary of the Japanese interim report on the incident where humans were poisoned with the Japanese chlorinated biphenyl when it leaked into and contaminated rice bran oil.

Briefly, the original newspaper articles were vastly exaggerated since they indicated as many as 14,000 people may have suffered poisoning. This number was reduced to 600 and the enclosed report indicated that there are 178 diagnosed cases and 111 suspected cases.

The principal symptoms are related to the dermatological effects (chloracne, blackheads, rash, etc.). The clinical investigations report possible more serious effects including those on pregnant women and subsequent new births.

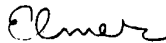
I don't know that you want to spend much time on the reports of the clinical and the epidemiological committees. You may, however, be interested in the report of the analytical investigations beginning on page 53. Included in the determinations were gas chromatography results on tissue from two or more of the patients.

~~_____~~ Would you make one for me? John Durland has asked that these reports be returned to him when we're through with them.

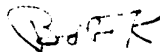

Elmer P. Wheeler

EPW:ju

Enclosure


Elmer

The attached is for
your attention.


B. R. K.

MONS 086881

THE MAINICHI

July 24, 1969

The reported two deaths among the rice bran oil patients are suspected to have been caused by malfunction of the pituitary and suprarenal systems. The reported causes of their deaths, both acute heart failures, seem to have been caused by the suprarenal malfunction. Their autopsies revealed atrophy of the suprarenal body or suggested disturbance of the function. If this function is disturbed, there is a high possibility that a heart failure occurs all of a sudden.

There had been complaints from some of the oil disease patients of some acute abdominal pains or sudden chill of the body, which are often related to suprarenal system disorders, while the organ is a fat tissue and can be suspected to have collected Kane-Chlor (the organic chlorine in question) there. The committee, therefore, has decided to run more examinations of all the patients not only at their skin conditions but with more weight on internal conditions including blood and urine analyses and check-up of the total circulatory system.

* chlorinated
biphenyl

TY:yf

MUNS 086882