File - PCB's — Davies

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION SCI-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 CEQ-02 EPA-04 COM-08 E-11 CIAE-00 INR-06
NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 RSP-01 /053 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6324

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PASS COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

SUBJ: JAPANESE RESTRICTIONS ON PCB APPLICATIONS

SCI FOR HERTER

REF: (A) STATE 079888, (B) TOKYO A-446 OF MAY 2, 1972

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI) HEAVY INDUSTRY BUREAU SUPPLIED FOLLOWING INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL A:

1. TOTAL PCB PRODUCTION 1954-1969 WAS 41,170 TONS; OVER HALF USED IN TRANSFORMERS AND CAPACTORS.

2. PCP PRODUCTION 1970 WAS 11,240 TONS, WITH 1,260 TONS FOR TRANSFORMERS AND 4,650 TONS FOR CAPACITORS (CONDENSORS).

3. SEE REF B FOR CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON PCB USE. NO SIGNIFICANT FIRE OR EXPLOSION PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN WHERE PCB NOT USED IN TRANSFORMERS AND CAPACITORS. MITI ANTICIPATES NO FIRE OR EXPLOSION PROBLEMS DUE TO PROHIBITION PCB IN TRANFORMERS AND CAPACITORS. MANUFACTURERS WILL USE MINERAL OIL, SILICON OIL, AND OTHER MATERIALS AS ALTERNATIVES TO PCB. ALSO WILL PRODUCE DRY TRANSORMERS AND CAPACITORS. DIMENSIONS THIS NEW EQUIPMENT LARGE ENOUGH TO ALLOW FOR INCREASED TEMPERATURE AND REDUCED PERFORMANCE.

4. MITI CONCERNED WITH POSSIBLE TOXICITY AND QUALITY OF PCB SUBSTITUTES, BUT PRESENTLY FORESEES NO SPECIFIC TOXICITY PROBLEMS. QUALITATIVE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUBSTITUTES CAN ONLY BE

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ASCERTAINED OVER TIME, BUT MITI EXPECTS NO DISRUPTION OR REDUCTION OF ELECTRICAL SERVICE RELIABILITY. BECAUSE FAVORABLE CONSUMER REACTION EXPECTED, MITI ANTICIPATES NO DIFFICULTY PERSUADING MANUFACTURERS TOCONVERT OLD EQUIPMENT OR TO INSTALL NEW.
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