Monsanto → PJAM/JNH/~~[illegible]~~/SR/BKR

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) T. Hood - Brussels

DATE 18th February 1971

SUBJECT PCB/SWEDEN

REFERENCE T.H:PM

TO : Monsanto
[redacted]

CC R.A. Onians - Brussels
T. Silvey - Brussels
M. Goodwin - Brussels

Copy for Papageorge pl.

For the att: Mr. B. Rodgers.

The following is an abbreviation of an article in one of the main Swedish newspapers "Dagens Nyheter" sent to me for Translation from Mr. Evert Gustavsson Monsanto Stockholm.

The Environment Preservation Authority in Sweden has requested the Swedish Government to forbid by law import, manufacture or use of PCB's from the Ist January 1972. This request is based on an investigation carried out in Sweden about the amount of PCB found in birds and fishes in the Baltic Sea and from an alarming report from Japan. It is the high amounts of PCB's found in these animals and the long breaking-down-period of this substance that has caused this action. The high rate of PCB's in rice for eating purposes found in Japan, has contributed to this action from the Swedish authorities.

The Polychlorinated Biphenyls is a plastic substance closely related to the already forbidden DDT and mostly used as isolation material in the electric industry, in plastics, in colours, in packing material and hydraulic oils. PCB is not produced in Sweden but approximately 500 tons a year is being imported. An exemption will probably be granted for applications in the electric industry. After this follows a long statement, which concerns the chemical status of PCB's and different investigations carried out in order to trace PCB in nature, in animals and in plants. If exemptions are granted for imports of PCB's for the electric industry the authorities will demand special marking of materials containing PCB's so that this material afterwards can be destroyed in special destruction plants.

I hope this information will prove of interest to you, if more details are required please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tony Hood

T. Hood

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