PRESS QUERY

SUBJECT: PCB (Wales Quarry Disposal)

SOURCE OF ANSWER: W. B. Papageorge/ J. F. Stapleton

COMPANY: Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co. Operating Unit

HANDLED BY: E. V. John

REPORTER & MEDIA: Steven Aris, Chief U.S. Correspondent, London Sunday Times

DATE & TIME: April 12, 1973, 3:30 p.m.

BACKGROUND: Mr. Aris called at the request of his London office to inquire from Monsanto, U.S., about a PCB disposal problem in a quarry in Wales. He appeared to be well informed but did not divulge many details about the subject. His primary question was:

Q: With Monsanto's knowledge of PCB at the time of disposal in the quarry, about three or four years ago, did you know you were dealing with a dangerous chemical, and did you feel you were taking every reasonable precaution in disposing of it?

A: I have checked with your people here and find that we have very little detailed information about this subject. I am sure our people in Brussels could help you more than I and suggest that you contact Peter Whippy at our Monsanto headquarters there.

Q: Are there any legal restrictions on PCB?

A: There is a U.S. Government task force report which deals in detail with many of the subjects you have mentioned -- proper handling, toxicity, disposal, etc. I would be glad to send a copy of this to you. (Aris checked his notes and his London office has this report.) Incidentally, the task force report supports Monsanto's voluntary program to control the uses and disposal of PCB.

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Q: What have you done in this regard?

A: We have limited sales to the electrical industry only where it is used in heavy-duty electrical transformers and capacitors.

Q: When did you undertake this program?

A: We stopped selling to open systems, or uncontrollable systems, in 1970.

Q: Could you give me some examples of these former sales?

A: Adhesives, sealants, carbonless carbon paper,

Q: How do you dispose of PCB?

A: As part of our control program in this country we are offering an incineration service where those who need to dispose of spent PCB fluid may return it to us and we incinerate it.

Q: How is PCB stored or shipped?

A: It is shipped in sealed drum containers.

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