File		
Destroy		
CDB		
JTG		
WiH		
MHJ	✓	
REK	✓	✓
RAM		
EPW	✓	✓

December 9, 1969

Mr. Joseph R. Mares
Mares-Groppe
Petrochemical Consultants
2240 Chamber of Commerce Building
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Joe:

Rob Nisbet has referred to me your inquiry concerning the Aroclors. I enclose the official Monsanto statement.

If I had to add anything, I would say that it appears the PCB's might not be biologically degradable, particularly the higher chlorinated ones. There seems to be little doubt that the material can affect the hormonal balance of birds. Finally, there is a low order of mammalian toxicity. This last statement may need some qualification because up to now there is no prolonged testing. We have started two-year testing and will obtain some information about six months from now.

There are, of course, a myriad of unanswered questions, as well as questions which have not been asked as yet. We don't know why the PCB's are not universally throughout the ecosystem, we don't know how they get into the ecosystem and we don't know why they seem to be invariably found with DDT.

I can say, however, that this problem has very serious indications for a very profitable Monsanto product and is not being taken lightly by any segment of our management.

If you have further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

R. Emmet Kelly, M. D.
Medical Director

REK/ln