Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION): E. P. Wheeler - Medical Dept.

DATE: April 16, 1969

SUBJECT: POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

REFERENCE:

TO: R. E. Soden - Brussels

cc: J. W. Barrett - London
D. N. V. Hardy - London
R. A. Baxter - Ruabon
H. R. Newman - Newport
D. Wood - Brussels
J. Haggert - Brussels
W. R. Richard
R. E. Keller
R. E. Kelly

Perhaps you have heard that Bob Keller from Organic Research and I plan to visit a number of people in Great Britain, Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany concerning the recent identification of polychlorinated biphenyls in wildlife tissues in various parts of Europe and the United States. Your people in Europe were the original contacts in late 1966 and early 1967 with scientists in university and government laboratories who identified PCBs as interfering substances when determining chlorinated pesticide residues in fish, sea eagles, pine needles, etc.

During 1967 and 1968 there were brief comments in the U.S. technical and trade journals concerning the PCBs but not until February of this year did the story break in the public press (see enclosures).

Beginning in mid-summer of last year a considerable research effort has been underway in the Organic Division and in consulting laboratories to develop data to protect the sales and uses of our PCBs. It has been concluded that before committing even greater expenditures, we should determine what efforts are underway by those people who have been in contact with Monsanto requesting samples of our Aroclors, reporting findings and mentioning specific continuing analytical and toxicological research.

I have enclosed a list of the individuals Bob Keller and I hope to call on and an itinerary which is farily definite at this point. Dr. Barrett has been most helpful in arranging for our visits in Great Britain. We in St. Louis have made direct contacts with the scientists in Sweden and in Amsterdam and I hope Dave Wood or others in your group will advise us as to whom we should see in Beyer at Leverkusen. There is general agreement here that it would be desirable to determine whether or not Beyer is as concerned about the potential problems for the marketing of polychlorinated biphenyls and whether or not they have equivalent research efforts underway.

I believe Dr. Kelly went into this subject in some detail with Dave Wood but he is not sure that he discussed it at length with you last month.

Elmer P. Wheeler

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Enclosures

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