Monsanto

MAY 2 1975

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) W. B. Papageorge B2SK

DATE May 2, 1975

SUBJECT HUB FABRIC LEATHER CO.

REFERENCE

TO H. S. Bergen

cc T. L. Gossage
C. Paton
R. G. Potter
P. L. Slayton
J. F. Stapleton
W. W. Withers
D. Wood

On April 23 Phil Slayton and I visited with Mr. Robert Laham and his father, Mr. Monsour H. Laham, at the Hub Fabric Leather Company's office in Everett, Massachusetts. Our objectives for the meeting, which was arranged at my request, were:

1. Establish the amount of scrap polychlorinated biphenyls in the inventory which Robert Laham attempted to sell to AMSCO.

2. Obtain the name of the owner of this material.

3. Determine the location of the material.

4. Convince the Lahams, and subsequently the owner, to cease selling the scrap PCBs and to dispose of them by incineration.

5. If necessary, to offer to share some of the cost of incineration.

6. If the Lahams indicated no interest, we would inform them of our obligation to inform the appropriate governmental regulatory agencies.

The Lahams repeatedly mentioned that they did not own the material and could not divulge the name of the owner. The owner was described as a "tough" business man who knew quite a bit about PCBs. The Lahams also stated that the owner expected to receive some compensation for the material and did not intend to give it away.

Mr. Monsour Laham asked if Monsanto would buy the scrap PCBs and used an eight cents per pound figure during the discussion. I told him Monsanto had no interest in buying.

The original inventory was about 1700 drums. About 300 drums were reportedly sold overseas leaving a current inventory of about 1400 drums. Robert Laham indicated he thought the material was shipped to Japan. Robert Laham also stated he "took a plane ride" to personally see the material. This would indicate that it is not located in the Boston area.

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Throughout the discussion I reviewed the PCB story and the potential problems which could exist with improper handling and use. Both Lahams appeared to appreciate the problem but offered no encouragement that the owner of the material would be impressed enough to take proper disposal action.

Early in the discussion Mr. Monsour Laham asked if Monsanto would pay for the incineration of the material. At first I made no direct committment but later I suggested that, as a gesture of our desire to be helpful, Monsanto might consider sharing in some of the cost of disposal but certainly not over half. I also suggested that a letter from the owner proposing such an arrangement be sent to Monsanto for consideration.

Near the end of the discussion I informed the Lahams that because of our unique relationships with governmental agencies in matters pertaining to PCBs, I felt a strong obligation to inform these agencies of the presence of this material unless proper disposal was made. I also stated that since I did not know who the owner of the material was I would be forced to mention Hub Fabric Leather Company. I believe the Lahams became concerned but I do not know what impact this will have on the owner.

At this point Robert Laham requested a letter summarizing our discussion and offered to personally deliver the letter to the owner. I agreed to do so. I have attached a draft of a proposed letter. Comments are requested from all recipients.

W. B. Papageorge

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