REPORT OF MEETING WITH

MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

FISHERIES LABORATORY, REMEMBRANCE AVENUE

BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH, ESSEX

ON 17TH APRIL, 1970

Present for Ministry: Dr. J.E. Portmann
Mr. P.C. Wood

Present for Monsanto: Mr. D.S. Cameron

Copies to:-

J.W. Barrett	-	London	H.R. Newman	-	Newport
H.S. Bergen	-	St. Louis	R.A. Onians	-	Brussels
N.N. Dahlström	-	Brussels	W.B. Papageorge	-	St. Louis
K. Fletcher	-	London	R.E. Soden	-	Brussels
B.T. Garland	-	London	J.E. Springgate	-	St. Louis
J.C. Garrels	-	London	R.G. Veldeman	-	London
F. Macdonald	-	Newport	H.A. Vodden	-	Ruabon
			E.P. Wheeler	-	St. Louis

C O N F I D E N T I A L

SUMMARY

I disclosed, in confidence, the usage of Aroclor 1242 in NCR paper, and explained the relationship between NCR and Wiggins Teape and their respective roles in the production of this speciality paper. There was little reaction save for the comment that here was a further 1242 application which made it still more difficult to explain why the wild life residues examined by Portmann more closely resembled 1254 than any other grade.

DETAIL

1) This meeting was arranged following Wiggins Teape's decision to disclose their usage of Aroclor 1242 to the Ministry of Technology. Neither Wood nor Portmann seemed to attach much significance to our disclosure. I judged their initial reaction to be one of confusion, since they still seem to be looking for major applications for Aroclor 1254.

2) Their contribution to the NERC report is in draft form and will be ready shortly. Monsanto and Aroclor 1254 are mentioned - they used this grade as the reference standard in their analytical work. They would like to acknowledge the help we have given them and the text of any such acknowledgement will be agreed with us before publication.

3) Attempts to trace the origin of sewage containing PCB have been unsuccessful thus far. The manpower demands this type of activity creates are formidable, and Wood thinks his laboratory will have to give up this work for lack of manpower.

They have not yet taken fish samples from the Severn Estuary, again because of lack of manpower, but still intend to do so. Initially, they will probably look at mussels and may seek our advice on the most suitable areas to take samples from.

4) The wild life samples promised for Ruabon at our last meeting have not yet been sent because no suitable samples have become available. As soon as they do they will be sent to H.A. Vodden at Ruabon.

5) Wood mentioned that the U.K. AEA facilities at Harwell are considerably under-employed and are seeking to enter the waste treatment business. He suggested it might be worth our while talking to them to discuss waste treatment and disposal methods. I mentioned our contact with Purle Brothers and our investigations into suitable incineration techniques.

6) Portmann and Wood published a note on PCB's in the March 1970 issue of "Marine Pollution Bulletin" - a new monthly journal published by MacMillan (Journals) Ltd. Their objective was to try to play down the PCB "scare" and reduce some of the emotion and hysteria that enters the uninformed reports. This journal welcomes contributions from industries and we might be able to use it if a suitable occasion ever arose.

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DSC:mcm
23 April 1970