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Subject: More on the PCB Problem

N. Saito, Health and Welfare Minister, promised Friday (April 14) that his ministry will set provisional national standards to control contamination of foodstuffs in Japan by PCB. These standards are expected to be published within the next two months. They are expected to be even more stringent than existing standards in foreign countries. The possibility exists that all fish and marine products taken from badly contaminated coastal areas will be banned from domestic or export markets.

Japan has only two manufacturers of PCB: Kanegafuchi Chemical Industries Co. and Mitsubishi Monsanto Chemical Co., a semi-American firm. Mitsubishi Monsanto stopped production in March and Kanegafuchi will discontinue production in June. These two companies will be made to retrieve about 70% of the PCB now in use as a heat transmitting medium and dispose of it in a manner specified by MITI.

M.J. Moore
Scientific Representative

MJM/tn