NEWS RELEASE DRAFT -- 11/14/75

CHICAGO, Nov. 19 -- Monsanto Company today announced that a newly issued scientific report, commissioned by the St. Louis-based company, does not confirm the presence of malignant liver tumors in the tissues of experimental rats fed polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) dielectric fluid...a conclusion that had been previously reached and widely reported by Dr. Renate D. Kimbrough of the Center for Disease Control of the U.S. Public Health Service in Atlanta.

The Monsanto-sponsored report, a re-evaluation of Dr. Kimbrough's work, is titled, "Histophathological Re-evaluation of Tissues from Sherman Rats Fed Aroclor 1260," and is authored by Dr. P. Pour, M.D. of the prestigious Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer of the University of Nebraska Medical Center at Omaha.

In her study, Dr. Kimbrough reported that when Sherman strain female rats were fed 100 parts per million of PCB (Aroclor 1260) for about 21 months, 170 of the 184 experimental animals developed neoplastic lesions (precursors of malignant tumors) and 26 of these lesions were further identified in her report as being hepatocellular carcinomas (malignant liver tumors). During his re-evaluation, Dr. Pour saw the same lesions but identified them as being hyperplastic or non-tumorous.

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In his discussion, Dr. Pour commented, 'By going through the material from Dr. Kimbrough's experiment and by comparison of various lesions in treated and untreated rats, I gained the strong impression that many, detectable alterations represented a degenerative and reparative, rather than a neoplastic process."

The Eppley Institute researcher further reported that he observed 20 cases of abnormal lesions which presented such structural criteria as to be considered precursors to tumors, although a most significant criteria for malignancy -- namely the invasion -- was missing and the sign of ongoing toxic, degenerative and regenerative processes in the rest of the tissue was evident. "At present, the statement that these lesions may have metastasized (progressed) if the treatment had been continued is as much as unreliable as the possibility that they might have regressed if the animals would have been kept longer or for life," he stated.

"In summary," he reported, "it is difficult at present to conclude whether or not some of the examined lesions represent a malignant lesion, because of the lack of invasion and metastases. In the case of such organs, as the liver with its marked tendency toward regeneration, it is, in my opinion, difficult and sometimes impossible to distinguish between regeneration, hyperplasia and neoplasia, particularly when the tissue is continuously exposed to a toxic substance."

Quoting further from Dr. Poor's report, he wrote, "In this context, Dr. Kimbrough's study seems of particular interest, in that polychlorinated compounds may be retained in the body, even in higher concentrations for several months after feeding has been stopped. This finding may explain the continuing degenerative and regenerative processes in the livers of most experimental rats, even two months after Aroclor was removed from the diet.

"One should also bear in mind that some animal strains may react more specifically to a compound because of common endogenous diseases, as in the case of the Sherman rats used in this experiment which tend toward spontaneous liver lesions.

"In my opinion," he concluded, "many of the lesions induced were of a degenerative nature, and without further studies, the induced liver lesions could not be definitely designated as neoplasia (tumorous).

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