H. H. Bible - D1T

December 4, 1975

Mr. F. J. Fitzgerald

Mr. J. W. Hanley

After the Board meeting this morning I had further discussion with Dr. Mayer regarding his thought of some way bringing pressure on ex-USA governments to require utilization of PCB's in closed systems. Following is a summary of our conversation.

1. Dr. Mayer, after further consideration, acknowledged it would be impractical for Monsanto to try to influence ex-USA governments to adopt Monsanto's policy of permitting use of PCB's in closed systems only.

2. He suggested EPA could perhaps be the avenue through which other governments could be encouraged to restrict the use of PCB's.

3. I pointed out that EPA has not yet taken a firm position on PCB's. A number of EPA people have acknowledged publicly that Monsanto has acted very responsibly in selling PCB's only to customers who use the product in a closed system.

   Last week, at a meeting in Chicago to discuss PCB's, in response to the statement "Today there is no meaningful national program to regulate PCB discharges," EPA Administrator Russell Train said, "We find ourselves without the authority we need to really cope with the problem." He further stated what EPA needs is an effective toxic substances control act.

   It is apparent, therefore, that EPA is still riding the fence, and I just can't see their taking any position with other governments on this problem.

Consequently I recommend we keep Dr. Mayer's suggestion in mind and if we see some way of accomplishing it that we surface the matter again.

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