PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT MON-68

PRESS RELEASE

Monsanto announces initial results of Health Study Program

The Monsanto Springfield Plant has conducted a special health study program for all employees who had been exposed to asbestos in its phenolic manufacturing operation during the period 1941 - 1959. Asbestos has not been used at the plant in product manufacture since that period.

X-rays of these employees were examined by a recognized medical expert in the field of asbestos related illness. His findings concluded that of the 218 employees in the plant whose X-rays were studied, 23 showed some signs which may be indicative of effects associated with asbestos exposure, 131 were found to be free of such asbestos effects. Films of 64 employees were judged by the consultant to be technically inadequate for this evaluation and new X-rays will be required.

The following measures are being taken for employee protection by Monsanto:

The 23 involved employees are being immediately contacted by the plant physician and informed of their X-ray results and further action which will be taken for their protection.

All other concerned employees in the study are being contacted to inform them that either they are free of any such signs or that they will require repeat X-rays.

The initial health study is being broadened to include former employees. The study is being extended further in conjunction with the recommendations of the medical expert and the Monsanto Department of Medicine and Environmental Health.

Monsanto has given the study information to Union officials and appropriate Federal and State Authorities.

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