[illegible] Canadian chemical producer wishes to expand product lines. Will consider toll manufacturing, licensing or agent agreements. Solid manufacturing experience and marketing ability in selling specialty chemicals and raw materials to cosmetic, plastic, paper, pharmaceutical and other major Canadian industries. BO-9571, Chemical Week.

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CHEMICALS FOR SALE WANTED

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West Coast's largest buyer and seller of Surplus Chemicals. Smile Chemical Company, 500 Kirkham Street, Oakland, CA 94607. 415 465-8022.

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[illegible] specialties, intermediates, etc. The [illegible] Company, [illegible] Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. [illegible] (212) 695-6550.

Wanted Surplus Chemicals, etc. Benmar Chemical Co., P.O. Box 494, Fair Lawn, N.J. 07410. 201-791-2448. Telex: 13-0434.

Chemicals Wanted—Glycerine, contaminated or clean. Alba Mfg. Company, 100 West Indian Trail, Aurora, Illinois 60507 312-897-4200.

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Glycols of Ethylene and Propylene Chemicals—Still Bottoms; Polyester Spent; Adulterated or Contaminated Mixtures. Ethanolamine Stills or Mixes, and Glycol Ether Stills or Mixes. ADD Chemical Company, 811 River Oaks Bank & Trust Tower, Houston, Texas 77019. 713-529-5811 and 524-[illegible].

Bacteria destroy PCBs

A new strain of bacteria that can break down toxic and highly persistent polychlorinated biphenyls in waste water has been developed at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters (Burlington, Ont.).

Monsanto, sole U.S. producer of PCBs, says it will phase out production of the chemical once a substitute is available to the electric equipment industry. Highly valued for their insulating qualities and insolubility, these chlorinated organic substances have become an environmental liability because they don't break down easily.

The new treatment method, developed by research scientist Dickson Liu, involves providing the new bacteria strain with access to its food-source—the carbon atoms of the almost indestructible chemical.

As a first step, the PCB-water interface is increased by using ultrasonic vibrations to disperse the PCBs into very fine particles. Pulp mill effluent is added to maintain an emulsified suspension.

Bacteria from sewage sludge are then added to the suspension. At first these bacteria had a high mortality rate. Eventually, according to Liu, "the process of adaptation began and a new strain (of bacteria) emerged." In one week this new strain reduced the concentration of Arochlor 1254, said to be the most persistent member of the PCB family, from 200,000 parts per billion to 19.

Canada Centre, which says the process is most adaptable to industrial waste waters, is planning a pilot plant for the new treatment method. It also plans to research the breakdown of chlorinated pesticides with the new bacteria.

MONS 033501