Monsanto

FROM (NAME—LOCAT [redacted]

DATE : October 30, 1979 CC: PCB

SUBJECT : OCTOBER 9 DISCUSSION WITH WAYNE DARLING - COLORADO

REFERENCE : YOUR MEMO - OCTOBER 25TH

TO : J. G. Ortiz - E2ND

Isham and I introduced ourselves and told Mr. Darling that we had become aware of the incident at his farm and that from press statements he had felt that he did not have satisfactory understanding of PCB issues. We were, therefore, contacting him to answer any questions.

I will cover the responses to questions 1-8 in R. C. Isham's memo October 10th.

1. No, we had not spoken to him previously.

2. Described low biodegradation, lipid solubility, bioaccumulation potential and how these led us to exit business before levels rose further in the environment. Described the sort of test programs that had been carried out in animal species, highlighted the need for sound epidemiological study to bridge from animal studies and the absence of data showing direct harm in humans up to this time except for Yusho which was very high level ingestion with contaminated PCB.

3. Reviewed that a number of studies carried out had given conflicting results that had led EPA to label PCB as a suspect carcinogen in test animals. Alerted him that latest NCI study on Aroclor 1254 had shown it under that test condition not to be a carcinogen. Expressed my own belief that PCB was not a carcinogen.

   On birth defects described pigmentation in Yusho incident and its disappearance shortly afterwards.

4. Described soil leachate tests and on his reporting clay soil conditions, said that it was unlikely that PCB in his vegetable patch had been higher in earlier years. Suggested since he turned soil over each year he should get a core sample to determine if higher PCB soil at surface had been turned to a lower level. Preliminary data indicated plant uptake should in any event be low.

5. PCBs concentrate in fatty tissues and the fat around the liver might be the major concentration area.

6. As a cat owner myself, I was aware that there were many reasons for cats to miscarry. No tests had, as far as I knew, been carried out with PCBs in cats, because cats tended to be rejected by the scientific community as unreliable test species. We could not, therefore, comment on this question.

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7. Discussed restrictive sales policy to dielectric applications.

8. Discussed difference between Therminol FR series and current Therminol 44, 55, 60, 66 series.

Bob's memo missed out discussion of what should be his attitude towards his wife continuing to breast feed. Said that this would depend on levels determined but that reviewing results with the local health department he and his wife should make sure that they understood what the results meant in terms of fat content, whole milk and differences in fat content between dairy milk and mother's milk before reaching any decision.

D. Wood

DW:pb

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