MITSUBISHI MONSANTO CHEMICAL COMPANY

FROM LOCATION : Tokyo

cc: Dr. J. R. Durland-Tokyo

DATE : December 23, 1971

SUBJECT :

REFERENCE :

TO : Mr. W. B. Papageorge
St. Louis

Just for your information, attached is a xerox copy of an article concerning PCB pollution carried on the December 23, 1971 issue of the "Yomiuri".

Best regards.

S. Uneno

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Product Director

Encl.

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The "Yomiuri" Japanese Edition added following article

P.S. "The Ministry of Labor took its first step for controlling PCB pollution by setting "Rules for prevention of physical hazards caused by specified chemicals" which was issued on April 28, 1971, but the Rules just referred to the physical check-up standards, but not the upper limit for PCB accumulated in human bodies.

As to environmental pollution caused by PCB, the Japanese Government organized a PCB Investigation Group last June aiming at systematic studies.

What is most hoped for by scientists here are: 1) PCB pollution routes should detected and clarified, 2) the Government should implement the regulations for PCB discharge."

The plan also calls for the establishment of extra charges for long-distance rides. According to the plan, a passenger will be charged ¥20 every 223 meters after traveling more than 20 kilometers.

Under the present system, the passenger pays only ¥130 for the first two kilometers and ¥20 for every 445 meters thereafter.

This means that if a passenger travels 30 kilometers from Tokyo, he would have to pay ¥1,850 compared with ¥1,590 under the present system.

The areas which come within the 20-kilometer range from Tokyo Central Station are Kawasaki, Chofu, and Ichikawa, Chiba-ken.

It also means that anybody who misses the last train will have to pay a huge amount to get home.

Taxi Fare Hike Certain

It became almost certain that taxi fares in the nation's six largest cities—Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Yokohama, Kyoto and Kobe—would be substantially increased early next year, because the government's Price Stabilization Council ruled Wednesday that the taxi fare increase "within a reasonable limit is inevitable."

In a report to the Economic Planning Agency, the council, an advisory organ to the prime minister, said that the government should approve the taxi fare revision but that the fare increases should be kept at the minimum necessary to improve taxi companies' financial conditions.

Informed sources said that the Transportation Ministry would approve the taxi fare increases in the six major cities gradually from around February, next year.



A HUGE backlog of parcels filling an arrival platform of Tokyo's Shiodome Freight Station as the rush of "oseibo" (year-end gifts) reached its peak Wednesday. The station has been handling an average 80,000 parcels daily since early December, an increase of nine percent from last season.

Govt Planning Welfare Law For Working Women

The Labor Ministry has decided to establish the "Working Women Welfare Law" in order to improve working conditions for women and has called on the Women and Youth Problem Study Council to make a draft of the new law.

The draft is expected to be completed and handed over to the ministry by the end of next February.

The ministry plans to have the law include provisions for:

- Setting up a special system and facilities for training women;
- Setting up welfare facilities for women; and
- A system to establish nurseries at working places.

According to the ministry, about 11,000,000 women are working throughout the country. This is about one third of the entire labor force of Japan.

Labor unions of the Hitachi companies have reportedly approved the mass transfer of their members, saying it was better than a lay-off or dismissal.

18 Found Poisoned By PCB Chemical

Osaka, Dec 22—Excessive amounts of PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) have been found in the bodies of 18 persons, according to Dr Kunitotsu Fujiwara, a staff member of the Kyoto Municipal Hygienic Research Institute.

PCB is a poisonous chemical compound, which was found to be the cause of rice bran oil poisoning cases that occurred in Western Japan in the autumn of 1968.

PCB, which was used as a heat medium in the process of producing rice bran oil at a plant in Kita-Kyushu, Fukuoka-ken, got into the oil.

About 13,000 people, who ate food cooked with the oil produced at the plant, were poisoned by PCB which was contained in the oil.

Fujiwara made chemical analyses of parts of bodies of 18 persons, which had been extracted in operations for cancer and other diseases.

Fujiwara said that an average of 5 ppm of PCB was found in the fat of the extracted parts of the bodies.

The amount of the PCB discovered was close to the dangerous level of 10 ppm, set by an American authority on PCB.

The American scientist testified on the toxic character of PCB before the US Senate on August 4.

Fujiwara said that he would make a report on the amount of PCB accumulated in the bodies of Japanese people, after conducting tests on 100 persons.

USMC Copter Crash Victims Identified

Seven American servicemen killed Monday when a US Marine Corp CH-46 helicopter crashed on landing at a US Air Force Base at Yokota, western Tokyo, were identified Wednesday by the US military.

They were Cpl Wayne S. Heckler, 21, Columbus, Ohio; Lance Cpl Bernard L. Bennett, 20, Baltimore, Maryland; 1st Lt Michael E. McGinty, 25, of North Highland, California; 1st Lt Paul Swinson, 25, Jacksonville, North Carolina; Lance Cpl Alexander Rodriguez, 20, Los Angeles, California; 1st Lt Michael C. Clark, 22, Smithtown, New York; and 1st Lt Larry E. Nowlin, 22, Elkhart, Indiana.—AP.

TO THOSE WHO ENJOY NESCAFÉ

MONS 099807

A few Japanese (and English) newspapers have been carrying stories about an opened jar of Nescafé (produced at Himeji Factory