Monsanto Co. LTD

FROM (LOCATION): R.A. Vodden, Ruabon.

CC: H.S. Bergen, St. Louis
P.J.A. Marsh, Brussels
W.R. Richard, St. Louis
E.V. Weekes, Brussels

DATE : 29.2.72.

SUBJECT : INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS - EUROPE - ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

REFERENCE : RAV/MEB

TO : R.A. BAXTER
W.B. PAPAGEORGE - St. Louis

CONFIDENTIAL:

Business Situation

1. Bayer have now stated that their marketing policy for P.C.B. products is as follows:

   (a) No sales of P.C.B's to new customers for open applications since 1st January 1972.

   (b) Sales to existing customers for open applications will be terminated by 30th June 1972, except to German Mines.

   (c) Closed applications are transformers, for which pentachloro-biphenyl will be supplied. For capacitors, only low chlorine (<5) P.C.B. materials will be supplied. In response to questions, Bayer defined the low chlorine product as containing less than one per cent of penta and higher.

2. Progil/Prodelec and Caffaro refuse to commit themselves to a policy of restricting sales, claiming that their sales to open applications are small and that in France and Italy there is no direct pressure for them to introduce such a policy. They concede that for sales outside France and Italy they may be forced to adopt a modified policy.

3. Bayer and the other European P.C.B. producers will not ask their customers for indemnities, but some progress has been made towards agreed wording for warning customers and users of the pollution hazards of P.C.B's.

4. At the B.I.T.A. meeting on 22nd February it was agreed that Monsanto would propose a procedure for the determination of penta and higher homologue content in capacitor P.C.B. products. This procedure would be used by all producers to determine the high chlorine homologue content of samples to be circulated by Monsanto. Results would be discussed at a meeting early in June.

Technical

The data from the pure culture degradation of Aroclors 1016 and 1242 has been plotted in graphical form and is showing interesting structure/rate correlations. Families of curves for trichloro and tetrachloro-biphenyls have been prepared. We would like a similar set of curves for penta-chloro - biphenyl and are at present studying the degradation of Aroclor 1248, which hopefully contains sufficient penta to enable significant determinations to be made without producing the bacteriostatic effect noticed when additions of Aroclor 1254 are made to Aroclor 1242. Samples from 10 day and 20 day exposure to culture C_2 are now ready for analysis.

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