Monsanto

PCB-Europe

S. ROEHR , Brussels

20.10.71

KD ALBRECHT, Dusseldorf
RA BAXTER, Ruabon

PCB MEETING OF GERMAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH
ON SEPTEMBER 27TH , 1971.
SR/MW

HS BERGEN, St Louis
CUMMING PATON, St. Louis
HN DAHLSTROM, Brussels
KH GAERTNER, Dusseldorf
TL GOSSAGE, St Louis
A. v.HEYDEN-LINDEN, Dusseldorf
HA VODDEN, Ruabon
AA/BKR/JNH, Brussels
WB PAPAGEORGE, St.Louis ✓
J MASON, St. Louis

PJA MARSH, Brussels

Objectives.

I. Dr Tombergs from the Ministry of Health stated that the purpose of this meeting was to :

1. Bring all the people together who are involved in research programmes on PCB in German Universities, research institutes, Ministry of Health and Industry.

2. Inform himself and the participants of each individual's research programmes on PCB thus avoiding efforts in the wrong direction and overlapping of work.

3. Set up an information system on research work on PCBs.

II. Moreover, Dr Tombergs obviously intended to get statements from the delegates of Bayer and Monsanto as to their position on the withdrawal of PCB's.

Notes.

1. Around 20 people participated in this meeting.

Bayer : Dr Komarek, Dr Lork
Monsanto : KH Gaertner, S.Roehr, HA Vodden.

German Health Authority (Bundesgesundheitsamt) : 2 participants
German Ministry of Health : Dr Tombergs

The other participants were from Universities and Research Institutes. A list of participants is attached and we will receive a detailed report on this meeting from Dr Tombergs.

2. The meeting concentrated on the discussion of present and future research work on PCB's. Most participants including Dr Tombergs focused on the chronic toxicological effects of PCB's on human beings and not so much on the persistance of PCB's in the environment. HA Vodden, whose presence was very helpful, gave a short speech on Monsanto's position and research work. Moreover, he left a more detailed presentation on that subject with Dr Tombergs.

3. Prof. Sievers of the Bundesgesundheitsamt will act as the coordinator for analytical questions regarding PCB's and Dr Roll of the Bundesgesundheitsamt will coordinate toxicological questions. Copies of the correspondence between individual participants should be sent to the respective coordinators. Bayer's delegation expressed a strong desire to be informed

of any results concerning the degradation of PCB's even if these results are preliminary.

4. Bayer's delegation stated that Bayer will discontinue supplying highly (penta- and hexa-) chlorinated biphenyls to non-controllable applications and that they intend to supply only low chlorinated biphenyls to controllable applications. The inconsistancy of this statement seems to have been caused by two facts :

- A lack of exact understanding of the relationship between the degree of chlorination and toxicity or biodegradability and of the difference between controllable and non-controllable applications.

-Dr Tombergs' intention to get an official statement from the PCB suppliers as to their withdrawal came as a surprise to Bayer's delegation.

5. HA Vodden said that Monsanto has stopped selling PCB's to non-controllable applications in the US and the UK and that Monsanto is prepared to extend this policy to any other country if and when the competition does the same.

S. POEHR