St. Louis

January 23, 1969

Mr. J. R. Durland
TOKYO - JAPAN

Dear John:

We have received copies of extracts from the Japanese Times, November 3, November 7, and November 17, 1968, concerning "an outbreak of mass poisoning" (10,000 or more), which were supposed to have resulted from contamination of rice bran oil with chlorinated biphenyl. This was not our Aroclors but was that of a competitor, Kaneclor, manufactured by Kaneke.

Mr. Kazuo Hoshino, of Mitsubishi Monsanto, has been in contact with our Mr. Olson and I see that you have received a copy of his memorandum of December 9. We have more recently received communications relating to a customer of the United Asia Trading Company, Inc., of California, from someone or some company named Yamamoto & Ohmiye.

What I would like to find out is, first, what symptoms the people had. We were told there were 10,000 affected and 70 deaths. I wonder if there has been any data as to the type of death, such as jaundice, liver failure, etc. Second, what is the present posture as far as the use of chlorinated biphenyl in heat transfer agents in Japan. Has it been ruled out by the government and, if so, where do we go from here?

R. Emmet Kelly, M. D.

REK/ln