September 29, 1975

Professor Kiyoshi Tanaka
Department of Public Health
Faculty of Medicine
Kyushu University
Fukuoka, Japan

Dear Professor Tanaka:

I note in newspaper articles appearing in the United States a frequent reference to the statement that 16 deaths have resulted from the Yusho disease of 1968. The articles attribute these deaths to PCB poisoning. I have attached copies of typical articles which appeared recently.

As producers of PCB's, we are very interested in the health effects that these chemicals may have on humans. Can you or any of your colleagues provide us with information regarding the basis for this newspaper statement? We would like to learn as much as possible about these cases. Your help in this very important matter is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

George Roush, Jr., M. D.
Medical Director

GR/ln
bcc: J. R. Durland/Tokyo

MONS 094888

P.B. Japan

Copies of articles sent then Darling by Papageorge
see report file

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY
KYUSHU UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE
FUKUOKA, JAPAN

Oct. 23, 1975

Dr. George Roush
Medical Director
Monsant Co.
800 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, Missouri 63166
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Roush:

Although your letter dated on Sept. 29 arrived at my office on Oct. 8, I have not answered yet because there were no enclosed copies of newspaper articles, inspite of your statement that "I have attached copies of typical articles which appeared recently". I have just been waiting for the copies which should have been sent by a separate cover. However, since a specialist of Mitsubishi urged me yesterday by telephone to answer your question, I write here before reading the "copies".

In fact, I don't know the news source of 16 deaths of Yusho patients. Official statistics report that there were 9 deaths in the total at the moment of March 1970, 22 deaths in Sept. 1973, and 29 in April 1975 (The 5th report of Yusho and PCB). Sixteen might be the total at some moment in 1971 or 1972. The diseases which directly caused death of 22 Yusho patients(1973) were as follows: malig. tumors 9, cerebrovascular dis. 3, amyloidosis 1, liver cirrhosis 1, myocardial degen. 1, osteodystrophia fibrosa 1, other diseases 2, suicide 1, traffic accident 3. We are not in the opinion that PCB directly caused death, though PCB must have impaired health and shortened the lives of Yusho patients.

We published already five medical reports on Yusho and PCB (in Japanese with English abstracts), each of them includes about 20 original papers. The fifth report is just issued in October. The Mitsubishi man will manage to get them if you request to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Kiyoshi Tanaka

Kiyoshi Tanaka, M.D.
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MONS 094889