Tainted Eggs Are Believed Sold To Consumers in Capital Area

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 18 — The Food and Drug Administration indicated today that some 60,000 eggs contaminated by a chemical called PCB have been sold to consumers in the District of Columbia area.

The eggs were among 400,000 that F.D.A. tests found were accidentally tainted by the chemical, known as polychlorinated biphenyls, in a North Carolina plant that processes fish meal for use in chicken feed. The eggs came from chickens that had eaten the feed, the agency reported.

The F.D.A. reported that 76,000 were recovered at wholesalers in Norfolk, Va., on Friday. But when agency officials from Baltimore visited the Metropolitan Egg and Poultry Company in Washington this week, they did not find a shipment of 5,000 dozen of the suspect eggs they had expected to find there.

"The presumption is that the eggs have moved into the hands of consumers," Don Berreth, an F.D.A. spokesman, said.

The rest of the eggs, the F.D.A., said, went to food processers using egg yolks in North Carolina. The agency said that state authorities had been notified so they could move to track down the eggs. It was not ascertained if they had done so.

No Peril to Fowls

A small portion, which would not be sold to consumers, went to a hatchery, the F.D.A. said. The contaminant was said to contain no genetic carryover to newly hatched chickens.

Mr. Berreth said that the agency's regulatory standards [illegible] "insure against any hazard to human health, either immediate or from chronic accumulation of the chemical in body tissue."

Under F.D.A. guidelines, the maximum amount of PCB allowed in eggs is 0.5 part per million. The tainted eggs were found to contain up to 1.9 parts per million. In addition, 45,000 pounds of fish meal seized with the eggs last week showed residues of up to 3.0 parts per million.

"The short term exposure that might be expected to occur does not indicate to us there is a real health problem here," Mr. Berreth said. "I'd hate everybody to start worrying about the eggs they eat."

The PCB was traced to the eggs and fish meal when it was discovered last July that a plant in Wilmington, N. C., had been leaking PCB from its cooling system for several months. The fish meal was shipped to 64 companies in 12 Southeastern states.

A Filthy Way to Evade The Payment of Taxes

KAMPALA, Uganda (Reuters) — Ugandans have been warned to stop making themselves look artificially dirty and ill in the hope of exemption from the annual tax collection.

The Assistant District Commissioner of West Mengo, Southern Uganda, A. J. Bashejje, said he had been shocked to see that some who claimed tax exemption had gone so far as to stop wash[illegible]

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