MITSUBISHI MONSANTO CHEMICAL COMPANY

FROM LOCATION : Tokyo

DATE : March 19, 1970

SUBJECT : PCB TOXICITY

REFERENCE :

TO : Dr. J. R. Durland
Tokyo

cc: Messrs.
K. Hoshino-Tokyo
T. Nakata-Tokyo
T. Katayama-Tokyo

Two of the most influential papers in Japan introduced in their Feb. 24, 1970 issues an article entitled "New Toxic Substance in Air" which originally was reported in the Feb. 22 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle and the contents of which are summarized as follows.

1) Over a wide range of areas PCB(polychlorinated biphenyl) has been found to be contained in animals, wild birds, fish, etc., as well as human mother's milk.

2) Nature of the injury done by PCB is much like that done by DDT, and a dosage above a certain level causes skin irritations, liver troubles, lethargy and even death in some cases.

3) PCB has a wide variety of uses. (Uses as plasticizers, as we call it, excluding electrical and heat transfer uses, were listed in the papers.). There is a possibility that the chemical is diffused as a component of insecticides.

4) PCB is marketed in USA by Monsanto with the tradename of "Aroclor" and is also produced in Japan and Europe.

←—According to the related reports obtained through MC, the titles of which are listed in the attachment, prevention of leakage on the part of plants and customers is described as the measure taken by MC for solution to the water pollution problem relating to Pydraul. But when it comes to air pollution, the problem must be taken up with even greater emphasis. We feel the report was a little distortion of the fact, possibly a spiteful propaganda.

In any case, upon confirming the fact, we would like to take the following measures before any definite problem is raised.

1) Sanitation management of MMK's plant operators.

2) Advice to customers on sanitation.

3) Response to the press and the general public.

In this connection, we would greatly appreciate it if you would provide us with more detailed data on the toxicity of PCB as compared with other organic solvents from the medical standpoint, precautions to be taken from the labor-hygenic aspect, examples of hazard in U.S.A., etc.

S. Fujii
Director of Technical
Liaison

Attachment

HM:uh

Attachment

1. Excerpt from Quarterly Report(July/August/ September 1969) of Medical Department 3. Environmental Control

2. Organic Division, Law and Medical Departments- Report on PCB, Nov. 24, 1969

3. Executive Summary - PCB Pollution, Oct. 29, 1969

4. Announcement by Monsanto on PCB Pollution Problem, Oct. 29, 1969