JUN 9 1969

COPY

bccs. R.E. Keller
E.P. Wheeler
R.A. Baxter

UK Govt agencies

"Fair View",
Hoghatch Lane,
Folly Hill,
Farnham, Surrey.

15th May, 1969

Dr. J. Robinson,
Shell Research Ltd.,
Tunstall Laboratory,
Sittingbourne, Kent.

Dear Dr. Robinson,

Rather belatedly, I fear, I am writing to express best thanks to you, Dr. Stevenson, Mr. Richardson and Mr. De Corsey for the friendly and frank discussion on Tuesday, 29th April. My colleagues Drs. Keller and Wheeler were most impressed with the kind reception you gave to them, and also with the beauty and efficiency of the Laboratory and its grounds. We also greatly enjoyed your excellent hospitality at lunch.

As you know Drs. Keller and Wheeler were proceeding to the Continent to make further visits concerning PCB residues in wild life, and I do not know the outcome as yet, but I doubt whether they will be able to take the enquiry any further than to establish the basic facts. I fancy it will take quite a time to determine the causes of the contamination.

Jensen's observation that PCB was not detectable in sea birds feathers prior to 1944 raises an interesting possibility as it suggests that the contamination may well be due to the vast destruction of all types of stores and equipment during World War II; destruction by fire and by sinking at sea was on an unparalleled scale and PCB's must have been involved. Certainly insecticides must have been involved, but nowhere have I seen any reference to this possibility. I would be glad to know why this factor appears to have been played down, or even dismissed.

Yours sincerely,

D.V.N. HARDY

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