DRAFT
2-27-69

Memo to:

In the last several years, several scientists around the world have been investigating the existence of an unidentified chemical in the tissues of marine life - fish, birds, etc. This work sprang from earlier studies on DDT residues.

One unidentified element in chromatograph analysis was labeled by a Swedish scientist as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). Numerous other groups are now doing similar investigations and, in fact, are using samples of our Aroclors in their tests.

One such study is being carried out by a Dr. Risebrough at the University of California. His work has been published in Nature, a U.K. magazine, and Scientific American.

Last week a sceince writer of the San Francisco Chronicle interviewed Dr. Risebrough and prepared the attached article which appeared in the paper's February 24 issue. Timing, and other factors, did not permit us to present our side of the story in the article.

As you can appreciate, our West Coast offices have received several inquiries and we have also been contacted by the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board.

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There will undoubtedly be other questions on this matter. Attached is a sheet which gives our answers to press inquiries, at this time. As we conduct further investigations, we will be in a better position for a more detailed reply.

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February 27, 1969

Q. Is Monsanto aware of this problem?

A. Yes, we are aware of this and other studies.

Q. Who else manufactures polychlorinated biphenyls?

A. There are several other producers around the world -- in Germany, Japan, France and Italy. Monsanto is the only U.S. producer.

Q. How are your Aroclors used?

A. Primarily in two areas -- 1) as dielectric fluids, heat-transfer fluids and hydraulic fluids and 2) as a modifier for corrosion-resistant paints and industrial adhesives and as an extender in elastomers and waxes.

Q. Is Monsanto doing any work on this matter?

A. We are investigating the reports and conducting our own studies. We find it difficult to see how detectable quantities of commercial product can appear in the marine environment. One possible answer is that the substance under question occurs from metabolism of natural materials or other unidentified substances. This is one of the points we are investigating. However, our work is not far enough along for firm conclusions.

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