May 2, 1969

Mr. Gladwin A. Hill
National Correspondent
Environment and Conservation
The New York Times
900 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90017

Dear Mr. Hill:

As promised in my note earlier this week, here are some answers to your inquiry about polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). I presume your interest in this product stems from the February 24 article which appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle.

Unfortunately, timing did not give Monsanto a chance to supply information for this story. Enclosed is a four-page statement which contains facts which should have been represented.

I believe the statement will answer most of your questions. To elaborate further, in answer to your numbered questions:

1. Monsanto has manufactured PCB since the early 1930s.

2. PCB is marketed in solid and liquid form, depending upon the end use. The exact grade varies according to the degree of chlorination involved. End uses are covered in the statement.

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3. The production breakdown on each grade is confidential information.

4. The total volume of PCB marketed by Monsanto is confidential data.

5. You will find a general reference to the toxicity of PCB in the statement. We can supply more specific information, of course. To keep from sending you too much material, could you be more specific on this toxicity question?

6. If PCB is handled at high temperatures, proper exhaust ventilation or personal protective equipment is provided. This is similar to the precautions taken during the manufacture of many industrial chemicals.

7. We do not have specific, final data about possible release of PCB into the environment. The statement reflects our questions on these charges.

8. We do reclaim PCB where it is used in its original form and not incorporated into other materials. See statement for details.

9. Information on our research into the alleged appearance of PCB in the environment is contained in the statement.

As you can appreciate, we are concerned about these charges. We believe many of the conclusions which have been publicized are very premature. Of course, we are not content just to raise questions, but are conducting our own extensive investigation.

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Please let me know if you need anything else.

Sincerely,

Tom C. Ford
Manager
Divisional Public Relations

TCF:sfh
attach: position statement

bc: Mr. H. S. Bergen
Dr. W. R. Richard
Mr. E. P. Wheeler
NEW YORK - Mr. P. R. Wilkins

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