PRESS QUERY

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X J. R. G. Ortiz
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X D. Wood
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COMPANY (OpUnit or Corporate): MIC

SUBJECT: PCBs

REPORTER & MEDIA: Maria Recio, Business Week
(202) 624-7542

TIME & DATE: 3:40 p.m., October 1, 1979

QUESTION & RESPONSE:

Q. Monsanto's name was brought up in testimony last week on the PCB contamination of eggs and chickens in the northwest. Pryanol is a GE trademark for your PCB. It is your PCB, isn't it?

A. I don't know that to be true, I'd check with the manufacturer. Some producers used PCBs other than our own.

Q. My records show Monsanto is the only producer, and you started in 1929?

A. We were the only U.S. manufacturer. We started in 1929 and ceased production in October 1977. But PCBs were also made by other companies in other countries.

Q. Let me ask a general question of liability. Could Monsanto be held responsible (if this is your PCB) for the contamination in Idaho and Utah?

A. We do not believe so. (Reporter asked for amplification.) It would be inappropriate to speculate on a situation we are not familiar with.

Q. Weren't there other PCB suits? How do they stand?

A. Yes, but by policy, Monsanto does not discuss ongoing litigation.

Q. Where can I find something about these suits.

A. In the current Annual Report.

Q. Why were PCBs produced? What were the first signs of environmental contamination? When did you restrict your sales?

A. (From position statement)

G-2967 (REV. 8/79)

October 2, 1979
11:30 a.m.

Called reporter back at 11:30 a.m., October 2, to report status of suits in 1978 Annual Report had changed. "In the 1978 Annual Report we discussed three law suits purporting to be class action for damages allegedly caused by PCBs. Two suits were for $500 million each, a third for $1 billion. These suits were joined by the State of Alabama and they asked $100 million plus punitive damages and clean-up costs.

"I have later information on those suits. The State of Alabama settled its claim in the lawsuit relating to PCBs without any payment by Monsanto. All three of the other claims were dismissed with prejudice without any payment by Monsanto."

Q. Why did they bring suits?

A. Read verbatim from 1978 Annual Report.

Source of Answer: Notes
J. R. G. Ortiz
1978 Annual Report
9/14/79 Pollution Control
Revenue Bond Prospectus

Handled by: R. C. Isham