Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) Dept. of Medicine & Environmental Health

DATE September 28, 1976 CC G. J. Levinskas

SUBJECT PCB in Mothers' Milk

REFERENCE:

TO George Roush, Jr., M.D.

A meeting was held in Washington, D. C. on September 23, 1976, to review the data available on the PCB concentration in mothers' milk and to make recommendations concerning breast feeding of infants. This meeting was attended for Monsanto by Warren Easley of our Washington office. Governmental agency representatives from EPA and HEW as well as medical practitioners, pediatricians, nursing association representatives, and a public interest group (LaLeche) were in attendance.

Mr. Easley informed me that most of the information which was presented at this meeting has been made publicly available at earlier meetings. The consensus reached by this group was that breast feeding of infants would not be discouraged.

It was pointed out that additional research concerning transfer of PCB from human adipose tissue or from the diet into milk needed further study. The effects of PCB on neonates will also require further experimental evaluation. Allen from Wisconsin presented preliminary data which he interpreted as suggesting that PCB exposure from milk may have resulted in behavioral changes in neonatal monkeys. This meeting is further evidence of our need to initiate toxicity studies with PCB in primates.

Paul L. Wright

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