PRESS QUERY

~~VRC~~ Jailey
2. file ~~[illegible]~~ PR
PCB

COMPANY (Operating or Parent) : MIC

SUBJECT: PCBs/LIVER CANCER LINK

REPORTER & MEDIA: Irv Schwartz
Chemical Week

DATE & TIME: Sept. 14, 1976 - 10:30 a.m.

QUERY & RESPONSE:

X Corporate PR Bulletin Board
X J. T. Nolan
X W. R. Mulhall
X S. Pickard-Washington, D. C.
X J. F. Hussey-Washington, D. C.
X New York Public Relations
X Brussels Public Relations
__ MAP PR
__ MCP PR
X MIC PR
__ MP&P PR
__ MTC PR
X INT'L PR
X G. F. Barton
X J. K. Clark
X W. R. Corey
X E. H. Harbison
X T. H. Lafferre
X G. J. Levinskas
X J. E. McKee
X J. T. Nolan
X R. G. Potter
X G. Roush
X J. C. Weber
X W. W. Withers
X ~~D.~~ Wood

Reporter was following up a story that appeared in the Sept. 13 edition of the Washington Post. That story quoted a Dr. Tjkeshi Hirayama of the National Cancer Center Research Institute of Tokyo as having found a definite association between PCBs and human liver cancer in a study of victims who had consumed high levels of PCBs that had contaminated rice oil as a result of an industrial accident in Yusho, Japan in 1968.

Q. Does Monsanto have a statement concerning this PCB/liver cancer link?

A. Monsanto was not aware of this study until it was reported in the news media yesterday. Since we have not had an opportunity to review it, we can make no comment on the findings as this time.

Regarding our own experience, Monsanto has seen no evidence of liver cancer in our own employe population or in our own extensive lifetime animal feeding studies which have been reviewed by independent researchers.

SOURCE OF ANSWER: MONS 057352 HANDLED BY:

Until now the only study we were aware of that suggested a link between PCBs and liver cancer was the 1975 animal study done at the Public Health Service in Atlanta.

We have reviewed the data developed in that study and, further, had it reviewed by an independent researcher. Neither our conclusions or those of the independent researcher agree with the conclusions reported by the Public Health Service researcher.

Q. Then Monsanto agrees with Dr. Allen's position that "there are only suggestions of a link" and that the whole matter is still pretty much up in the air.

A. No -- we don't agree with Dr. Allen. Our position is best summarized by Dr. George Roush, the director of our Medical and Environmental Health Department, who, in a Monsanto press release release last week, said we have seen nothing in the evidence to date that would suggest a link between PCBs and cancer.

I then offered to have a copy of our press release messengered to Mr. Schwartz from our New York office and he said he would like to see it.

Source: G. Levinskas

Handled By: D. R. Bishop