DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

October 18, 1972

Dr. L. L. Ramsey
Assoc. Director, Regulatory Programs
Office of Compliance
Bureau of Foods, FDA
Washington, D.C. 20204

Dear Dr. Ramsey:

We have reviewed the document "Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Notice of Proposed Rule Making, Polychlorinated Biphenyls, May 8, 1972."

The Department of Agriculture participated in the Interdepartmental Task Force on PCBs, which also received copies of the draft notice of proposed rule making on February 29. As indicated on page 20, the Task Force, including the USDA representatives, found no objection to the FDA proposal.

In addition, the Department formed its own ad hoc group on PCBs which has prepared a report on "Agriculture's Responsibility Concerning PCBs" (enclosed). This group also supports the FDA notice of proposed rule making.

It is believed that these proposed actions will considerably reduce the accidental contamination and long-term exposure of man to PCBs in the U.S. The widespread occurrence of PCBs in the environment already makes it highly desirable to set temporary tolerances for PCBs as proposed, until the background levels are reduced.

This Department wishes, therefore, to support this environmental impact statement. Appreciation is expressed for the opportunity to review it.

Sincerely,

Gerald F. Combs

GERALD F. COMBS
Nutrition & Food Safety Coordinator
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