F.U.J.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

PRESS QUERY

( ) Divisional
( ) Financial
(x) Corporate

Date Time
June 1, 1970, 4 p.m.
QUERIED BY (Reporter and Media)
Richard Krantz, St. Louis Globe-Democrat

To:
(X) St. Louis Bulletin Boards
(X) New York Public Relations
( ) West Coast Public Relations
(X) Lloyd R. Cole
(X) John Mason
(X) Dan Forrestal
(X) John Spano
(X) William Papageorge
(X) Sam Pickard
(X) Howard Bergen
(X) James Springgate

Dick Krantz, Globe-Democrat, contacted William F. Ryan's office in Washington, D.C. A Ryan aide read Mr. Krantz a letter Ryan received from Mr. John Mason concerning our recent activity in regulating the use of PCB. Mr. Krantz called for some additional information from Monsanto.

Q: Can you determine how much PCB escapes from your manufacturing operation at the Krummrich plant?

A: We did not give Congressman Ryan a specific figure. We emphasized the strict manufacturing controls that have been implemented since it became apparent that PCB might be a possible threat to the environment.

Q: Why did you not reveal annual production and sales figures in the U.K. and U.S. as Congressman Ryan requested?

A: As we stated in our letter to Mr. Ryan, these figures are considered confidential, but we would be ready to release them to any responsible government agency.

Q: Why are the figures confidential? Why could it hurt Monsanto to release such information?

A: We consider this to be competitive information. There are other manufacture around the world and these kinds of figures would be valuable to their marke positions.

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--2 MONSANTO: RICHARD KRANTZ, GLOBE-DEMOCRAT PRESS QUERY xxx positions.

Q: I sit here in the Globe-Democrat building only one mile from the Krummrich plant and I am concerned about how much PCB escapes from the plant. Should not the public be aware of this threat?

A: Your concern must be based on the assumption that this material is highly toxic to humans and a threat to public health. Neither of these is true.

Q: Is the State of Illinois aware of the possible PCB threat from the Krummrich plant?

not discussed — No threat Here —

A: Yes, we work very closely with the appropriate pollution control agencies in the State of Illinois, in this case, not aware of a Threat. —

Q: How is PCB packaged and shipped? Is it a liquid or powder?

A: Aroclor products come in both liquid and solid forms, and it is shipped primarily in 55-gallon drums by rail or truck. — Not PCB —

Q: What control measures are being taken to protect the environment from PCB escaping from manufacturing processes?

A: Strict controls were undertaken at our plants as soon as we became aware of this possible threat. The physical measures employed could be as simple as better housekeeping or as complex as modern pollution control devices.

Q: What are you doing to control the escape of PCB after it leaves your plant?

A: We are working closely with customers alerting them to handle the material properly, dispose of it carefully, and if they do not wish to dispose of it, to return it to us for disposal. Recently, we have begun using a new shipping label which alerts customers to the possible environmental hazard. A project is under way to develop alternate products which contain the functional characteristics of PCB but pose no threat to the environment. We expect these products to be on the market later this year. Another customer-related project involves eliminating the use of PCB in applications where it cannot be strictly controlled. Recently we found out that two small insecticide blenders were using PCB as a component in their product. We have asked our distributors to discontinue sale of the product for this use. In a related action, we have asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture to refuse to register any insecticide formulation containing PCB.

Q: What are the major uses for Aroclor products?

A: By far, the greatest amount of Aroclor is used in electrical components such as transformers and capacitors and in closed-heat transfer systems such as heating systems for buildings or vessels where the fluid is contained in pipes.

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--3 MONSANTO: RICHARD KRANTZ, GLOBE-DEMOCRAT PRESS QUERY xxx pipes.

Q: Is it possible that PCB is escaping to the environment by poor disposal methods, such as burning?

A: Yes, this is possible and this is why we are working with customers to handl the material properly and to dispose of it properly or to return it to us.

Q: Is it possible to dispose of Aroclor by burning?

A: Yes, I have been told we have developed an incineration process which breaks the material down and does not release PCB to the environment.

Q: Do you wish to respond to Congressman Ryan's reponse to Mr. Mason's letter?

A: No.

Q: Is there a part of Mr. Mason's letter which summarizes your company's position?

A: Yes. (The following paragraph was supplied.)

"We have been investigating the relationship of PCB to the environment since 1968. We can only assume that the other manufacturers of PCB materials are doing likewise. We have contacted scientists and agencies around the world. Most recently, we attended a U.S. Department of the Interior meeting where some 40 scientists from throughout the country gathered to exchange information on PCB's and recommend actions. On April 29, we are participating in a meeting of the Office of Science and Technology of the Executive Office of the President to discuss the toxicity of PCB's. When we first became aware of the possible threat to the environment by PCB, our immediate action was to cooperate fully with scientists and government agencies to properly identify and measure PCB in the environment. Since then, we have taken other major steps directed toward strictly monitoring the manufacture, use and disposal of PCB-containing products which could possibly build up in the ecological system."

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SOURCE: John Mason and File

STAFFER: E. V. John

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