

cc: Bell
Hammett
Harris
Lorenzini

RECEIVED

SEP 20 1978

Environmental Affairs

cc: Z. G. BELL

file
MCA/VDC

To Dr. Fred Dehn

from Bjorn Holmstrom September 11, 1978

CANCER TEST WORK ON VINYLIDENE CHLORIDE.

Visit to Dr. Lorenzo TOMATIS, Chief, Unit of Carcinogenesis, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Lyon, France.

It was with some difficulty that I made this appointment and the reason for this is obvious from what follows. Not only was there a group to come on October 25 representing the American CMA to discuss the subject but Tomatis's group has found no statistical proof of carcinogenic action by VDC. Having accepted my visit Tomatis was very courteous and forthright. I am sure you will like to spend some time with him and his people next time over here. This is not a Maltoni whom nobody seems to reach anymore. In fact Tomatis complained about this attitude of Maltoni's during an aside in our conversation.

There is undoubtedly some embarrassment around the whole subject. Tomatis did in no way try to conceal his perplexity at the IARC results - finding no statistical reason to attribute carcinogenicity to VDC - results that appear in contrast with Maltoni's findings. They will continue to study the matter. You will find interesting the attached reprint "Tissue-mediated mutagenicity of Vinylidene Chloride ... in Salmonella typhimurium". This work done under Tomatis is among the reason for his doubting the final validity of the results so far.

I am forwarding separately the following documents that he was kind to give us:

IARC Monograph Vol. 7 which deals with VCM on p. 291.

IARC "Report ... on Epidemiological Studies on VCM exposed people.

IARC Report ... on VCM (June 1974)

Induction of gene mutations and gene conversions by VCM metabolites in yeast. (Jan. 1977).

Evaluation of carcinogenicity of Chemicals (April 1978).

Mutation induction in Chinese hamster V79 cells by two VCM metabolites, Chloroethylene Oxide and 2-Chloroacetaldehyde. 1975.

Some aspects of Metabolic Activation of Chemical Carcinogens ... 1977.

The information Tomatis gave me is not public. I assume we should handle it as given in confidence until it is published in the Vol. 19 IARC Monograph to be issued end of this year.

CC: Graybill
CC: K. Raab
CC: Twissau

Bjorn Holmstrom

SL 095936