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CHEMICAL RESEARCH

MAR 29

GEORGE E. BEST
VICE PRESIDENT
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

March 26, 1973

BY CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. John D. Bryan
Conoco Chemicals
Continental Oil Company
Park Eighty Plaza East
Saddle Brook, New Jersey 07562

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Dear Mr. Bryan:

This letter is being sent to the management contact for the vinyl chloride research project of each of the 20 sponsoring companies, BP Chemicals International Limited (England) having just joined in such participation, with information copies in each case as indicated.

As the technical representatives are already aware, if the preliminary indications from animal exposure tests under the European project should be further confirmed, a possible toxicity problem could be presented.

Considering that potentiality, one of the sponsors has found support among several others contacted informally, for the point of view that the credibility of the scientific findings from the MCA-administered program just about to get under way would be much enhanced if U.S. Government representatives were included from the outset in its surveillance, probably in an advisory role. Obviously, this reasoning derives from the inevitable suspicion about results of research managed solely by parties at interest, and the possibility of a highly precautionary reaction.

There is also the aspect of moral obligation not to withhold from the Government significant information having occupational and environmental relevance, and the desirability of industry taking the initiative rather than at some later time having to defend another course.

Such consultation with the Government in a meaningful way would necessarily involve discussion of the present state of

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knowledge, which importantly includes European data disclosed on a confidential basis to assist in coordinated planning of the MCA program. The second aspect of the proposal this letter places before you is to seek permission from the European project sponsors to release the information for the purpose indicated, and indeed to invite them to participate in the consultation.

Coming so soon after our liaison has become established, you will appreciate this issue is highly sensitive, since there is full sympathy with the attitude that information to be openly released should be well substantiated.

What is in mind, therefore, is that no more than three or four participating company top executives arrange to discuss the proposal with their counterpart heads of European project company sponsors.

To save unnecessary correspondence, this letter is being sent by certified mail to ensure its reaching you, and no reply is called for if you concur in the proposal. If you should have any comments or suggestions to be taken into account, may I please have them by April 6.

Sincerely,

cc: Dr. R. W. Gerwig
Mr. Flynt Kennedy

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