

St. Louis - General Offices

January 6, 1966

B. F. Goodrich Chemical--
PVC Health Problem

F. E. Reese
L. W. Sessions
B. L. Williams
C. L. Knowles
J. M. Chamberlin

Mr. Proc Avon
PAVON

Confidential

This will record some of the comments made to me by Harry Warner, Corporate Vice President of B. F. Goodrich and ex President of B. F. Goodrich Chemical, in the Cleveland airport mid-December concerning their health problem involving PVC.

In addition to merely confirming the seriousness with which Goodrich management considers their health problem with PVC, Mr. Warner stated that not only had they observed the severe dermatitis problem now showing more serious effect in some employees' hands, including some drawing and fixation of the joints of the hands, but that they are also concerned that some effect can be detected to employees who have never been involved specifically with the cleaning of the interior of their polymerization reactors, but who have merely worked in the area of vinyl polymerization. In fact, Mr. Warner stated that this phenomena was first noticed, as far as he can remember, when he was a plant manager several years ago.

He reported that recently they had taken some X-rays which is the means of detection of the bone structure of employees' hands. Apparently an M. D., expert in this field from Brussels, when observing the X-rays stated categorically that the damage to the bone tips to him indicated that these people had been working around PVC. This doctor, and I don't have his name, has had similar experience in Europe with Solvay, and stated that he was about to publish an article covering this phenomenon. Goodrich was concerned enough about the response to such a published article that Mr. Warner attempted to have one of their representatives, who was in Europe, stop by and try to discourage or to influence the wording of such an article to be sure that it didn't condemn PVC in general. He was unsuccessful in catching their representative but their man from Hague has been in Brussels and talked to this Solvay doctor. Perhaps jointly, for consultation as well as to discourage or edit the publication, Goodrich is sending a team of either two or three men to Brussels next week to be with this doctor.

011-1966-00003926



RSV 0009169

January 6, 1966

As Mr. Warner described it, the bone endings appear to have experienced some of the same symptoms similar to the astronauts with an apparent loss of calcium from the ends of the bones. The fact that this has been noticed with employees who have not been involved with kettle cleaning may explain the lack of action you have been getting from Goodrich on our kettle cleaning license.

I expressed concern in the general area and assured Mr. Warner that with Monsanto Europe's headquarters being in Brussels, if they were unsuccessful or if assistance from us in this area would be helpful, we would be happy to cooperate with Goodrich in trying to be sure that the Solvay doctor publication is not condemning to PVC per se.

Mr. Warner also suggested that if we had not done so, we might wish to have a random group of employees who have been exposed to PVC manufacture for some time X-rayed to detect whether or not there appeared to be any bone damage. I am sure Messrs. Reese, Chamberlin, et al, will want to consider whether or not this should be done from a safety-union relationship, et al, standpoint.

J. V. Waggoner

/je

1/6/66.1 VCT2 RSV 9169 - 9170
011-1966-0003927



Page Number 002 Acro 1, Roll 3
Baggett, McCall & Burgess

RSV 0009170