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My ref:

Your ref:

Dominic Morris Esq
Private Secretary to
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

14 February 1989

Dear Dominic,

TOXIC WASTE

I attach a briefing note on toxic waste, as requested. With luck, the legislative provisions to tighten up control of waste disposal will be included in an Environmental Protection Bill in the next Session. Some of the proposals relating to registration of waste carriers should be included in Mrs Joan Ruddock's Private Member's Bill, which was introduced on 21 December 1988.

Please let me know if you require any more information.

Yours,

Deborah.

DEBORAH LAMB
Private Secretary

Brief for the Prime Minister

DIOXINS IN DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS

Very small quantities of dioxins are produced when wood pulp is bleached with chlorine, and minute quantities, parts per trillion and almost undetectable, may remain in the final product. [Department of Health toxicologists tell us that on present knowledge they pose ~~no~~ ^{an} hazard to health, ~~but~~ The expert Committee on

Toxicity is due to report to Government shortly on the hazards of dioxins generally. ~~Once that report is concluded the Government will subsequently make~~

~~which is considering the human health hazards of dioxins~~

Wood pulp is not used in the manufacture of tampons in the UK, and in Sweden only tiny quantities have been found. Nevertheless the DTI have asked the Association of Sanitary Protection Manufacturers what levels of dioxins are present in sanitary products generally and whether they can be 'leached' out, so that we can assess the hazard to women.

The brand leaders in babies' disposable nappies, Procter and Gamble and Peau d'ouze have gone over to unbleached nappies, not because there was any risk from bleached nappies, but because they judged that there was commercial advantage in doing so. We fully expect the "own branders" who make up most of the rest of the market to follow their lead.

The Government will consider the hazard from other products such as paper plates and coffee filters, and whether any action needs to be taken on them, when we have the report from the Committee on Toxicity.

are
most
unlikely
to

a definitive
statement
on
this
matter.

To:

PS/Secretary of State

From:

Richard Roscoe
CA4
Rm 407
10-18 Victoria St
215 3324
13 February 1989

cc PS/CDL
PS/Mr Forth
Sir B Hayes
Mr Mountfield
Mr Newton
Mr Hope
Mr Veness CM
Mr Williams Inf
Mr Peacock Inf

DIOXIN87

I attach a brief for the Prime Minister's interview on dioxins in disposable products. World in Action on ITV tonight is to claim that levels of dioxins in babies' disposable nappies and other paper products is much higher than originally thought.

Wor.

R J ROSCOE

*pl send to
Dominic Morris*

