

From
Dr J K Howard
Division Medical Officer

ICI Plant Protection Division

Jealott's Hill Research Station
Bracknell Berkshire
RG12 6EY

To
Mr J C Francis
Established Products Group
Fernhurst

Telephone Bracknell 24701
Telex 668411

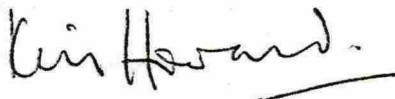
Copies to Mr R E Griggs, RATLS
Dr M S Rose, CTL
Dr A Calderbank
Dr B G Johnen
Dr P Slade
Dr D M Foulkes

Your ref	Our ref	Tel ext	Date
	JKH/MB		8 March 1978

PARAQUAT FATALITIES : ESTIMATED EFFECT OF EMETIC

I am very concerned at the sort of exercise you recently commissioned from RATLS. The assumptions that have been made virtually make the exercise meaningless and preclude any true assessment of the effect of the emetic. We can all make guesses, but any assessment of the effect of PP796 will have to wait until there is sufficient case information. However, it is worth making the point that it has been consistently emphasised by myself and CTL that the addition of an emetic to paraquat would be little more than building in a first aid measure to the formulation, and would only be significantly effective in low dose accidental poisonings.

For what it is worth, an examination of the clinical data on the 36 self poisonings in UK with 'Gramoxone' reported to me last year from the treating hospitals would suggest that 12 might have survived with emeticised paraquat rather than 4 who did, reducing the mortality from 89% to 67%. (It is worth pointing out that there were an additional 24 cases of 'Weedol'/'Pathclear' poisonings and three other formulations of paraquat for which I have clinical data who would not have been affected by the emetic formulation).



J K Howard

13 MAR 1978 HA 709