

From Washington

ments that result in trade restraint and that are proposed in the spirit of protectionism." Details: *Food Chemical News*, Sept. 7, 1987, p. 24.

Meanwhile, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore and Brunei have threatened to restrict U.S. soybean imports if Congress does enact the labeling legislation. According to the Sept. 4 *Washington Correspondence*, a NIOP publication, retaliation could affect up to \$70 million worth of U.S. soybean exports.

The ASA has responded by saying that it will not be intimidated by threats from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as retaliation against U.S. efforts to gain better consumer labeling for fats and oils.

"Clearly, this is a consumer issue and not a trade issue as the producers of tropical fats are trying to portray," Wayne Bennett, ASA president, said. Bennett said the ASEAN nations had no ground for retaliation because ASA had not called for any kind of restriction on imports of palm, palm kernel or coconut oils. "What ASA and other consumer, commodity and health organizations have done is to bring to the attention of U.S. consumers the need for more specific labeling that would identify use of highly saturated tropical fats in food products," he added.

In addition to threatening to cut soybean imports, the Malaysian government has hired the New York-based public relations firm of Hill and Knowlton Inc. to counter ASA claims. Recent reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture have indicated that the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia has contracted for research from scientists at several U.S. universities to investigate the nutritional value of palm oil. The Philippines coconut industry likewise has established a research agreement with U.S. researchers. A team from Harvard University is to study the nutritional/medical usage of coconut oil's medium-chain fatty acids, *The Cocomunity* newsletter said.

ASA's campaign already has resulted in a decrease in Philippine coconut exports to the U.S., according to Jose Romero Jr., chairman of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), who spoke at the 24th COCOTECH meeting held earlier this year in Bali. "This is significant because edible oil products account for 45% of total Philippine coconut exports to the U.S., roughly 159,000 metric tons (MT) or a staggering US \$57,240,000."

Romero said the PCA was considering countermeasures to the ASA campaign. One option would be to organize the Asian Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) against the campaign. "The APCC accounts for over one-fifth of the world's population, more than one billion inhabitants. This a powerful force which even a superpower must listen to," he said. He suggested APCC allocate monies for a coordinated market development program aimed at minimizing future negative campaigns against coconut products.

Another way to insure the survival of the coconut industry is to engage in the downstream production of value-added products, Romero said. He suggested that work be done to increase the world market demand for cocochemicals through promotional activi-

ties and that the use of coconut oil-based derivatives, particularly fatty alcohols, be encouraged in the domestic soap and detergent industry. "Replacing hard alkyl benzene in detergent bar formulation can bring about an immediate increase of local coconut oil usage by at least 44,000 MT per year, not to mention the millions in foreign exchange savings due principally to elimination of imported mineral oil-based products." He also said more work should be done to develop export markets for value-added products such as laundry and toilet soaps. More work also is under way to consider the technical and economic viability of using methyl esters as partial replacements for diesel fuel.

FDA approves lovastatin

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved lovastatin, a drug developed by Merck & Co. that inhibits the natural production of cholesterol. The drug will be marketed under the name "Mevacor" and should be available in 18 months, according to

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From Washington

sources cited in the Sept. 7, 1987, issue of *Chemical Marketing Reporter*.

Lovastatin is classified as an HMG Co-A reductase inhibitor. Reductase inhibitors work by inhibiting the activity of enzymes necessary to cholesterol production. E.R. Squibb & Sons and American Cyanamid's Lederle Division are working on similar kinds of drugs,

Chemical Marketing Reporter said.

Meanwhile, FDA has announced plans to remove the antioxidant and stabilizer hydrogenated 4,4'-isopropylidene-diphenolphosphite ester resins from the list of approved indirect food additives because studies indicate the substance has adverse neurological effects in animal studies. The agency also is proposing to list the substance

under Substances Prohibited from Indirect Addition to Human Food Through Food Contact Services.

In 1968, FDA approved the use of the ester resins in vinyl chloride polymers used in the manufacture of bottles meant for contact with edible oils and salad dressings. Comments were accepted until Oct. 9. Details: *Federal Register*, Sept. 9, 1987, pp. 33929-33930.

Inside AOCs

New members

The following persons had applied for membership in the American Oil Chemists' Society through mid-September 1987. If an applicant was invited to join AOCs by

a current member, that member's name appears in parentheses at the end of the listing. The new members' listing is published bimonthly.

Michael E. Allen, Emery Chemicals, Mauldin, South Carolina (Zilch)

Maryann C. Allred, Ralston Purina, St. Louis, Missouri

Arunachalam A-Muthu, SAF Yeast Co. Ltd, Bombay India

Robert P. Arbaugh, Capital City Products Co., Harrison, New Jersey.

Cynthia C. Baer, Kraft Inc., Glenview, Illinois (Widlak)

Bryan L. Bertram, Reagent Chemical and Research Inc., Jeffersonville, Indiana

Dipak Kumar Bhattacharyya, Calcutta University, Calcutta, West Bengal, India

Kristian S. Bjerve, Regional Hospital, Trondheim, Norway

Ulrich K. Bodek, Westfalia Separator Mexicana, Cuernavaca, Mexico

Ingolf A. Buethe, BASF Corp., Wyandotte, Michigan

John S. Charnock, CSIRO, O'Halloran Hill, South Australia

Daniel Charpin, Lesieur Cotelle, Ivry, France

Shahid N. Chaudhry, Chapman College, Orange, California

Isabel S. Chen, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Washington, D.C.

Robert A. Clayton, Experience Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota (Holt)

Oscar A. Contreras, Watt's Alimentos S.A., Santiago, Chile

Karla A. Cooper, Western America Feed Fat, Dalhart, Texas (Butler)

Susan M. Fischer, University of Texas System Cancer Center, Smithville, Texas

Raul Flores Salas, Industrias Conasupo S.A. de C.V., Gomez Palacio, Durango, Mexico

David W. Foster, KBC Process Automation, Chilworth Research Centre, Southampton, England

Kevin P. George, Emery Chemicals, Cincinnati, Ohio (Zilch)

President's Club and Honor Roll

The AOCs members listed here have qualified for the 1987-88 AOCs President's Club and Honor Roll. Members who recruit at least one new member qualify for the President's Club; those recruiting three or more qualify for the Honor Roll. President's Club and Honor Roll members receive recognition at AOCs annual meetings. Forms for use in recruiting new members are available from AOCs Headquarters, PO Box 3489, Champaign, IL 61821-0489.

Seven

E.J. Conkerton
K.T. Zilch

Six

E. Graves

Four

D.L. Berner
D.R. Erickson
E.W. Lusas
M.D. Meiners

Three

B.H. Butler
R.C. Hastert
R.T. Holman
R.G. Krishnamurthy

Two

R.J. Bertozzi
K.E. Holt
H.F. Marshall Jr.
D.B. Min

One

C.B. Amos
D.M. Bogdanor

K.C. Butler

K.F. Carlson

R.M. Catiis

S.S. Chang

J. Chavez-Perzaza

J.E. Covey

M.F. Cox

J.M. DeMan

K.W. Dillan

N. DiMarco

M.D. Erickson

R.J. Evans

A.M. Gavin

F. Gustafsson

E.G. Hammond

L.A. Hawkins

R.H. Hein

A.S. Hodgson

B.G. Hughes

C.L. Huntley

J.M. Iacono

T. Jacks

J.D. Joseph

R.S. Kadan

P. Kalustian

F.P. Khym

D.H. Klapprott

E. Louis

B.A. Mateo

O.W. Neiditch

R.L. Ory

D. Parton

G.W. Patterson

E.G. Perkins

G.L. Posschelle

M.L. Pulliam

S. Quinn-Mullin

M.A. Reynolds

L. Roman

M. San Alberto

Lasarte

P. Sosis

B.F. Szuhaj

D.C. Tandy

C.G. vom Bruck

K. Warner

N.R. Widlak

G.F. Winnie

N.H. Witte