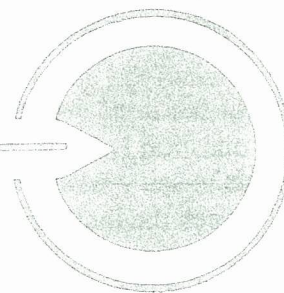


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NEWSLETTER



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SWEDEN'S DIRECTOR OF CHEMICAL INSPECTION STATES

"AMALGAM WILL BE BANNED"

So read the headline in the Swedish Newspaper Dagens Nyheter on October 6, 1989

SWEDEN'S CENTER PARTY PARLIAMENT GROUP SAY'S

"NO AMALGAM AFTER 1991"

Press Release of September 26, 1989

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Amalgam Will Be Banned</i>	2
<i>No Amalgam After 1991</i>	4
<i>Mobilization test for environmental metal poisonings</i>	
<i>Daunderer</i>	5
<i>Additional information from Dr. Daunderer not previously published</i>	7
<i>Abstracts</i>	11

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When Dr. Mats Hanson of Sweden advised us of the above two events we were extremely excited.

Following are verbatim transcripts of both the newspaper article and the Center Party Press Release as provided by Dr. Hanson. The first is the newspaper article that appeared in Dagens Nyheter on October

6, 1989. NOTE: Copies of the original Swedish documents have been included as a part of this issue as we are sending it and the September 1989 issue of Bio-Probe to the Dean's of all medical and dental schools in the U.S.

Front page

RAPID PROHIBITION OF AMALGAM

The question is not if, but when we ban amalgam, says the director of the Chemical Inspection, Kerstin Niblaeus.

This week the Inspection sent the government a list of 10 hazardous chemicals which should be removed.

On that list is mercury: a substance which is a component of amalgam. A ban on amalgam is a decision which the government must take, but Niblaeus is sure: I have not even considered that the government should not decide on a prohibition, she says. The Chemical Inspection intends to substantially speed-up its clean-up of the chemical jungle. Within a month there will be another list with 35 more chemicals which will be forbidden.

The intense environmental debate has speeded up work at the Chemical Inspection. Now the agency's ten inspectors intend to examine all companies which sell "environmentally acceptable" products. The concept "environmentally acceptable" will probably not be allowed. None of the products are environmentally acceptable in the true sense of the words. The new concept will be "environmentally adapted".

Page 7

THE CHEMICAL INSPECTION RAISES THE TONE AMALGAM WILL BE BANNED

Amalgam is one of several products which the Chemical Inspection will ban. The speed of cleaning-up will increase. Reports to the police is a new weapon in the fight.

- With current speed it will take 100 years until the most hazardous substances are gone. That is not acceptable.

This fact is revealed by Kerstin Niblaeus, director general of the Chemical Inspection.

- So far we have banned one hazardous chemical each year. First cadmium, then PCB and now freon. At that rate the process will take too long a time since we know 50-100 chemicals which we want to get rid of.

20 000 CHEMICALS

The Chemical Inspection has only been in existence for three years. The time has been used to get an overview of the chemical situation. There are 55000 registered chemical products in Sweden. They contain 20000 chemicals.

First the task seemed too big but now the Inspection has found a strategy for the 90ies.

This week the Chemical Inspection gave the government a list of 10 hazardous chemicals which should be stopped. In a month a list of another 35 chemicals will follow. Their names are so far not disclosed.

The use of all of them will be discontinued the same way freon was discontinued. Industry will have a schedule for discontinuation. The Chemical Inspection will not consider whether alternatives are available. Experience shows that when a ban is planned by the government, industry will rapidly find replacements.

- So far we have not been rigorous when no alternatives have been around. Then we have got ourselves into a situation with numerous exemptions. Now we act in a new way which will mean a considerably faster way of cleaning-up.

Amalgam contains mercury, one of the ten chemicals on the black list.

- The question is not if, but when we ban amalgam, Kerstin Niblaeus emphasizes.

Mercury is not degraded in nature. Instead it accumulates and causes damage to animal and plant life. In addition it has been shown that amalgam can cause disease in humans.

A decision on a prohibition must be taken by the government.

Do you think the government will approve of the proposal?