

Attachment to
Vice Mayor Cheves
Order 19

12

The Philadelphia Inquirer

STATE

SEC

Phila. ash reported in the mail from E

By Mark Jaffe
Staff Writer

What ash is in that mail? Remember the Khlan Sea, the luckless ship that sailed the world for two years trying to find a place to dump 13,000 tons of Philadelphia incinerator ash?

Remember the 3,000 tons of ash the Khlan Sea dumped in a pile in Gonaves, Haiti, before being ordered out of the country? Well, it's still there. Most of it anyway.

This week, Los Amis de la Nature, a Haitian environmental group, and

the Clabo Club, a Caribbean advocacy organization, reportedly began placing servings of the waste into envelopes and mailing them back to the United States.

And who's getting the ash? Well, Mayor Goode can expect about 250 envelopes filled with incinerator ash. William Rolly, the administrator of the federal Environmental Protection Agency, is also slated to receive 250 ash envelopes. Merry Christmas.

Each envelope is labeled: "Contains Philadelphia Waste. Return to

sender. Delivered three years ago. Mislabeled as fertilizer."

There is no return address. "We want to bring the issue back to the surface. It's been there three years," said Elmi Lafontalt, a spokesman for the Clabo Club.

Karen Warrington, a spokeswoman for the mayor, said, "I don't believe we've gotten any yet. I don't think we'll have any comment until we receive the letters."

A private contractor loaded the ash onto the Khlan Sea and the city has maintained that it had no control or

responsibility for the fate of the material.

But Ann Leonard, an analyst with the international environmental group Greenpeace, said, "It's time the U.S. took care of the situation."

"My goodness, I'd better alert the mail room," said Peter Christlich, a specialist in the EPA's Office of International Affairs, in Washington.

Christlich oversaw an EPA technical team that went to Haiti to evaluate the ash pile. He said the team concluded that while the waste contained traces of heavy metals and

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During the next two years, there were unsuccessful plans to dump the ash in the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Costa Rica, Chile, Guinea-Bissau, the Cape Verde Islands and Turkey.

In February 1988, the Khlan Sea attempted to unload at the rural Haitian port of Gonaïves. The cargo was listed as "fertilizer ash."

But within a few days, the ash provoked an outburst of controversy and the ship was ordered out of the country. It left. But it also left 3,000 tons of ash at the edge of the ocean.

The EPA advisory team determined that the ash did not meet criteria for "hazardous waste" under U.S. laws. Nevertheless, Christich

said, "because of the proximity of the ash pile to sensitive mangrove ecosystems, the EPA recommended that the Haitians take some remedial action."

Lafontait said yesterday, in a telephone interview from Port-au-Prince, that most of the ash had been removed from the water's edge to a site about five miles away where it was deposited in a yard surrounded with cinderblock walls.

"It is still inadequate," Lafontait said. "Every time it rains or the wind blows, ash gets out."

After leaving Haiti, the Khlan Sea sailed around the Caribbean, along the African coast, across the Mediterranean Sea and through the Indian Ocean.

Somewhere between the Suez Canal and Singapore, the ash disappeared. When the ship, which changed its name to the Pelicano, arrived in Singapore on Nov. 26, 1989, its holds were empty.

The fate of the ash has never been determined.

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City of Cambridge

19.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 1, 1991

VICE MAYOR REEVES

WHEREAS: The people of the country of Haiti, and of developing countries around the world, are struggling to protect their lands and provide their society with a quality of life that many Americans would take for granted; and

WHEREAS: The standard of living many of enjoyed by Americans often produces its own dire consequences in the form of toxic wastes; and

WHEREAS: Many residents of the City of Cambridge and in cities across the country have expressed concern over the disposal of toxic waste in their home towns; and

WHEREAS: One solution taken by American officials to the problem of disposal of toxic wastes produced in this country has been to deposit these destructive effluents in the soils and waterways of poor and less powerful countries; and

WHEREAS: Just one example of this "toxic dumping" is the disposal of three thousand tons of Philadelphia incinerator ash on the beaches of Gonaives, Haiti, in 1988; and

WHEREAS: This incinerator ash, listed as "fertilizer ash" is laced with such toxic elements as dioxins, furans, and heavy metals, but was still failed to meet EPA criteria for "hazardous waste" under U.S. laws; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record opposing the dumping in undeveloped countries of any hazardous waste produced in the City of Cambridge; urge solutions which look for alternative forms of production, including methods which do not produce such wastes; and encourage other cities around the country to join with us in this commitment.

In City Council April 1, 1991.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton

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Many residents of the City of Cambridge and in cities across the country have expressed concern over the disposal of toxic wastes in their home towns, and

and the fact that the production of such wastes is a direct result of the standard of living enjoyed by Americans

City Council APR. 1 1981

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 8 members

Joseph E. Conerton City Clerk

TELETYPE MESSAGE

DATE:

3/28/91

TO:

Sandy Albano

ADDRESS:

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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STATE

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(See A11 on page 12)

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Order # 19

CONSENT

S-449

Vice Mayor Reeves re: opposition to dumping of hazardous waste in undeveloped countries.

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Order adopted