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John Neagle

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## **Brazil: Toxic Waste Clean-up Underway Near Sao Paulo**

*by John Neagle*

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On Nov. 24, the French-owned Rhodia chemical and textile company and the Sao Paulo Environmental Protection Agency began cleaning up tons of toxic waste clandestinely dumped near an ecological park close to Cubatao, an industrial city 43 miles from Sao Paulo. Agency press spokesperson Newton Miura told AP by phone that tons of hexachlorobenzene, a cancer-causing chemical used to produce insecticides, were dumped. He said at least 900 tons of earth mixed with the chemical will have to be removed to clean up the area. The toxic waste was deposited in the early 1970s by Clorogil, a Brazilian company taken over in 1976 by the local subsidiary of Rhodia. Miura said the Agency started conducting soil and water analyses in early October after workers hired to expand the park detected a strong odor of insecticide. (Basic data from AP, 11/24/89)

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