

Text B: News Broadcast Script**The “Social Issues” Morning News Broadcast**

Hosted by Joanna White, NET

Reported by Queenie Chow, 6S

JW: Good morning, every one. This is your NET, Joanna White. Welcome to our weekly “Social Issues” Morning News Broadcast. Today we will hear Queenie Chow from 6S, who will report on the tainted milk scandal in China. Over to you, Queenie.

QC: Thank you, Ms White.

Unscrupulous Practices Milk the Public

According to news reports, officials in China are now investigating several dairy companies after the chemical melamine was detected in baby milk powder. Melamine is a chemical that is commonly used in making plastics. Officials are now trying to find out where and how the infant formula was contaminated.

There are rumours that unscrupulous milk suppliers have been adding melamine to fresh milk supplies as a way of boosting protein levels in quality tests. Milk tainted with melamine appears to have higher levels of protein because it contains large amounts of nitrates, which can mimic protein in quality tests.

It was recently reported that babies who were fed tainted milk in China have been appearing in hospitals with serious kidney complaints. So far, four infants have died and several thousand others are now suffering from kidney stones, and in some cases kidney failure. This has resulted in a total recall of all tainted dairy products from dairy companies Sanlu, Yili, Mengniu and Guangming.

China authorities have been criticised for not acting sooner and alerting the public earlier. According to the BBC, the head of China’s quality watchdog Li Changjiang said that China would begin testing baby formula for contaminating substances such as melamine. He said that these tests were not conducted in the past because it was not considered necessary to test for chemicals that are banned from food products.

This is just the latest in a series of food-related scandals to come out of China in recent years. Before this, there were similar food safety issues involving fish containing the chemical malachite green, pork tainted with the feed additive clenbuterol, and duck eggs contaminated with the cancer-causing dye Sudan red. I think the Chinese Government must do more to enforce food safety standards and ensure that the “Made in China” label is safe and reliable.

JW: Thank you very much, Queenie. And that is all for this week’s “Social Issues” Morning News Broadcast. Have a great day.