

1978. 24. 1 '78

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# Sweden first to put ban on pesticides

Stockholm, Jan 23.—Sweden has become the first country in the world to enact legislation against most aerial sprays on the ground that they may harm the planet's atmosphere.

The ban, which takes effect on January 1, 1979, covers the broad range of herb sprays, defoliant, air fresheners, insecticides, waxes and aerosol sprays (chloro-fluorocarbons) as a prophylactic. It does not apply to certain medical sprays, especially those used by asthma sufferers.

The Swedes, who have one of the world's most active environmental protection departments, are taking seriously warnings by some scientists that continued release of these chemicals could eventually affect Earth's ozone layer.

This layer envelopes the globe in the atmosphere some 12 miles up, protecting the Earth from most of the Sun's ultraviolet radiation.

There is concern that a thinning of this layer, such as by ozone's reaction with freon, would let through more radiation and increase the incidence of skin cancer among whites. It might even eventually cause the planet to warm up, melting the ice caps and flooding coastal cities, although this is a long-term, "worst case" threat.

Sweden, which uses only 3 per cent of the freons made in the world, obviously is not going to halt the threat single-handedly.

Sweden is having its legislation on date produced by the United States Academy of Sciences of Sciences. The United States has by far the highest consumption of aerosol products, but similar legislation has been slow to get underway there.

According to American officials here, the United States Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency will push the ban, but are having a hard time convincing legislators. The EEC countries have shown some interest in banning sprays, but are awaiting more scientific information.

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