



# Department of Justice

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The Department of Justice today filed a civil antitrust suit challenging the proposed acquisition of assets of Searle Diagnostics, Inc., of Des Plaines, Illinois a wholly owned subsidiary of G.D. Searle & Co., of Skokie, Illinois by Siemens Corporation of Iselin, New Jersey, a wholly owned subsidiary of Siemens AG, a German corporation.

Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti said the suit was filed in U.S. District Court in New York City.

The complaint charges that the proposed acquisition would violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act because it may substantially lessen competition in the sale of nuclear medical imaging equipment. It asks that the parties be enjoined from consummating the proposed acquisition pending trial of the case.

Nuclear medical imaging equipment provides images of internal body organs, tissue and structures and can measure dynamic activity such as cardiovascular and metabolic functions. It is used in the diagnosis of disease.

Sanford M. Litvack, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, said that between 1975 and 1979 the same four firms have accounted for more than 80 percent of the domestic sales of this equipment. Searle Diagnostics is the largest of the top four firms, accounting in 1979 for about 25 percent of the domestic market with sales of about \$27 million.

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According to the complaint, Siemens, which now sells X-ray and X-ray computerized medical imaging equipment in the United States, is one of a few potential entrants into the sale of nuclear medical imaging equipment in the United States.

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