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### REACTIONS OF TRIPHENYLPHOSPHINE AND TRIBUTYLPHOSPHINE WITH TETRAETHYLTHIURAM DISULFIDE AND DIETHYLDITHIOCARBAMATE COMPLEXES OF TELLURIUM(II) AND TELLURIUM(IV)

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# REACTIONS OF TRIPHENYLPHOSPHINE AND TRIBUTYLPHOSPHINE WITH TETRAETHYLTHIURAM DISULFIDE AND DIETHYLDITHIOCARBAMATE COMPLEXES OF TELLURIUM(II) AND TELLURIUM(IV)

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Triphenylphosphine reduces tetrakis(diethyldithiocarbamato)tellurium(IV),  $\text{TeL}_4$  [ $\text{L}$  = diethyldithiocarbamate,  $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{NCS}_2^-$ ] to the tellurium(II) complex  $\text{TeL}_2$ , on which  $\text{PPh}_3$  has no effect. The reaction of the tellurium(IV) complex,  $\text{TeL}_2\text{X}_2$  ( $\text{X} = \text{I}, \text{Br}, \text{Cl}$ ) with  $\text{PPh}_3$  in the molar ratio of 1:1 results in the formation of  $\text{TeLX}$ ,  $\text{CS}_2$  and an aminophosphonium halide,  $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{N}^+\text{PPh}_3\text{X}^-$ . Another mole of  $\text{PPh}_3$  reduces  $\text{TeLX}$  further to elemental tellurium. The reactions of  $\text{TeL}_3\text{X}$  ( $\text{X} = \text{I}, \text{ClO}_4, \text{PF}_6$ ) systems with excess  $\text{PPh}_3$  lead interestingly to the formation of  $\text{TeL}_2$  and elemental tellurium, with the concomitant formation of  $\text{CS}_2$ ,  $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{N}^+\text{PPh}_3\text{X}^-$  and  $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{NC}(\text{S})\text{PPh}_3\text{X}^-$ . The reactions were performed in dichloromethane solutions and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectroscopy was widely used for the identification of various phosphorus containing species.

**Key words:** Tellurium(II) and (IV) complexes, mixed halide-dithiocarbamate complexes, triphenylphosphine, tributylphosphine and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR studies.

## INTRODUCTION

The sulfur coordinated complexes of tellurium have received considerable attention owing to the interest in their stereochemistry and supramolecular activity.<sup>1</sup> During our continuing studies on mixed halide-dithiocarbamate complexes of tellurium(II) and (IV), we have synthesized and determined the structures of numerous complexes.<sup>2–8</sup> With diethyldithiocarbamate and iodide as ligands, all the three possible mixed halide-dithiocarbamate complexes of tellurium(IV),  $\text{TeL}_3\text{I}$ ,  $\text{TeL}_2\text{I}_2$  and  $\text{TeLI}_3$  have been prepared.<sup>2,3,9</sup> All the three complexes have distorted pentagonal bipyramidal geometry around tellurium.<sup>2–4</sup> Thus these  $\text{Te(IV)}$  complexes prefer seven coordination in the solid state. While  $\text{TeL}_3\text{I}$  is monomeric in the solid state,  $\text{TeL}_2\text{I}_2$  is a dimer and  $\text{TeLI}_3$  is polymeric. It is of interest to mention here that  $\text{TeL}_2\text{I}_2$  exists as a monomer in dichloromethane solution. The  $\text{Te(II)}$  complexes,<sup>5,6</sup>  $\text{TeLX}$  ( $\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{Br}, \text{I}$ ) have halide bridged polymeric structures in the solid state, while in dichloromethane solution,  $\text{TeLI}$  exists as a dimer and  $\text{TeLCl}$  is monomeric. Thus, both  $\text{Te(IV)}$  and  $\text{Te(II)}$  complexes are coordinatively unsaturated in solution.

Reactions of various ligands with these complexes have been carried out. The addition of iodide to the complexes  $\text{TeLI}_3$  and  $\text{TeLI}$  yielded novel adducts  $[(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{N}][\text{TeLI}_4]$  and  $[(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_4\text{N}][\text{TeLI}_2]$  respectively.<sup>7,8</sup> Apart from addition reac-

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tions, TeLX complexes undergo metathetical reactions with thiourea and substituted thioureas and disproportionation with 1,10-phenanthroline hydrate.<sup>8</sup>

In addition to being a  $\pi$ -acceptor ligand, triphenylphosphine is also a good reducing agent. In the reactions with various mixed halide-dithiocarbamate complexes of tellurium(II) and (IV), the triphenyl or tributylphosphines can either add to tellurium in a coordinatively unsaturated complex or reduce Te(II) or Te(IV) to elemental tellurium. This is the first detailed study of the reaction of triphenyl and tributylphosphine with mixed halide-diethyldithiocarbamate complexes of tellurium(II) and (IV). The <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectroscopy was a handy tool for these studies.

## EXPERIMENTAL

The complexes TeL<sub>4</sub>,<sup>10</sup> TeL<sub>3</sub>X (X = I, ClO<sub>4</sub>),<sup>9,11</sup> TeL<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub> (X = Cl, Br, I)<sup>2</sup> and TeLX (X = Cl, Br, I)<sup>5,6</sup> were prepared by previously reported procedures. The complex TeL<sub>3</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> was obtained by addition of a methanol solution of KPF<sub>6</sub> to a dichloromethane solution of TeL<sub>3</sub>ClO<sub>4</sub>. The KClO<sub>4</sub> formed was removed by filtration. The brown colored filtrate in a dichloromethane-ethylacetate mixture yielded stubby needle like crystals. Triphenylphosphine was obtained from Aldrich and used without further purification.

The NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz JEOL GSX-400 spectrometer. <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra were measured in dichloromethane solution at 161.0 MHz and referenced against 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>. The chemical shift values of the resonances were arrived at using high frequency positive convention. The various products obtained were thoroughly characterized by elemental analyses and X-ray diffraction studies.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Reactions of Triphenylphosphine with Tellurium(II) Complexes*

Triphenylphosphine does not react with TeL<sub>2</sub> in non-aqueous media as observed from the <sup>31</sup>P NMR, in which only the signals due to the unreacted PPh<sub>3</sub> is observed.

However, the dichloromethane solution of TeLI is immediately reduced to elemental tellurium by triphenylphosphine. Preliminary studies indicate that neither thiuram disulfide nor iodine is the oxidation product, suggesting that PPh<sub>3</sub> must have been oxidized. Thus to explore the reaction mechanism in detail <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of dichloromethane solutions of reactants in different mole proportions were measured and from the chemical shift values the course of the reaction has been followed. The <sup>31</sup>P chemical shifts observed and their corresponding assignments are listed in Table I.

In the reaction of TeLI with PPh<sub>3</sub>, apart from elemental tellurium, a colorless dichloromethane soluble gummy residue (which failed to solidify under different experimental conditions) was obtained. But on exposure to air its color becomes red within a day, testing for iodine, which would have resulted due to aerial oxidation, thus suggesting that the product contains an iodide.

Further, it was observed that the reaction of PPh<sub>3</sub> with TeLX liberates carbon disulphide. The evolution of CS<sub>2</sub> is confirmed by the formation of the characteristic bis(2,2'-dihydroxyethylthiocarbamato)nickel(II) complex when the evolved gas is allowed to react with a methanolic solution of nickel(II) chloride and diethanolamine.

The <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum (Figure 1a) of an equimolar mixture of TeLI and PPh<sub>3</sub> shows a signal at 29.9 ppm. Similarly, for the bromo and chloro analogues the resonance is observed at 27.7 and 26.8 ppm respectively (Figures 1b and 1c). An

TABLE I  
 $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR data of Te-dtc-PPh<sub>3</sub> systems in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at 25°C

System	$^{31}\text{P}$ Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ppm)	Assignment
L-L + PPh <sub>3</sub>	-6.8 26.5 41.8	PPh <sub>3</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> NCS <sub>2</sub> $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph <sub>3</sub> L <sup>-</sup> SPPh <sub>3</sub>
TeL <sub>4</sub> + PPh <sub>3</sub>	-5.9 27.2 42.7	PPh <sub>3</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> NCS <sub>2</sub> $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph <sub>3</sub> L <sup>-</sup> SPPh <sub>3</sub>
TeL <sub>2</sub> I <sub>2</sub> + PPh <sub>3</sub>	-6.0 29.9	PPh <sub>3</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> N $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph <sub>3</sub> I <sup>-</sup>
TeLI + PPh <sub>3</sub>	-6.0 29.9	PPh <sub>3</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> N $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph <sub>3</sub> I <sup>-</sup>
TeL <sub>2</sub> Br <sub>2</sub> + PPh <sub>3</sub>	-5.9 28.4	PPh <sub>3</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> N $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph <sub>3</sub> Br <sup>-</sup>
TeL <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> + PPh <sub>3</sub>	-6.0 26.4	PPh <sub>3</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> N $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph <sub>3</sub> Cl <sup>-</sup>
TeLBr + PPh <sub>3</sub>	-6.8 27.7	PPh <sub>3</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> N $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph <sub>3</sub> Br <sup>-</sup>
TeLCl + PPh <sub>3</sub>	-6.8 26.8	PPh <sub>3</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> N $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph <sub>3</sub> Cl <sup>-</sup>
TeL <sub>3</sub> I + PPh <sub>3</sub>	-6.8 28.0 41.8	PPh <sub>3</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> N $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph <sub>3</sub> I <sup>-</sup> SPPh <sub>3</sub>
TeL <sub>3</sub> PF <sub>6</sub> + PPh <sub>3</sub>	-145.5 (heptet) -6.8 18.3 27.3 41.9	PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup> PPh <sub>3</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> NCS $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph <sub>3</sub> PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> N $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph <sub>3</sub> PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup> SPPh <sub>3</sub>
TeL <sub>3</sub> ClO <sub>4</sub> + PPh <sub>3</sub>	-6.9 18.3 26.7 41.9	PPh <sub>3</sub> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> N $\overset{+}{\text{C}}$ (S) $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph <sub>3</sub> ClO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> N $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph <sub>3</sub> ClO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> SPPh <sub>3</sub>
TeLI + (n-Bu) <sub>3</sub> P	-13.9 18.8 48.4 56.0	(n-Bu) <sub>3</sub> $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Te (n-Bu) <sub>3</sub> $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ C(S)S <sup>-</sup> (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> N $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ (n-Bu) <sub>3</sub> I <sup>-</sup> (n-Bu) <sub>3</sub> PS

internal redox reaction seems to occur initially with TeLX, to give elemental tellurium and the oxidized species, [(C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NCS<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, which can react further with PPh<sub>3</sub>. The product that seems to form in this reaction is (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph<sub>3</sub>X<sup>-</sup> (1), N,N-diethylaminotriphenylphosphonium halide and CS<sub>2</sub>. It is known that the  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR chemical shifts are found<sup>12-14</sup> to occur in the region 25–50 ppm for the aminophosphonium compounds. Thus the resonance located around 28 ppm is reasonably assigned to the ion pair (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N $\overset{+}{\text{P}}$ Ph<sub>3</sub>X<sup>-</sup>. The chemical shift values decrease as expected on going from iodide to chloride in the ion pairs. The elemental microanalysis for carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen and macroanalysis for the halide of the compound also conformed to the above formulation. The analogous N,N'-dimethylaminotriphenylphosphonium tribromide has been prepared and its crystal structure reported.<sup>15</sup>

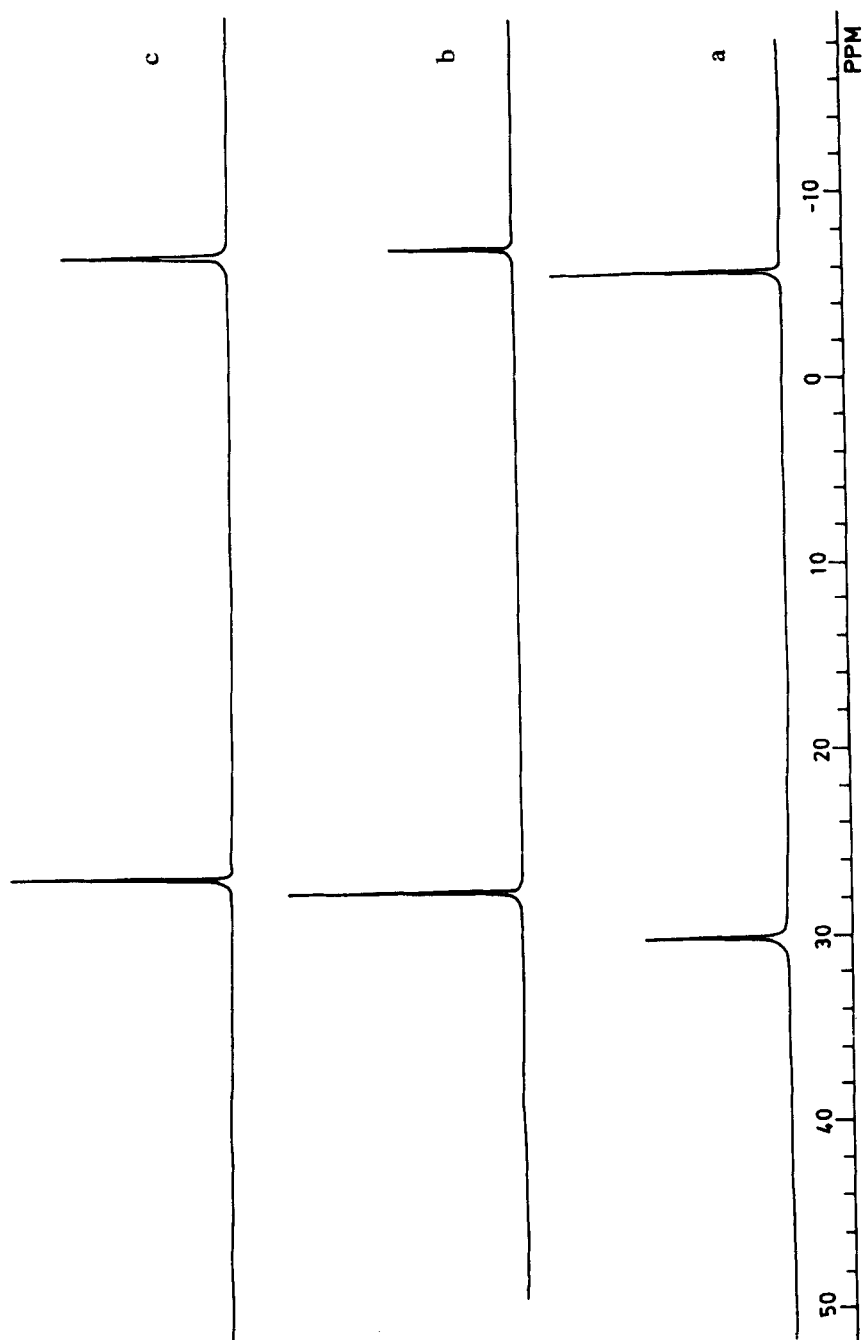
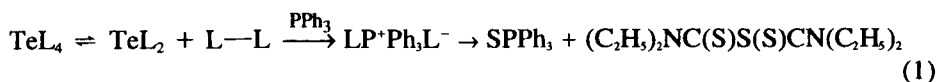


FIGURE 1  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR measured in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  of a mixture of a)  $\text{TeLi}$  and  $\text{PPh}_3$ , b)  $\text{TeLiBr}$  and  $\text{PPh}_3$ , and c)  $\text{TeLiCl}$  and  $\text{PPh}_3$  in 1:2 molar ratio.

### Reactions of Triphenylphosphine with Tellurium(IV) Complexes

In the reaction with triphenylphosphine,  $\text{TeL}_4$  gets reduced to  $\text{TeL}_2$ . The reaction can be explained as mainly due to the initial autoredox reaction of  $\text{TeL}_4$ ,<sup>16-20</sup> giving rise to  $\text{TeL}_2$  and tetraethylthiuram disulfide ( $\text{L—L}$ ) followed by the oxidation of triphenylphosphine by disulfide to yield triphenylphosphine sulfide (Equation 1).

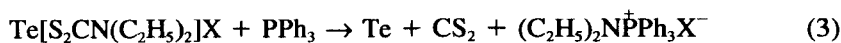


The reaction of triphenylphosphine with thiuram disulfide has been studied earlier.<sup>21</sup> The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum (Figure 2a) of a solution containing an equimolar mixture of  $\text{L—L}$  and  $\text{PPh}_3$  in dichloromethane gives three resonances with  $\delta$  values 41.8, 26.6 and  $-6.8$  ppm, which are due to  $\text{SPPH}_3$ ,  $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{NC}(\text{S})\text{SPPH}_3\text{L}^-$  (2) and unreacted  $\text{PPh}_3$  respectively. In this reaction,  $\text{PPh}_3$  cleaves the  $\text{S—S}$  bond of the disulfide to yield an intermediate, 2, which gets converted slowly to the monosulfide,  $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{NC}(\text{S})\text{S}(\text{S})\text{CN}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2$  (3) and triphenylphosphine sulfide as shown in Equation 1. However, this reaction goes to completion immediately on addition of methanol.

The spectrum of the dichloromethane solution of  $\text{TeL}_4$  and  $\text{PPh}_3$  (Figure 2b) shows identical resonances to that of a mixture of  $\text{L—L}$  and  $\text{PPh}_3$ , which clearly shows that the reaction of  $\text{PPh}_3$  is with thiuram disulfide formed from the autoredox reaction of  $\text{TeL}_4$ .

In the molar ratio of 1:1, the reaction of  $\text{TeL}_2\text{I}_2$  with  $\text{PPh}_3$  in dichloromethane produces a color change from deep red to brown and the subsequent crystallization yields  $\text{TeLI}$  as one of the products. The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum of the solution exhibited a very weak resonance at 41.8 ppm due to  $\text{SPPH}_3$  and a more intense resonance at 29.6 ppm, which is similar to that obtained for the reaction of  $\text{TeLI}$  with  $\text{PPh}_3$ . However, the dichloromethane solution of  $\text{TeL}_2\text{I}_2$  with  $\text{PPh}_3$  in the molar ratio of 1:2 precipitates elemental tellurium almost instantaneously and the reaction mixture is colorless. The NMR spectrum of this solution also gives a resonance around 30 ppm. Similarly, the solutions of  $\text{PPh}_3$  with  $\text{TeL}_2\text{Br}_2$  and  $\text{TeL}_2\text{Cl}_2$  in a molar ratio 2:1 also precipitates elemental tellurium and give predominant  $^{31}\text{P}$  resonances around 28 ppm.

The first stage in the reaction of  $\text{TeL}_2\text{I}_2$  with  $\text{PPh}_3$  is the reduction of the  $\text{Te}(\text{IV})$  complex to  $\text{TeLI}$  with the formation of  $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{NPPH}_3\text{I}^-$  (Equation 2). In the second stage another mole of  $\text{PPh}_3$  reduces  $\text{TeLI}$  further to elemental tellurium (Equation 3).



In the  $\text{TeL}_3\text{X}$  system,  $\text{TeL}_3\text{I}$ ,  $\text{TeL}_3\text{ClO}_4$  and  $\text{TeL}_3\text{PF}_6$  were chosen for the reaction with  $\text{PPh}_3$ , as  $\text{ClO}_4^-$  and  $\text{PF}_6^-$  have considerably different coordination abilities compared to iodide. It is interesting to note that the reaction of  $\text{TeL}_3\text{X}$  with  $\text{PPh}_3$  differs markedly from those of  $\text{TeL}_2\text{X}_2$  and  $\text{TeLX}$  with  $\text{PPh}_3$ .

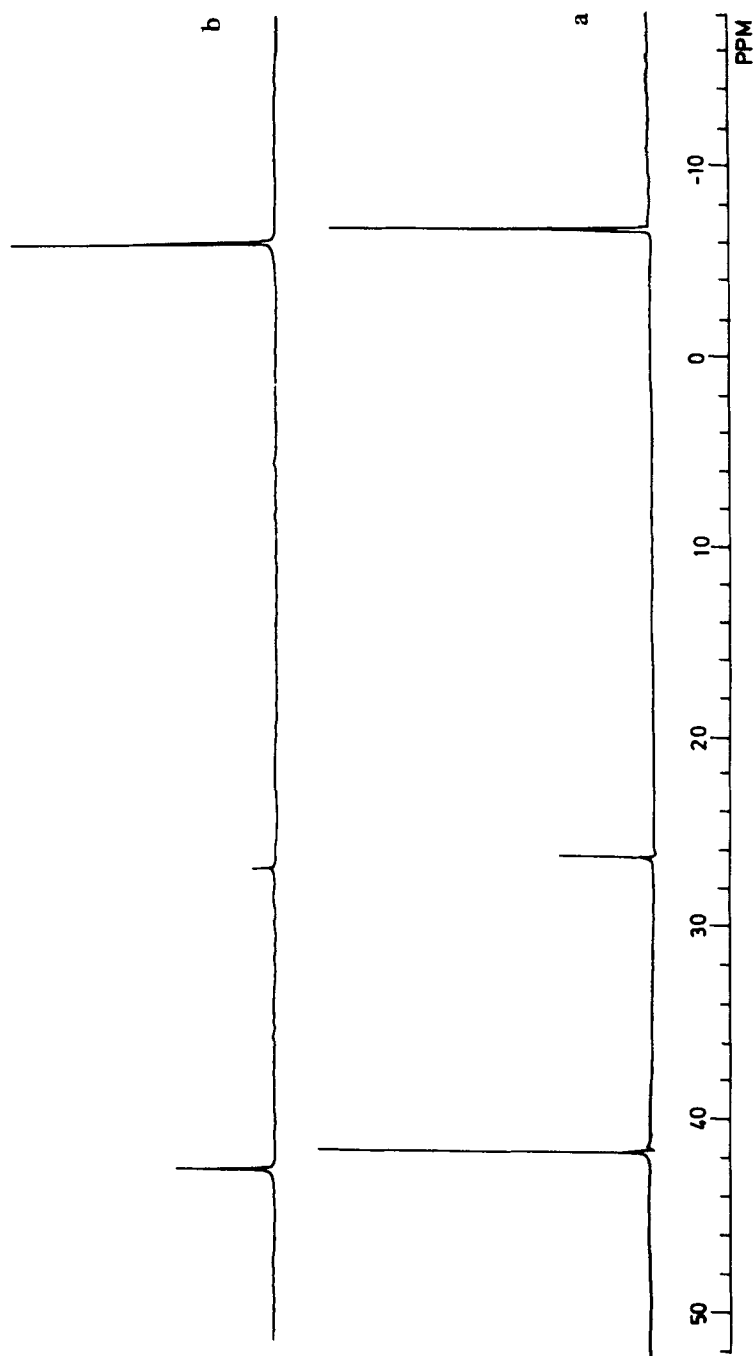


FIGURE 2 The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra of an equimolar mixture of a) thiuram disulfide and  $\text{PPh}_3$  in 1:2 molar ratio, and b)  $\text{TeL}_4$  and  $\text{PPh}_3$  in 1:4 molar ratio.

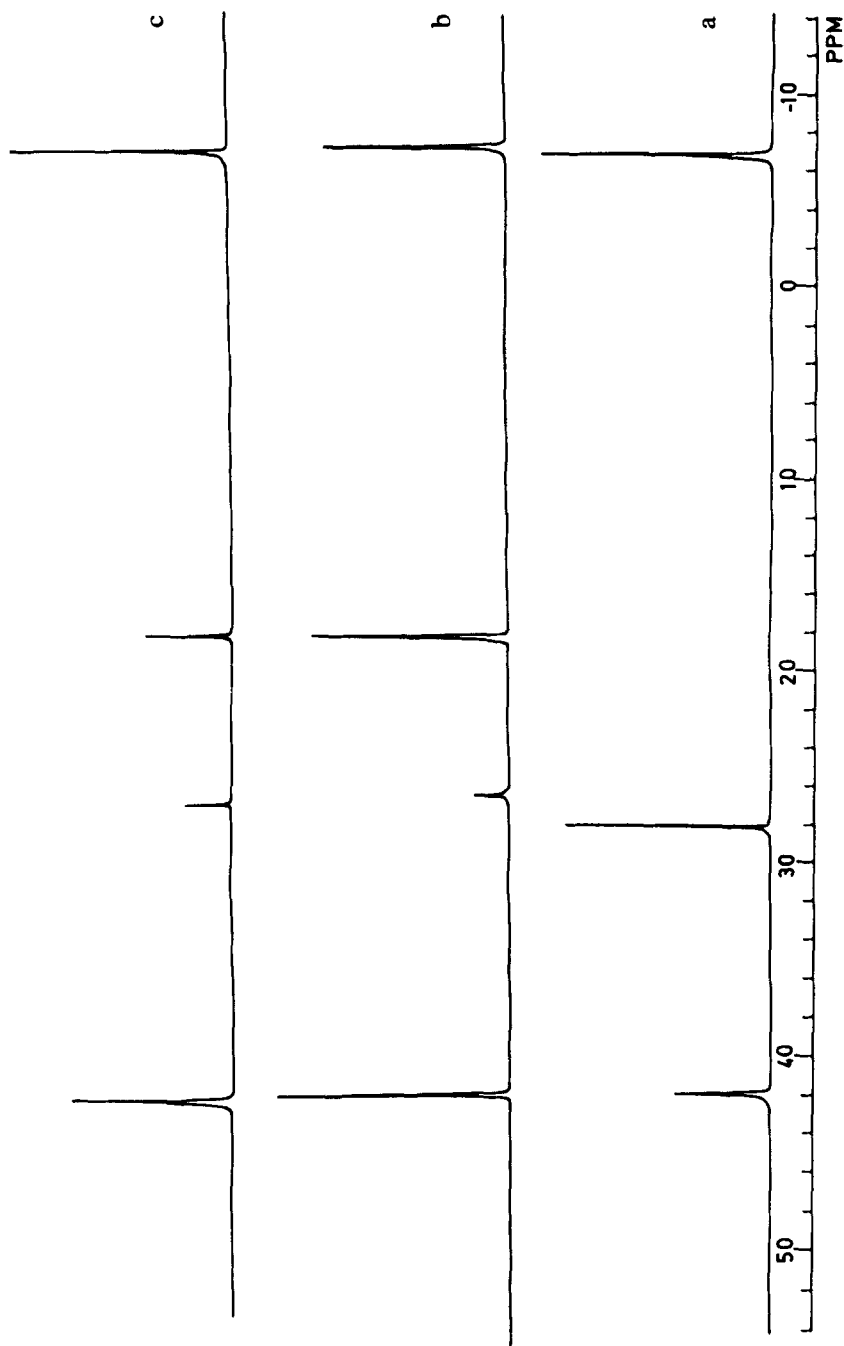
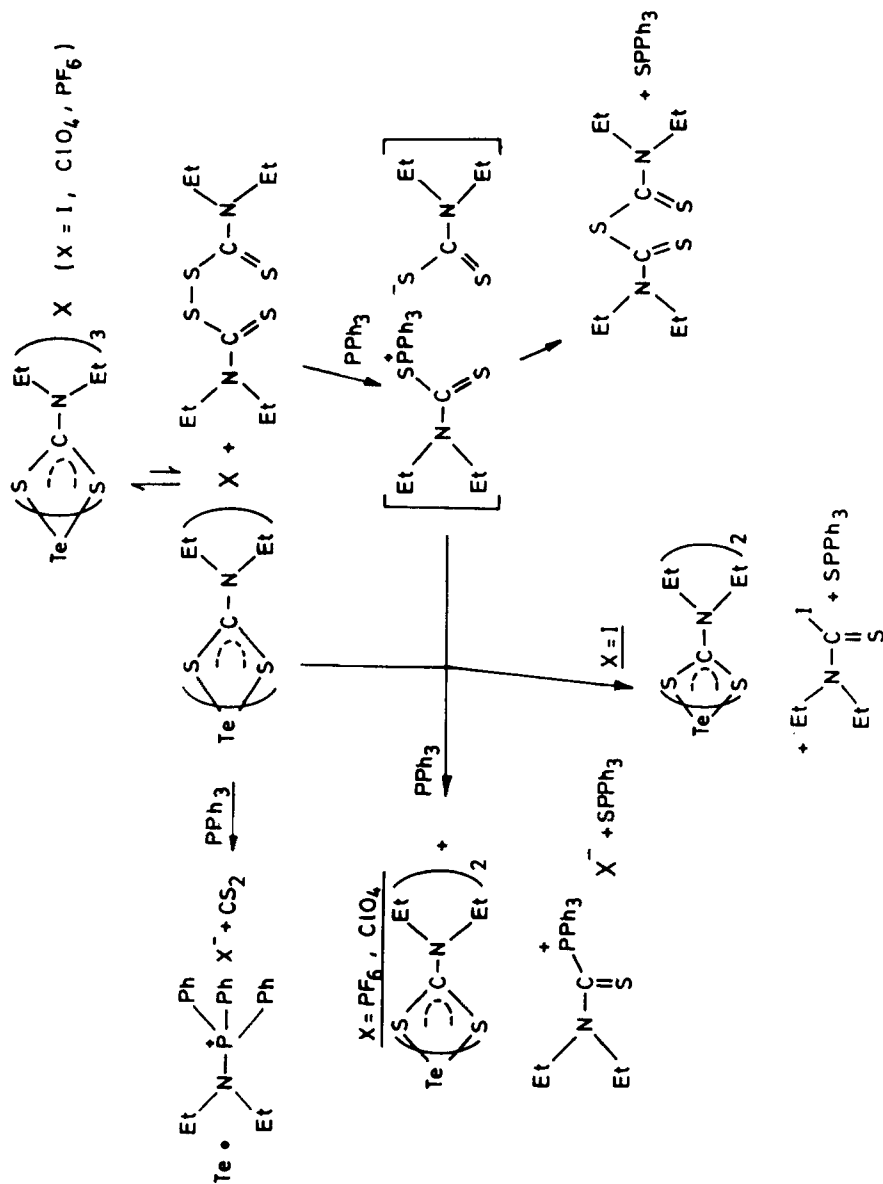


FIGURE 3  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR measured in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  of a)  $\text{TeL}_3\text{I}$  and  $\text{PPh}_3$ , b)  $\text{TeL}_3\text{ClO}_4$  and  $\text{PPh}_3$ , and c)  $\text{TeL}_3\text{PF}_6$  and  $\text{PPh}_3$  in 1:4 molar ratio.





SCHEME 1

The addition of  $\text{PPh}_3$  to  $\text{TeL}_3\text{I}$  in the molar ratio of 4:1 in dichloromethane yielded only a small proportion of elemental tellurium and the solution remained red colored. Crystallization of the products show that  $\text{TeL}_2$  and  $\text{SPPH}_3$  are present. Similar observations were made in the case of  $\text{TeL}_3\text{ClO}_4$  and  $\text{TeL}_3\text{PF}_6$ .

The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum (Figure 3a) of the dichloromethane solution containing  $\text{TeL}_3\text{I}$  and  $\text{PPh}_3$  in the molar ratio 1:4 has resonances at  $-6.8$ ,  $28.0$  and  $41.8$  ppm, which are due to  $\text{PPh}_3$ ,  $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{N}^+\text{PPh}_3\text{I}^-$  and  $\text{SPPH}_3$  respectively. However, the reaction mixture of  $\text{TeL}_3\text{PF}_6$  and that of  $\text{TeL}_3\text{ClO}_4$  with  $\text{PPh}_3$  give almost identical  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra, which apart from the resonances due to  $\text{PPh}_3$ ,  $\text{SPPH}_3$  and  $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{N}^+\text{PPh}_3\text{X}^-$ , contains a resonance around  $18$  ppm which is due to  $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{NC}(\text{S})\text{PPh}_3\text{X}^-$ .<sup>22</sup>

In the reaction of the  $\text{TeL}_3\text{X}$  system with  $\text{PPh}_3$ , the first step of the reaction is the internal redox reaction, which is forced to occur in the presence of  $\text{PPh}_3$  as shown in Scheme 1. The products obtained are  $\text{TeLX}$  and thiuram disulfide. Independent reactions (Equations 1 and 3) illustrate that the reaction of thiuram disulfide with  $\text{PPh}_3$  yields an intermediate **2**, which slowly converts to  $\text{SPPH}_3$  and **3**, and  $\text{TeLX}$  ( $\text{X} = \text{I}, \text{Br}, \text{Cl}$ ) reacts with  $\text{PPh}_3$  to yield elemental tellurium and aminophosphonium halide, **1**. The reaction of  $\text{TeL}_3\text{X}$  with  $\text{PPh}_3$  differs from the reaction of  $\text{TeL}_2\text{X}_2$  and  $\text{TeLX}$  with  $\text{PPh}_3$  due to the presence of the disulfide in the system along with  $\text{TeLX}$ .

In the reaction of the disulfide with  $\text{PPh}_3$ , the conversion of **2** to **3** and  $\text{SPPH}_3$ , is a slow process, as evident from NMR experiments. Therefore, in  $\text{TeL}_3\text{X}$  complexes the final products are due to the competing reactions of  $\text{TeLX}$ ,  $\text{PPh}_3$ , and **2**, as shown in Scheme 1.

In the reaction of  $\text{TeL}_3\text{I}$  and  $\text{PPh}_3$ , apart from the reaction of disulfide and  $\text{TeLI}$  with  $\text{PPh}_3$ , the prominent reaction seems to be that of the dithiocarbamate of **2** and  $\text{TeLI}$  to yield  $\text{TeL}_2$ . The nucleophile attack of displaced iodide on the thiocarbamyl carbon of the phosphonium cation results in the formation of  $\text{SPPH}_3$ , and thiocarbamyl iodide. As seen from the NMR spectrum,  $\text{SSPH}_3$  is the major product obtained in this reaction and the conversion of  $\text{TeL}_3\text{I}$  to elemental tellurium and **1** occurs probably to a limited extent.

However, due to the poor nucleophilicity of  $\text{ClO}_4^-$  and  $\text{PF}_6^-$ , they cannot substitute for triphenylphosphine sulfide in **2**. Instead,  $\text{PPh}_3$  itself displaces  $\text{SPPH}_3$  giving rise to  $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{NC}(\text{S})\text{PPh}_3\text{X}^-$ . The driving force for this reaction is the formation of  $\text{TeL}_2$  and  $\text{SPPH}_3$ .

### Reaction of Tri-*n*-Butylphosphine with $\text{TeLI}$

As shown in Equation 3,  $\text{TeLI}$  reacts with  $\text{PPh}_3$  to give elemental tellurium,  $\text{CS}_2$  and **1**. Tri-*n*-butylphosphine is known to react with elemental tellurium to give the phosphine telluride, which has a  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR resonance at  $-17.7$  ppm,<sup>23</sup> and with carbon disulfide to yield the zwitter ion,<sup>24</sup>  $(n\text{-Bu})_3\text{P}^+\text{C}(\text{S})\text{S}^-$ , the resonance of which is observed at  $18$  ppm. Hence, in order to confirm the evolution of  $\text{CS}_2$  in the reaction of  $\text{TeLI}$  with  $\text{PPh}_3$ , the reaction of  $\text{TeLI}$  with  $(n\text{-Bu})_3\text{P}$  was carried out.

The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (Figure 4) of the dichloromethane solution containing the reaction mixture of  $\text{TeLI}$  with  $(n\text{-Bu})_3\text{P}$  in a 1:3 molar ratio shows resonances at  $-13.9$  ppm due to  $(n\text{-Bu})_3\text{PTe}$  and at  $18.8$  ppm due to  $(n\text{-Bu})_3\text{P}^+\text{C}(\text{S})\text{S}^-$ . In addition, signals at  $48.4$  and  $56.0$  ppm, of very low intensity appears due to  $(n\text{-Bu})_3\text{P}^+\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{I}^-$  and  $(n\text{-Bu})_3\text{P}^+\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{X}^-$ .

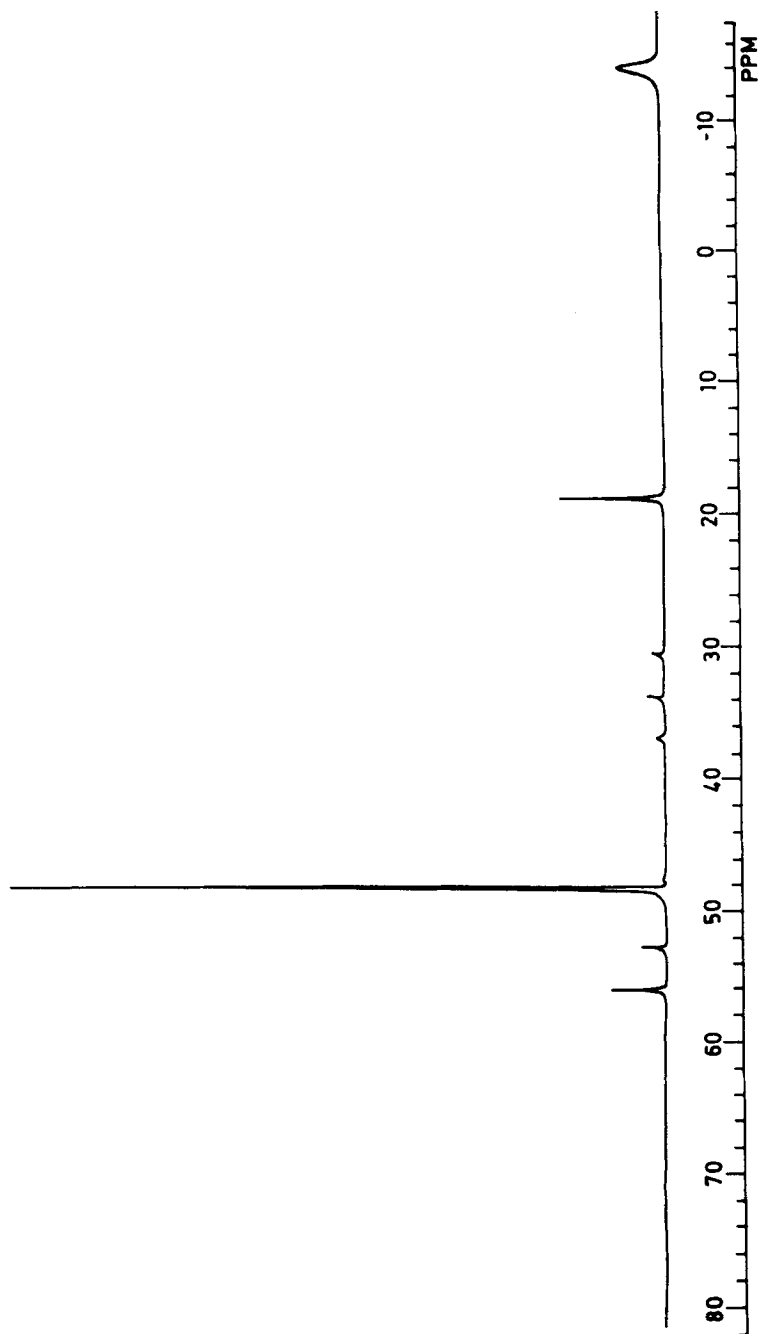
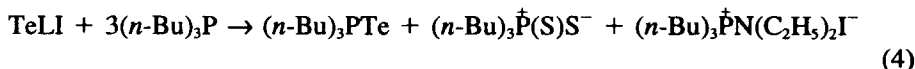


FIGURE 4  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra of a mixture of  $\text{TeI}_4$  and  $(n\text{-Bu})_3\text{P}$  in 1:3 molar ratio.

Bu)<sub>3</sub>PS respectively. The resonances of free (*n*-Bu)<sub>3</sub>P occurs at -32.6 ppm and the broad signal at -13.9 ppm is indicative of the exchange of free tributylphosphine with tributylphosphine telluride.



## CONCLUSION

Triphenylphosphine does not react with bis(diethyldithiocarbamate)tellurium(II). However, mixed halide-dithiocarbamate tellurium(II) complexes are reduced to elemental tellurium by triphenylphosphine. Tetrakis(diethyldithiocarbamate)tellurium(IV) is converted to bis(diethyldithiocarbamate)tellurium(II) by PPh<sub>3</sub>. However, TeL<sub>3</sub>X and TeL<sub>2</sub>X<sub>2</sub> are reduced to either Te(II) or elemental tellurium depending on the reaction conditions. The reaction PPh<sub>3</sub> moiety forms the species SPPPh<sub>3</sub>, (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N<sup>+</sup>PPh<sub>3</sub>X<sup>-</sup> and (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NC(S)<sup>+</sup>PPh<sub>3</sub>X<sup>-</sup>. In the reaction of TeLi with tributylphosphine, apart from the aminophosphonium halide and tributylphosphine sulfide, tributylphosphine telluride and the zwitter ion, (*n*-Bu)<sub>3</sub>PC(S)S<sup>-</sup> also formed.

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