Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. email~~	~~Matthew Schaefer to WH Situation Room, re: Answer's to Jim's Three~~ Questions (2 pages)	~~10/13/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~002. paper~~	~~Environmental Policies (6 pages)~~	~~10/05/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Economic Affairs (Duncan, John)
OA/Box Number: 2861

FOLDER TITLE:
G-8: G-7 Environmental and Biotech Issues (October 1999, Dresden Sherpa)

2013-0836-F
ke2992

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
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Duncan, John D. (INTECON/DOS)

From: Schaefer, Matthew P. (INTECON)
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 1999 12:07 AM
To: @WHSR - WH Situation Room
Cc: @HAMMONDS; @INTECON - Economic Affairs; @EUROPE - European Affairs; @APNSA
Subject: Answers to Jim's Three Questions ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Sitroom please fax to ...

TO: Sheba Crocker at G-7/8 Sherpas Meeting to pass to Jim Steinberg
FR: Matt

Answers to the three trade questions follow below. Will coordinate with others on revised/enhanced Varricchio points.

1) I thought the Financial Times article the other day indicated that the "hushkits" dispute was resolved? It is true that the article's "spin" was that the situation was (close to being) resolved but in fact it is not. What the EU is considering proposing is a further postponement of implementation of the huskits regulation until October 2001 (the deadline for completing ICAO negotiations on new noise standards). However, this is not satisfactory from the point of view of U.S. government and industry. We want the EU's hushkit regulation totally withdrawn by May 1, 2000, when it is scheduled to take effect following a one year delay. (You will remember that in April the EU postponed implementation for a year to avert a major trade dispute but that we preferred a total withdrawl at that time as well. In April, the Senate was considering legislation that would suspend the Concorde's landing rights in retaliation). Further suspension of the regulation, as an alternative to withdrawal, is unacceptable to us because of chilling effect on sales of hushkits and replacement engines. EU Transport Commissioner Loyola De Palacio has indicated that he considers total withdrawl of the regulation politically "impossible" given the EU parliament's views on the matter and their "co-decision" powers on the issue. However, if postponement is the solution, we fear that Congressional and industry pressure to take action will once again heat up.

2) How does an accelerated tariff liberalization (ATL) agreement link with the broader WTO market access agenda? ATL would eliminate (or significantly reduce) duties in eight sectors (chemicals, energy products, environmental products, fish, forest products, jewelry, medical/scientific equipment, and toys). It remains a U.S. goal to conclude such an agreement at Seattle. (Privately, we realize that technical discussion would last into 2000 and thus implementation would likely not begin until January 2001 even if we reached an agreement at Seattle). You may recall that the EU has argued (as did our own agricultural community during the summer for quite different reasons) that "early harvest" deals will deystroy incentives for reaching successful agreement on other market access areas in the context of the new Round. However, the USG market access proposal to the WTO acknowledges that an ATL deal would be implemented only on an interim basis pending results of the Round on other market access issues. In other words, such a deal would be implemented but if the broader Round did not conclude in three years time, then the tariff cuts in the ATL sectors would "snap back" to original levels. By implementing an ATL deal on an interim basis, the agreement not only builds much need business enthusiasm for the launch of a new Round but also creates heavy incentives for industry interests in ATL sectors to keep the pressure on governments for a successful conclusion of the Round in all other market access areas (agric, services, and industrial goods). ATL tariff cuts would be considered as part of the overall balance of concessions achieved during the Round.

The ATL package covers 29% of our exports ($198 billion). Ironically, an even greater percentage of EU exports (estimated at roughly 35%) is covered. Additionally, the EU would have to do very little in order to implement an ATL agreement in some of the sectors (such as chemicals, toys and medical equipment) in which they are already party to "zero-for-zero" or "harmonization" tariff initiatives in the Uruguay Round. Our ATL industry sectors have reached out to their European counterparts to put pressure on the EU to change its position on ATL. We hope this will bear fruit, although it appears that the EU continues to resist, probably in order to receive something in return for their support. Even if EU opposition is overcome, Japanese resistance (due to fish and forest products) remains.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By JK NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-M (1.01)

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3) With respect to an article in the Financial Times today (Oct. 12th), what was the internal EU compromise on a "standing forum" for WTO/ILO cooperation and why did Germany object? As you know, the USG has been supportive of observership status for the ILO within the WTO (similar to what the World Bank and IMF already have) and we are also calling for a WTO working group on trade and labor. The EUs General Affairs Council discussion of a "standing forum" appears to be a mid-range between observership and a working party. Such a forum would institutionalize in some manner the relationship between the ILO and WTO and serve as more of a study group than one which recommended specific courses of action. In this regard, it may be seen as less threatening by developing countries than a "working group" --- working groups often are the first step towards more formal negotiations in the future.

Earlier this month, the "hard line" member states on labor issues (Belgium, Denmark, Scandanavian, and Germany) were pushing for a working party but the UK apparently "fell on their sword" to oppose the idea. This week, it appeared the "standing forum" compromise was near, but ultimately Germany opposed the compromise. This German action is seen as being primarily driven by domestic politics and came as a surprise to some because Germany was viewed as less hard-line than others and only recently came to an internal position on trade and labor issues within the WTO.

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ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

ISSUES

1. Jump starting the Export Credit Agency environmental guidelines agenda;

2. Advancing international climate change negotiations and the Kyoto Protocol

3. Taking environmental issues into account in the upcoming round of WTO negotiations

4. Successful implementation of the US-inspired (Denver Summit) G-8 Forest Action Program, which will be reviewed for progress in Okinawa in 2000.

KEY POINTS

ECAs

- G7 members will need to show strong leadership at the upcoming meeting of the OECD Export Credit Group (Oct. 25-29) in order to advance the Cologne mandate to develop environmental guidelines for ECAs by the 2001 Summit;

- The G7 Summit committed us to develop guidelines for use by ECAs - a top-down approach to addressing the environment in ECA-financed projects. We believe the G7 should push the ECG to draw on existing internationally-recognized environmental guidelines to implement this commitment.

- Without concerted G7 pressure, other ECG members will continue to drag their feet on the issue. We need to move beyond reliance on ad-hoc, voluntary, and case-by-case discussions of environmental issues and the slow, cumbersome, bottom-up development of modest screening procedures built up from these discussions.

Kyoto Protocol

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- To advance the Kyoto Protocol, we must make significant progress on the Buenos Aires Plan of Action at the upcoming climate change negotiating session, including work on the market-based implementation mechanisms, a comprehensive compliance regime, and carbon sinks.

- We must continue our efforts to engage developing countries on the issue of meaningful participation in the Kyoto Protocol by encouraging countries that step forward with proposals for commitments.

WTO/Environment

- The U.S. is working for a more open and transparent WTO. These reforms will be essential for building public support for the new WTO round in environmental constituencies in the U.S.

- The U.S. is pressing hard for environmental considerations to be taken fully into account in the new WTO round. However, that part of the Cologne Communique calling for clarification of the relationship between WTO rules and both multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and key environmental principles is contrary to the U.S. position.

- We believe the G8 could lend impetus to integrating environmental considerations in the new round by focusing on U.S. objectives such as wider use of environmental reviews, increased transparency in WTO bodies, ~~and using~~use of the Committee on Trade and the Environment to highlight ~~the~~ the environmental effects of negotiations in the new round, and pursuit of "win-win" opportunities to use trade liberalization to contribute to environmental objectives (such as elimination of fish subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and promotion of trade in environmental goods and services.)

Forests

- Stress the importance of continuing to implement the Forest Action Program after the progress report is submitted at the Okinawa Summit.

- Stress the importance of working with partners in and out of government (e.g. forest owners, industry, environmental groups) in order to make progress on the Action Program.

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BACKGROUND

For progress on the ECA issues, the non-G7 ECG members of the OECD are only committed by the Ministerial agreement to strengthen "common approaches" in the existing ECG agreement to exchange information on larger individual projects. There is also a lack of agreement among the G7 ECAs on the precise meaning of environmental "guidelines." The U.S. favors the use of internationally recognized ex ante environmental guidelines (e.g. World Bank/IFC) to govern projects that ECAs finance.

Our two-track proposal is a pragmatic one intended to avoid a prolonged debate on definitions and allow the U.S. and the other G7 members to begin pursuing top-down approaches immediately. However, we may have to put pressure on other G7 members' ECAs to fall into line on the top-down approach. We also want agreement to have an early series of special ECG meetings at which to push our position.

For climate change and the Kyoto Protocol, since the G-8 Summit in Cologne, we have been preparing for the fifth session of the Conference of Parties (COP-5) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC). At COP-5, the Parties will consider various elements of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action - the primary vehicle to make the Kyoto Protocol operational. We anticipate that while the meeting will not lead to any "breakthroughs," it will provide an opportunity to elaborate further the Kyoto mechanisms (i.e., emissions trading, joint implementation, and the Clean Development Mechanism). We do not anticipate that EU members (including our G-8 partners) will promote their objectionable proposal for capping the use of the mechanisms at this meeting but we will have to confront the issue at COP-6, whose dates are either November 2000 or early 2001. The Parties will continue their deliberations on compliance in a joint working group, where there are no major disagreements among G-8 members, and on technical aspects of accounting for carbon sinks (e.g., forests and soil) in their emission targets, where we have some differences with our EU colleagues.

In preparation for the 2000 G-8 summit, the Japanese government has asked all G-8 member nations to compile a set of best practices that will be collected in a report for the summit. We have supported the sharing of "best practices," i.e., those programs that have succeeded in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but do not wish to let

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France and Germany use it as a vehicle to criticize us and others for the lack of domestic action to implement the FCCC. We are also looking to intensify our efforts to work with our G-8 partners to engage developing countries in the coming months. —Italy may propose the resurrection of an ad hoc climate change working group that met previously in 1997 - we are skeptical that this would be a useful expenditure of resources.~~; we should be receptive but maintain a listening mode if raised.~~

For WTO and environment issues, the state of play at the G8 is that paragraph 31 of the Cologne communique calls for a clarification of the relationship between MEAs, key environmental principles and WTO rules. In the intervening period since this language, we have carefully reviewed WTO rules and jurisprudence and come to the conclusion that this mandate is overly broad. The EU, however, seeks to ~~unlike the EU, we do not believe there is a need to~~ clarify the relationship between MEAs and WTO obligations. Our position is instead that ~~Rather,~~ there should be a case-by-case examination with no pre-ordained hierarchy established among international agreements. We find the current trading rules already provide for a wide range of environmental protection measures and have not undermined important environmental principles. The EU strongly advocates an agreement whereby WTO rules could not be used to challenge trade measures justified by MEAs. The EU also seeks a ~~as well as a~~ "clarification" of WTO rules which have not upheld their interpretation of "the precautionary principle" in the beef hormones dispute. Developing countries are suspicious of efforts to revise WTO rules and other developed countries (Japan and Korea) would like to see "clarifications" that would restrain MEA negotiators. The core issue in the MEA debate is whether WTO rules permit parties to an MEA to apply trade measures to a non-party either as a means of directly achieving the environmental objective on the MEA (e.g. in CITES) or in order to coerce non-parties to join an MEA. We support having such an ability and do believe there is scope for it where appropriate. However, this is also a sensitive issue for us because we are not a party to a growing list of MEAs and because unwarranted provisions against non-parties have been proposed (such as in the case of the Biosafety Protocol.)

For forest issues, G-8 Foreign Ministers released G-8 Forest Action Program at Birmingham, and called for a review of progress at the Okinawa Summit in 2000. The Action Program outlines practical actions the G-8 will take

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in assessing the state of the world's forests, national programs for sustainable forest management, establishing protected areas, reducing illegal logging and trade, and engaging the private sector.

Forest Experts have met a number of times since Birmingham to exchange information on efforts to implement the Forest Action Program. The G-8 Forest Experts have also accepted a US proposal for a collaborative effort among G-8 partners to coordinate the use of remote sensing technology for assessment and monitoring of the world's forests, including fire monitoring. A potential problem to successful and meaningful implementation of the Action Program is the desire of Canada, Germany, France, Italy and possibly Russia to see it fail, which would strengthen their push to negotiate a legally binding global forest convention, which the US has opposed at the last few summits. (We also hear that several EU countries, including the Presidency, strongly support a convention.) A successful G-8 Action Program argues that progress on managing the world's forest can be made absent a convention. All US constituencies (environmental, industry, labor and the States) continue to oppose the call for a convention. We believe a convention would result in a sterile North-South debate on finances, technology transfer and trade while doing little to encourage sustainable management of forests. The convention issue should be resolved before the Okinawa Summit since it will be on the agenda for the 8th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in April 2000.

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10/5/99 x70978 or x73966

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	~~Lawrence Butler to Economic Affairs, et al., re: EU and GMOs for~~ McNamer (4 pages)	~~07/06/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
002. email	~~[duplicate of 001] (4 pages)~~	~~07/06/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
003. email	~~Lawrence Butler to Economic Affairs, re: GMOs and Europe (5 pages)~~	~~06/25/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
004. email	~~Lawrence Butler to Economic Affairs, re: French on GMOs (1 page)~~	~~05/27/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
005. email	~~[Lawrence Butler to Economic Affairs, re: European GMO Strategy]~~ [incomplete copy] (5 pages)	~~06/18/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
006. email	~~Matthew Schaefer to Bathsheba Crocker, re: Read Out of This~~ Morning's Deputies on GMO's (1 page)	~~09/30/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ KBH 8/29/2019
007. email	~~[duplicate of 001] (4 pages)~~	~~07/06/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
008. email	~~[duplicate of 001] (4 pages)~~	~~07/06/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
009. email	~~[duplicate of 003] (5 pages)~~	~~06/25/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
010. email	~~[duplicate of 004] (1 page)~~	~~05/27/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Economic Affairs (Duncan, John)
OA/Box Number: 4025

FOLDER TITLE:
Trade-GMOs [Genetically Modified Organisms] [1]

2013-0836-F
ke2994

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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Duncan, John D.

From: Butler, Lawrence E. (EUR)
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 1999 10:59 AM
To: @INTECON - Economic Affairs; @ENVIRON - Environmental; @EUROPE - European Affairs
Subject: EU and GMOs for McNamer ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Importance: High

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 005769

DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

REF BRUSSELS 4157

1. CLASSIFIED BY L. ALLEN NELSEN, EST COUNSELOR. REASON: 1.5 (D)

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: UK OFFICIALS (STRICTLY PROTECT) GAVE US AN UPBEAT ASSESSMENT OF THE JUNE 24-25 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL DECISION ON REVISIONS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220. HMG GOT MOST OF ITS OBJECTIVES AND BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL WELCOME THE REVISIONS. A NUMBER OF ONEROUS PROPOSALS WERE DEFEATED, AND THE PROPOSED NEW REGIME BRINGS SOMEWHAT MORE TRANSPARENCY, CERTAINTY, AND TIMELINESS TO THE PROCESS. HMG DISPUTES THE ARGUMENT THAT THE AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A DE FACTO MORATORIUM, SINCE COMPANIES WILL BE FREE TO CONTINUE SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS BOTH FOR PLANTING AND FOR MARKETING. WHILE APPROVAL OF SUCH APPLICATIONS WILL CLEARLY BE INIFLUENCED BY THE CURRENT POLITICAL DEBATE ABOUT GMOS IN MANY MEMBER STATES, THE EXISTING 90/220 PROCEDURES WILL APPLY TO NEW APPLICATIONS AND CAN GAIN TIMELY APPROVAL IF THE CURRENT POLITICAL UPROAR DIES DOWN. THE COUNCIL HAS ASKED THE COMMISSION TO FLESH OUT THE DETAILS ON LABELING, 'GUIDANCE NOTES' FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT, AND THRESHOLDS, BUT THE UK DOES NOT EXPECT ANY UNPLEASANT SURPRISES IN THAT PROCESS. HMG EXPECTS FINAL APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DIRECTIVE IN THE LATE AUTUMN AND ENTRY INTO FORCE LATE IN 2000. END SUMMARY

3. ~~(C)~~ WE MET JULY 2 WITH HMG OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE JUNE 24-25 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL MEETING FOR THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE AGREEMENT. IN TALKING TO US, THEY AGREED TO WORK FROM THE 'GOING IN' TEXT (WORKING DOCUMENT ENV/99/84, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WASHINGTON HAS). WHILE FOCUSSING ON THE NATURE OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT IN LUXEMBOURG, WE ALSO SOUGHT TO UNDERSTAND THE DYNAMICS THAT LEAD TO CHANGES FROM THE WORKING DOCUMENT.

FOR THE USG, A GOOD OUTCOME

4. ~~(C)~~ THE UK'S OVERALL ASSESSMENT WAS POSITIVE, REFLECTING THEIR SUCCESS IN SEEING MINISTERS RESOLVE MANY DISPUTED ARTICLES IN THE HMG'S FAVOR. HMG BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL WELCOME THIS OUTCOME, SINCE ON MANY OCCASIONS THE RESULT IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVQ CURRENT PROCEDURES (AND THE ALTERNATIVE ON THE TABLE WAS SOMETHING WHICH THE UK EXPECTS WE WOULD HAVE FOUND MUCH MORE OBJECTIONABLE). THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE CASE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT (ERA - ANNEX

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-M (1.04)

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II) WHERE A PROCESS IS EXPECTED THAT IS BASED UPON THE EXISTING UK SYSTEM AND IS LIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE UNIFORM FROM ONE MEMBER STATE TO THE NEXT. U.S. COMPANIES ARE THOUGHT TO BE FAMILIAR WITH, AND COMFORTABLE WITH, THE CURRENT UK SYSTEM. WE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRINCIPLES FOR THE ERA ONLY ADDRESS ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES; THERE IS NO MANDATE TO CONSIDER, OR TO WEIGH, POSSIBLE FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OR HEALTH IMPACTS). ATTEMPTS TO ADD ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO THE ERA WERE DEFEATED; WHILE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION ARE FREE TO INFORM AND CONSULT ADVISORY GROUPS WITH ETHICAL OR CONSUMER INTERESTS, THE VIEWS OF THESE ADVISORY GROUPS ARE NOT AN ELEMENT IN THE ERA ITSELF.

5. ~~(C)~~ SIMILARLY, THE NEW MONITORING PROVISIONS, IN THE UK VIEW, PROVIDE MORE CERTAINTY TO APPLICANTS, REDUCE DIVERGENCIES IN CURRENT MEMBER STATE PRACTICES, AND WILL BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO NEW INFORMATION. THE LATTER ADVANTAGE SHOULD ULTIMATELY INCREASE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN THE SYSTEM.

THE PROPOSED NEW SYSTEM -- STRICTER TIME LIMITS

6. ~~(C)~~ FOR PLANTING APPROVALS (PART B OF THE PROPOSED NEW DIRECTIVE), A SERIES OF TIME LIMITS ARE IMPOSED. COMPANIES REMAIN FREE TO APPLY FOR PLANTING APPROVAL IN ANY MEMBER STATE WHERE THEY BELIEVE THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY WILL GRANT APPROVAL. THAT AUTHORITY THEN HAS 90 DAYS TO TAKE A DECISION, ALTHOUGH THE CLOCK STOPS WHEN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED OR WHEN A PUBLIC INQUIRY IS CONSTITUTED. WE POINTED OUT THAT THE WORKING DOCUMENT DID NOT INDICATE RESOLUTION ON THE LENGTH OF TIME PERMITTED FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY, NOR DID IT ADDRESS POTENTIAL ABUSE BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES (CONSTANTLY ASKING FOR MORE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO DELAY A DECISION). HMG TOOK NOTE OF OUR POINTS; THEY ASKED TO DELAY RESPONSING TO US ON THE LENGTH OF TIME PERMITTED FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY, SINCE THEY WERE NOT SURE WHAT THE FINAL COMMISSION LANGUAGE WOULD SAY ON THIS POINT. (THIS IS ALSO RELEVANT TO PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS -- ART 7, PARA 1).

7. ~~(C)~~ COMPANIES SEEKING PLANTING APPROVAL ACROSS THE EU MAY ALSO APPLY UNDER THE "DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURES" (ART 6B) BY ASKING THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY WHERE INITIAL APPROVAL IS SOUGHT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE COMMISSION FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE OTHER MEMBER STATES. ART 6B, PARA 2, SPELLS OUT THE TIME LIMITS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL

DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

BY THE OTHER MEMBER STATES. THESE TIME LIMITS RUN CONCURRENTLY, BUT THE CLOCK STOPS UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES NOTED ABOVE. IF A MEMBER STATE CONTINUES TO OBJECT TO THE DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURES AFTER A 45-DAY PERIOD DESIGNED TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES, THEN THE MATTER GOES TO THE "COMMITTEE" COMPOSED OF MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES (ART 21), WHERE A DECISION IS TAKEN EITHER BY CONSENSUS OR QUALIFIED MAJORITY. WE NOTED TO THE UK THAT THE WORKING DOCUMENT DID NOT SPECIFY A TIME LIMIT FOR A DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE.

8. ~~(C)~~ WE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT ART 6C, WHICH PERMITS THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND OR TERMINATE THE APPROVED DELIBERATE RELEASE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSE NEW INFORMATION. THE ARTICLE WOULD APPEAR TO BE OPEN TO OVERREACTION AND ABUSE AND DOES NOT OFFER A RIGHT OF APPEAL. HMG DID CONFIRM,

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HOWEVER, THAT ONE MEMBER STATE COULD NOT INVOKE THIS ARTICLE TO SUSPEND PLANTING IN ANOTHER MEMBER STATE.

MARKETING GMO PRODUCTS -- QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING THE KEY

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 LONDON 005769

DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

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LADER

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Duncan, John D.

From: Butler, Lawrence E. (EUR)
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 1999 10:59 AM
To: @INTECON - Economic Affairs; @ENVIRON - Environmental; @EUROPE - European Affairs
Subject: EU and GMOs for McNamer ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Importance: High

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 005769

DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
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REF BRUSSELS 4157

1. CLASSIFIED BY L. ALLEN NELSEN, EST COUNSELOR. REASON: 1.5 (D)

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: UK OFFICIALS (STRICTLY PROTECT) GAVE US AN UPBEAT ASSESSMENT OF THE JUNE 24-25 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL DECISION ON REVISIONS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220. HMG GOT MOST OF ITS OBJECTIVES AND BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL WELCOME THE REVISIONS. A NUMBER OF ONEROUS PROPOSALS WERE DEFEATED, AND THE PROPOSED NEW REGIME BRINGS SOMEWHAT MORE TRANSPARENCY, CERTAINTY, AND TIMELINESS TO THE PROCESS. HMG DISPUTES THE ARGUMENT THAT THE AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A DE FACTO MORATORIUM, SINCE COMPANIES WILL BE FREE TO CONTINUE SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS BOTH FOR PLANTING AND FOR MARKETING. WHILE APPROVAL OF SUCH APPLICATIONS WILL CLEARLY BE INIFLUENCED BY THE CURRENT POLITICAL DEBATE ABOUT GMOS IN MANY MEMBER STATES, THE EXISTING 90/220 PROCEDURES WILL APPLY TO NEW APPLICATIONS AND CAN GAIN TIMELY APPROVAL IF THE CURRENT POLITICAL UPROAR DIES DOWN. THE COUNCIL HAS ASKED THE COMMISSION TO FLESH OUT THE DETAILS ON LABELING, 'GUIDANCE NOTES' FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT, AND THRESHOLDS, BUT THE UK DOES NOT EXPECT ANY UNPLEASANT SURPRISES IN THAT PROCESS. HMG EXPECTS FINAL APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DIRECTIVE IN THE LATE AUTUMN AND ENTRY INTO FORCE LATE IN 2000. END SUMMARY

3. ~~(C)~~ WE MET JULY 2 WITH HMG OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE JUNE 24-25 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL MEETING FOR THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE AGREEMENT. IN TALKING TO US, THEY AGREED TO WORK FROM THE 'GOING IN' TEXT (WORKING DOCUMENT ENV/99/84, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WASHINGTON HAS). WHILE FOCUSSING ON THE NATURE OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT IN LUXEMBOURG, WE ALSO SOUGHT TO UNDERSTAND THE DYNAMICS THAT LEAD TO CHANGES FROM THE WORKING DOCUMENT.

FOR THE USG, A GOOD OUTCOME

4. ~~(C)~~ THE UK'S OVERALL ASSESSMENT WAS POSITIVE, REFLECTING THEIR SUCCESS IN SEEING MINISTERS RESOLVE MANY DISPUTED ARTICLES IN THE HMG'S FAVOR. HMG BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL WELCOME THIS OUTCOME, SINCE ON MANY OCCASIONS THE RESULT IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVQ CURRENT PROCEDURES (AND THE ALTERNATIVE ON THE TABLE WAS SOMETHING WHICH THE UK EXPECTS WE WOULD HAVE FOUND MUCH MORE OBJECTIONABLE). THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE CASE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT (ERA - ANNEX

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VZ NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-M (1.05)

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II) WHERE A PROCESS IS EXPECTED THAT IS BASED UPON THE EXISTING UK SYSTEM AND IS LIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE UNIFORM FROM ONE MEMBER STATE TO THE NEXT. U.S. COMPANIES ARE THOUGHT TO BE FAMILIAR WITH, AND COMFORTABLE WITH, THE CURRENT UK SYSTEM. WE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRINCIPLES FOR THE ERA ONLY ADDRESS ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES; THERE IS NO MANDATE TO CONSIDER, OR TO WEIGH, POSSIBLE FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OR HEALTH IMPACTS). ATTEMPTS TO ADD ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO THE ERA WERE DEFEATED; WHILE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION ARE FREE TO INFORM AND CONSULT ADVISORY GROUPS WITH ETHICAL OR CONSUMER INTERESTS, THE VIEWS OF THESE ADVISORY GROUPS ARE NOT AN ELEMENT IN THE ERA ITSELF.

5. ~~(C)~~ SIMILARLY, THE NEW MONITORING PROVISIONS, IN THE UK VIEW, PROVIDE MORE CERTAINTY TO APPLICANTS, REDUCE DIVERGENCIES IN CURRENT MEMBER STATE PRACTICES, AND WILL BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO NEW INFORMATION. THE LATTER ADVANTAGE SHOULD ULTIMATELY INCREASE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN THE SYSTEM.

THE PROPOSED NEW SYSTEM -- STRICTER TIME LIMITS

6. ~~(C)~~ FOR PLANTING APPROVALS (PART B OF THE PROPOSED NEW DIRECTIVE), A SERIES OF TIME LIMITS ARE IMPOSED. COMPANIES REMAIN FREE TO APPLY FOR PLANTING APPROVAL IN ANY MEMBER STATE WHERE THEY BELIEVE THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY WILL GRANT APPROVAL. THAT AUTHORITY THEN HAS 90 DAYS TO TAKE A DECISION, ALTHOUGH THE CLOCK STOPS WHEN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED OR WHEN A PUBLIC INQUIRY IS CONSTITUTED. WE POINTED OUT THAT THE WORKING DOCUMENT DID NOT INDICATE RESOLUTION ON THE LENGTH OF TIME PERMITTED FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY, NOR DID IT ADDRESS POTENTIAL ABUSE BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES (CONSTANTLY ASKING FOR MORE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO DELAY A DECISION). HMG TOOK NOTE OF OUR POINTS; THEY ASKED TO DELAY RESPONSING TO US ON THE LENGTH OF TIME PERMITTED FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY, SINCE THEY WERE NOT SURE WHAT THE FINAL COMMISSION LANGUAGE WOULD SAY ON THIS POINT. (THIS IS ALSO RELEVANT TO PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS -- ART 7, PARA 1).

7. ~~(C)~~ COMPANIES SEEKING PLANTING APPROVAL ACROSS THE EU MAY ALSO APPLY UNDER THE "DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURES" (ART 6B) BY ASKING THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY WHERE INITIAL APPROVAL IS SOUGHT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE COMMISSION FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE OTHER MEMBER STATES. ART 6B, PARA 2, SPELLS OUT THE TIME LIMITS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL

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BY THE OTHER MEMBER STATES. THESE TIME LIMITS RUN CONCURRENTLY, BUT THE CLOCK STOPS UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES NOTED ABOVE. IF A MEMBER STATE CONTINUES TO OBJECT TO THE DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURES AFTER A 45-DAY PERIOD DESIGNED TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES, THEN THE MATTER GOES TO THE "COMMITTEE" COMPOSED OF MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES (ART 21), WHERE A DECISION IS TAKEN EITHER BY CONSENSUS OR QUALIFIED MAJORITY. WE NOTED TO THE UK THAT THE WORKING DOCUMENT DID NOT SPECIFY A TIME LIMIT FOR A DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE.

8. ~~(C)~~ WE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT ART 6C, WHICH PERMITS THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND OR TERMINATE THE APPROVED DELIBERATE RELEASE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSE NEW INFORMATION. THE ARTICLE WOULD APPEAR TO BE OPEN TO OVERREACTION AND ABUSE AND DOES NOT OFFER A RIGHT OF APPEAL. HMG DID CONFIRM,

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LADER

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Duncan, John D.

From: Butler, Lawrence E. (EUR)
Sent: Friday, June 25, 1999 9:13 AM
To: @INTECON - Economic Affairs
Cc: @EUROPE - European Affairs; @ENVIRON - Environmental; @STRATEGY; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs
Subject: GMOs and Europe -- trainwreck now in progress; Embassy Paris rescue proposal ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Importance: High

EU environment ministers agreed yesterday to halt approvals for new GMO products, formalizing a de facto situation that started last year. Felix's political assessment (below) is right: GMOs is a pure political liability issue, with politicians able to score points by jumping on the "frankenfoods" bandwagon. The fact that threats to consumer safety have so far come exclusively from conventional sources (tainted blood, mad cows, spiked wine, adulterated olive oil, and now spoiled coca cola) is totally lost on consumers and elites.

We need to develop a "long march" strategy to tackle this over a multi-year period, combining efforts bilaterally and in the WTO to constrain the worst policy impulses of governments and guide them to a more responsible direction, and with public affairs to begin addressing the roots of consumer fears and suspicions. We are also going to have to figure out how to deal with the real problem here -- European agricultural subsidies and surpluses against fears of U.S. competition. The cornerstone of the EU was a deal between Geman steel producers and French farmers. If we don't have such a strategy, we will have a hard time dealing with Monsanto and others who will seek help from the Hill with some kind of sanctions legislation.

In the meantime, we should also watch out for European efforts to stampede American consumers into behaving like Europeans. More than one Euro diplomat here has stated confidently that it is only a matter of time before there is a heartland backlash against products of biotechnology. As they say in @Kosovo, misery loves company.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 PARIS 011796
STATE PASS OSTP; AGRICULTURE FOR SECRETARY GLICKMAN, U/S SCHUMACHER, FAS OA/GALVIN
USTR FOR BARSHEFSKY, SCHER AND MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR AND AG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/23/04
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, TBIO, FR, EUN
SUBJECT: GMO'S: STRATEGIES FOR FRANCE ON THE EVE OF SECRETARY GLICKMAN'S VISIT

REF: LONDON 5258

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR FELIX ROHATYN FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY AND COMMENT. ON JUNE 23, THE JOSPIN GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO PROPOSE AN EU-WIDE SUSPENSION OF NEW GMO APPROVALS, WHICH COMES AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A GROUNDSWELL OF OPPOSITION TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS AND FOODS (GMO'S). POST CONCURS WITH EMBASSY LONDON'S PROPOSALS FOR AN ACTIVE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY CAMPAIGN (REFTEL) TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE. WHILE WE HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK ON THE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FRONT, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THIS TYPE OF ENGAGEMENT WITH THE FRENCH AND EUROPEANS IS NOT, WITHOUT MORE, GOING TO ACHIEVE ACCEPTANCE OF OUR GMO PRODUCTS. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT SEES THE ISSUE AS A POLITICAL LIABILITY. WE DO NOT EXPECT THE SITUATION TO IMPROVE ANYTIME SOON. AS JOSPIN AND CHIRAC POSITION THEMSELVES FOR THE 2002 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, EACH MAY TRY TO OUTDO THE OTHER IN APPEALING TO THE FRENCH ELECTORATE'S DESIRE FOR REASSURANCE ABOUT THE SAFETY OF ITS FOOD SUPPLY.

2. ~~(C)~~ HEALTH MINISTER KOUCHNER TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT

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By VZ NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (1.06)

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HE INTENDS TO **PROPOSE CREATION OF A EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY** AGENCY TO HELP RESTORE GENERAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT A KEY COMPONENT OF OUR LONG TERM STRATEGY SHOULD BE TO SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL. WE CAN HELP BY EXPLAINING HOW OUR SYSTEM WORKS TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND LEAD TO ACCEPTANCE OF GMO'S IN THE U.S. AT THE SAME TIME, WE SHOULD **STRENGTHEN OUR SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE**, ALONG THE LINES ANNOUNCED AT THE US-EU SUMMIT. IN ADDITION, WE NEED, THROUGH A **QUIET DIALOGUE WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS, TO CONTINUE TO UNDERSCORE EUROPE'S OBLIGATION** TO TREAT OUR EXPORTS IN A WTO-CONSISTENT, TRANSPARENT, SCIENCE-BASED FASHION AND TO HIGHLIGHT THE VERY REAL PROBLEMS EUROPE IS CREATING, ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY FOR US PRODUCERS.

3. ~~(C)~~ USDA SECRETARY GLICKMAN, IN HIS VISIT TO PARIS JUNE 28-29 SHOULD ENGAGE THE FRENCH ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE GMO ISSUE, PARTICULARLY THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN ACTIONS ON THE U.S. AS WELL AS WAYS TO IMPROVE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN EUROPE. HE SHOULD ALSO FOCUS ON WHAT HAS BECOME A **POPULAR REFERENCE TO THE "PRINCIPLE OF PRECAUTION"** FOR APPROVING FOODS. WE NEED TO UNDERSCORE TO THE FRENCH THAT ONLY A TRANSPARENT, SCIENCE-BASED PROCESS FOR GMO APPROVALS IS ACCEPTABLE.

4. (SBU) IN SUM, WE PROPOSE A STRATEGY OF FOUR ELEMENTS:

-- ENDORSEMENT OF AN APOLITICAL EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AGENCY, WITH SUPPORTING EXPLANATIONS OF OUR OWN SYSTEMS OF FOOD REGULATORY REFORM;

-- STRENGTHENED BILATERAL "OBJECTIVE" SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH US-EU SUMMIT RECOMMENDATIONS, FOR EXPANDED U.S.-EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE (AND USING THIS MECHANISM TO CLARIFY, FOR EXAMPLE, THE FRENCH/EUROPEAN DEFINITION OF THE "PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE"); AND

-- CONTINUOUS ENGAGEMENT THROUGH AN ACTIVE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY CAMPAIGN;

-- CONTINUED, QUIET PRESSURE FOR THE EUROPEANS TO LIVE UP TO THEIR WTO OBLIGATIONS. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

THE CURRENT SITUATION IN FRANCE - SHIFTING PUBLIC ATTITUDES; CALL FOR MORATORIUM

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5. ~~(C)~~ IN FRANCE, THERE HAS BEEN A CLEAR SHIFT IN PUBLIC ATTITUDE AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF GMO'S INTO THE MARKETPLACE AND INTO THE ENVIRONMENT. THE FRENCH PUBLIC, WHICH WAS AT MINIMUM AMBIVALENT AND ARGUABLY SUPPORTIVE OF GMO PRODUCTS IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT PAST, IS NOW OPENLY HOSTILE TO THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRODUCTS THAT ARE PERCEIVED AS SCIENTIFICALLY ALTERED FOR INTRODUCTION INTO THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION. ON JUNE 23 THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CALLED FOR A EUROPEAN UNION SUSPENSION ON ALL NEW GMO APPROVALS. ITS POSITION IS THAT ALL NEW GMO AUTHORIZATIONS MUST BE SUSPENDED UNTIL DIRECTIVE 90/220 HAS BEEN REVISED. HOWEVER, BASED ON THE ANALYSIS DONE BY THE FRENCH COMMISSION ON BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY STUDY, THE GOF FOUND THAT THERE REMAINED NO REASON TO QUESTION EARLIER FAVORABLE EVALUATIONS OF THE FOUR GM CORN VARIETIES ALREADY APPROVED IN FRANCE. (NOTE: WHILE 35 PERCENT OF THE U.S. CORN CROP IS GM, IN FRANCE ONLY 300 OF THE 3.2 MILLION HECTARES OF CORN ARE CURRENTLY PLANTED WITH GM CORN.)

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6. (SBU) WE ARE SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED BY THIS INSTANCE OF SCIENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING. NONETHELESS, WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR AN EXTENDED MORATORIUM ON NEW APPROVALS AND AN APPARENT NOD TO ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS TO INTENSIFY SURVEILLANCE OF THE EFFECTS OF BT VARIETIES ON THE ENVIRONMENT. HOWEVER, WITH REGARD TO EU DIRECTIVE 90/220, THE FRENCH TAKE THE POSITION THAT LABELING AND TRACEABILITY REGULATIONS MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE DIRECTIVE. FRANCE PROPOSES THAT ALL NEW GMO AUTHORIZATIONS BE SUSPENDED UNTIL THE REVISED 90/220 IS AGREED UPON BY ALL MEMBER STATES AND HAS ENTERED INTO FORCE. THIS COULD BE A LENGTHY PROCESS.

SHATTERED FAITH IN FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS
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7. (SBU) PUBLIC DEBATE ABOUT GMO'S HAS BEEN FUELED BY ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER CONCERNS RAISED BY VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS. BUT THE ANXIETY OF FRENCH CONSUMERS HAS LESS TO DO WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND MORE TO DO WITH AS YET "UNFORESEEN" HEALTH CONSEQUENCES BORN, IN LARGE MEASURE, OF FEARS FOR FOOD AND HEALTH SAFETY ON OTHER FRONTS. THIS ATTITUDE REFLECTS ACCURATELY THE PUBLIC'S SHATTERED FAITH IN THE ABILITY OF ITS REGULATORY INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ASSURANCES OF PRODUCT SAFETY AND QUALITY. (E.G. MAD COWS, TAINTED BLOOD, TAINTED CHICKENS AND EGGS, ETC.) GOVERNMENT, FARM GROUPS, FOOD DISTRIBUTORS AND EVEN THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY HAVE WANTED TO PLAY IT SAFE AND NOT GET ON THE WRONG SIDE OF CONSUMERS (VOTERS).

8. (U) WE CONCUR WITH REFTEL THAT SCIENTIFIC CREDIBILITY MUST BE CALLED UPON TO RESTORE SOME LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE IN AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY. BUT WE VERY MUCH DOUBT THAT THE FRENCH PUBLIC IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT "OBJECTIVE" SCIENCE AS THE MAIN BASIS FOR SHORT TERM ACCEPTANCE OF GMO'S. RATHER, THE PUBLIC WANTS TO BE ABLE TO LOOK TO A THOROUGH, APOLITICAL SCIENCE-BASED REGULATORY REGIME THAT CAN ONCE AGAIN OFFER CONSISTENT ASSURANCE TO CITIZENS THAT THE BURDEN OF CHOICE DOES NOT REST ENTIRELY ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL SHOULDERS. (WE NOTE THE WIDE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF NUCLEAR POWER IN FRANCE (80 PERCENT OF ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION) AS A VIABLE ENERGY SOURCE, NOTWITHSTANDING REGULAR ATTEMPTS BY GREEN PARTY OFFICIALS TO ALTER THIS COURSE. PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE (WITH ADMITTEDLY PERIODIC NEED FOR REINFORCEMENT) IS LESS A FUNCTION OF SCIENTIFIC ASSURANCE, BUT RATHER FRENCH GENERAL CONFIDENCE IN THEIR NUCLEAR REGULATORY REGIME.)

RECOMMENDED U.S. ACTIONS

I. FOOD SAFETY REGULATORY REFORM
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9. (SBU) BY SUPPORTING A EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AGENCY AND OPENING A DIALOGUE ON OUR RESPECTIVE FOOD SAFETY REGIMES, WE CAN PROVIDE ASSURANCES TO EUROPE ABOUT U.S. VIGILANCE IN THIS AREA, AND PERHAPS OFFER A MODEL FOR FUTURE FOOD SAFETY REGIMES IN FRANCE AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE. REFORM OF THE FRENCH FOOD AND HEALTH REGULATORY STRUCTURE HAS BEEN A SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT AND AMONG MINISTRIES FOR SOME TIME. INTER-AGENCY TURF FIGHTS HAVE PREVENTED DEVELOPMENT OF A SINGLE FRENCH AGENCY TO HANDLE HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY. WITH MINISTERS SUCH AS KOUCHNER NOW FAVORING A EUROPEAN STRUCTURE, WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE CAN TO QUIETLY PROMOTE THIS IDEA.

10. (SBU) IN THIS REGARD, WE ARE AWARE THAT THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) HAS, IN THE PAST, PROVIDED VALUABLE GUIDANCE TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS SEEKING TO REFORM

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FOOD AND HEALTH REGULATORY REGIMES. THE FDA COMMISSIONER PROVIDED AN EXCELLENT OVERVIEW OF FDA GOALS AND ACTIVITIES TO FRENCH PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE COURSE OF LAST YEAR'S SENATE DEBATES ON FOOD SAFETY REFORM IN FRANCE. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH FDA THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THESE INITIAL CONTACTS INTO A MORE FORMALIZED DIALOGUE. WE ENVISION THAT DIALOGUE WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS WHO ARE SUPPORTIVE OF A EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY REGULATORY MECHANISM MIGHT SERVE AS A GOOD START FOR EXPANDED DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE.

II. SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE
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11. (SBU) BRINGING OUR SCIENTISTS TOGETHER SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT OUR DIFFERENCES WITH REGARD TO THE HEALTH SAFETY OF GMO'S ARE, IN FACT, MINIMAL. THE PUBLIC NEEDS THIS MESSAGE, AND THE MESSAGE WILL BE MOST CREDIBLE WHEN IT IS STATED BY COMPETENT SCIENTISTS AND REPEATED IN REPUTABLE PUBLICATIONS.

12. (SBU) POST DETERMINED THAT FRENCH OFFICIALS WERE LESS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT BILATERAL GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE AFTER THE IDEA WAS INITIALLY FLOATED BY PM JOSPIN IN MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT LAST YEAR. FEARING THAT GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONS WOULD BE SUSPECT BY THE PUBLIC, AND THAT FRANCE MIGHT BE PLACED TOO MUCH AT THE CENTER OF THE SCIENTIFIC DEBATE IN WASHINGTON, GOF OFFICIALS ARGUED FOR A BROADER U.S.-EU DIALOGUE.

13. (SBU) WE UNDERSTAND THAT DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AMONG G-8 SCIENCE MINISTERS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO IN WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA REACHED SIMILAR CONCLUSIONS. MINISTERS ENDORSED THE CREATION OF A SCIENTIFIC ACADEMY OR SOCIETY-BASED COMMISSION ON BIOTECHNOLOGY (WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE ONLY AS NEEDED.) WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A BODY IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR CURRENT GOVERNMENTAL SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE WITHIN THE OECD, EU, ETC. WE ENCOURAGE THIS NON-GOVERNMENTAL BODY TO ADDRESS TECHNICAL CONCERNS THAT ARE MOST IN THE PUBLIC MIND AND TO ENSURE THAT THE RESULTS OF DELIBERATIONS RECEIVE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE CIRCULATION. WE ENVISION THAT THIS GROUP WILL ADDRESS HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, PARTICULARLY IN THOSE AREAS THAT HAVE BECOME THE SOURCE OF POLICY CONFLICT.

III. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY
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14. (SBU) IT IS STILL EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO DELIVER OUR MESSAGE AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE, NOT ONLY TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BUT ALSO TO REPRESENTATIVES OF INDUSTRY, ACADEMIA AND NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. EMBASSY EFFORTS TO DATE ON ALL OF THESE FRONTS HAVE RANGED FROM GENERAL INFORMATION SHARING TO OPEN CONFRONTATION. WE HAVE EXAMINED THE EXTENT OF OUR DIFFERENCES AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF FAILURE TO RESOLVE TRADE CONFLICT INVOLVING A RAPIDLY PROGRESSING AREA OF TECHNOLOGY. RESULTS TO DATE HAVE ADMITTEDLY BEEN MIXED..

15. (U) SINCE LATE LAST YEAR, POST PUBLIC DIPLOMACY PROGRAMS HAVE INCLUDED: THREE ROUNDTABLES ON GMOS WITH FRENCH CONSUMERS, PRODUCERS, THE PRESS, AND USDA BIOTECH EXPERTS; A MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR ROHATYN AND THE LARGEST FRENCH FARM ORGANIZATION (FNSEA); A VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU ASSOCIATION; VISITS BY SENIOR ADVISORS, FAS ANALYSTS, AND ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS, ALL OF WHOM DISCUSSED GMOS WITH THEIR FRENCH COUNTERPARTS; AND VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES BY TWO

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SENIOR MINAG OFFICIALS. SENIOR EMBASSY REPS HAVE ADDRESSED THE ISSUE IN SPEECHES AND INTERVIEWS.

16. (U) AT POST REQUEST, SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE ROUTINELY VISITED PARIS TO SECURE ACCEPTANCE OF OUR POSITION ON GMO'S AND THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL FROM AN UNACCEPTING FRENCH GOVERNMENT. WE NOTE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT U/S FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS LOY, OES AA/S KIMBLE AND DAS POMERANCE MET WITH HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS OF VARIOUS FRENCH MINISTRIES, INCLUDING AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND WITH INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES TO UNDERSCORE AND CLARIFY U.S. POSITIONS ON TRADE IN GMOS PRIOR TO BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL NEGOTIATIONS IN CARTAGENA.

17. (U) EMBASSY PARIS HAS AND IS CONTINUING TO SEND FRENCH OFFICIALS WHO WORK ON GMO'S AND IN THE FOOD SAFETY AREA TO THE U.S. AS INTERNATIONAL VISITORS. KEY OFFICIALS SUCH AS ERIC SCHOONEJEANS, HEAD OF THE MISSION ON BIOTECHNOLOGY IN THE DIRECTORATE FOR FOOD IN THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PROGRAMS IN THE U.S.

18. (U) ON MARCH 30, USIS PROGRAMMED NORMAN BORLAUG, 1970 NOBEL PRIZE FOR PEACE LAUREATE, AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE IN LYON ON THE TOPIC: "FEEDING TEN BILLION PEOPLE IN THE 21ST CENTURY." BORLAUG DEFENDED MODERN FOOD TECHNOLOGIES THAT IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY, INCLUDING GMOS, AS A WAY TO MEET THE WORLD'S GROWING FOOD NEEDS.

19. (U) OUR CONTINUING PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRATEGY ON THIS ISSUE HAS FOUR COMPONENTS: (1) TO ORGANIZE VISITOR PROGRAMS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR FRENCH EXPERTS, IN ORDER TO GIVE THEM A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT THE AMERICAN FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM; (2) TO PROGRAM SPEAKERS WHO CAN ADDRESS THE SUBJECT TO FRENCH AUDIENCES; (3) TO ORGANIZE PRESS EVENTS TO INFORM FRENCH JOURNALISTS ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION; AND (4) TO MAKE CURRENT REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE TO KEY FRENCH OPINION LEADERS OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT, EITHER ON THE EMBASSY HOME PAGE, BY E-MAIL, OR BY MAIL.

20. (U) IN THE YEAR AHEAD, THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO PROGRAM MORE NON-GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS ON THE LONG-TERM BENEFITS OF GMOS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND ON HOW THE UNITED STATES MANAGES FOOD SAFETY ISSUES.

21. (U) THE EMBASSY HOME PAGE CURRENTLY HAS SOME DOCUMENTS ON FOOD SAFETY AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES. WE WOULD LIKE TO GREATLY STRENGTHEN THIS SECTION, WITH DOCUMENTS IN BOTH FRENCH AND ENGLISH AND LINKS TO APPROPRIATE SITES WITH MORE COMPLETE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION. WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO USE E-MAIL TO SEND CURRENT DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS TO KEY FRENCH OPINION-LEADERS. WE WILL NEED HELP FROM WASHINGTON IN FINDING THE MOST CURRENT AND AUTHORITATIVE SITES.

IV. TRADE
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22. (SBU) IN THE END, IT MAY WELL BE THAT CONSIDERATION OF THE TRADE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR DIFFERENCES ARE MOST LIKELY TO INSPIRE GOVERNMENTAL RESOLUTION OF OUR DIFFERENCES. BUT A TRADE DISPUTE WILL DO NOTHING TO HELP EITHER OUR EXPORTERS IN THE SHORT TERM OR PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE IN THE LONGER TERM. WE WOULD ARGUE THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO REMIND EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS STRONGLY BUT QUIETLY OF THEIR TRADE OBLIGATIONS AND THE POTENTIAL REPERCUSSIONS OF A TRADE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EU ON GMO'S.

ROHATYN

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Duncan, John D.

From: Butler, Lawrence E.
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 1999 9:09 AM
To: @INTECON - Economic Affairs
Cc: Blinken, Antony J.
Subject: French on GMOs ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Holly/Matt -

Interesting concept presented here -- GMOs represent an area where there are **no clear rules for dispute** resolution, **at least as far as Euros are concerned.** Biotech is new technology, which scares Euro elites battling backlash from blood scandals and BSE, remembering DDT and thalm-babies from the 50's.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ PARIS 010597

STATE PASS USDA TO SECRETARY GLICKMAN, U/S SCHUMACHER
FAS/OA GALVIN /ITP SHEIKH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/26/99
TAGS: ECON, EAGR, PREL, SR, FR
SUBJECT: ELYSEE ADVISOR LEVITTE DISCUSSES TRANSATLANTIC TRADE DISPUTES WITH POLICY PLANNING DIRECTOR HALPERIN

CLASSIFIED BY THE AMBASSADOR. REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. ~~(C)~~ IN A 25 MAY MEETING IN PARIS WITH POLICY PLANNING DIRECTOR MORTON HALPERIN AND THE AMBASSADOR, ELYSEE SENIOR DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR LEVITTE EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT TRANSATLANTIC TRADE DIFFERENCES OVER GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S). LEVITTE RECOMMENDED QUIET DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EUROPE TO AVOID A TRADE WAR THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR GOVERNMENTS TO CONTROL.

2. ~~(C)~~ RAISING THE ISSUE HIMSELF, LEVITTE NOTED THAT THE MATTER OF GMOS WAS FAR MORE EXPLOSIVE THAN OTHER TRADE ISSUES WE HAVE HAD TO DEAL WITH. BANANAS HAD BEEN A STANDARD TRADE ISSUE, WHICH COULD BE FOUGHT OUT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SHARED "RULES OF THE GAME." HORMONE BEEF DID NOT INVOLVE MUCH MONEY. IT WAS NOT NEGOTIABLE, AND FRANCE WOULD PAY. BUT THE GMO DISPUTE, LEVITTE SAID, WAS OF AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CHARACTER. IT INVOLVED BILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC WAS PASSIONATELY AGAINST GMOS. NOTING THE AMBASSADOR'S RECENT ARTICLE IN "LES ECHOS" ON TRANSATLANTIC COMMERCIAL DISPUTES, LEVITTE WARNED THAT WE NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE PROBLEM OF GMOS AND THE POTENTIAL FOR ITS GETTING OUT OF HAND. GIVEN EUROPE'S EXPERIENCE WITH MAD COW DISEASE, LEVITTE BELIEVED THE PUBLIC HERE WOULD NOT BUY GMOS. THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

3. ~~(C)~~ LEVITTE FURTHER CAUTIONED THAT WE NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE INFLUENCE OF NGOS, GREENS, AND OTHERS. THE DEBATE ON GMOS WOULD NOT BE WITHIN THE CONTROL OF GOVERNMENTS -- IN EUROPE, IT WOULD BE RUN BY NGOS. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT, AS WE ENGAGE ON THE SUBJECT OF GMOS, WE NEEDED TO ADDRESS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE QUESTION OF CULTURE. IF NOT, THE GMO DISPUTE WOULD RAPIDLY DEVOLVE INTO A MATTER OF WHO WAS POISONING WHOM.
ROHATYN

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0524-M (1,07)

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-- WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION OF CREATION OF A US/EU BIOTECH SCIENTISTS' GROUP UNDER TEP AUSPICES TO ADVISE ON GMO APPROVALS
-- GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON ON POLICY ISSUES LIKE LABELING, AND TO FRAME OUR LOBBYING EFFORTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE 90/220 DIRECTIVE, INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROVISIONS FOR PARALLEL APPROVALS.
-- GUIDANCE ON HOW THE U.S. INTENDS TO USE MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS TO PROMOTE CONFIDENCE IN GMO VARIETIES THAT ARE APPROVED FOR MARKETING.
END SUMMARY

3. ~~(C)~~ IN THE UK WE FACE A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT CHALLENGE IN REGAINING A MARKET FOR GMO FOODS AND KEEPING OPEN THE MARKET FOR GMO FEEDS. HMG REMAINS STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, THE SAFETY OF GMO FOODS, AND ARGUES THAT THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE OF ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES FROM PLANTING GMO CROPS. BUT THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF MOST BRITISH CONSUMERS HAVE CLEARLY BEEN LOST DUE TO A RELENTLESS CAMPAIGN BY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AND GREENPEACE, SUPPORTED BY THE TABLOID PRESS (COMPETING TO SELL NEWSPAPERS) AND BY A GROWING NUMBER OF CONSUMER GROUPS. FACED WITH CONSUMER OPPOSITION OR CONCERN OVER SAFETY, NEITHER BRITISH RETAILERS NOR FOOD MANUFACTURERS WANT TO CARRY GMO PRODUCTS OR USE GMO INGREDIENTS. THE MARKET IS VIRTUALLY GONE.

4. ~~(C)~~ HMG HAS TRIED TO BRING SOME SENSE TO THE DEBATE, AND RESPECTED SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTIVE, BUT GOVERNMENT IS NOT TRUSTED, AND THE 'GOOD NEWS' REPORTS BY SCIENTIFIC GROUPS DON'T MAKE THE FRONT PAGES. MOST RETAILERS AND MANUFACTURERS DO NOT QUESTION THE SAFETY OF GMO PRODUCTS, BUT THEY ARE ALSO UNDER PRESSURE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND TELL US THAT THEY MUST RESPOND TO CONSUMER CONCERNS AND BUYING INTENTIONS.

WHAT CAN AN EMBASSY DO?

5. ~~(C)~~ WE UNDERSTAND THAT CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT IS GOING INTO THIS ISSUE IN WASHINGTON, AND WE BENEFITTED FROM READING REF B AND THE EXCELLENT PAPERS PREPARED BY EB FOR INTERAGENCY CONSIDERATION. WE CONCUR IN THE NEED FOR A PRO-ACTIVE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY EFFORT. THE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS STRUCTURING SUCH AN EFFORT IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE GOVERNMENT (PROBABLY THE USG AS MUCH AS HMG) IS NOT TRUSTED BY THOSE WE ARE SEEKING TO INFLUENCE. FURTHERMORE, WE WILL HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY ARGUING SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST LABELING, WHICH PITS US AGAINST EU 'LAW' AND CONSUMERS' 'RIGHT-TO-KNOW'.

6. ~~(C)~~ NONETHELESS, WE CAN, AND ALREADY ARE, ENGAGING

STATE PLS PASS USDA FAS

ALSO FOR USTR
STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATT:MBRUNO

DEPT PASS EPA
USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER; FAS/OA/GALVIN;
USDA ALSO FOR FAS/ITP/SIMMONS/GRUEFF/SHEIKH/MACKE/SCHWARTZ;
ALSO FOR FAS/CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON; FAS/CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER;
FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT; ERS/WEST/MADELL; FAA/AO/NE
GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/18/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD TBIO UK
SUBJECT: GMOS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY - EMBASSY LONDON'S STRATEGY

ACTIVELY ON THE ISSUE. LAST MONTH WE SENT A 10-PERSON

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0574-M (1.08)

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VOLUNTARY VISITOR GROUP ON A ONE-WEEK PROGRAM TO WASHINGTON AND ST. LOUIS, AND WE HAVE JUST EXTENDED INVITATIONS FOR A SECOND GROUP IN SEPTEMBER, POTENTIALLY FOLLOWED BY A THIRD GROUP EARLY IN THE NEW FISCAL YEAR (SUBJECT TO USIS FUNDING). WE ARE INCLUDING OPEN-MINDED JOURNALISTS, SCIENTISTS, REPRESENTATIVES OF FARMER ORGANIZATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THESE TRIPS. WE HAVE INVITED LEADERS OF CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, BUT IN EVERY CASE OUR INVITATION WAS DECLINED.

7. (C) WE ALSO WELCOME EXPERT SPEAKERS FROM THE U.S. WE AGREE COMPLETELY WITH THE SUGGESTION IN THE EB PAPER TO "SEIZE EVERY HIGH-LEVEL OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS SQUARELY CONCERNS OF CONSUMERS," AND WE WELCOME EFFORTS IN WASHINGTON TO MOBILIZE SPEAKERS WITH "CREDIBILITY ON THE SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN ENVIRONMENTAL, HUMAN HEALTH, AND FOOD SAFETY BENEFITS OF MANY GMOS." U/S LOY ADDRESSED THE GMO ISSUE DURING HIS JUNE 14-16 VISIT TO LONDON; SENIOR USDA OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DEPUTY SECRETARY ROMINGER AND TIM GALVIN, HAVE ALSO DONE SO; WE HAVE APPROACHED ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT NEAL LANE TO DO SO DURING HIS JUNE 28-30 VISIT; A SENIOR NSF OFFICIAL AGREED DURING A RECENT VISIT TO LONDON TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE SPEAKERS FROM THE UNITED STATES, AND WE ARE WORKING WITH USIS AND FAS ON A SPEAKING PROGRAM FOR APHIS/USDA SCIENTISTS. BUT WE CAN DO EVEN MORE IN THIS REGARD AND WELCOME WASHINGTON'S HELP IN MAKING AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS. WE COULD USEFULLY PROGRAM THE SAME USDA/FAS SPEAKERS WHO RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS (PARIS 11313).

8. (C) WE SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER U.S. SPEAKERS WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN TANDEM WITH SCIENTISTS FROM THE UK. FAS HAS ALREADY HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH UMBRELLA GROUP REPRESENTING PRO-GMO FARMER, PLANT BREEDER, AND FEED ASSOCIATIONS. THEY WOULD WELCOME JOINT PUBLIC APPEARANCES WITH U.S. AND USG EXPERTS.

9. (C) WE HAVE NOT YET CONSIDERED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE VALUE IN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC GROUPS ON THE SUBJECT. IN A SENSE, IT MAY BE UNAVOIDABLE HOWEVER -- PUBLIC SPEAKING INVITATIONS THAT FOCUS ON TRADE POLICY, WTO, AND AGRICULTURE INVARIABLY DEMAND THAT THE BIOTECHNOLOGY ISSUE BE ADDRESSED. WHILE WE ARE CERTAINLY PREPARED TO SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS GMO ACCEPTANCE HEAD-ON, WE MAY NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT EXPERTISE TO ADDRESS ALL POSSIBLE QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY POINTED ONES PLANTED BY GMO FOES. IF WASHINGTON CAN PREPARE A SIZEABLE INFORMATION PACKET, WHICH IS REGULARLY UPDATED AS NEW STUDIES AND INFORMATION BECOME AVAILABLE, WE WOULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE ABOUT AN ACTIVE EMBASSY-LED SPEAKING CAMPAIGN. WE AGREE THAT WE HAVE A GOOD STORY TO TELL, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH UP-TO-THE-DATE INFORMATION, TALKING POINTS WHEN CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES ARISE, AND POINTS OF CONTACT WHEN WE GET TOUGH QUESTIONS. TO CITE BUT TWO EXAMPLES: OPPONENTS OF GMO CROPS HAVE ALREADY POINTED OUT THAT CLAIMS BY BIOTECH COMPANIES REGARDING LOWER PESTICIDE/HERBICIDE USE ARE NOT INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED BY THE USG; CAN WASHINGTON FIND SCIENTIFIC GROUPS THAT HAVE CONDUCTED SUCH INDEPENDENT VERIFICATIONS? SECOND, THE ADEQUACY OF FDA PROCEDURES IS ALSO QUESTIONED, SINCE OPPONENTS CLAIM THAT THE FDA DOES NOT INDEPENDENTLY VERIFY COMPANY DATA AND DOES NO SAFETY TESTS ONCE EQUIVALENCY HAS BEEN DETERMINED.

10 (C) WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME WASHINGTON EFFORTS TO DISSEMINATE 'BEST PRACTICE' INFORMATION ON PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS. EB'S PAPER MENTIONED THE RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL EFFORT IN THE NETHERLANDS. CAN WE DEVELOP A RELIABLE MECHANISM IN WASHINGTON TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH OTHER POSTS?

11. (C) WE COULD ALSO USE HELP FROM THE INDUSTRY. GMO SOY

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AND CORN, WHICH BECOME INGREDIENTS IN ALL SORTS OF PROCESSED FOODS, DO NOT HAVE OBVIOUS BENEFITS TO CONSUMERS. GETTING 'SEXIER' PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET SOONER RATHER THAN LATER (FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, FOR EXAMPLE) MIGHT CATCH THE PUBLIC IMAGINATION AND AT LEAST LEAD TO A WILLINGNESS TO GIVE THE PRODUCT A TRY (ON THE PART OF BOTH CONSUMERS AND RETAILERS). WE APPRECIATE THAT SUCH PRODUCTS WILL IN MOST CASES HAVE TO BE GROWN IN THE EU OR UK, AND THAT APPROVALS FOR SUCH PRODUCTS ARE SOME TIME OFF.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 03 OF 04 LONDON 005258

STATE PLS PASS USDA FAS

ALSO FOR USTR
STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATT:MBRUNO

DEPT PASS EPA
USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER; FAS/OA/GALVIN;
USDA ALSO FOR FAS/ITP/SIMMONS/GRUEFF/SHEIKH/MACKE/SCHWARTZ;
ALSO FOR FAS/CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON; FAS/CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER;
FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT; ERS/WEST/MADELL; FAA/AO/NE
GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/18/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD TBIO UK
SUBJECT: GMOS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY - EMBASSY LONDON'S STRATEGY

OUR GMO POLICY - PITFALLS AND NUANCES

12 ~~(C)~~ IN ANY PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAMPAIGN, WE RECOMMEND DOWN-PLAYING THE LABELING ISSUE. OUR PRIMARY PROBLEM HERE IS CONCERN ABOUT FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY. IF, IN THE MEDIUM TERM, WE CAN REESTABLISH CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN THE SAFETY OF THESE PRODUCTS, LABELING WILL BECOME LESS IMPORTANT (AT THE MOMENT, SUPERMARKETS IN THE UK ARE REFUSING TO CARRY GMO PRODUCTS).
13. ~~(C)~~ THERE MAY ALSO BE VALUE IN DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN FOOD SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. HERE, OUR OPPONENTS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY EMPLOYED BOTH, INTERCHANGEABLY. WHILE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS CLEARLY INFLUENCE DECISIONS ABOUT THE PLANTING OF GMO CROPS (AND THE MARKET FOR U.S.-ORIGIN SEEDS), THEY ARE LARGELY IRRELEVANT TO THE FOOD SAFETY DEBATE. AND IT IS POSSIBLE, GIVEN THE HIGH-INTENSITY, CLOSE-QUARTER NATURE OF EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE, THAT WE CANNOT MAKE AS EFFECTIVE A CASE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY OF GMO CROPS AS WE CAN ON FOOD SAFETY. SHOULD WE FOCUS ON THE LATTER, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO OUR EXPORT INTERESTS IN ANY CASE?

MAINTAINING OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT

14. ~~(C)~~ WHILE OUR PRIMARY BATTLEGROUND IS THE CONSUMER MARKETPLACE, WE NEED TO GET ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT ON SOME ELEMENTS OF THE GMO DEBATE. FIRST, WE MAY WANT TO CREATE A TRANSATLANTIC SCIENTISTS' GROUP PERHAPS WITHIN THE TEP, SUCH AS IN THE TRANSATLANTIC ENVIRONMENTAL DIALOGUE) TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY ISSUES. WE HAD THOUGHT IT MADE SENSE TO ORGANIZE SUCH A SCIENTIFIC GROUP WITHIN THE TEP, YET WE SHOULD RECORD THAT THE UNIFORM ADVICE OF WHITEHALL OFFICIALS TO U/S LOY WAS THAT TO PUT THE SCIENTIFIC GROUP WITHIN THE TEP WOULD BE SEEN TO PLACE IN "UNDER" THE GOVERNMENT TRADE TYPES, THEREBY VITIATING ITS VALUE.

15. ~~(C)~~ A SCIENTIFIC GROUP, WHEREVER LOCATED, COULD BE HELPFUL IN ISOLATING OUTLYING SCIENTISTS IN THE GMO DEBATE, DEPOLITICIZING THE DISCUSSION, AND UNDERPINNING EU GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SOME OF THE NEW GMO

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PRODUCTS IN THE PIPELINE. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE IN LONDON, SUCH AN INITIATIVE WOULD BE WORTHWHILE, AND WE ENCOURAGE WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO CONSIDER SOME TYPE OF FORMAL PROPOSAL TO THIS END. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF OUR BRITISH GOVERNMENT COLLEAGUES ARGUE THAT EVEN SUCH A GROUP WILL BE VIEWED WITH SUSPICION IF IT IS CREATED AND FUNDED BY GOVERNMENT.

16. ~~(C)~~ WE MAY ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER, IN THE MEDIUM TERM, GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ON GMO SAFETY. ANY SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND TESTS ON GMO SAFETY WHICH ARE FUNDED BY THE INDUSTRY ARE IMMEDIATELY VIEWED WITH SUSPICION ON THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC. A USG CONTRIBUTION TO A NEW FUND, MATCHED BY THE EU (THEY COULDN'T RESIST, IF ONLY TO MAINTAIN A SAY) WOULD PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR A LOT OF INDEPENDENT ECOLOGICAL STUDIES AND SAFETY TESTING. THIS WORK (AND EVEN THE ALLOCATION OF THE MONEY) COULD BE MANAGED UNDER A PEER REVIEW PROCESS BY THE TRANSATLANTIC SCIENCISTS' GROUP MENTIONED ABOVE.

17. ~~(C)~~ SECOND, WE NEED TO CONTINUE LOBBYING FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN EU DIRECTIVE 90/220. OUR POINTS ON THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY AND UNCERTAINTIES IN THE CURRENT PROCESS HAVE GENERATED CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY IN HMG , AND WE SHOULD BUILD UPON THAT IN AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN BRITISH SUPPORT FOR INFLUENCING THE DIRECTION OF THE NEW REGULATIONS. SOME SORT OF SIMULTANEOUS APPROVAL PROCEDURE ALSO PROBABLY MAKES SENSE, AND WE HOPE WASHINGTON WILL HAVE AN INITIATIVE IN THAT REGARD IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMENTS OF THE PROPOSED NEW REGULATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FOR U.S. INDUSTRY, TIMELINESS IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS IS ALSO IMPORTANT, BUT WE URGE CAUTION IN PRESSING TOO HARD FOR A PERIOD THAT SOME GOVERNMENTS MAY VIEW AS INADEQUATE. THE PUBLIC SENSE THAT GMO PRODUCTS ARE BEING "RUSHED' THROUGH REGULATORY PROCESSES (AS LUDICROUS AS IT SEEMS IN VIEW OF THE SLOW PACE) IS WIDESPREAD, AND WE SHOULD AVOID STANCES THAT FEED THIS PRECONCEPTION. AT THE END OF THE DAY, A NEW EU PROCESS THAT GUARANTEES CERTAINTY WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME, COMBINED WITH SOME PARALLEL ACTION ON APPROVALS, IS PROBABLY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 04 OF 04 LONDON 005258

STATE PLS PASS USDA FAS

ALSO FOR USTR
STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATT:MBRUNO

DEPT PASS EPA
USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER; FAS/OA/GALVIN;
USDA ALSO FOR FAS/ITP/SIMMONS/GRUEFF/SHEIKH/MACKE/SCHWARTZ;
ALSO FOR FAS/CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON; FAS/CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER;
FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT; ERS/WEST/MADELL; FAA/AO/NE
GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/18/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD TBIO UK
SUBJECT: GMOS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY - EMBASSY LONDON'S STRATEGY

PREFERABLE TO A VERY TIGHT TIME SCHEDULE THAT GENERATES RENEWED POLITICAL OPPOSTION IN SOME MEMBER STATES.

18. ~~(C)~~ WHILE DOMESTIC ACCEPTANCE OF GMO PRODUCTS IS THE EMBASSY'S MAIN GOAL, WE ALSO WANT TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF USG EFFORTS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES LIKE THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL. HERE, HMG IS NOT/NOT ON OUR SIDE, AND THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE WE CAN DO IN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN UK VIEWS. DURING U/S LOY'S JUNE 14-16 VISIT WE MADE VERY LITTLE PROGRESS ON THIS SUBJECT, AND WE MAY SIMPLY HAVE TO HOLD FIRM IN OUR EFFORTS TO BLOCK ACTIONS INIMICAL TO OUR INTERESTS AT THE MULTILATERAL LEVEL, WHILE

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THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL IS GENERALLY THE FOCUS POINT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANGLE, THE FOOD SAFETY ANGLE ALSO ARISES MULTILATERALLY - IN CODEX AND THE WTO'S SPS. HERE WE HAVE MORE SUPPORT WITHIN HMG, AND WE SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE UK DOES NOT LEAD OR SUPPORT AN EU EFFORT TO UNDERCUT THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NAME OF FOOD SAFETY.

LADER

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Duncan, John D.

From: Butler, Lawrence E. (EUR)
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 1999 10:59 AM
To: @INTECON - Economic Affairs; @ENVIRON - Environmental; @EUROPE - European Affairs
Subject: EU and GMOs for McNamer ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Importance: High

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 005769

DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

REF BRUSSELS 4157

1. CLASSIFIED BY L. ALLEN NELSEN, EST COUNSELOR. REASON: 1.5 (D)

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: UK OFFICIALS (STRICTLY PROTECT) GAVE US AN UPBEAT ASSESSMENT OF THE JUNE 24-25 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL DECISION ON REVISIONS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220. HMG GOT MOST OF ITS OBJECTIVES AND BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL WELCOME THE REVISIONS. A NUMBER OF ONEROUS PROPOSALS WERE DEFEATED, AND THE PROPOSED NEW REGIME BRINGS SOMEWHAT MORE TRANSPARENCY, CERTAINTY, AND TIMELINESS TO THE PROCESS. HMG DISPUTES THE ARGUMENT THAT THE AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A DE FACTO MORATORIUM, SINCE COMPANIES WILL BE FREE TO CONTINUE SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS BOTH FOR PLANTING AND FOR MARKETING. WHILE APPROVAL OF SUCH APPLICATIONS WILL CLEARLY BE INIFLUENCED BY THE CURRENT POLITICAL DEBATE ABOUT GMOS IN MANY MEMBER STATES, THE EXISTING 90/220 PROCEDURES WILL APPLY TO NEW APPLICATIONS AND CAN GAIN TIMELY APPROVAL IF THE CURRENT POLITICAL UPROAR DIES DOWN. THE COUNCIL HAS ASKED THE COMMISSION TO FLESH OUT THE DETAILS ON LABELING, 'GUIDANCE NOTES' FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT, AND THRESHOLDS, BUT THE UK DOES NOT EXPECT ANY UNPLEASANT SURPRISES IN THAT PROCESS. HMG EXPECTS FINAL APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DIRECTIVE IN THE LATE AUTUMN AND ENTRY INTO FORCE LATE IN 2000. END SUMMARY

3. ~~(C)~~ WE MET JULY 2 WITH HMG OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE JUNE 24-25 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL MEETING FOR THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE AGREEMENT. IN TALKING TO US, THEY AGREED TO WORK FROM THE 'GOING IN' TEXT (WORKING DOCUMENT ENV/99/84, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WASHINGTON HAS). WHILE FOCUSSING ON THE NATURE OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT IN LUXEMBOURG, WE ALSO SOUGHT TO UNDERSTAND THE DYNAMICS THAT LEAD TO CHANGES FROM THE WORKING DOCUMENT.

FOR THE USG, A GOOD OUTCOME

4. ~~(C)~~ THE UK'S OVERALL ASSESSMENT WAS POSITIVE, REFLECTING THEIR SUCCESS IN SEEING MINISTERS RESOLVE MANY DISPUTED ARTICLES IN THE HMG'S FAVOR. HMG BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL WELCOME THIS OUTCOME, SINCE ON MANY OCCASIONS THE RESULT IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVQ CURRENT PROCEDURES (AND THE ALTERNATIVE ON THE TABLE WAS SOMETHING WHICH THE UK EXPECTS WE WOULD HAVE FOUND MUCH MORE OBJECTIONABLE). THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE CASE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT (ERA - ANNEX

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White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VR NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-M (1.09)

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II) WHERE A PROCESS IS EXPECTED THAT IS BASED UPON THE EXISTING UK SYSTEM AND IS LIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE UNIFORM FROM ONE MEMBER STATE TO THE NEXT. U.S. COMPANIES ARE THOUGHT TO BE FAMILIAR WITH, AND COMFORTABLE WITH, THE CURRENT UK SYSTEM. WE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRINCIPLES FOR THE ERA ONLY ADDRESS ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES; THERE IS NO MANDATE TO CONSIDER, OR TO WEIGH, POSSIBLE FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OR HEALTH IMPACTS). ATTEMPTS TO ADD ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO THE ERA WERE DEFEATED; WHILE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION ARE FREE TO INFORM AND CONSULT ADVISORY GROUPS WITH ETHICAL OR CONSUMER INTERESTS, THE VIEWS OF THESE ADVISORY GROUPS ARE NOT AN ELEMENT IN THE ERA ITSELF.

5. ~~(C)~~ SIMILARLY, THE NEW MONITORING PROVISIONS, IN THE UK VIEW, PROVIDE MORE CERTAINTY TO APPLICANTS, REDUCE DIVERGENCIES IN CURRENT MEMBER STATE PRACTICES, AND WILL BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO NEW INFORMATION. THE LATTER ADVANTAGE SHOULD ULTIMATELY INCREASE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN THE SYSTEM.

THE PROPOSED NEW SYSTEM -- STRICTER TIME LIMITS

6. ~~(C)~~ FOR PLANTING APPROVALS (PART B OF THE PROPOSED NEW DIRECTIVE), A SERIES OF TIME LIMITS ARE IMPOSED. COMPANIES REMAIN FREE TO APPLY FOR PLANTING APPROVAL IN ANY MEMBER STATE WHERE THEY BELIEVE THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY WILL GRANT APPROVAL. THAT AUTHORITY THEN HAS 90 DAYS TO TAKE A DECISION, ALTHOUGH THE CLOCK STOPS WHEN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED OR WHEN A PUBLIC INQUIRY IS CONSTITUTED. WE POINTED OUT THAT THE WORKING DOCUMENT DID NOT INDICATE RESOLUTION ON THE LENGTH OF TIME PERMITTED FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY, NOR DID IT ADDRESS POTENTIAL ABUSE BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES (CONSTANTLY ASKING FOR MORE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO DELAY A DECISION). HMG TOOK NOTE OF OUR POINTS; THEY ASKED TO DELAY RESPONSING TO US ON THE LENGTH OF TIME PERMITTED FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY, SINCE THEY WERE NOT SURE WHAT THE FINAL COMMISSION LANGUAGE WOULD SAY ON THIS POINT. (THIS IS ALSO RELEVANT TO PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS -- ART 7, PARA 1).

7. ~~(C)~~ COMPANIES SEEKING PLANTING APPROVAL ACROSS THE EU MAY ALSO APPLY UNDER THE "DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURES" (ART 6B) BY ASKING THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY WHERE INITIAL APPROVAL IS SOUGHT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE COMMISSION FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE OTHER MEMBER STATES. ART 6B, PARA 2, SPELLS OUT THE TIME LIMITS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 LONDON 005769

DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

BY THE OTHER MEMBER STATES. THESE TIME LIMITS RUN CONCURRENTLY, BUT THE CLOCK STOPS UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES NOTED ABOVE. IF A MEMBER STATE CONTINUES TO OBJECT TO THE DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURES AFTER A 45-DAY PERIOD DESIGNED TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES, THEN THE MATTER GOES TO THE "COMMITTEE" COMPOSED OF MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES (ART 21), WHERE A DECISION IS TAKEN EITHER BY CONSENSUS OR QUALIFIED MAJORITY. WE NOTED TO THE UK THAT THE WORKING DOCUMENT DID NOT SPECIFY A TIME LIMIT FOR A DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE.

8. ~~(C)~~ WE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT ART 6C, WHICH PERMITS THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND OR TERMINATE THE APPROVED DELIBERATE RELEASE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSE NEW INFORMATION. THE ARTICLE WOULD APPEAR TO BE OPEN TO OVERREACTION AND ABUSE AND DOES NOT OFFER A RIGHT OF APPEAL. HMG DID CONFIRM,

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HOWEVER, THAT ONE MEMBER STATE COULD NOT INVOKE THIS ARTICLE TO SUSPEND PLANTING IN ANOTHER MEMBER STATE.

MARKETING GMO PRODUCTS -- QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING THE KEY

9. PART C OF THE PROPOSED DIRECTIVE COVERS GMO'S 'AS OR IN PRODUCTS'. WHEREAS THE WORKING DOCUMENT ENVISIONED BOTH A STANDARD PROCEDURE AND A DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURE (ART 13B), THE LATTER HAS BEEN DROPPED AND WILL BE RECONSIDERED A FEW YEARS AFTER THE DIRECTIVE IS IN PLACE. THE UK WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE A DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURE IN PLACE (WHICH WOULD HAVE EXPEDITED COMMUNITY-WIDE APPROVAL FOR WELL-KNOWN GMOS, WHERE VERY SIMILAR PRODUCTS HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROVED), THEY DIDN'T SEE A SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH ADVANTAGE OVER THE STANDARD PROCEDURE IN TERMS OF TIMELINESS TO FIGHT HARD FOR THE OPTION. THE STANDARD PROCEDURE REQUIRES THE COMPANY TO NOTIFY THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THE PRODUCT IS EXPECTED TO BE PLACED ON THE MARKET FOR THE FIRST TIME. THAT COUNTRY PREPARES AN ASSESSMENT REPORT (ART 12) WITHIN 90 DAYS (BUT THE CLOCK MAY STOP AS NOTED EARLIER). THAT REPORT IS DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION, WHO HAVE 60 DAYS TO ASK FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, MAKE COMMENTS, OR OBJECT (SEE ART 13). THE CLOCK STOPS UNDER CONDITIONS NOTED EARLIER, OR IF THE COMMISSION DECIDES TO CONSULT THE RELEVANT EXISTING SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE). IF THERE ARE OBJECTIONS OR OUTSTANDING ISSUES, A FURTHER 45 DAYS IS PERMITTED TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES. IF, AT THAT POINT, DIFFERENCES REMAIN, THE ART 21 PROCEDURES, WITH QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING, ARE FOLLOWED IF MARKETING IS APPROVED, LABELING IS REQUIRED AT ALL MARKETING STAGES. WE NOTED THAT PROVISIONS FOR REQUESTING FURTHER INFORMATION DURING THE RESOLUTION PERIOD WERE NOT LIMITED EITHER IN TIME OR NUMBER, AND THAT ART 11 PARA 5 (REQUIRING A SEPARATE NOTIFICATION FOR "EACH USE DIFFERENT THAN THAT ALREADY SPECIFIED IN THE NOTIFICATION") WAS SUBJECT TO ABUSE. HMG DID CONFIRM, HOWEVER, THAT 'TREATY-SHOPPING' WAS POSSIBLE (IF THE COUNTRY WHERE YOU FIRST APPLY FOR MARKETING TURNS YOU DOWN, YOU CAN APPLY AGAIN SOMEWHERE ELSE). ONCE GRANTED, MARKETING APPROVAL IS VALID FOR UP TO 10 YEARS (THE UK PREFERRED 12 YEARS, BUT 10 BECAME THE COMPROMISE WHEN SOME MEMBER STATES ADVOCATED AS FEW AS 5 YEARS).

EXISTING NOTIFICATIONS -- THE OLD RULES APPLY; NO NEED TO START OVER

10. ~~(C)~~ WE PRESSED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE IMPACT OF THE AGREEMENT ON EXISTING APPLICATIONS (INCLUDING ONE IN THE UK FOR MONSANTO'S BT CORN). HMG OFFICIALS ASSURED US THAT THE CURRENT RULES APPLY, AND THAT ANY APPLICATIONS STILL PENDING WHEN THE NEW REGIME COMES INTO PLACE WOULD BE ADJUDICATED WITHIN A PRESCRIBED TIME PERIOD (THE WORKING DOCUMENT SAYS 360 DAYS (ART 13CA, PARA 2), BUT OUR CONTACTS WERE NOT SURE THAT IS THE FINAL AGREEMENT). HMG INDICATED THAT THERE WAS AGREEMENT NOT TO HAVE A 'GAP' BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW RULES. THE PROPOSED DIRECTIVE DOES NOT, ACCORDING TO HMG, RETROACTIVELY APPLY NEW RULES TO THE PENDING APPLICATIONS, OTHER THAN LIMITING THE LENGTH OF THE MARKETING APPROVAL TO A FIXED PERIOD (THE WORKING DOCUMENT HAD PROPOSED A MAXIMUM OF 6 YEARS) AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW DIRECTIVE. EXISTING APPLICATIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME ERA AGREED TO BY MINISTERS IN DECEMBER 1998.

SAFEGUARDS -- DO THEY ALSO APPLY TO MARKETING?

11. ~~(C)~~ THE WORKING DOCUMENT (ART 16) INDICATES THAT A MEMBER STATE MAY PROVISIONALLY RESTRICT OR PROHIBIT THE SALE OF GMO PRODUCTS ON ITS OWN TERRITORY WHEN ADVERSE NEW OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. HMG OFFICIALS TOLD US THAT THIS IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO CURRENT PROCEDURES AND IN ANY CASE ONLY APPLIES TO PART B (PLANTING APPROVAL). WE

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WILL ASK AGAIN ON THIS POINT (AND RECOMMEND WASHINGTON TO DO SO TOO), SINCE THE APPLICATION OF THE SAFEGUARD CLAUSE TO PART C COULD EASILY BE ABUSED BY MEMBER STATES LOOKING FOR EXCUSES TO KEEP GMO PRODUCTS OUT OF THE MARKET.
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 LONDON 005769

DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO
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A DE JURE OR DE FACTO MORATORIUM -- THE UK DISAGREES

12. ~~(C)~~ HMG DISPUTES THE VIEW SOME HAVE TAKEN THAT THE COUNCIL DECISION REPRESENTS A MORATORIUM ON APPROVALS. THERE IS NO GAP BETWEEN THE CURRENT AND FUTURE REGULATIONS. IF THE CURRENT PUBLIC OUTCRY OVER GMO'S DIES DOWN IN SOME MEMBER STATES, APPROVALS WOULD PROBABLY RESUME (AND IN THEORY, THEY COULD ANYWAY), AND NEW APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED (AND ADJUDICATED NOT LATER THAN WITHIN A FIXED PERIOD AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW RULES). OUR CONTACTS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE CURRENT 90/220 REGULATION IS NOT BEING FOLLOWED (INCLUDING HERE IN THE UK), BUT SUCH AN OUTCOME WOULD ALSO BE POSSIBLE (ALTHOUGH PRESUMABLY MORE DIFFICULT) UNDER A NEW DIRECTIVE. HMG EMPHASIZES THAT THE NEW DIRECTIVE MAY MAKE APPROVALS EASIER (THE PROCESS WILL BE MORE TRANSPARENT, AND STAKEHOLDERS WILL FEEL THAT THEY ARE PART OF THE PROCESS), BUT ULTIMATELY PUBLIC OPINION WILL DETERMINE HOW MUCH THE MEMBER STATES CAN DO. THE UK IS ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO AVOID A TRADE DISPUTE WITH THE UNITED STATES AND HOPES THAT A PROCESS EMERGES WHICH IS SATISFACTORY TO THE USG AND PROVIDES U.S. COMPANIES WITH GREATER CERTAINTY. OUR INTERLOCUTERS BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE BRITISH PUBLIC AGAIN EMBRACES GMO PRODUCTS, BUT IF THAT DECISION IS MADE BY THE MARKET, RATHER THAN BUREAUCRATS AND POLITICIANS, THE USG WILL, IN HMG'S VIEW, HAVE NO BASIS FOR PURSUING TRADE ACTION.

LADER

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Duncan, John D.

From: Butler, Lawrence E. (EUR)
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 1999 10:59 AM
To: @INTECON - Economic Affairs; @ENVIRON - Environmental; @EUROPE - European Affairs
Subject: EU and GMOs for McNamer ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Importance: High

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

REF BRUSSELS 4157

1. CLASSIFIED BY L. ALLEN NELSEN, EST COUNSELOR. REASON: 1.5 (D)

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: UK OFFICIALS (STRICTLY PROTECT) GAVE US AN UPBEAT ASSESSMENT OF THE JUNE 24-25 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL DECISION ON REVISIONS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220. HMG GOT MOST OF ITS OBJECTIVES AND BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL WELCOME THE REVISIONS. A NUMBER OF ONEROUS PROPOSALS WERE DEFEATED, AND THE PROPOSED NEW REGIME BRINGS SOMEWHAT MORE TRANSPARENCY, CERTAINTY, AND TIMELINESS TO THE PROCESS. HMG DISPUTES THE ARGUMENT THAT THE AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A DE FACTO MORATORIUM, SINCE COMPANIES WILL BE FREE TO CONTINUE SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS BOTH FOR PLANTING AND FOR MARKETING. WHILE APPROVAL OF SUCH APPLICATIONS WILL CLEARLY BE INIFLUENCED BY THE CURRENT POLITICAL DEBATE ABOUT GMOS IN MANY MEMBER STATES, THE EXISTING 90/220 PROCEDURES WILL APPLY TO NEW APPLICATIONS AND CAN GAIN TIMELY APPROVAL IF THE CURRENT POLITICAL UPROAR DIES DOWN. THE COUNCIL HAS ASKED THE COMMISSION TO FLESH OUT THE DETAILS ON LABELING, 'GUIDANCE NOTES' FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT, AND THRESHOLDS, BUT THE UK DOES NOT EXPECT ANY UNPLEASANT SURPRISES IN THAT PROCESS. HMG EXPECTS FINAL APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DIRECTIVE IN THE LATE AUTUMN AND ENTRY INTO FORCE LATE IN 2000. END SUMMARY

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SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

BY THE OTHER MEMBER STATES. THESE TIME LIMITS RUN CONCURRENTLY, BUT THE CLOCK STOPS UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES NOTED ABOVE. IF A MEMBER STATE CONTINUES TO OBJECT TO THE DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURES AFTER A 45-DAY PERIOD DESIGNED TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES, THEN THE MATTER GOES TO THE "COMMITTEE" COMPOSED OF MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES (ART 21), WHERE A DECISION IS TAKEN EITHER BY CONSENSUS OR QUALIFIED MAJORITY. WE NOTED TO THE UK THAT THE WORKING DOCUMENT DID NOT SPECIFY A TIME LIMIT FOR A DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE.

8. ~~(C)~~ WE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT ART 6C, WHICH PERMITS THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND OR TERMINATE THE APPROVED DELIBERATE RELEASE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSE NEW INFORMATION. THE ARTICLE WOULD APPEAR TO BE OPEN TO OVERREACTION AND ABUSE AND DOES NOT OFFER A RIGHT OF APPEAL. HMG DID CONFIRM,

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HOWEVER, THAT ONE MEMBER STATE COULD NOT INVOKE THIS ARTICLE TO SUSPEND PLANTING IN ANOTHER MEMBER STATE.

MARKETING GMO PRODUCTS -- QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING THE KEY

9. PART C OF THE PROPOSED DIRECTIVE COVERS GMO'S 'AS OR IN PRODUCTS'. WHEREAS THE WORKING DOCUMENT ENVISIONED BOTH A STANDARD PROCEDURE AND A DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURE (ART 13B), THE LATTER HAS BEEN DROPPED AND WILL BE RECONSIDERED A FEW YEARS AFTER THE DIRECTIVE IS IN PLACE. THE UK WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE A DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURE IN PLACE (WHICH WOULD HAVE EXPEDITED COMMUNITY-WIDE APPROVAL FOR WELL-KNOWN GMOS, WHERE VERY SIMILAR PRODUCTS HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROVED), THEY DIDN'T SEE A SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH ADVANTAGE OVER THE STANDARD PROCEDURE IN TERMS OF TIMELINESS TO FIGHT HARD FOR THE OPTION. THE STANDARD PROCEDURE REQUIRES THE COMPANY TO NOTIFY THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THE PRODUCT IS EXPECTED TO BE PLACED ON THE MARKET FOR THE FIRST TIME. THAT COUNTRY PREPARES AN ASSESSMENT REPORT (ART 12) WITHIN 90 DAYS (BUT THE CLOCK MAY STOP AS NOTED EARLIER). THAT REPORT IS DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION, WHO HAVE 60 DAYS TO ASK FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, MAKE COMMENTS, OR OBJECT (SEE ART 13). THE CLOCK STOPS UNDER CONDITIONS NOTED EARLIER, OR IF THE COMMISSION DECIDES TO CONSULT THE RELEVANT EXISTING SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE). IF THERE ARE OBJECTIONS OR OUTSTANDING ISSUES, A FURTHER 45 DAYS IS PERMITTED TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES. IF, AT THAT POINT, DIFFERENCES REMAIN, THE ART 21 PROCEDURES, WITH QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING, ARE FOLLOWED IF MARKETING IS APPROVED, LABELING IS REQUIRED AT ALL MARKETING STAGES. WE NOTED THAT PROVISIONS FOR REQUESTING FURTHER INFORMATION DURING THE RESOLUTION PERIOD WERE NOT LIMITED EITHER IN TIME OR NUMBER, AND THAT ART 11 PARA 5 (REQUIRING A SEPARATE NOTIFICATION FOR "EACH USE DIFFERENT THAN THAT ALREADY SPECIFIED IN THE NOTIFICATION") WAS SUBJECT TO ABUSE. HMG DID CONFIRM, HOWEVER, THAT 'TREATY-SHOPPING' WAS POSSIBLE (IF THE COUNTRY WHERE YOU FIRST APPLY FOR MARKETING TURNS YOU DOWN, YOU CAN APPLY AGAIN SOMEWHERE ELSE). ONCE GRANTED, MARKETING APPROVAL IS VALID FOR UP TO 10 YEARS (THE UK PREFERRED 12 YEARS, BUT 10 BECAME THE COMPROMISE WHEN SOME MEMBER STATES ADVOCATED AS FEW AS 5 YEARS).

EXISTING NOTIFICATIONS -- THE OLD RULES APPLY; NO NEED TO START OVER

10. ~~(C)~~ WE PRESSED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE IMPACT OF THE AGREEMENT ON EXISTING APPLICATIONS (INCLUDING ONE IN THE UK FOR MONSANTO'S BT CORN). HMG OFFICIALS ASSURED US THAT THE CURRENT RULES APPLY, AND THAT ANY APPLICATIONS STILL PENDING WHEN THE NEW REGIME COMES INTO PLACE WOULD BE ADJUDICATED WITHIN A PRESCRIBED TIME PERIOD (THE WORKING DOCUMENT SAYS 360 DAYS (ART 13CA, PARA 2), BUT OUR CONTACTS WERE NOT SURE THAT IS THE FINAL AGREEMENT). HMG INDICATED THAT THERE WAS AGREEMENT NOT TO HAVE A 'GAP' BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW RULES. THE PROPOSED DIRECTIVE DOES NOT, ACCORDING TO HMG, RETROACTIVELY APPLY NEW RULES TO THE PENDING APPLICATIONS, OTHER THAN LIMITING THE LENGTH OF THE MARKETING APPROVAL TO A FIXED PERIOD (THE WORKING DOCUMENT HAD PROPOSED A MAXIMUM OF 6 YEARS) AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW DIRECTIVE. EXISTING APPLICATIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME ERA AGREED TO BY MINISTERS IN DECEMBER 1998.

SAFEGUARDS -- DO THEY ALSO APPLY TO MARKETING?

11. ~~(C)~~ THE WORKING DOCUMENT (ART 16) INDICATES THAT A MEMBER STATE MAY PROVISIONALLY RESTRICT OR PROHIBIT THE SALE OF GMO PRODUCTS ON ITS OWN TERRITORY WHEN ADVERSE NEW OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. HMG OFFICIALS TOLD US THAT THIS IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO CURRENT PROCEDURES AND IN ANY CASE ONLY APPLIES TO PART B (PLANTING APPROVAL). WE

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WILL ASK AGAIN ON THIS POINT (AND RECOMMEND WASHINGTON TO DO SO TOO), SINCE THE APPLICATION OF THE SAFEGUARD CLAUSE TO PART C COULD EASILY BE ABUSED BY MEMBER STATES LOOKING FOR EXCUSES TO KEEP GMO PRODUCTS OUT OF THE MARKET.
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 LONDON 005769

DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

A DE JURE OR DE FACTO MORATORIUM -- THE UK DISAGREES

12. ~~(C)~~ HMG DISPUTES THE VIEW SOME HAVE TAKEN THAT THE COUNCIL DECISION REPRESENTS A MORATORIUM ON APPROVALS. THERE IS NO GAP BETWEEN THE CURRENT AND FUTURE REGULATIONS. IF THE CURRENT PUBLIC OUTCRY OVER GMO'S DIES DOWN IN SOME MEMBER STATES, APPROVALS WOULD PROBABLY RESUME (AND IN THEORY, THEY COULD ANYWAY), AND NEW APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED (AND ADJUDICATED NOT LATER THAN WITHIN A FIXED PERIOD AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW RULES). OUR CONTACTS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE CURRENT 90/220 REGULATION IS NOT BEING FOLLOWED (INCLUDING HERE IN THE UK), BUT SUCH AN OUTCOME WOULD ALSO BE POSSIBLE (ALTHOUGH PRESUMABLY MORE DIFFICULT) UNDER A NEW DIRECTIVE. HMG EMPHASIZES THAT THE NEW DIRECTIVE MAY MAKE APPROVALS EASIER (THE PROCESS WILL BE MORE TRANSPARENT, AND STAKEHOLDERS WILL FEEL THAT THEY ARE PART OF THE PROCESS), BUT ULTIMATELY PUBLIC OPINION WILL DETERMINE HOW MUCH THE MEMBER STATES CAN DO. THE UK IS ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO AVOID A TRADE DISPUTE WITH THE UNITED STATES AND HOPES THAT A PROCESS EMERGES WHICH IS SATISFACTORY TO THE USG AND PROVIDES U.S. COMPANIES WITH GREATER CERTAINTY. OUR INTERLOCUTERS BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE BRITISH PUBLIC AGAIN EMBRACES GMO PRODUCTS, BUT IF THAT DECISION IS MADE BY THE MARKET, RATHER THAN BUREAUCRATS AND POLITICIANS, THE USG WILL, IN HMG'S VIEW, HAVE NO BASIS FOR PURSUING TRADE ACTION.

LADER

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Duncan, John D.

From: Butler, Lawrence E. (EUR)
Sent: Friday, June 25, 1999 9:13 AM
To: @INTECON - Economic Affairs
Cc: @EUROPE - European Affairs; @ENVIRON - Environmental; @STRATEGY; @LEGISLAT - Legislative Affairs
Subject: GMOs and Europe -- trainwreck now in progress; Embassy Paris rescue proposal ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Importance: High

EU environment ministers agreed yesterday to halt approvals for new GMO products, formalizing a de facto situation that started last year. Felix's political assessment (below) is right: GMOs is a pure political liability issue, with politicians able to score points by jumping on the "frankenfoods" bandwagon. The fact that threats to consumer safety have so far come exclusively from conventional sources (tainted blood, mad cows, spiked wine, adulterated olive oil, and now spoiled coca cola) is totally lost on consumers and elites.

We need to develop a "long march" strategy to tackle this over a multi-year period, combining efforts bilaterally and in the WTO to constrain the worst policy impulses of governments and guide them to a more responsible direction, and with public affairs to begin addressing the roots of consumer fears and suspicions. We are also going to have to figure out how to deal with the real problem here -- European agricultural subsidies and surpluses against fears of U.S. competition. The cornerstone of the EU was a deal between Geman steel producers and French farmers. If we don't have such a strategy, we will have a hard time dealing with Monsanto and others who will seek help from the Hill with some kind of sanctions legislation.

In the meantime, we should also watch out for European efforts to stampede American consumers into behaving like Europeans. More than one Euro diplomat here has stated confidently that it is only a matter of time before there is a heartland backlash against products of biotechnology. As they say in @Kosovo, misery loves company.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 PARIS 011796
STATE PASS OSTP; AGRICULTURE FOR SECRETARY GLICKMAN, U/S SCHUMACHER, FAS OA/GALVIN
USTR FOR BARSHEFSKY, SCHER AND MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR AND AG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/23/04
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, TBIO, FR, EUN
SUBJECT: GMO'S: STRATEGIES FOR FRANCE ON THE EVE OF SECRETARY GLICKMAN'S VISIT

REF: LONDON 5258

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR FELIX ROHATYN FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY AND COMMENT. ON JUNE 23, THE JOSPIN GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO PROPOSE AN EU-WIDE SUSPENSION OF NEW GMO APPROVALS, WHICH COMES AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A GROUNDSWELL OF OPPOSITION TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS AND FOODS (GMO'S). POST CONCURS WITH EMBASSY LONDON'S PROPOSALS FOR AN ACTIVE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY CAMPAIGN (REFTEL) TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE. WHILE WE HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK ON THE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FRONT, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THIS TYPE OF ENGAGEMENT WITH THE FRENCH AND EUROPEANS IS NOT, WITHOUT MORE, GOING TO ACHIEVE ACCEPTANCE OF OUR GMO PRODUCTS. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT SEES THE ISSUE AS A POLITICAL LIABILITY. WE DO NOT EXPECT THE SITUATION TO IMPROVE ANYTIME SOON. AS JOSPIN AND CHIRAC POSITION THEMSELVES FOR THE 2002 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, EACH MAY TRY TO OUTDO THE OTHER IN APPEALING TO THE FRENCH ELECTORATE'S DESIRE FOR REASSURANCE ABOUT THE SAFETY OF ITS FOOD SUPPLY.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0524-M (1.11)

2. ~~(C)~~ HEALTH MINISTER KOUCHNER TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT

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HE INTENDS TO **PROPOSE CREATION OF A EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY** AGENCY TO HELP RESTORE GENERAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT A KEY COMPONENT OF OUR LONG TERM STRATEGY SHOULD BE TO SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL. WE CAN HELP BY EXPLAINING HOW OUR SYSTEM WORKS TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND LEAD TO ACCEPTANCE OF GMO'S IN THE U.S. AT THE SAME TIME, WE SHOULD **STRENGTHEN OUR SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE,** ALONG THE LINES ANNOUNCED AT THE US-EU SUMMIT. IN ADDITION, WE NEED, THROUGH A **QUIET DIALOGUE WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS, TO CONTINUE TO UNDERSCORE EUROPE'S OBLIGATION TO** TREAT OUR EXPORTS IN A WTO-CONSISTENT, TRANSPARENT, SCIENCE-BASED FASHION AND TO HIGHLIGHT THE VERY REAL PROBLEMS EUROPE IS CREATING, ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY FOR US PRODUCERS.

3. ~~(C)~~ USDA SECRETARY GLICKMAN, IN HIS VISIT TO PARIS JUNE 28-29 SHOULD ENGAGE THE FRENCH ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE GMO ISSUE, PARTICULARLY THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN ACTIONS ON THE U.S. AS WELL AS WAYS TO IMPROVE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN EUROPE. HE SHOULD ALSO FOCUS ON WHAT HAS BECOME A **POPULAR REFERENCE TO THE "PRINCIPLE OF PRECAUTION"** FOR APPROVING FOODS. WE NEED TO UNDERSCORE TO THE FRENCH THAT ONLY A TRANSPARENT, SCIENCE-BASED PROCESS FOR GMO APPROVALS IS ACCEPTABLE.

4. (SBU) IN SUM, WE PROPOSE A STRATEGY OF FOUR ELEMENTS:

-- ENDORSEMENT OF AN APOLITICAL EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AGENCY, WITH SUPPORTING EXPLANATIONS OF OUR OWN SYSTEMS OF FOOD REGULATORY REFORM;

-- STRENGTHENED BILATERAL "OBJECTIVE" SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH US-EU SUMMIT RECOMMENDATIONS, FOR EXPANDED U.S.-EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE (AND USING THIS MECHANISM TO CLARIFY, FOR EXAMPLE, THE FRENCH/EUROPEAN DEFINITION OF THE "PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE"); AND

-- CONTINUOUS ENGAGEMENT THROUGH AN ACTIVE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY CAMPAIGN;

-- CONTINUED, QUIET PRESSURE FOR THE EUROPEANS TO LIVE UP TO THEIR WTO OBLIGATIONS. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

THE CURRENT SITUATION IN FRANCE - SHIFTING PUBLIC ATTITUDES; CALL FOR MORATORIUM

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5. ~~(C)~~ IN FRANCE, THERE HAS BEEN A CLEAR SHIFT IN PUBLIC ATTITUDE AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF GMO'S INTO THE MARKETPLACE AND INTO THE ENVIRONMENT. THE FRENCH PUBLIC, WHICH WAS AT MINIMUM AMBIVALENT AND ARGUABLY SUPPORTIVE OF GMO PRODUCTS IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT PAST, IS NOW OPENLY HOSTILE TO THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRODUCTS THAT ARE PERCEIVED AS SCIENTIFICALLY ALTERED FOR INTRODUCTION INTO THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION. ON JUNE 23 THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CALLED FOR A EUROPEAN UNION SUSPENSION ON ALL NEW GMO APPROVALS. ITS POSITION IS THAT ALL NEW GMO AUTHORIZATIONS MUST BE SUSPENDED UNTIL DIRECTIVE 90/220 HAS BEEN REVISED. HOWEVER, BASED ON THE ANALYSIS DONE BY THE FRENCH COMMISSION ON BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY STUDY, THE GOF FOUND THAT THERE REMAINED NO REASON TO QUESTION EARLIER FAVORABLE EVALUATIONS OF THE FOUR GM CORN VARIETIES ALREADY APPROVED IN FRANCE. (NOTE: WHILE 35 PERCENT OF THE U.S. CORN CROP IS GM, IN FRANCE ONLY 300 OF THE 3.2 MILLION HECTARES OF CORN ARE CURRENTLY PLANTED WITH GM CORN.)

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6. (SBU) WE ARE SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED BY THIS INSTANCE OF SCIENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING. NONETHELESS, WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR AN EXTENDED MORATORIUM ON NEW APPROVALS AND AN APPARENT NOD TO ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS TO INTENSIFY SURVEILLANCE OF THE EFFECTS OF BT VARIETIES ON THE ENVIRONMENT. HOWEVER, WITH REGARD TO EU DIRECTIVE 90/220, THE FRENCH TAKE THE POSITION THAT LABELING AND TRACEABILITY REGULATIONS MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE DIRECTIVE. FRANCE PROPOSES THAT ALL NEW GMO AUTHORIZATIONS BE SUSPENDED UNTIL THE REVISED 90/220 IS AGREED UPON BY ALL MEMBER STATES AND HAS ENTERED INTO FORCE. THIS COULD BE A LENGTHY PROCESS.

SHATTERED FAITH IN FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS
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7. (SBU) PUBLIC DEBATE ABOUT GMO'S HAS BEEN FUELED BY ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER CONCERNS RAISED BY VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS. BUT THE ANXIETY OF FRENCH CONSUMERS HAS LESS TO DO WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND MORE TO DO WITH AS YET "UNFORESEEN" HEALTH CONSEQUENCES BORN, IN LARGE MEASURE, OF FEARS FOR FOOD AND HEALTH SAFETY ON OTHER FRONTS. THIS ATTITUDE REFLECTS ACCURATELY THE PUBLIC'S SHATTERED FAITH IN THE ABILITY OF ITS REGULATORY INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ASSURANCES OF PRODUCT SAFETY AND QUALITY. (E.G. MAD COWS, TAINTED BLOOD, TAINTED CHICKENS AND EGGS, ETC.) GOVERNMENT, FARM GROUPS, FOOD DISTRIBUTORS AND EVEN THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY HAVE WANTED TO PLAY IT SAFE AND NOT GET ON THE WRONG SIDE OF CONSUMERS (VOTERS).

8. (U) WE CONCUR WITH REFTEL THAT SCIENTIFIC CREDIBILITY MUST BE CALLED UPON TO RESTORE SOME LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE IN AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY. BUT WE VERY MUCH DOUBT THAT THE FRENCH PUBLIC IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT "OBJECTIVE" SCIENCE AS THE MAIN BASIS FOR SHORT TERM ACCEPTANCE OF GMO'S. RATHER, THE PUBLIC WANTS TO BE ABLE TO LOOK TO A THOROUGH, APOLITICAL SCIENCE-BASED REGULATORY REGIME THAT CAN ONCE AGAIN OFFER CONSISTENT ASSURANCE TO CITIZENS THAT THE BURDEN OF CHOICE DOES NOT REST ENTIRELY ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL SHOULDERS. (WE NOTE THE WIDE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF NUCLEAR POWER IN FRANCE (80 PERCENT OF ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION) AS A VIABLE ENERGY SOURCE, NOTWITHSTANDING REGULAR ATTEMPTS BY GREEN PARTY OFFICIALS TO ALTER THIS COURSE. PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE (WITH ADMITTEDLY PERIODIC NEED FOR REINFORCEMENT) IS LESS A FUNCTION OF SCIENTIFIC ASSURANCE, BUT RATHER FRENCH GENERAL CONFIDENCE IN THEIR NUCLEAR REGULATORY REGIME.)

RECOMMENDED U.S. ACTIONS

I. FOOD SAFETY REGULATORY REFORM
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9. (SBU) BY SUPPORTING A EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AGENCY AND OPENING A DIALOGUE ON OUR RESPECTIVE FOOD SAFETY REGIMES, WE CAN PROVIDE ASSURANCES TO EUROPE ABOUT U.S. VIGILANCE IN THIS AREA, AND PERHAPS OFFER A MODEL FOR FUTURE FOOD SAFETY REGIMES IN FRANCE AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE. REFORM OF THE FRENCH FOOD AND HEALTH REGULATORY STRUCTURE HAS BEEN A SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT AND AMONG MINISTRIES FOR SOME TIME. INTER-AGENCY TURF FIGHTS HAVE PREVENTED DEVELOPMENT OF A SINGLE FRENCH AGENCY TO HANDLE HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY. WITH MINISTERS SUCH AS KOUCHNER NOW FAVORING A EUROPEAN STRUCTURE, WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE CAN TO QUIETLY PROMOTE THIS IDEA.

10. (SBU) IN THIS REGARD, WE ARE AWARE THAT THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) HAS, IN THE PAST, PROVIDED VALUABLE GUIDANCE TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS SEEKING TO REFORM

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FOOD AND HEALTH REGULATORY REGIMES. THE FDA COMMISSIONER PROVIDED AN EXCELLENT OVERVIEW OF FDA GOALS AND ACTIVITIES TO FRENCH PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE COURSE OF LAST YEAR'S SENATE DEBATES ON FOOD SAFETY REFORM IN FRANCE. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH FDA THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THESE INITIAL CONTACTS INTO A MORE FORMALIZED DIALOGUE. WE ENVISION THAT DIALOGUE WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS WHO ARE SUPPORTIVE OF A EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY REGULATORY MECHANISM MIGHT SERVE AS A GOOD START FOR EXPANDED DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE.

II. SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE
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11. (SBU) BRINGING OUR SCIENTISTS TOGETHER SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT OUR DIFFERENCES WITH REGARD TO THE HEALTH SAFETY OF GMO'S ARE, IN FACT, MINIMAL. THE PUBLIC NEEDS THIS MESSAGE, AND THE MESSAGE WILL BE MOST CREDIBLE WHEN IT IS STATED BY COMPETENT SCIENTISTS AND REPEATED IN REPUTABLE PUBLICATIONS.

12. (SBU) POST DETERMINED THAT FRENCH OFFICIALS WERE LESS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT BILATERAL GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE AFTER THE IDEA WAS INITIALLY FLOATED BY PM JOSPIN IN MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT LAST YEAR. FEARING THAT GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONS WOULD BE SUSPECT BY THE PUBLIC, AND THAT FRANCE MIGHT BE PLACED TOO MUCH AT THE CENTER OF THE SCIENTIFIC DEBATE IN WASHINGTON, GOF OFFICIALS ARGUED FOR A BROADER U.S.-EU DIALOGUE.

13. (SBU) WE UNDERSTAND THAT DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AMONG G-8 SCIENCE MINISTERS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO IN WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA REACHED SIMILAR CONCLUSIONS. MINISTERS ENDORSED THE CREATION OF A SCIENTIFIC ACADEMY OR SOCIETY-BASED COMMISSION ON BIOTECHNOLOGY (WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE ONLY AS NEEDED.) WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A BODY IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR CURRENT GOVERNMENTAL SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE WITHIN THE OECD, EU, ETC. WE ENCOURAGE THIS NON-GOVERNMENTAL BODY TO ADDRESS TECHNICAL CONCERNS THAT ARE MOST IN THE PUBLIC MIND AND TO ENSURE THAT THE RESULTS OF DELIBERATIONS RECEIVE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE CIRCULATION. WE ENVISION THAT THIS GROUP WILL ADDRESS HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, PARTICULARLY IN THOSE AREAS THAT HAVE BECOME THE SOURCE OF POLICY CONFLICT.

III. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY
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14. (SBU) IT IS STILL EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO DELIVER OUR MESSAGE AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE, NOT ONLY TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BUT ALSO TO REPRESENTATIVES OF INDUSTRY, ACADEMIA AND NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. EMBASSY EFFORTS TO DATE ON ALL OF THESE FRONTS HAVE RANGED FROM GENERAL INFORMATION SHARING TO OPEN CONFRONTATION. WE HAVE EXAMINED THE EXTENT OF OUR DIFFERENCES AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF FAILURE TO RESOLVE TRADE CONFLICT INVOLVING A RAPIDLY PROGRESSING AREA OF TECHNOLOGY. RESULTS TO DATE HAVE ADMITTEDLY BEEN MIXED.

15. (U) SINCE LATE LAST YEAR, POST PUBLIC DIPLOMACY PROGRAMS HAVE INCLUDED: THREE ROUNDTABLES ON GMOS WITH FRENCH CONSUMERS, PRODUCERS, THE PRESS, AND USDA BIOTECH EXPERTS; A MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR ROHATYN AND THE LARGEST FRENCH FARM ORGANIZATION (FNSEA); A VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU ASSOCIATION; VISITS BY SENIOR ADVISORS, FAS ANALYSTS, AND ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS, ALL OF WHOM DISCUSSED GMOS WITH THEIR FRENCH COUNTERPARTS; AND VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES BY TWO

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SENIOR MINAG OFFICIALS. SENIOR EMBASSY REPS HAVE ADDRESSED THE ISSUE IN SPEECHES AND INTERVIEWS.

16. (U) AT POST REQUEST, SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE ROUTINELY VISITED PARIS TO SECURE ACCEPTANCE OF OUR POSITION ON GMO'S AND THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL FROM AN UNACCEPTING FRENCH GOVERNMENT. WE NOTE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT U/S FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS LOY, OES AA/S KIMBLE AND DAS POMERANCE MET WITH HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS OF VARIOUS FRENCH MINISTRIES, INCLUDING AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND WITH INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES TO UNDERSCORE AND CLARIFY U.S. POSITIONS ON TRADE IN GMOS PRIOR TO BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL NEGOTIATIONS IN CARTAGENA.

17. (U) EMBASSY PARIS HAS AND IS CONTINUING TO SEND FRENCH OFFICIALS WHO WORK ON GMO'S AND IN THE FOOD SAFETY AREA TO THE U.S. AS INTERNATIONAL VISITORS. KEY OFFICIALS SUCH AS ERIC SCHOONEJEANS, HEAD OF THE MISSION ON BIOTECHNOLOGY IN THE DIRECTORATE FOR FOOD IN THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PROGRAMS IN THE U.S.

18. (U) ON MARCH 30, USIS PROGRAMMED NORMAN BORLAUG, 1970 NOBEL PRIZE FOR PEACE LAUREATE, AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE IN LYON ON THE TOPIC: "FEEDING TEN BILLION PEOPLE IN THE 21ST CENTURY." BORLAUG DEFENDED MODERN FOOD TECHNOLOGIES THAT IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY, INCLUDING GMOS, AS A WAY TO MEET THE WORLD'S GROWING FOOD NEEDS.

19. (U) OUR CONTINUING PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRATEGY ON THIS ISSUE HAS FOUR COMPONENTS: (1) TO ORGANIZE VISITOR PROGRAMS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR FRENCH EXPERTS, IN ORDER TO GIVE THEM A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT THE AMERICAN FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM; (2) TO PROGRAM SPEAKERS WHO CAN ADDRESS THE SUBJECT TO FRENCH AUDIENCES; (3) TO ORGANIZE PRESS EVENTS TO INFORM FRENCH JOURNALISTS ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION; AND (4) TO MAKE CURRENT REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE TO KEY FRENCH OPINION LEADERS OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT, EITHER ON THE EMBASSY HOME PAGE, BY E-MAIL, OR BY MAIL.

20. (U) IN THE YEAR AHEAD, THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO PROGRAM MORE NON-GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS ON THE LONG-TERM BENEFITS OF GMOS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND ON HOW THE UNITED STATES MANAGES FOOD SAFETY ISSUES.

21. (U) THE EMBASSY HOME PAGE CURRENTLY HAS SOME DOCUMENTS ON FOOD SAFETY AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES. WE WOULD LIKE TO GREATLY STRENGTHEN THIS SECTION, WITH DOCUMENTS IN BOTH FRENCH AND ENGLISH AND LINKS TO APPROPRIATE SITES WITH MORE COMPLETE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION. WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO USE E-MAIL TO SEND CURRENT DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS TO KEY FRENCH OPINION-LEADERS. WE WILL NEED HELP FROM WASHINGTON IN FINDING THE MOST CURRENT AND AUTHORITATIVE SITES.

IV. TRADE
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22. (SBU) IN THE END, IT MAY WELL BE THAT CONSIDERATION OF THE TRADE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR DIFFERENCES ARE MOST LIKELY TO INSPIRE GOVERNMENTAL RESOLUTION OF OUR DIFFERENCES. BUT A TRADE DISPUTE WILL DO NOTHING TO HELP EITHER OUR EXPORTERS IN THE SHORT TERM OR PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE IN THE LONGER TERM. WE WOULD ARGUE THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO REMIND EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS STRONGLY BUT QUIETLY OF THEIR TRADE OBLIGATIONS AND THE POTENTIAL REPERCUSSIONS OF A TRADE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EU ON GMO'S.

ROHATYN

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Duncan, John D.

From: Butler, Lawrence E.
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 1999 9:09 AM
To: @INTECON - Economic Affairs
Cc: Blinken, Antony J.
Subject: French on GMOs ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Holly/Matt -

Interesting concept presented here -- GMOs represent an area where there are **no clear rules for dispute** resolution, **at least as far as Euros are concerned.** Biotech is new technology, which scares Euro elites battling backlash from blood scandals and BSE, remembering DDT and thalm-babies from the 50's.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ PARIS 010597

STATE PASS USDA TO SECRETARY GLICKMAN, U/S SCHUMACHER
FAS/OA GALVIN /ITP SHEIKH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/26/99
TAGS: ECON, EAGR, PREL, SR, FR
SUBJECT: ELYSEE ADVISOR LEVITTE DISCUSSES TRANSATLANTIC TRADE DISPUTES WITH POLICY PLANNING DIRECTOR HALPERIN

CLASSIFIED BY THE AMBASSADOR. REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. ~~(C)~~ IN A 25 MAY MEETING IN PARIS WITH POLICY PLANNING DIRECTOR MORTON HALPERIN AND THE AMBASSADOR, ELYSEE SENIOR DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR LEVITTE EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT TRANSATLANTIC TRADE DIFFERENCES OVER GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S). LEVITTE RECOMMENDED QUIET DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EUROPE TO AVOID A TRADE WAR THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR GOVERNMENTS TO CONTROL.

2. ~~(C)~~ RAISING THE ISSUE HIMSELF, LEVITTE NOTED THAT THE MATTER OF GMOS WAS FAR MORE EXPLOSIVE THAN OTHER TRADE ISSUES WE HAVE HAD TO DEAL WITH. BANANAS HAD BEEN A STANDARD TRADE ISSUE, WHICH COULD BE FOUGHT OUT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SHARED "RULES OF THE GAME." HORMONE BEEF DID NOT INVOLVE MUCH MONEY. IT WAS NOT NEGOTIABLE, AND FRANCE WOULD PAY. BUT THE GMO DISPUTE, LEVITTE SAID, WAS OF AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CHARACTER. IT INVOLVED BILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC WAS PASSIONATELY AGAINST GMOS. NOTING THE AMBASSADOR'S RECENT ARTICLE IN "LES ECHOS" ON TRANSATLANTIC COMMERCIAL DISPUTES, LEVITTE WARNED THAT WE NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE PROBLEM OF GMOS AND THE POTENTIAL FOR ITS GETTING OUT OF HAND. GIVEN EUROPE'S EXPERIENCE WITH MAD COW DISEASE, LEVITTE BELIEVED THE PUBLIC HERE WOULD NOT BUY GMOS. THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

3. ~~(C)~~ LEVITTE FURTHER CAUTIONED THAT WE NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE INFLUENCE OF NGOS, GREENS, AND OTHERS. THE DEBATE ON GMOS WOULD NOT BE WITHIN THE CONTROL OF GOVERNMENTS -- IN EUROPE, IT WOULD BE RUN BY NGOS. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT, AS WE ENGAGE ON THE SUBJECT OF GMOS, WE NEEDED TO ADDRESS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE QUESTION OF CULTURE. IF NOT, THE GMO DISPUTE WOULD RAPIDLY DEVOLVE INTO A MATTER OF WHO WAS POISONING WHOM.
ROHATYN

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (1.12)

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. email~~	~~Lawrence Butler to Economic Affairs, re: European GMO strategy (6~~ pages)	~~06/18/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~002. email~~	~~Matthew Schaefer to Bathsheba Crocker, re: Read-Out of This~~ Morning's Deputies on GMO's (1 page)	~~09/30/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ KBH 8/29/2019
~~003. email~~	~~Lawrence Butler to Economic Affairs, et al., re: EU and GMOs for~~ McNamer [incomplete copy] (1 page)	~~07/06/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~004. email~~	~~Lawrence Butler to Antony Blinken, re: French on GMOs (1 page)~~	~~05/27/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~005. email~~	~~[duplicate of 001] [incomplete copy] (4 pages)~~	~~06/18/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~006. email~~	~~[duplicate of 002] (1 page)~~	~~09/30/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ KBH 8/29/2019

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Economic Affairs (Duncan, John)
OA/Box Number: 4025

FOLDER TITLE:
Trade-GMOs [Genetically Modified Organisms] [2]

2013-0836-F
ke2995

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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EU-GMO

Duncan, John D.

From: Butler, Lawrence E.
Sent: Friday, June 18, 1999 9:43 AM
To: @INTECON - Economic Affairs
Cc: @EUROPE - European Affairs
Subject: European GMO strategy ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Importance: High

Bruce -- this is a pretty good set of ideas from London on how to begin addressing European public perceptions of GMO issues. I think we ought to reconvene at sub-DC level an interagency group to discuss --- goal should be a message from State, cleared interagency, commending London, and The Hague, for their initiatives, and ask for comments and submissions in order to have a coordinated plan, instead of treating Europe purely piecemeal.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 LONDON 005258

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ALSO FOR FAS/CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON; FAS/CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER;
FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT; ERS/WEST/MADELL; FAA/AO/NE
GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/18/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD TBIO UK
SUBJECT: GMOS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY - EMBASSY LONDON'S STRATEGY

REF: A) NELSEN/BRUNO EMAIL B) STATE 113313

1. CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC MINISTER CHARLES RIES. REASON 1.5(B)

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMMARY

WE FACE AN UPHILL BATTLE IN THE UK TO KEEP THE MARKET FOR U.S.-APPROVED GMO PRODUCTS OPEN. THE GOVERNMENT (HMG) IS ON OUR SIDE, BUT CONSUMERS ARE SCARED, AND OUR OPPONENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS AND MUCH OF THE MEDIA ARE RELENTLESS IN OPPOSITION TO TRADE IN, OR CIRCULATION OF, GMOS. WE ARE PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN AN ACTIVE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY CAMPAIGN, BUT CARE IS NEEDED IN DEVELOPING OUR MESSAGE. THIS TELEGRAM OUTLINES ACTIONS THAT EMBASSY LONDON PLANS TO TAKE AND IDENTIFIES AREAS WHERE WASHINGTON SUPPORT/GUIDANCE IS NEEDED. THESE INCLUDE:

-- ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY VISITOR GROUPS TO THE U.S. (TO MEET WITH U.S. REGULATORS, INDUSTRY, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS) :
-- GETTING MORE HIGH-LEVEL, CREDIBLE SPEAKERS FROM THE U.S. (INCLUDING SCIENTISTS AND USG REGULATORS); WHERE POSSIBLE, COMBINING THEIR PROGRAMS WITH PRESENTATIONS BY BRITISH SCIENTISTS AND GMO ADVOCATES
-- LAUNCHING A HIGHER PROFILE SPEAKING PROGRAM BY EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES, ARMED WITH UP-TO-DATE, COMPREHENSIVE MATERIAL FROM WASHINGTON, INCLUDING POINTS OF CONTACT IN THE U.S. FOR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS
-- INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON ON 'BEST PRACTICES' IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014

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-- WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION OF CREATION OF A US/EU BIOTECH SCIENTISTS' GROUP UNDER TEP AUSPICES TO ADVISE ON GMO APPROVALS
-- GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON ON POLICY ISSUES LIKE LABELING, AND TO FRAME OUR LOBBYING EFFORTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE 90/220 DIRECTIVE, INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROVISIONS FOR PARALLEL APPROVALS.
-- GUIDANCE ON HOW THE U.S. INTENDS TO USE MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS TO PROMOTE CONFIDENCE IN GMO VARIETIES THAT ARE APPROVED FOR MARKETING.
END SUMMARY

3. ~~(C)~~ IN THE UK WE FACE A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT CHALLENGE IN REGAINING A MARKET FOR GMO FOODS AND KEEPING OPEN THE MARKET FOR GMO FEEDS. HMG REMAINS STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, THE SAFETY OF GMO FOODS, AND ARGUES THAT THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE OF ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES FROM PLANTING GMO CROPS. BUT THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF MOST BRITISH CONSUMERS HAVE CLEARLY BEEN LOST DUE TO A RELENTLESS CAMPAIGN BY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AND GREENPEACE, SUPPORTED BY THE TABLOID PRESS (COMPETING TO SELL NEWSPAPERS) AND BY A GROWING NUMBER OF CONSUMER GROUPS. FACED WITH CONSUMER OPPOSITION OR CONCERN OVER SAFETY, NEITHER BRITISH RETAILERS NOR FOOD MANUFACTURERS WANT TO CARRY GMO PRODUCTS OR USE GMO INGREDIENTS. THE MARKET IS VIRTUALLY GONE.

4. ~~(C)~~ HMG HAS TRIED TO BRING SOME SENSE TO THE DEBATE, AND RESPECTED SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTIVE, BUT GOVERNMENT IS NOT TRUSTED, AND THE 'GOOD NEWS' REPORTS BY SCIENTIFIC GROUPS DON'T MAKE THE FRONT PAGES. MOST RETAILERS AND MANUFACTURERS DO NOT QUESTION THE SAFETY OF GMO PRODUCTS, BUT THEY ARE ALSO UNDER PRESSURE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND TELL US THAT THEY MUST RESPOND TO CONSUMER CONCERNS AND BUYING INTENTIONS.

WHAT CAN AN EMBASSY DO?

5. ~~(C)~~ WE UNDERSTAND THAT CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT IS GOING INTO THIS ISSUE IN WASHINGTON, AND WE BENEFITTED FROM READING REF B AND THE EXCELLENT PAPERS PREPARED BY EB FOR INTERAGENCY CONSIDERATION. WE CONCUR IN THE NEED FOR A PRO-ACTIVE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY EFFORT. THE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS STRUCTURING SUCH AN EFFORT IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE GOVERNMENT (PROBABLY THE USG AS MUCH AS HMG) IS NOT TRUSTED BY THOSE WE ARE SEEKING TO INFLUENCE. FURTHERMORE, WE WILL HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY ARGUING SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST LABELING, WHICH PITS US AGAINST EU 'LAW' AND CONSUMERS' 'RIGHT-TO-KNOW'.

6. ~~(C)~~ NONETHELESS, WE CAN, AND ALREADY ARE, ENGAGING
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 04 LONDON 005258

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DEPT PASS EPA
USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER; FAS/OA/GALVIN;
USDA ALSO FOR FAS/ITP/SIMMONS/GRUEFF/SHEIKH/MACKE/SCHWARTZ;
ALSO FOR FAS/CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON; FAS/CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER;
FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT; ERS/WEST/MADELL; FAA/AO/NE
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ACTIVELY ON THE ISSUE. LAST MONTH WE SENT A 10-PERSON

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VOLUNTARY VISITOR GROUP ON A ONE-WEEK PROGRAM TO WASHINGTON AND ST. LOUIS, AND WE HAVE JUST EXTENDED INVITATIONS FOR A SECOND GROUP IN SEPTEMBER, POTENTIALLY FOLLOWED BY A THIRD GROUP EARLY IN THE NEW FISCAL YEAR (SUBJECT TO USIS FUNDING). WE ARE INCLUDING OPEN-MINDED JOURNALISTS, SCIENTISTS, REPRESENTATIVES OF FARMER ORGANIZATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THESE TRIPS. WE HAVE INVITED LEADERS OF CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, BUT IN EVERY CASE OUR INVITATION WAS DECLINED.

7. ~~(C)~~ WE ALSO WELCOME EXPERT SPEAKERS FROM THE U.S. WE AGREE COMPLETELY WITH THE SUGGESTION IN THE EB PAPER TO "SEIZE EVERY HIGH-LEVEL OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS SQUARELY CONCERNS OF CONSUMERS," AND WE WELCOME EFFORTS IN WASHINGTON TO MOBILIZE SPEAKERS WITH "CREDIBILITY ON THE SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN ENVIRONMENTAL, HUMAN HEALTH, AND FOOD SAFETY BENEFITS OF MANY GMOS." U/S LOY ADDRESSED THE GMO ISSUE DURING HIS JUNE 14-16 VISIT TO LONDON; SENIOR USDA OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DEPUTY SECRETARY ROMINGER AND TIM GALVIN, HAVE ALSO DONE SO; WE HAVE APPROACHED ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT NEAL LANE TO DO SO DURING HIS JUNE 28-30 VISIT; A SENIOR NSF OFFICIAL AGREED DURING A RECENT VISIT TO LONDON TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE SPEAKERS FROM THE UNITED STATES, AND WE ARE WORKING WITH USIS AND FAS ON A SPEAKING PROGRAM FOR APHIS/USDA SCIENTISTS. BUT WE CAN DO EVEN MORE IN THIS REGARD AND WELCOME WASHINGTON'S HELP IN MAKING AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS. WE COULD USEFULLY PROGRAM THE SAME USDA/FAS SPEAKERS WHO RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS (PARIS 11313).

8. ~~(C)~~ WE SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER U.S. SPEAKERS WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN TANDEM WITH SCIENTISTS FROM THE UK. FAS HAS ALREADY HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH UMBRELLA GROUP REPRESENTING PRO-GMO FARMER, PLANT BREEDER, AND FEED ASSOCIATIONS. THEY WOULD WELCOME JOINT PUBLIC APPEARANCES WITH U.S. AND USG EXPERTS.

9. ~~(C)~~ WE HAVE NOT YET CONSIDERED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE VALUE IN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC GROUPS ON THE SUBJECT. IN A SENSE, IT MAY BE UNAVOIDABLE HOWEVER -- PUBLIC SPEAKING INVITATIONS THAT FOCUS ON TRADE POLICY, WTO, AND AGRICULTURE INVARIABLY DEMAND THAT THE BIOTECHNOLOGY ISSUE BE ADDRESSED. WHILE WE ARE CERTAINLY PREPARED TO SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS GMO ACCEPTANCE HEAD-ON, WE MAY NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT EXPERTISE TO ADDRESS ALL POSSIBLE QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY POINTED ONES PLANTED BY GMO FOES. IF WASHINGTON CAN PREPARE A SIZEABLE INFORMATION PACKET, WHICH IS REGULARLY UPDATED AS NEW STUDIES AND INFORMATION BECOME AVAILABLE, WE WOULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE ABOUT AN ACTIVE EMBASSY-LED SPEAKING CAMPAIGN. WE AGREE THAT WE HAVE A GOOD STORY TO TELL, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH UP-TO-THE-DATE INFORMATION, TALKING POINTS WHEN CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES ARISE, AND POINTS OF CONTACT WHEN WE GET TOUGH QUESTIONS. TO CITE BUT TWO EXAMPLES: OPPONENTS OF GMO CROPS HAVE ALREADY POINTED OUT THAT CLAIMS BY BIOTECH COMPANIES REGARDING LOWER PESTICIDE/HERBICIDE USE ARE NOT INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED BY THE USG; CAN WASHINGTON FIND SCIENTIFIC GROUPS THAT HAVE CONDUCTED SUCH INDEPENDENT VERIFICATIONS? SECOND, THE ADEQUACY OF FDA PROCEDURES IS ALSO QUESTIONED, SINCE OPPONENTS CLAIM THAT THE FDA DOES NOT INDEPENDENTLY VERIFY COMPANY DATA AND DOES NO SAFETY TESTS ONCE EQUIVALENCY HAS BEEN DETERMINED.

10 ~~(C)~~ WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME WASHINGTON EFFORTS TO DISSEMINATE 'BEST PRACTICE' INFORMATION ON PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS. EB'S PAPER MENTIONED THE RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL EFFORT IN THE NETHERLANDS. CAN WE DEVELOP A RELIABLE MECHANISM IN WASHINGTON TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH OTHER POSTS?

11. ~~(C)~~ WE COULD ALSO USE HELP FROM THE INDUSTRY. GMO SOY

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AND CORN, WHICH BECOME INGREDIENTS IN ALL SORTS OF PROCESSED FOODS, DO NOT HAVE OBVIOUS BENEFITS TO CONSUMERS. GETTING 'SEXIER' PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET SOONER RATHER THAN LATER (FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, FOR EXAMPLE) MIGHT CATCH THE PUBLIC IMAGINATION AND AT LEAST LEAD TO A WILLINGNESS TO GIVE THE PRODUCT A TRY (ON THE PART OF BOTH CONSUMERS AND RETAILERS). WE APPRECIATE THAT SUCH PRODUCTS WILL IN MOST CASES HAVE TO BE GROWN IN THE EU OR UK, AND THAT APPROVALS FOR SUCH PRODUCTS ARE SOME TIME OFF.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 04 LONDON 005258

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ALSO FOR FAS/CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON; FAS/CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER;
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OUR GMO POLICY - PITFALLS AND NUANCES

12 ~~(C)~~ IN ANY PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAMPAIGN, WE RECOMMEND DOWN-PLAYING THE LABELING ISSUE. OUR PRIMARY PROBLEM HERE IS CONCERN ABOUT FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY. IF, IN THE MEDIUM TERM, WE CAN REESTABLISH CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN THE SAFETY OF THESE PRODUCTS, LABELING WILL BECOME LESS IMPORTANT (AT THE MOMENT, SUPERMARKETS IN THE UK ARE REFUSING TO CARRY GMO PRODUCTS).
13. ~~(C)~~ THERE MAY ALSO BE VALUE IN DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN FOOD SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. HERE, OUR OPPONENTS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY EMPLOYED BOTH, INTERCHANGEABLY. WHILE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS CLEARLY INFLUENCE DECISIONS ABOUT THE PLANTING OF GMO CROPS (AND THE MARKET FOR U.S.-ORIGIN SEEDS), THEY ARE LARGELY IRRELEVANT TO THE FOOD SAFETY DEBATE. AND IT IS POSSIBLE, GIVEN THE HIGH-INTENSITY, CLOSE-QUARTER NATURE OF EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE, THAT WE CANNOT MAKE AS EFFECTIVE A CASE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY OF GMO CROPS AS WE CAN ON FOOD SAFETY. SHOULD WE FOCUS ON THE LATTER, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO OUR EXPORT INTERESTS IN ANY CASE?

MAINTAINING OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT

14. ~~(C)~~ WHILE OUR PRIMARY BATTLEGROUND IS THE CONSUMER MARKETPLACE, WE NEED TO GET ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT ON SOME ELEMENTS OF THE GMO DEBATE. FIRST, WE MAY WANT TO CREATE A TRANSATLANTIC SCIENTISTS' GROUP PERHAPS WITHIN THE TEP, SUCH AS IN THE TRANSATLANTIC ENVIRONMENTAL DIALOGUE) TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY ISSUES. WE HAD THOUGHT IT MADE SENSE TO ORGANIZE SUCH A SCIENTIFIC GROUP WITHIN THE TEP, YET WE SHOULD RECORD THAT THE UNIFORM ADVICE OF WHITEHALL OFFICIALS TO U/S LOY WAS THAT TO PUT THE SCIENTIFIC GROUP WITHIN THE TEP WOULD BE SEEN TO PLACE IN "UNDER" THE GOVERNMENT TRADE TYPES, THEREBY VITIATING ITS VALUE.

15. ~~(C)~~ A SCIENTIFIC GROUP, WHEREVER LOCATED, COULD BE HELPFUL IN ISOLATING OUTLYING SCIENTISTS IN THE GMO DEBATE, DEPOLITICIZING THE DISCUSSION, AND UNDERPINNING EU GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SOME OF THE NEW GMO

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PRODUCTS IN THE PIPELINE. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE IN LONDON, SUCH AN INITIATIVE WOULD BE WORTHWHILE, AND WE ENCOURAGE WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO CONSIDER SOME TYPE OF FORMAL PROPOSAL TO THIS END. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF OUR BRITISH GOVERNMENT COLLEAGUES ARGUE THAT EVEN SUCH A GROUP WILL BE VIEWED WITH SUSPICION IF IT IS CREATED AND FUNDED BY GOVERNMENT.

16. ~~(C)~~ WE MAY ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER, IN THE MEDIUM TERM, GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ON GMO SAFETY. ANY SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND TESTS ON GMO SAFETY WHICH ARE FUNDED BY THE INDUSTRY ARE IMMEDIATELY VIEWED WITH SUSPICION ON THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC. A USG CONTRIBUTION TO A NEW FUND, MATCHED BY THE EU (THEY COULDN'T RESIST, IF ONLY TO MAINTAIN A SAY) WOULD PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR A LOT OF INDEPENDENT ECOLOGICAL STUDIES AND SAFETY TESTING. THIS WORK (AND EVEN THE ALLOCATION OF THE MONEY) COULD BE MANAGED UNDER A PEER REVIEW PROCESS BY THE TRANSATLANTIC SCIENCISTS' GROUP MENTIONED ABOVE.

17. ~~(C)~~ SECOND, WE NEED TO CONTINUE LOBBYING FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN EU DIRECTIVE 90/220. OUR POINTS ON THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY AND UNCERTAINTIES IN THE CURRENT PROCESS HAVE GENERATED CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY IN HMG , AND WE SHOULD BUILD UPON THAT IN AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN BRITISH SUPPORT FOR INFLUENCING THE DIRECTION OF THE NEW REGULATIONS. SOME SORT OF SIMULTANEOUS APPROVAL PROCEDURE ALSO PROBABLY MAKES SENSE, AND WE HOPE WASHINGTON WILL HAVE AN INITIATIVE IN THAT REGARD IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMENTS OF THE PROPOSED NEW REGULATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FOR U.S. INDUSTRY, TIMELINESS IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS IS ALSO IMPORTANT, BUT WE URGE CAUTION IN PRESSING TOO HARD FOR A PERIOD THAT SOME GOVERNMENTS MAY VIEW AS INADEQUATE. THE PUBLIC SENSE THAT GMO PRODUCTS ARE BEING "RUSHED' THROUGH REGULATORY PROCESSES (AS LUDICROUS AS IT SEEMS IN VIEW OF THE SLOW PACE) IS WIDESPREAD, AND WE SHOULD AVOID STANCES THAT FEED THIS PRECONCEPTION. AT THE END OF THE DAY, A NEW EU PROCESS THAT GUARANTEES CERTAINTY WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME, COMBINED WITH SOME PARALLEL ACTION ON APPROVALS, IS PROBABLY ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 04 OF 04 LONDON 005258

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PREFERABLE TO A VERY TIGHT TIME SCHEDULE THAT GENERATES RENEWED POLITICAL OPPOSTION IN SOME MEMBER STATES.

18. ~~(C)~~ WHILE DOMESTIC ACCEPTANCE OF GMO PRODUCTS IS THE EMBASSY'S MAIN GOAL, WE ALSO WANT TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF USG EFFORTS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES LIKE THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL. HERE, HMG IS NOT/NOT ON OUR SIDE, AND THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE WE CAN DO IN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN UK VIEWS. DURING U/S LOY'S JUNE 14-16 VISIT WE MADE VERY LITTLE PROGRESS ON THIS SUBJECT, AND WE MAY SIMPLY HAVE TO HOLD FIRM IN OUR EFFORTS TO BLOCK ACTIONS INIMICAL TO OUR INTERESTS AT THE MULTILATERAL LEVEL. WHILE

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THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL IS GENERALLY THE FOCUS POINT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANGLE, THE FOOD SAFETY ANGLE ALSO ARISES MULTILATERALLY - IN CODEX AND THE WTO'S SPS. HERE WE HAVE MORE SUPPORT WITHIN HMG, AND WE SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE UK DOES NOT LEAD OR SUPPORT AN EU EFFORT TO UNDERCUT THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NAME OF FOOD SAFETY.

LADER

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Duncan, John D.

From: Butler, Lawrence E. (EUR)
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 1999 10:59 AM
To: @INTECON - Economic Affairs; @ENVIRON - Environmental; @EUROPE - European Affairs
Subject: EU and GMOs for McNamer ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Importance: High

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DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

REF BRUSSELS 4157

1. CLASSIFIED BY L. ALLEN NELSEN, EST COUNSELOR. REASON: 1.5 (D)

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: UK OFFICIALS (STRICTLY PROTECT) GAVE US AN UPBEAT ASSESSMENT OF THE JUNE 24-25 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL DECISION ON REVISIONS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220. HMG GOT MOST OF ITS OBJECTIVES AND BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL WELCOME THE REVISIONS. A NUMBER OF ONEROUS PROPOSALS WERE DEFEATED, AND THE PROPOSED NEW REGIME BRINGS SOMEWHAT MORE TRANSPARENCY, CERTAINTY, AND TIMELINESS TO THE PROCESS. HMG DISPUTES THE ARGUMENT THAT THE AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A DE FACTO MORATORIUM, SINCE COMPANIES WILL BE FREE TO CONTINUE SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS BOTH FOR PLANTING AND FOR MARKETING. WHILE APPROVAL OF SUCH APPLICATIONS WILL CLEARLY BE INIFLUENCED BY THE CURRENT POLITICAL DEBATE ABOUT GMOS IN MANY MEMBER STATES, THE EXISTING 90/220 PROCEDURES WILL APPLY TO NEW APPLICATIONS AND CAN GAIN TIMELY APPROVAL IF THE CURRENT POLITICAL UPROAR DIES DOWN. THE COUNCIL HAS ASKED THE COMMISSION TO FLESH OUT THE DETAILS ON LABELING, 'GUIDANCE NOTES' FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT, AND THRESHOLDS, BUT THE UK DOES NOT EXPECT ANY UNPLEASANT SURPRISES IN THAT PROCESS. HMG EXPECTS FINAL APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DIRECTIVE IN THE LATE AUTUMN AND ENTRY INTO FORCE LATE IN 2000. END SUMMARY

3. ~~(C)~~ WE MET JULY 2 WITH HMG OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE JUNE 24-25 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL MEETING FOR THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE AGREEMENT. IN TALKING TO US, THEY AGREED TO WORK FROM THE 'GOING IN' TEXT (WORKING DOCUMENT ENV/99/84, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WASHINGTON HAS). WHILE FOCUSSING ON THE NATURE OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT IN LUXEMBOURG, WE ALSO SOUGHT TO UNDERSTAND THE DYNAMICS THAT LEAD TO CHANGES FROM THE WORKING DOCUMENT.

FOR THE USG, A GOOD OUTCOME

4. ~~(C)~~ THE UK'S OVERALL ASSESSMENT WAS POSITIVE, REFLECTING THEIR SUCCESS IN SEEING MINISTERS RESOLVE MANY DISPUTED ARTICLES IN THE HMG'S FAVOR. HMG BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL WELCOME THIS OUTCOME, SINCE ON MANY OCCASIONS THE RESULT IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVQ CURRENT PROCEDURES (AND THE ALTERNATIVE ON THE TABLE WAS SOMETHING WHICH THE UK EXPECTS WE WOULD HAVE FOUND MUCH MORE OBJECTIONABLE). THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE CASE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT (ERA - ANNEX

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0524-M (1.14)

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Duncan, John D.

From: Butler, Lawrence E.
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 1999 9:09 AM
To: @INTECON - Economic Affairs
Cc: Blinken, Antony J.
Subject: French on GMOs ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Holly/Matt -

Interesting concept presented here -- GMOs represent an area where there are **no clear rules for dispute** resolution, **at least as far as Euros are concerned**. Biotech is new technology, which scares Euro elites battling backlash from blood scandals and BSE, remembering DDT and thalm-babies from the 50's.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ PARIS 010597

STATE PASS USDA TO SECRETARY GLICKMAN, U/S SCHUMACHER
FAS/OA GALVIN /ITP SHEIKH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/26/99
TAGS: ECON, EAGR, PREL, SR, FR
SUBJECT: ELYSEE ADVISOR LEVITTE DISCUSSES TRANSATLANTIC TRADE DISPUTES WITH POLICY PLANNING DIRECTOR HALPERIN

CLASSIFIED BY THE AMBASSADOR. REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. ~~(C)~~ IN A 25 MAY MEETING IN PARIS WITH POLICY PLANNING DIRECTOR MORTON HALPERIN AND THE AMBASSADOR, ELYSEE SENIOR DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR LEVITTE EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT TRANSATLANTIC TRADE DIFFERENCES OVER GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S). LEVITTE RECOMMENDED QUIET DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EUROPE TO AVOID A TRADE WAR THAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR GOVERNMENTS TO CONTROL.

2. ~~(C)~~ RAISING THE ISSUE HIMSELF, LEVITTE NOTED THAT THE MATTER OF GMOS WAS FAR MORE EXPLOSIVE THAN OTHER TRADE ISSUES WE HAVE HAD TO DEAL WITH. BANANAS HAD BEEN A STANDARD TRADE ISSUE, WHICH COULD BE FOUGHT OUT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SHARED "RULES OF THE GAME." HORMONE BEEF DID NOT INVOLVE MUCH MONEY. IT WAS NOT NEGOTIABLE, AND FRANCE WOULD PAY. BUT THE GMO DISPUTE, LEVITTE SAID, WAS OF AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CHARACTER. IT INVOLVED BILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC WAS PASSIONATELY AGAINST GMOS. NOTING THE AMBASSADOR'S RECENT ARTICLE IN "LES ECHOS" ON TRANSATLANTIC COMMERCIAL DISPUTES, LEVITTE WARNED THAT WE NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE PROBLEM OF GMOS AND THE POTENTIAL FOR ITS GETTING OUT OF HAND. GIVEN EUROPE'S EXPERIENCE WITH MAD COW DISEASE, LEVITTE BELIEVED THE PUBLIC HERE WOULD NOT BUY GMOS. THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

3. ~~(C)~~ LEVITTE FURTHER CAUTIONED THAT WE NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE INFLUENCE OF NGOS, GREENS, AND OTHERS. THE DEBATE ON GMOS WOULD NOT BE WITHIN THE CONTROL OF GOVERNMENTS -- IN EUROPE, IT WOULD BE RUN BY NGOS. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT, AS WE ENGAGE ON THE SUBJECT OF GMOS, WE NEEDED TO ADDRESS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE QUESTION OF CULTURE. IF NOT, THE GMO DISPUTE WOULD RAPIDLY DEVOLVE INTO A MATTER OF WHO WAS POISONING WHOM.
ROHATYN

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By RL NARA, Date 11/26/2019

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY 2016-0529-M (1.15)

VOLUNTARY VISITOR GROUP ON A ONE-WEEK PROGRAM TO WASHINGTON AND ST. LOUIS, AND WE HAVE JUST EXTENDED INVITATIONS FOR A SECOND GROUP IN SEPTEMBER, POTENTIALLY FOLLOWED BY A THIRD GROUP EARLY IN THE NEW FISCAL YEAR (SUBJECT TO USIS FUNDING). WE ARE INCLUDING OPEN-MINDED JOURNALISTS, SCIENTISTS, REPRESENTATIVES OF FARMER ORGANIZATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THESE TRIPS. WE HAVE INVITED LEADERS OF CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, BUT IN EVERY CASE OUR INVITATION WAS DECLINED.

7. ~~(C)~~ WE ALSO WELCOME EXPERT SPEAKERS FROM THE U.S. WE AGREE COMPLETELY WITH THE SUGGESTION IN THE EB PAPER TO "SEIZE EVERY HIGH-LEVEL OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS SQUARELY CONCERNS OF CONSUMERS," AND WE WELCOME EFFORTS IN WASHINGTON TO MOBILIZE SPEAKERS WITH "CREDIBILITY ON THE SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN ENVIRONMENTAL, HUMAN HEALTH, AND FOOD SAFETY BENEFITS OF MANY GMOS." U/S LOY ADDRESSED THE GMO ISSUE DURING HIS JUNE 14-16 VISIT TO LONDON; SENIOR USDA OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DEPUTY SECRETARY ROMINGER AND TIM GALVIN, HAVE ALSO DONE SO; WE HAVE APPROACHED ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT NEAL LANE TO DO SO DURING HIS JUNE 28-30 VISIT; A SENIOR NSF OFFICIAL AGREED DURING A RECENT VISIT TO LONDON TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE SPEAKERS FROM THE UNITED STATES, AND WE ARE WORKING WITH USIS AND FAS ON A SPEAKING PROGRAM FOR APHIS/USDA SCIENTISTS. BUT WE CAN DO EVEN MORE IN THIS REGARD AND WELCOME WASHINGTON'S HELP IN MAKING AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS. WE COULD USEFULLY PROGRAM THE SAME USDA/FAS SPEAKERS WHO RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS (PARIS 11313).

8. ~~(C)~~ WE SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER U.S. SPEAKERS WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN TANDEM WITH SCIENTISTS FROM THE UK. FAS HAS ALREADY HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH UMBRELLA GROUP REPRESENTING PRO-GMO FARMER, PLANT BREEDER, AND FEED ASSOCIATIONS. THEY WOULD WELCOME JOINT PUBLIC APPEARANCES WITH U.S. AND USG EXPERTS.

9. ~~(C)~~ WE HAVE NOT YET CONSIDERED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE VALUE IN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC GROUPS ON THE SUBJECT. IN A SENSE, IT MAY BE UNAVOIDABLE HOWEVER -- PUBLIC SPEAKING INVITATIONS THAT FOCUS ON TRADE POLICY, WTO, AND AGRICULTURE INVARIABLY DEMAND THAT THE BIOTECHNOLOGY ISSUE BE ADDRESSED. WHILE WE ARE CERTAINLY PREPARED TO SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS GMO ACCEPTANCE HEAD-ON, WE MAY NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT EXPERTISE TO ADDRESS ALL POSSIBLE QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY POINTED ONES PLANTED BY GMO FOES. IF WASHINGTON CAN PREPARE A SIZEABLE INFORMATION PACKET, WHICH IS REGULARLY UPDATED AS NEW STUDIES AND INFORMATION BECOME AVAILABLE, WE WOULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE ABOUT AN ACTIVE EMBASSY-LED SPEAKING CAMPAIGN. WE AGREE THAT WE HAVE A GOOD STORY TO TELL, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH UP-TO-THE-DATE INFORMATION, TALKING POINTS WHEN CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES ARISE, AND POINTS OF CONTACT WHEN WE GET TOUGH QUESTIONS. TO CITE BUT TWO EXAMPLES: OPPONENTS OF GMO CROPS HAVE ALREADY POINTED OUT THAT CLAIMS BY BIOTECH COMPANIES REGARDING LOWER PESTICIDE/HERBICIDE USE ARE NOT INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED BY THE USG; CAN WASHINGTON FIND SCIENTIFIC GROUPS THAT HAVE CONDUCTED SUCH INDEPENDENT VERIFICATIONS? SECOND, THE ADEQUACY OF FDA PROCEDURES IS ALSO QUESTIONED, SINCE OPPONENTS CLAIM THAT THE FDA DOES NOT INDEPENDENTLY VERIFY COMPANY DATA AND DOES NO SAFETY TESTS ONCE EQUIVALENCY HAS BEEN DETERMINED.

10 ~~(C)~~ WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME WASHINGTON EFFORTS TO DISSEMINATE 'BEST PRACTICE' INFORMATION ON PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS. EB'S PAPER MENTIONED THE RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL EFFORT IN THE NETHERLANDS. CAN WE DEVELOP A RELIABLE MECHANISM IN WASHINGTON TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH OTHER POSTS?

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White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
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11. ~~(C)~~ WE COULD ALSO USE HELP FROM THE INDUSTRY. GMO SOY

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AND CORN, WHICH BECOME INGREDIENTS IN ALL SORTS OF PROCESSED FOODS, DO NOT HAVE OBVIOUS BENEFITS TO CONSUMERS. GETTING 'SEXIER' PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET SOONER RATHER THAN LATER (FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, FOR EXAMPLE) MIGHT CATCH THE PUBLIC IMAGINATION AND AT LEAST LEAD TO A WILLINGNESS TO GIVE THE PRODUCT A TRY (ON THE PART OF BOTH CONSUMERS AND RETAILERS). WE APPRECIATE THAT SUCH PRODUCTS WILL IN MOST CASES HAVE TO BE GROWN IN THE EU OR UK, AND THAT APPROVALS FOR SUCH PRODUCTS ARE SOME TIME OFF.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 04 LONDON 005258

STATE PLS PASS USDA FAS

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DEPT PASS EPA
USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER; FAS/OA/GALVIN;
USDA ALSO FOR FAS/ITP/SIMMONS/GRUEFF/SHEIKH/MACKE/SCHWARTZ;
ALSO FOR FAS/CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON; FAS/CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER;
FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT; ERS/WEST/MADELL; FAA/AO/NE
GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/18/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD TBIO UK
SUBJECT: GMOS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY - EMBASSY LONDON'S STRATEGY

OUR GMO POLICY - PITFALLS AND NUANCES

12 (~~C~~) IN ANY PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAMPAIGN, WE RECOMMEND DOWN-PLAYING THE LABELING ISSUE. OUR PRIMARY PROBLEM HERE IS CONCERN ABOUT FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY. IF, IN THE MEDIUM TERM, WE CAN REESTABLISH CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN THE SAFETY OF THESE PRODUCTS, LABELING WILL BECOME LESS IMPORTANT (AT THE MOMENT, SUPERMARKETS IN THE UK ARE REFUSING TO CARRY GMO PRODUCTS).
13. (~~C~~) THERE MAY ALSO BE VALUE IN DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN FOOD SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. HERE, OUR OPPONENTS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY EMPLOYED BOTH, INTERCHANGEABLY. WHILE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS CLEARLY INFLUENCE DECISIONS ABOUT THE PLANTING OF GMO CROPS (AND THE MARKET FOR U.S.-ORIGIN SEEDS), THEY ARE LARGELY IRRELEVANT TO THE FOOD SAFETY DEBATE. AND IT IS POSSIBLE, GIVEN THE HIGH-INTENSITY, CLOSE-QUARTER NATURE OF EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE, THAT WE CANNOT MAKE AS EFFECTIVE A CASE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY OF GMO CROPS AS WE CAN ON FOOD SAFETY. SHOULD WE FOCUS ON THE LATTER, ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO OUR EXPORT INTERESTS IN ANY CASE?

MAINTAINING OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT

14. (~~C~~) WHILE OUR PRIMARY BATTLEGROUND IS THE CONSUMER MARKETPLACE, WE NEED TO GET ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT ON SOME ELEMENTS OF THE GMO DEBATE. FIRST, WE MAY WANT TO CREATE A TRANSATLANTIC SCIENTISTS' GROUP PERHAPS WITHIN THE TEP, SUCH AS IN THE TRANSATLANTIC ENVIRONMENTAL DIALOGUE) TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY ISSUES. WE HAD THOUGHT IT MADE SENSE TO ORGANIZE SUCH A SCIENTIFIC GROUP WITHIN THE TEP, YET WE SHOULD RECORD THAT THE UNIFORM ADVICE OF WHITEHALL OFFICIALS TO U/S LOY WAS THAT TO PUT THE SCIENTIFIC GROUP WITHIN THE TEP WOULD BE SEEN TO PLACE IN "UNDER" THE GOVERNMENT TRADE TYPES, THEREBY VITIATING ITS VALUE.

15. (~~C~~) A SCIENTIFIC GROUP, WHEREVER LOCATED, COULD BE HELPFUL IN ISOLATING OUTLYING SCIENTISTS IN THE GMO DEBATE, DEPOLITICIZING THE DISCUSSION, AND UNDERPINNING EU GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SOME OF THE NEW GMO

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PRODUCTS IN THE PIPELINE. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE IN LONDON, SUCH AN INITIATIVE WOULD BE WORTHWHILE, AND WE ENCOURAGE WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO CONSIDER SOME TYPE OF FORMAL PROPOSAL TO THIS END. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF OUR BRITISH GOVERNMENT COLLEAGUES ARGUE THAT EVEN SUCH A GROUP WILL BE VIEWED WITH SUSPICION IF IT IS CREATED AND FUNDED BY GOVERNMENT.

16. ~~(C)~~ WE MAY ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER, IN THE MEDIUM TERM, GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ON GMO SAFETY. ANY SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND TESTS ON GMO SAFETY WHICH ARE FUNDED BY THE INDUSTRY ARE IMMEDIATELY VIEWED WITH SUSPICION ON THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC. A USG CONTRIBUTION TO A NEW FUND, MATCHED BY THE EU (THEY COULDN'T RESIST, IF ONLY TO MAINTAIN A SAY) WOULD PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR A LOT OF INDEPENDENT ECOLOGICAL STUDIES AND SAFETY TESTING. THIS WORK (AND EVEN THE ALLOCATION OF THE MONEY) COULD BE MANAGED UNDER A PEER REVIEW PROCESS BY THE TRANSATLANTIC SCIENCISTS' GROUP MENTIONED ABOVE.

17. ~~(C)~~ SECOND, WE NEED TO CONTINUE LOBBYING FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN EU DIRECTIVE 90/220. OUR POINTS ON THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY AND UNCERTAINTIES IN THE CURRENT PROCESS HAVE GENERATED CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY IN HMG , AND WE SHOULD BUILD UPON THAT IN AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN BRITISH SUPPORT FOR INFLUENCING THE DIRECTION OF THE NEW REGULATIONS. SOME SORT OF SIMULTANEOUS APPROVAL PROCEDURE ALSO PROBABLY MAKES SENSE, AND WE HOPE WASHINGTON WILL HAVE AN INITIATIVE IN THAT REGARD IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMENTS OF THE PROPOSED NEW REGULATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FOR U.S. INDUSTRY, TIMELINESS IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS IS ALSO IMPORTANT, BUT WE URGE CAUTION IN PRESSING TOO HARD FOR A PERIOD THAT SOME GOVERNMENTS MAY VIEW AS INADEQUATE. THE PUBLIC SENSE THAT GMO PRODUCTS ARE BEING "RUSHED' THROUGH REGULATORY PROCESSES (AS LUDICROUS AS IT SEEMS IN VIEW OF THE SLOW PACE) IS WIDESPREAD, AND WE SHOULD AVOID STANCES THAT FEED THIS PRECONCEPTION. AT THE END OF THE DAY, A NEW EU PROCESS THAT GUARANTEES CERTAINTY WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME, COMBINED WITH SOME PARALLEL ACTION ON APPROVALS, IS PROBABLY
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 04 OF 04 LONDON 005258

STATE PLS PASS USDA FAS

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DEPT PASS EPA
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ALSO FOR FAS/CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON; FAS/CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER;
FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT; ERS/WEST/MADELL; FAA/AO/NE
GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/18/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD TBIO UK
SUBJECT: GMOS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY - EMBASSY LONDON'S STRATEGY

PREFERABLE TO A VERY TIGHT TIME SCHEDULE THAT GENERATES RENEWED POLITICAL OPPOSTION IN SOME MEMBER STATES.

18. ~~(C)~~ WHILE DOMESTIC ACCEPTANCE OF GMO PRODUCTS IS THE EMBASSY'S MAIN GOAL, WE ALSO WANT TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF USG EFFORTS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES LIKE THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL. HERE, HMG IS NOT/NOT ON OUR SIDE, AND THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE WE CAN DO IN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN UK VIEWS. DURING U/S LOY'S JUNE 14-16 VISIT WE MADE VERY LITTLE PROGRESS ON THIS SUBJECT, AND WE MAY SIMPLY HAVE TO HOLD FIRM IN OUR EFFORTS TO BLOCK ACTIONS INIMICAL TO OUR INTERESTS AT THE MULTILATERAL LEVEL. WHILE

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THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL IS GENERALLY THE FOCUS POINT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANGLE, THE FOOD SAFETY ANGLE ALSO ARISES MULTILATERALLY - IN CODEX AND THE WTO'S SPS. HERE WE HAVE MORE SUPPORT WITHIN HMG, AND WE SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE UK DOES NOT LEAD OR SUPPORT AN EU EFFORT TO UNDERCUT THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NAME OF FOOD SAFETY.

LADER

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. memo~~	~~Matt Schaefer to Lael Brainard, re: Beef Hormones Deputies Meeting (3 pages)~~	~~05/11/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ KBH 8/29/2019
~~002. email~~	~~Matthew Schaefer to European Affairs and Richard Holtzapple, re: FW: Beef Hormones (2 pages).~~	~~05/04/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2019

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Economic Affairs (Holtzapple, Richard)
OA/Box Number: 2223

FOLDER TITLE:
[G-7/G-8 1999 Cologne Summit]-GMOs [Genetically Modified Organisms] [3]

2013-0836-F
ke2996

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Holtzapple, Richard A.

From: Schaefer, Matthew P.
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 1999 10:01 AM
To: @EUROPE - European Affairs; Holtzapple, Richard A.
Subject: FW: Beef Hormones ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Just realized you were also not cc'd on this message I sent minutes ago.

-----Original Message-----
From: Schaefer, Matthew P.
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 1999 9:57 AM
To: Hachigian, Nina L.
Cc: Hammonds, D. Holly
Subject: FW: Beef Hormones ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

UPDATE

- Spoke with OSTP. They worked closely with USDA over the weekend on this issue and they "strongly agree" with USDA's announcement/views.

-----Original Message-----
From: Hachigian, Nina L.
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 1999 6:58 AM
To: Schaefer, Matthew P.; @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Cc: @EUROPE - European Affairs; Holtzapple, Richard A.; Hammonds, D. Holly
Subject: RE: Beef Hormones ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Jim circled the portion of your message about the USDA announcement and asks: Has OSTP reviewed? Do they concur? We need coordinated strategy, not people acting alone. Need NEC/NSC DC soonest.

Holly/Matt--pls talk to Marilyn about getting a date for a DC. Also send us a proposed list of participants that Lael and Jim can sign off on.

Thanks.

-----Original Message-----
From: Schaefer, Matthew P.
Sent: Monday, May 03, 1999 5:42 PM
To: @NSA - Natl Security Advisor; Hachigian, Nina L.
Cc: @EUROPE - European Affairs; Holtzapple, Richard A.; Hammonds, D. Holly
Subject: FW: Beef Hormones ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

(please pass to Jim -- cleared by Intecon and Europe)

Jim -

To follow up on the comments by the EC Sherpa this weekend, here is the background on the EU's latest report on the beef hormones issue:

Beef Hormones Dispute and the Release of EU's Most Recent Study

May 13th is the end of the "reasonable period of time" for the EU to implement the WTO Appellate Body report holding the EU's ban on hormone-treated beef WTO-inconsistent. If no solution is reached by late May, we would proceed with publishing a final retaliation list and asking for WTO authorization around June 1. Our discussions with the EU April 21-22, which produced little progress, included these timetable issues in an effort to avoid the acrimony and procedural maneuvering involved in the bananas dispute.

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E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By VC NARA, Date 11/26/2016
2016-0526-M

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In a study just released in summary form to USDA on Saturday, the EU scientific committees advising the Commission apparently conclude that there is a risk to human health from what they claim is our inadequate regulation and controls on the use of growth promotion hormones in cattle. USDA/USTR are preparing to issue a press release denouncing the report as "misleading" and claiming it presents "the same unsubstantiated arguments the EU made before the WTO panel of experts ..." USTR is also giving both the House and Senate a briefing late this afternoon on this issue.

The timing of the study's release appears to be an effort to delay retaliation. Combined with the EU's late-April threat to extend the import ban to all U.S. beef, the most recent study raises suspicions that the EU is not serious about reaching a compromise and that they may attempt procedural maneuverings once again. Specifically, there is some concern that the EU will request a reconstitution of the original panel to determine in a 90-day time frame whether they are now in compliance based on these preliminary studies. The EU would likely ask for such a panel in the next few weeks prior to us asking for authorization for retaliation at the beginning of June.

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. report~~	~~Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, New Technologies in WTO Negotiations (4 pages)~~	~~10/22/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2019

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Economic Affairs (Samans, Richard)
OA/Box Number: 3944

FOLDER TITLE:
Biotechnology [9]

2013-0836-F
ke2997

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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TRADE POLICY STAFF COMMITTEE

Draft DOCUMENT 1999-125

SUBJECT

NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN WTO NEGOTIATIONS

SUBMITTED BY

Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

DATE: October 22, 1999

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By VL NARA, Date 11/16/2019
2016-1529-M

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TPSC PAPER
NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN WTO NEGOTIATIONS

ISSUE

The delegation needs instructions on the U.S. position on the most effective tactics for achieving interagency agreed objectives with respect to new technologies involving agricultural products in the new round of WTO negotiations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the TPSC agree to the following position. The U.S. delegation should be instructed to pursue a focused mandate for negotiations in the agriculture negotiating group – in terms of scope of disciplines, product coverage and time – which leads to negotiations on commitments with respect to approval processes, consistent with agreed U.S. objectives. At the same time, the delegation should work with its potential allies (Canada, Australia) to develop limited terms of reference for a working group (see background). The U.S. delegation is instructed to seek revised instructions if: (1) the U.S. push for negotiations appears to be encouraging other countries to open the SPS Agreement or to list objectives or measures the U.S. opposes (e.g., animal welfare, multifunctionality, cultural concerns); and (2) the terms of reference for negotiations or a working group are not consistent with a focused mandate.

PRIVATE SECTOR AND CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS

Biotech industry views appear united on objectives – which coincide with Government goals (see below) – but are divided on the best way to achieve those objectives. There also appears to be a united view that the WTO round of negotiations should be used to address problems affecting trade in agricultural biotech products. At recent meetings, industry representatives conceded that the could not reach a common position on approach and urged Government officials to do so. However, there is significant opposition in the agriculture community to doing nothing or an initial position supporting a working group.

Congressional views expressed to date indicate that they expect biotech trade problems to be fixed during WTO negotiations.

BACKGROUND

Status of Ministerial Text

Negotiations on the text are moving rapidly. At this stage, most countries are proposing the full range of objectives they would hope to achieve. On biotechnology, there currently are two bracketed proposals: (1) Canada's for a broad-based working group; (2) and the U.S.'s for disciplines on biotech trade. The provision for negotiations is contained in the current draft text.

Classified By: F.L. Montgomery
Position Title: AUSTR
Agency/Office: USTR
Declass. Date: 10/22/04
Reason: Economic Matters Relating to National Security

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Interagency Discussions

Agencies have been considering the U.S. position on biotech in the WTO since the summer. As of October 21, agencies have agreed on the following U.S. objectives. First, we want to ensure that the current WTO agreements, particularly the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and Agreement on TBT, are understood and continue to apply to agricultural biotechnology products. Second, we want the upcoming negotiations to address "...disciplines in order to ensure trade in agricultural biotechnology products is based on transparent, predictable and timely processes."

We have defined the second objective to include:

- requirements for establishing and publishing general timelines for product approval reviews, interactions with applicants, and replies to the applicant regarding the status of the application and the nature of review underway; and

- specifying, to the extent possible, data and information that are necessary for the safety evaluation of different categories and uses of agricultural biotechnology products and to establish information requirement guidelines to be used by applicants.

At the October 21 meeting, the TPSC subcommittee recognized that other countries were pushing for a working group and appeared to agreed that the mandate for a working group should focus along the following lines.

> "We agree to establish a Working Group in the area of agricultural products of new technologies. The Group shall examine such products and the conditions under which they are traded, in order to identify restrictions that have adverse effects on trade. The work of the group shall proceed in two phases. The Group shall complete its identification and examination phase by the Fourth Session of the Ministerial Conference, drawing on relevant work under way within multilateral bodies, including the CODEX, IPPC, and OECD. The Group shall complete its work by developing and elaborating WTO commitments and disciplines with respect to approval processes for these products as part of the single undertaking."

The key elements of this mandate are: (1) limited product coverage – but present and future oriented to go beyond just biotechology; (2) limited scope; and (3) commitment to move to addressing specific disciplines on approval processes.

There appears to be interagency agreement that in order to achieve the agreed U.S. objectives, negotiations need to occur in the WTO. At the same time, there is concern about when and under what conditions the United States should push for those negotiations.

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Pressing for negotiations demonstrates to U.S. industry and the agriculture community that we are working hard to push for solutions to some of the major problems affecting trade in feed and food products produced with biotechnology and other new technologies. Some agencies believe that this approach provides more U.S. leverage to achieve consensus in the WTO on the narrow focus of the U.S. objectives. Other agencies believe that a U.S. push for negotiations carries the risk that it encourages other countries (e.g., the EU and Japan) to push harder for their undesirable goals, and that U.S. interests would be better served by waiting for a more opportune time to make specific proposals. The recommendation tries to address these agencies' concerns by providing the U.S. delegation contingency instructions to return for new instructions if the U.S. approach appears to be resulting in undesirable proposals from other countries.

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. note~~	~~Handwritten notes re: trade negotiations (17 pages)~~	~~n.d.~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 11/26/2014

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Economic Affairs (Samans, Richard)
OA/Box Number: 3946

FOLDER TITLE:
Biotechnology [1]

2013-0836-F
ke2999

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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Whaling

Bangladesh GSP

Gene -> JEPC

Biotech Larson meeting
end of this wk or Monday

Burma mtg. + paper

* NSC POTUS Library

Wool Proclamation

AGOA Proclamation

Other Proc?

Bennett Freeman -> Rep. McDermott

Environment
-> EO guidelines issuance
-> NAFTA expropriations
-> TPSC changes
-> Leveling Up Cable

Child Poverty Event

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Basic Education

→ Gene meeting

– World Bank

School lunch

→ implementation

→ legislation

Ed Barron

Colombia / Bolivia => CBTPA

Byrd amendment

Jordan FTA vote / letter ?

Nigeria debt / OMB + Treasury

↔ ready for JEFC?

Trade Compliance

~~LTE monitoring implementation~~

UK trip: development speech => Malmo ?

Gene to call Leach?

Sen. Kerry + Vietnam: any follow up?

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Sizing up

Dec. 4 discussions begin
- TPSC mtg. on 11/22
- Fed Reg notice approved
- ER to be done by both
- paper to be circulated today on US position

textiles
rules of origin
enforcement / transshipment
services
investment

Services
GATS list exists + would be basis

Investment
- they've resisted BIT
- FTAA basis
- national treatment
- investor - state arbitration

Jordan on Labor + Environment
① cooperation in combatting illegal trade (CFCs)
② product certifications (regional lab/hub)
③ electronic waste recycling

→ expro → differential impact → MAI language
→ expro

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★ Investment
→ bootstrap BIT
→ expro agreement possible

→ anti-money laundering
→ Korea BIT as model

→ section 1114 language

★ Services
positive approach ~~one~~ (list) vs.
→ NAFTA negative => positive tracker but confronts w/ NAFTA → Chile/FTAA implications
Geneva proposal on e-commerce → bootstrap in

Immigration ? → limited to GATS treatment
temporary

★ – dispute settlement

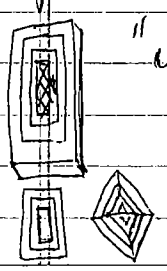
★ – rules of origin
CBI rules inadequate; can't go simplest route

– substantial transformation vs. shifting classification categories

"appropriate + commensurate action"

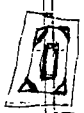
→ "withdrawal of benefits under the agreement"

→ fair + equitable
min std of treatment under int'l law



Fair

more procedurally detailed
→ submissions, transparency
→ what response if violation
→ amicus briefs



① trade sanctions avail WTO/NAFTA

② open Jordan

③ differentiates

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Beier

-> US-Japan autos; steel 201 need to be thought about in integrated fashion w/ other priorities

Barshefsky

-> Tommy Koh lead negotiator => environmental

Services

IPR => copyright concerns

Investment

Beier -> key issues intractable enough to make conclusion this year feasible

-> transhipment

- dispute settlement => investment + services

Berger

- don't undermine legacy
- don't risk blaming up FTA under Rep. administration
- don't raise bar because could be invoked as standard for future WTO + bilateral deals, which might be unacceptable
- don't Δ bar from Jordan

Karen: stick w/ Jordan model + consolidate; don't push further now; get it passed

CB: Rule of Origin -> 2 step

- general rules
- no trade under FTA until specific rules established for pblm. sections.

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GS: POTUS wants to leave ~~footprint~~ / template

SBS: development key

Need to win votes in Congress

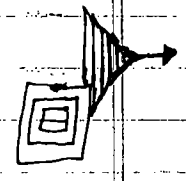
Will it be Pyrrhic (hurt further liberalization)

---

whaling

→ other collective action by IWC

→ other diplomatic actions by IWC



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Expo. mtg
→ Tues.

S. Negapone FTA

- Monday 4:30 plenary opening
- rolling tabling of proposals

- Rules of origin mtg Monday

- Services
  - Treasury ok on posture

- School feeding
- Expo
- Burma
- Biotech

- JEPC
- Oxford speech
- Proclamations
  → AGOA

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- "regulatory" deleted subject to ← f/(other language)
  Dan finding examples

- portion of property and long-term vs. permanent
  - permanent of all or part
  - non-permanent of all property

- "only in the following circumstances" "when"

- Treasury to Redraft "The parties recognize..."
  and Lois to draft ~~f~~note as alternative

- For purposes of exp°
- Can't look behind whether measure has a public purpose.
  => (provision only applies to exp°)
  Justice/USTR to draft

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12/9 AFL → Burma

- new ITF ETU reporting

- EU union confederation working w/ heads of state + trade ministers (Lamy as well)

- joint ownership of factories?

- ILO integrity/potency
- WTO credibility

- Military Holding Company → partnership
- forced relocations; forced labor in industrial park construction

- ICFTU report 1,000 ps. on activity since June ILO report
  80% of people on border report forced labor activity

- All apparel factories are military co-or wholly owned

- shrimp + timber use forced labor

- AFL to provide ICFTU confidential report sections

- 2 sites w/ 4 factories

Nautica, Bugle Boy, [Walmart + Jan Sport withdrew]

Unocal + Halliburton

India + US China Japan + Singapore, Fr + Germany

ILO (-) Malaysia, Japan
(+) France, UK Thai S Africa, Dominican R.

→ ILO follow mtg. 2/15
AFL · EU unions

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Biotech

→ slow progress on corn

→ consultative forum → report coming; will need to assess how we comment
- early ~~or ext~~ week

→ reaction to potential EU Summit decision to promote precaution process to determine response

→ public diplomacy campaign
→ soy + corn animal feed dependance by EU
→ ~~release~~ distribute articles
→ Blair House unraveling? → WTO case

→ non-committal on OECD environ conference now
→ maybe 2002

→ I am to compile trends list

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Research
- legal analysis
  ILO – WTO
- legal analysis => nexus
- multilateral diplomacy
- jawboning

- moral suasion
  -> what can we do / old investment / trade
- quota call

- transhipment in SE Asia
- unilateral non-trade diplomatic measures => asset freeze
- multilateral diplomacy to build coalition

- roll back imports / IEEPA
  => affect

State

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① Moral Suasion
- Secretary of State
- talk to import assn.; parallel importers
- individual calls retailers

②

② raises issue of why go.+ doesn't act
③ weak

→ precedents?
→ State EB + DRL to collaborate on a couple of TPs

⑦ Quota Call

2 categories now unrestrained
12 categories now

→ USTR believes would be defensible: drag on for a year in WTO; could cap at current levels; EB agrees; DoL believes 6 categories
→ could shift to other
→ would have to justify on import surge

⑬ Customs transshipment
→ WTO agreement
→ USTR maintains that could under WTO make case that
Jon Rosenblatt to Bill Schall → Burrese refused to show Customs around, but offered to kick it upstairs if Customs demonstrate that this was normal practice
→ not completely slammed door

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Call Bryan

④ - Forced labor justified
- Have Bite
- Clearly symbolic
- W no risks acceptable?

→ DRL total or partial restriction of imports w/ multilateral outreach

→ USTR wants broader +
⇒ non-trade (tourism; diplomatic representation)
⇒ fish + timber (where there's evidence of forced labor)
ILO commission cited these two industries
⇒ equity partner sufficient nexus for ILO but not WTO?

non-trade econ: Bryan Samuel
non-economic: Eric

General trader

Non-trade measures
→ PNG sitting ambassador
→ tourism (how beyond
→ extend ban on investment to certain services
→ airlines
→ Helms-Burton style sanctions

Multilateral
→ visa
→ new investment ban → asset freeze from military holds
→ Disinvestment (Jawbone UNOCAL)

① Do general (w/o nexus)

② Do limited w/ nexus to mitigate risks
add to either < non-trade economic / non-economic

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International diplomacy

→ US - EU

→ POTUS - Blair mtg?

State Skip; Ed McW

→ cable to other countries:

⇒ consult over

⇒

Authority

- Treasury believes IEEPA a bad option → because could be abused & draw concern & congress
- Harold Koh wrote article on IEEPA use

add letter from Hill Mc

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I spoke to Karen ~~Lewis~~ before the meeting. She recommended going ahead w/o her. She thought that what made sense would be for us to organize a public information campaign now (consumers, companies).

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link to forced labor
signal
bite
WTO risks

Tourism
- WTO pblms w/ GATS
- organize govt. discouragement of tourism
=> follow up by Jon/Commerce/Andrew

Asset Freeze
=> follow up w/ Kohl's bill group
=> OFAC to research what other countries have asset freezes in place

Disinvestment
=> USG strat.
=> inside pressure on Unocal to exert pressure on Burma
=> check on IFI lending; also private K mkts.
<-> Asian DB

Public Education
Andrew, DRL others to work

Somalia - Moore dialogue

301
- requires burden on US commerce
-

★ Develop broader and narrower options w/ respect to rogue
-> drop pretense about WTO defense
(Jon/Andrew + Harold)

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. letter~~	~~Daniel T. Arap Moi, President of Kenya, to President Clinton (4 pages)~~	~~08/21/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
International Economic Affairs (Samans, Richard)
OA/Box Number: 3946

FOLDER TITLE:
Biotechnology [3]

2013-0836-F
ke3000

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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STATE HOUSE
P.O. BOX 40530
NAIROBI
KENYA

21st August, 2000

Excellency,

I convey to you and to the American people warm greetings. I recall with great pleasure our recent meeting in Washington at the Summit on Africa when we had the opportunity to exchange views on a wide range of issues of mutual interest.

I wish to take this opportunity to write to you on a matter of great interest to my people and country. As you know, Kenya is basically an agricultural country and farming provides the basic needs for our families and communities. Yet in the face of growing population and environmental challenges, current farming methods are proving incapable of meeting our requirements for food security and economic growth. It is therefore imperative that we in Kenya embrace appropriate technologies and policies to transform our agricultural system to become more productive and profitable. It is in this context that we must view the new developments in biotechnology as offering great hope and promise.

While the Green Revolution was a remarkable success in Asia it largely bypassed Africa. Today the international community is on the verge of the biotechnology revolution which Africa cannot afford to miss.

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...2..

STATE HOUSE
P.O. BOX 40530
NAIROBI
KENYA

The recent announcement of a vitamin-A enriched rice (golden rice) offers great potential for all of us to address the issues of malnutrition and human health, particularly for poor children and for nations which are major consumers of the commodity. I understand that this important invention was developed with assistance from the government of Switzerland and the Rockefeller Foundation. While enriched rice could offer some benefit to our population, the staple crop in this region is maize.

Africa therefore needs a similar programme for the development of "golden maize". Scientific evidence indicates that deficiency in Vitamin-A weakens the immune system. Sufficient intake of Vitamin-A can improve ability to cope with the effects of chronic diseases and may reduce the incidence of infections like malaria. Such a programme would also meet the objectives of the First Lady's Global Vitamin-A Partnership effort. I would therefore be grateful if you could join me in the endorsement of this idea to explore possibilities whereby United States technical and financial resources could be committed to this important endeavour.

Africa risks a biotechnology gap if we fail to participate in this project just in the same way that concern has been expressed about the digital gap in information technology without which deliberate intervention may result in a further marginalization of our continent. I am therefore specifically requesting the support and co-operation of your government and private foundations to help us to respond to the challenge of closing the biotechnology gap.

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...3..

STATE HOUSE
P.O. BOX 40530
NAIROBI
KENYA

If we, as Kenyans, are to fully participate in this exciting revolution, we must develop our local capacity to address our unique needs for increased food production among our small scale farmers. Thus, support for biotechnology training programmes, curriculum development and improvement of laboratories is urgently needed. We note that a USAID-funded program in Egypt has been instrumental in building Egypt's biotechnology capacity. This has had the positive effect of augmenting that country's participation in international debates on biotechnology, such as the biosafety protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity. I would like to propose that we explore opportunities for support as an additional agenda item in our forthcoming discussions.

Ambassador Andrew Young during his visit to Kenya recently, informed me of a promising U.S. private - public initiative named "Healthy Harvest" which will focus on application of biotechnology in Africa. Through this initiative I look forward for fast realization of this vision and would like Kenya to be among the first participants in this worthwhile venture.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

DANIEL T. ARAP MOI
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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STATE HOUSE
P.O. BOX 40530
NAIROBI
KENYA

His Excellency William Jefferson Clinton,
President of the United States of America,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. cable~~	~~Re: UK Proposed Labeling Requirements for Food Containing~~ Genetically Modified Organizms (GMO) (2 pages)	~~04/11/1994~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NL 4/3/2020
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: COREPER Discussions of Genetically Modified Organisms, 19~~ May 1994 (2 pages)	~~05/19/1994~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NL 4/3/2020
~~003. cable~~	~~Re: Press Reports Indicating British Supermarket Has Banned GMO~~ Tomatoes is False Says Company (2 pages)	~~09/16/1994~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NL 4/3/2020
004. cable	Re: [Regulatory and Patent Issues in Western European Agricultural Biotechnology Field] (4 pages)	11/15/1994	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Re: [Chinese Agricultural Biotechnology Industry] (4 pages)	12/22/1994	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1993 - Dec 1994 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 505000

FOLDER TITLE:
[01/11/1994 - 12/12/1994]

2013-0836-F
ke3001

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHLOA6058 1011720-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 111720Z APR 94
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG: 111720Z APR 94
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0244
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0206
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: UK PROPOSED LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO)
TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 006058
DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR
FAS/ITP/ROBERTS; FAS/OFSTS/SEBRANK; APHIS/GIDDINGS;
OSEC/YOUNG; FAS/FAA/NICKS
E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC, UK
SUBJECT: UK PROPOSED LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO)
REF: (A) LONDON 511 (B) STATE 88197
1. AS REQUESTED (REFTEL B), POST CONTACTED STUART MARSHALL, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD (MAFF), BIOTECHNOLOGY UNIT, AND PHILLIP EDMONDS, MAFF, CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION, TO FURTHER DISCUSS UK LABELING REQUIREMENTS.
2. BOTH MARSHALL AND EDMONDS WERE FORTHCOMING THAT THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS WERE THE UK POSITION BEING USED DURING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE EU'S PRESENT DISCUSSION ON NOVEL FOODS. ACCORDING TO MAFF, IT WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THESE REQUIREMENTS WOULD BECOME UK LAW AS THE EU HAS THE LEAD ROLE IN LABELING REGULATIONS.
3. ON THE SPECIFIC POINT OF THE GUIDELINES THAT WOULD BE EMPLOYED TO DETERMINE WHEN AN INSERTED COPY GENE WOULD BE CONSIDERED DESTROYED DURING PROCESSING, MAFF COMMENTED THAT THIS WOULD BE DECIDED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. NO SCIENTIFIC GUIDELINES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. THIS EXEMPTION HAD BEEN STATED TO ESTABLISH THE PRINCIPLE.
4. COMMENT. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, MAFF STATED THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MORE (INFORMAL) LIASON BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND USG (ESPECIALLY FDA) ON THE QUESTION OF LABELING. MAFF ARE TO INITIATE THIS VIA THE EMBASSY. THEY ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBLE GATT IMPLICATIONS OF LABELING POLICY. MAFF ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE EU IS NOT MAKING GREAT

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PROGRESS IN ITS NOVEL FOODS REGULATIONS. END
COMMENT.
SEITZ
BT
#6058
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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6058

TOR: 940411153522 M0986492

DIST:

SIT: VAX
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Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHBSA5588 1391740-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC
LINE3: O 191740Z MAY 94
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 191740Z MAY 94
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALLEU COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
SUBJ: COREPER'S DISCUSSIONS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS, 18 MAY 1994
REFERENCES: USECBRUSSELS 4942, USECBRUSSELS 5252

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 05588
STATE PASS USDA TO FAS FOR ITP/SCHROETER/CHESLEY; TO FSIS FOR BASU; TO APHIS FOR KUBICEK
STATE PASS USTR
STATE PASS FDA FOR NIGHTINGALE
MILAN PASS ATO
LONDON PASS ATO
BONN PASS ATO HAMBURG
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EC POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, RUN
SUBJECT: COREPER'S DISCUSSIONS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS, 18 MAY 1994
REFERENCES: USECBRUSSELS 4942, USECBRUSSELS 5252
1. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE, PLEASE SEE PARAGRAPH 5.
2. THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) MEETING ON 18 MAY 1994 HAS NOT ABLE TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON THE PROPOSED EU REGULATION ON NOVEL FOODS. THE DISCUSSION STARTED VERY LATE IN THE DAY AND WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COREPER ON 24 MAY. THE GREEK PRESIDENCY STILL INTENDS TO BRING THE PROPOSED REGULATION TO A VOTE AT THE INTERNAL MARKET COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR 16 JUNE.
3. MEMBER STATES REMAIN DIVIDED OVER THE QUESTION OF SYSTEMATICALLY LABELLING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. RIGHT NOW, THE COMMISSION IS SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM, PRANCE, BELGIUM, IRELAND AND ITALY IN ITS OPPOSITION TO SYSTEMATIC LABELLING. DG III IS RESISTING EXTENSIVE LABELLING BECAUSE IT DOES NOT WANT TO STIGMATIZE THE PRODUCTS OF MODERN BIOTECHNOLOGY. IT WOULD REQUIRE UNANIMITY AMONG THE MEMBER STATES TO ADOPT SYSTEMATIC LABELLING AGAINST THE COMMISSION'S OBJECTION. THERE MAY, HOWEVER, BE INCREASING PRESSURE FROM THE GREEK

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2016-0529-M (1.19)

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PRESIDENCY TO REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELLING.
4. AT THIS POINT IN THE DELIBERATIONS, A QUICK, WELL-FOCUSED DEMARCHE FROM THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN BUTTRESSING THE COMMISSION'S POSITION. THE DEMARCHE COULD SIMPLY PRESENT OUR CONCERNS REGARDING THE TRADE IMPLICATIONS OF MANDATORY LABELLING AND STRESS THAT WE WOULD PREFER THE CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION.
5. ACTION REQUEST: WASHINGTON AGENCIES SHOULD CONSIDER DRAFTING A DEMARCHE HIGHLIGHTING OUR CONCERNS ABOUT ANY REGULATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE MANDATORY LABELLING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. SPECIAL EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON KEEPING THE UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, BELGIUM, IRELAND AND ITALY FIRM IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO SYSTEMATIC LABELLING.
6. THE DEMARCHE SHOULD BE DELIVERED NO LATER THAN 26 MAY IN PREPARATION FOR THE COREPER MEETING SHEDULED FOR 1 JUNE.
(DRAFTED:FAS:SGNENON, CLEARED:FAS:BWADSWORTH) EIZENSTAT
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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5588

TOR: 940519134156 M1056022

DIST:

SIT: VAX
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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHLOA4700 2591040-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 161040Z SEP 94
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG: 161040Z SEP 94
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7930
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0471
SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS INDICATING BRITISH SUPERMARKET HAS BANNED GMO TOMATOES IS FALSE SAY COMPANY
TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 014700

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR OSEC/YOUNG FAS/ITP/ROBERTS; FAS/HTP/PIASON; FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT; APHIS/GIDDINGS; FAA/AO/NE/NICKS

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS INDICATING BRITISH SUPERMARKET HAS BANNED GMO TOMATOES IS FALSE SAY COMPANY

REF: LONDON 009141

1. ACCORDING TO THE CO-OPERATIVE SUPERMARKET (THE CO-OP), A PRESS REPORT INDICATING THAT IT HAD BANNED PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMO TOMATOES ARE FALSE. THE CO-OP HAD RECEIVED A PRESENTATION FROM THE AGRI-BUSINESS COMPANY, ZENECA, ON ITS GMO TOMATO PUREE AND PASTE PRODUCTS (REFTEL). (ZENECA AND HUNT-WESSON INTEND TO LAUNCH THEIR PRODUCT ON THE UK MARKET IN 1995 UNDER SUPERMARKETS' OWN LABEL BRANDS). HOWEVER, THE CO-OP DECIDED THAT GMO TOMATO PRODUCTS DO NOT HAVE A PLACE WITHIN THEIR EXISTING RANGE. THIS DECISION WAS THEN REPORTED IN "THE TIMES" AS A PRODUCT BAN.

2. THE CO-OP IS THE ONLY SUPERMARKET TO LABEL VEGETARIAN CHEESE MADE WITH THE RENNET SUBSTITUTE, CHYMOSIN, AS BEING A GMO PRODUCT. THE CHEESE CARRIES THE STATEMENT, "PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY, AND SO FREE FROM ANIMAL RENNET".

3. THE CO-OPS POLICY ON GMO FOODSTUFFS IS FIRSTLY

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NOT TO STOCK ANY PRODUCT CONTAINING HUMAN GENETIC MATERIAL. SECONDLY, NOT TO USE FRUIT OR VEGETABLES CONTAINING ANIMAL GENES IN ITS OWN BRAND PRODUCT, AND THIRDLY TO LABEL OWN BRAND PRODUCTS WHICH CONTAIN GMOS FROM NON-RELATED SPECIES. OTHER UK SUPERMARKETS ARE YET TO DEFINE A POLICY STANCE. CROWE
BT
#4700

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 4700
TOR: 940916070308 M1255928
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SIT: VAX NSC
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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [U.S. Biotechnology Information] (4 pages)	02/10/1995	P1/b(1)
002. cable	[duplicate of 001] (4 pages)	02/13/1995	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: [U.S. Agricultural Biotechnology] (3 pages)	03/06/1995	P1/b(1)
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: Agricultural Biotechnology (5 pages)~~	~~03/06/1995~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NR 4/3/2020
005. cable	Re: [The Agricultural Biotechnology Industry in Europe] (3 pages)	03/15/1995	P1/b(1)
006. cable	Re: [Wester Europe's Agricultural Biotechnology Industry] (5 pages)	03/15/1995	P1/b(1)
007. cable	Re: [Chinese Agricultural Biotechnology Industry] (3 pages)	03/29/1995	P1/b(1)
~~008. cable~~	~~Re: UK Interest in Agricultural Biotechnology (8 pages)~~	~~05/11/1995~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NR 4/3/2020
009. cable	Re: [Dutch Development of Agricultural Biotechnology] (4 pages)	05/18/1995	P1/b(1)
~~010. cable~~	~~Re: Swiss Policy on Agricultural Biotechnology (4 pages)~~	~~07/24/1995~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NR 4/3/2020
011. cable	Re: [Positions on Genetically Altered Agricultural Products] (2 pages)	08/01/1995	P1/b(1)
~~012. cable~~	~~Re: [Approval of GMO Product] (3 pages)~~	~~10/24/1995~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NR 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1995 - Dec 1996 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 510000

FOLDER TITLE:
[01/24/1995 - 12/29/1995]

2013-0836-F
ke3002

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
013. cable	Re: [Public Opinion Strategy on Agricultural Biotechnology Issues] (3 pages)	10/30/1995	P1/b(1)
014. cable	Re: [Opposition ot Agricultural Biotechnology] (3 pages)	10/30/1995	P1/b(1)
015. cable	Re: [Concern Over Genetically Modified Organisms] (3 pages)	10/31/1995	P1/b(1)
016. cable	Re: [Problems of Introducing Agricultural Biotechnology] (4 pages)	11/03/1995	P1/b(1)
017. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Soybean Regulation] (3 pages)	12/07/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1995 - Dec 1996 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 510000

FOLDER TITLE:
[01/24/1995 - 12/29/1995]

2013-0836-F
ke3002

RESTRICTION CODES

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P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VR NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (1.26)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHCAA4634 0651942-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 061938Z MAR 95
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 061938Z MAR 95
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0000
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0000
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 0000
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0000
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0000
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0000
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
INFO: RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 0000
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN 0000
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 0000
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0000
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 0000
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG 0000
SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY (C-TT5-00161)

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ STATE 054634

NOFORN

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: AINF, KPRP, PINR, BE, FR, GM, NL, SZ, UK
SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY (C-TT5-00161)

1. (~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NOFORN - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE US TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE, AND THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY, WASHINGTON ANALYSTS MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY. AS PART OF THIS TASKING, THEY RECENTLY FINISHED A PAPER ON MOUNTING POLICY DISPUTES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) OVER AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY. ANALYSTS FIND THE SUMMARIES OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL JOURNAL ARTICLES FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON VERY HELPFUL AND APPRECIATE POSTS' EFFORTS TO PROVIDE THE MATERIAL. ANALYSTS WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE NEW REPORTING FROM POSTS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS PROVIDED BELOW REGARDING FUNDING, PATENTS AND REGULATIONS, AND

ONGOING TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH EFFORTS BY THE EU IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY.

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3. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND: THE EU MAINTAINS SEVERAL BARRIERS TO THE IMPORTATION AND USE OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS. SUCH PRODUCTS INCLUDE: TRANSGENIC PLANTS (HERBICIDE AND VIRUS-RESISTANT CROPS, AND HEAT/DROUGHT/FROST TOLERANT CROPS), TRANSGENIC ANIMALS (ANIMALS DEVELOPED TO BE "PHARMACEUTICAL FACTORIES" BY INSERTING A GENE TO INDUCE THE PRODUCTION OF HUMAN PHARMACEUTICALS IN THE ANIMALS' MILK OR FOR LEANER MEAT OR HIGHER MILK YIELDS, ETC.), VETERINARY BIOPHARMACEUTICALS AND VACCINES (SUCH AS BST), AND BIOPESTICIDES AND BIOHERBICIDES. EU'S APPROVAL PROCESS AND PATENTING POLICIES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS HAVE HAMPERED US FIRMS--CURRENTLY LEADING WORLDWIDE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PRODUCTS--IN THEIR EUROPEAN SALES EFFORTS.

4. FOR EXAMPLE, THE EU BANNED THE SALE OF US-DEVELOPED BOVINE SOMATOTROPIN (BST) BECAUSE OF SOCIAL AND MARKET CONCERNS RATHER THAN PURELY SCIENTIFIC REASONS AS REQUIRED BY THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT). AT THE SAME TIME THAT US MARKET ACCESS IS BEING INHIBITED, THE EU AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ARE INCREASING SUBSIDIES TO EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY FIRMS AND DEVELOPING REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTS MORE AMENABLE FOR R AND D. INDUSTRY ANALYSTS BELIEVE THESE MOVES SUGGEST THAT EU GOVERNMENTS MAY BE USING MARKET BARRIERS TO BUY TIME FOR EU FIRMS TO DEVELOP AND COMMERCIALIZE THEIR OWN PRODUCTS.

5. AS A RESULT, US POLICYMAKERS AND INDUSTRY ARE GROWING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT FUTURE GENETICALLY-ENGINEERED AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS, SUCH AS THE SOYBEAN OR THE TOMATO, WILL NOT FIND OPEN EUROPEAN MARKETS AND THAT THEY WILL FACE GROWING COMPETITION FROM GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED EUROPEAN FIRMS IN EMERGING AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY MARKETS. THESE EFFORTS TO LIMIT US MARKET ACCESS WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AS THE AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY GROWS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS FROM APPROXIMATELY $3 BILLION IN SALES IN 1993 TO WHAT INDUSTRY

ANALYSTS EXPECT TO BECOME A $50 BILLION MARKET IN THE YEAR 2000.

6. RECOGNIZED EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY FIRMS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES PROGRAMS LISTED IN PRIORITY ORDER BY COUNTRY:

--BELGIUM: PLANT GENETIC SYSTEMS (ALSO KNOWN AS PGS).

--FRANCE: BIOAVENIR, GROUP LIMAGRAIN, RHONE POULENC, PASTEUR INSTITUTE, AND INRA.

--GERMANY: HOECHST, ROBERT KOCH INSTITUTE, MAX PLANCK (INSTITUTE FOR BREEDING RESEARCH, COLOGNE), BAYER, AND BASF.

--THE NETHERLANDS: MOGEN, VAN DER HAVE, GENE PHARMING EUROPE (US SUBSIDIARY), AND WAGENINGEN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY.

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--SWITZERLAND: FREDRICH MIESCHER INSTITUTE, CIBA SEEDS, AND SANDOZ.

--UNITED KINGDOM: AGRICULTURAL GENETICS, ZENECA SEEDS, JOHN INNES INSTITUTE, NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY, UNILEVER, AND PPL THERAPEUTICS (FORMERLY PHARMACEUTICAL PROTEINS LIMITED).

A. FUNDING: ANALYSTS BELIEVE THAT EU GOVERNMENTS PROVIDE LARGE SUBSIDIES TO THE EU AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IN ORDER TO INCREASE EU TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES. ANALYSTS NEED CONTINUED REPORTING ON FUNDING, BOTH BY EU AND MEMBER STATES, TO HELP THEM DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF PRECISELY HOW THE EU FUNDS AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY. QUALITY, DETAILED INFORMATION HAS IN THE PAST PROVED DIFFICULT TO ACQUIRE.

1) WHICH EUROPEAN FIRMS RECEIVE GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY? HOW MUCH FUNDING DO THEY RECEIVE? WHAT ARE THE MECHANISMS--MINISTRIES OR

PROGRAMS--INVOLVED? ARE GOVERNMENT FUNDS EARMARKED FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS? IF SO, WHICH ONES?

2) WHICH PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS RECEIVE GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY? HOW MUCH FUNDING DO THEY RECEIVE?

3) DO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS RECEIVE ANY FUNDING? IF SO, HOW MUCH?

4) HOW ARE AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY FUNDS ALLOCATED? DOES FUNDING COME FROM THE EU OR FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS? IS AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY FUNDING INCREASING?

5) DO US FIRMS HAVE ACCESS TO FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY? IF NOT, ON WHAT BASIS IS IT DENIED?

6) WHICH SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ARE PROVIDING THE MOST AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY FUNDING?

7) IS FUNDING PART OF AN OVERALL BIOTECHNOLOGY PLAN? IF SO, HOW MUCH IS ALLOCATED TO AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY? IF NOT, IS FUNDING FOCUSED SOLELY ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY?

8) HOW WILL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OCCUR FROM GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES FOR COMMERCIALIZATION?

9) IS THERE ANY EU FUNDING AVAILABLE, OTHER THAN FROM THE FRAMEWORK? IF SO, HOW IS FUNDING BEING USED?

B. PATENTS AND REGULATIONS: PATENT AND REGULATORY ISSUES IN BIOTECHNOLOGY DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM THOSE IN OTHER INDUSTRIES BECAUSE THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IS RELATIVELY YOUNG AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR QUICKLY,

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OFTEN OUTPACING GOVERNMENT PATENT AND REGULATORY POLICIES. THE RESULT IS THAT PATENT POLICIES OFTEN DO NOT PROTECT BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS, AND REGULATIONS OFTEN HINDER MARKETING OF PRODUCTS AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT.

AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY PATENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS WORLDWIDE ARE STILL IN THE FORMATIVE STAGES.

1) WHAT PRODUCTS CURRENTLY RECEIVE PATENT PROTECTION? FOR EXAMPLE, THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD DIFFICULTY PATENTING THE "ONCO-MOUSE." DO OTHER PRODUCTS RECEIVE PATENT PROTECTION?

2) DO PATENT POLICIES OR JUST IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE POLICIES DIFFER FROM THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES? IF SO, HOW DO THEY DIFFER?

3) CAN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES PROVIDE MORE PATENT PROTECTION THAN THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO)? IF SO, TO WHAT EXTENT? WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S ONGOING DISCUSSIONS TO CHANGE PATENT COVERAGE FOR AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY? WHERE DO INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES, SUCH AS GERMANY, STAND ON THE ISSUE?

C. REGULATORY POLICY: MANY EXPERTS PREDICT THAT REGULATORY STANDARDS WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY.

1) WHAT FIELD TRIAL REGULATIONS EXIST IN EACH COUNTRY? (NOTE: FIELD TRIAL REGULATIONS ARE BASED ON EU DIRECTIVES FOR CONTAINED USE/DELIBERATE RELEASE OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS.) IS IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR US FIRMS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR FIELD TRIALS THAN EU FIRMS? FOR EXAMPLE, FRANCE HAS A REPUTATION FOR TAKING A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TOWARD INTERPRETING AGRICULTURAL REGULATIONS. WASHINGTON ANALYSTS WOULD LIKE TO ASSESS WHETHER FRENCH REGULATIONS ARE MORE LAX THAN THOSE OF OTHER EU MEMBER STATES.

2) ARE REGULATIONS INHIBITING RESEARCH OR CREATING NON-TARIFF TRADE BARRIERS, OTHER THAN MANDATORY LABELING OF GENETICALLY-ENGINEERED FOODS AND THE BAN ON GROWTH HORMONES AND BST? IF SO, HOW?

3) HOW ARE MEMBER STATES OTHERWISE BIASED AGAINST US FIRMS AND PRODUCTS? WHAT GOVERNMENT OFFICES HAVE THE POWER TO LIMIT US ACCESS TO THE EU MARKET, FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMMITTEE FOR VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS (CVMP), AND TO WHAT EXTENT DO THEY DO IT?

4) WHAT ARE FUTURE EUROPEAN COMMISSION PLANS FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS?

5) WHAT TRADE RESTRICTIONS EXIST FOR SEEDS IN THE EU? WHAT PERTINENT REGULATIONS EXIST, OTHER THAN GENETIC ENGINEERING DIRECTIVES?

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6) WHAT REGULATIONS EXIST FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH?

D. TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH EFFORTS: AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS THAT ARE IN THE PIPELINE AND THAT ARE LIKELY TO REACH THE MARKET OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO SEVEN YEARS ARE OF GREAT INTEREST TO POLICYMAKERS SINCE THEY GIVE SOME INDICATION OF THE TYPES OF POLICY ISSUES THAT WILL CONFRONT THEM.

1) WHAT ARE LIKELY TO BE THE FIRST PRODUCTS TO MARKET? IF THE PRODUCT IS LOCAL, WHICH FIRM DEVELOPED IT? WAS THE RESEARCH GOVERNMENT FUNDED?

2) EU AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY SEEMS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON PLANTS. DO EXAMPLES EXIST OF TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS OR VETERIRY BIOPHARMACEUTICALS, OTHER THAN THE UNITED KINGDOM'S PPL THERAPEUTICS OR THE NETHERLANDS' GENE PHARMING EUROPE?

3) WHAT ARE THE PROJECTED MARKETS, PARTICULARLY IN THE EU, FOR AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS ALREADY BEING DEVELOPED?

4) WHAT ARE THE LEADING GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES, INCLUDING THEIR RESEARCH CONCENTRATION?

7. PLEASE CITE C-TT5-00161 IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF

REPORTING IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS. CHRISTOPHER
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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2015
2016-0529-M (1.36)

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ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8576
INFO: RUEHLOE/AMCONSUL EDINBURGH 6215
RUEHLOB/AMCONSUL BELFAST 6888
SUBJ: UK INTEREST IN AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY (C-TT5-00161)

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 LONDON 006814

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, AINF, KSCA, PINR, UK
SUBJECT: UK INTEREST IN AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY (C-TT5-00161)

REF: A) STATE 54634, B) LONDON 4356, C) LONDON 6551

1. (~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ NOFORN - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. POST CONTINUES TO EXPLORE ISSUES RAISED BY REF THROUGH LOCAL CONTACTS AND WILL UPDATE DEPARTMENT AS NECESSARY. THIS MESSAGE IS A SUMMARY6OF POST'S INFORMATION TO DATE. RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO REFTEL A'S FORMAT.

A. FUNDING

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1). IT IS DIFFICULT TO CALCULATE THE AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS WHICH INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES RECEIVE DUE TO THE FUNDING SCHEMES WHICH ARE PREVALENT IN THE UK. THE THREE CHIEF MECHANISMS FOR UK GOVERNMENT FUNDING ARE THE BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH COUNCIL (BBSRC), THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, AND FOOD (MAFF), AND THE UNVERSITIES FUNDING COUNCIL (UFC). MOST FIRMS INVOLVED IN BIOTECHNOLOGY ENGAGE IN COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH EFFORTS WITH UNIVERSITIES AND GOVERNMENT RESEARCH COUNCILS SUCH AS THE BBSRC AND THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (MRC). AS PART OF ITS EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT THE OUTCOMES OF THE TECHNOLOGY FORESIGHT PROGRAM, THE UK GOVERNMENT HAS RENEWED ITS EMPHASIS ON COLLABORATIVE R AND D PROJECTS BETWEEN INDUSTRY, ACADEMIA, AND THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH PROGRAMS SUCH AS LINK. (THE TECHNOLOGY FORESIGHT PROGRAM IS A STUDY WHICH WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE UK GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE PAPER, "REALISING OUR POTENTIAL", TO RECOMMEND WAYS IN WHICH THE UK COULD PROMOTE INDUSTRIALLY RELEVANT RESEARCH. THE LINK PROGRAM IS ONE OF TWO MECHANISMS, ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), WHICH WILL BE USED TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TECHNOLOGY FORESIGHT EXERCISE.) IN ITS 1995-96 SCIENCE BUDGET, THE GOVERNMENT ALLOCATED BPS 161.6 MILLION TO THE BBSRC, BPS 277.8 MILLION TO THE MRC, AND BPS 3 MILLION TO THE LINK PROGRAM. (THE CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE IS APPROXIMATELY USD 1.60 EQUALS BPS ONE POUND.) THE SCIENCE BUDGET ALSO IDENTIFIED SIX "STRATEGIC" AREAS FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT, INCLUDING GENOME SDUDIES, IMMUNOLOGY, BIOPROCESSING INFORMATION, AND WEALTH-CREATION FROM PLANTS, WHICH THE SCIENCE UDGET DEFINES AS "MANIPULATING THE METABOLIC PATHWAYS WITHIN PLANTS TO PRODUCE A RANGE OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS SUCH AS FINE CHEMICALS, POLYMERS, VACCINES, BIOPHARMACEUTICALS, DESIGNER OILS, AND MODIFIED STARCHES.

2 AND 3). THE BBSRC SUPPORTS MUCH OF THE AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH IN THE UK THROUGH SPECIAL INITIATIVES, DICTED PROGRAMS, AND ITS RESEARCH INSTITUTES. SPECIAL INITIATIVES WHICH THE BBSRC FUNDED IN 1994 INCLUDED BIOLOGY OF SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES, THE PIG (PORCINE) SCIENCE PROGRAM, PLANT AND ANIMAL GENOME ANALYSIS, AND STEM CELL MOLECULAR BIOLOGY. DIRECTED PROGRAMS PROMOTE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE SCIENCE BASE (NON-INDUSTRY RESEARCHERS AND SCIENTISTS) AND INDUSTRY AND ARE ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS IRECTORATE AND THE FOOD DIRECTORATE OF THE BBSRC. THE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS DIRECTORATE AWARDS GRANTS TO UNVERSITIES FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: CROP AND LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT, CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, CROP PROTECTION, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE, AND AGRICULTURE/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTIONS. THE FOOD DIRECTORATE SOLICITS RESEARCH PROPOSALS FROM UNIVERSITIES WISHING TO COLLABORATE WITH INDUSTRY FOR STRATEGIC RESEARCH INTO THE AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE INDUSTRIES WHICH RELATE TO THE QUALITY OF FOOD AND RAW MATERIALS. BBSRC SPONSORED INSTITUTES INCLUDE THE JOHN INNES CENTRE, THE ROSLIN INSTITUTE, THE INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL HEALTH, AND THE BABRAHAM INSTITUTE. IN ADDITION, THE INSTITUTE OF ARABLE CROPS

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RESEARCH RECEIVS 38 PERCENT OF ITS FUNDING FROM BBSRC, 25.5 PERCENT FROM MAFF, AND 36.5 PERCENT FROM INDUSTRY AND GRANTS.

4). THE BULK OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY FUNDS ARE ALLOCATED THROUGH THE BRITISH RESEARCH COUNCILS (PRINCIPALLY, THE BBSRC). THE 1995-96 BRITISH SCIENCE BUDGET REPRESENTS A SLIGHT INCREASE OVER THE 1994 BUDGET
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FORECAST. THOUGH THE CURRENT BUDGET INCLUDES MANY INITIATIVES AIMED AT BIOTECHNOLOGICAL R AND D AND AT IMPROVING TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, IN REAL TERMS, UK GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON RESEARCH HAS DECLINED EVERY YEAR SINCE 1989.

5). US FIRMS MAY PARTICIPATE IN COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH EFFORTS IN THE UK AND MAY APPLY FOR GRANTS FOR RESEARCH PERFORMED IN THE UK. (RECENTLY, TWO US FIRMS, BIOGEN, AND CYTEL, INC., HAVE SPONSORED PROJECTS AT THE MRC.)

6). THE BBSRC PROVIDES THE BULK OF FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY. OTHER FUNDING SOURCES ARE THE UFC, MAFF, THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (OST), AND THE DTI.

7). THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS NO STATED BIOTECHNOLOGICAL "PLAN". HOWEVER, IT HAS INITIATED CONCERTED EFFORTS (I.E. TECHNOLOGY FORESIGHT, LINK, THE WHITE PAPER, "REALISING OUR POTENTIAL", AND THE DTI'S INITIATIVE, "BIOTECHNOLOGY MEANS BUSINESS") TO PROMOTE BASIC R AND D AND TO IMPROVE BRITISH GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. DUE TO THE EXCELLENCE OF BIOTECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN BRITAIN, AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY IS ONE AREA IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THE UK HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE A WORLD LEADER.

8). THE TECHNOLOGY FORESIGHT PROGRAM IDENTIFIED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AS ESSENTIAL TO BRITISH GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS. HROUGH PROGRAMS SUCH AS LINK, WHICH PROMOTES COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH EFFORTS BETWEEN INDUSTRY, ACADEMIA, AND THE PUBLIC

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SECTOR; THE "REALISING OUR POTENTIAL" AWARD SCHEME, WICH AIMS TO ENHANCE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE UK SCIENCE BASE AND INDUSTRY BY GRANTING AWARDS TO SCIENTISTS INVOLVED IN INDUSTRIALLY RELEVANT RESEARCH; AND THE INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE, THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO SPEED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. IN ADDITION, THE BBSRC AWARDS GRANTS TO PROJECTS WHICH EMPHASIZE RESEARCH THAT CORRESPONDS WITH INDUSTRY NEEDS. THERE IS A GENERAL TREND IN THE UK TOWARDS "NEEDS PULL" RESEARCH (BASED ON INDUSTRY DEMANDS) RATHER THAN "SCIENCE PUSH" RESEARCH (RESEARCH FOR RESEARCH'S SAKE). THE TECHNOLOGY FORESIGHT PROGRAM IS PUBLISHING A SERIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WILL ADDRESS, AMONG OTHER TOPICS, THE ISSUE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

B. PATENTS AND REGULATIONS

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1). PATENT REGULATIONS ARE INTERPRETED SO THAT IF CLAIMS ARE DIRECTED TO TAXONOMIC GROUPS OF PLANTS OR ANIMALS WHICH ARE LARGER THAN PLANT OR ANIMAL VARIETIES, THEN THE CLAIM MAY BE ACCEPTABLE PROVIDED IT IS APPARENT FROM THE DESCRIPTION THAT THE INVENTION IS APPLICABLE TO THIS LARGER GROUP. THERE IS A DESIRE IN THE UK TO MOVE PATENTING AWAY FROM MORAL AND ETHICAL QUESTIONS WHICH, TO DATE, SEEM TO PLAGUE EUROPEAN DISCUSSIONS ON PATENTABILITY.(REFTEL B) ACCORDING TO RON JAMES, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BRITAIN'S PPL THERAPEUTICS, "IN EUROPE, ETHICAL AND ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES HAVE WRONGLY DOMINATED THE DEBATE ON WHAT SHOULD BE PATENTABLE."

2). PATENT POLICIES IN THE UK ARE GENERALLY SIMILAR TO THOSE IN THE US, HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME KEY DIFFERENCES. THE FIRST IS THAT IN THE UK PATENTS ARE GRANTED TO THE FIRST TO FILE AS OPPOSED TO THE FIRST-TO-INVENT RULE USED IN THE US. A SECOND DIFFERENCE IS THE AUTOMATIC PUBLICATION OF PATENT DETAILS IN 18 MONTHS. BRITISH BIOTECH FIRMS HAVE INDICATED THAT THESE ARE TWO COMPONENTS OF THE BRITISH SYSTEM WHICH THEY FIND PREFERABLE TO THE US SYSTEM. IN A SURVEY BY ARTHUR ANDERSON, FIRMS INDICATED DISSATISFACTION WITH THE HIGH COST (BOTH IN-HOUSE AND FOR EXTERNAL ADVISORS), THE AMOUNT OF TIME IT TAKES FOR CLAIMS TO BE PROCESSED, AND THE GENERAL COMPLEXITY OF THE BRITISH PATENT PROCESS. ADDITIONALLY, THEY INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO HAVE A GRACE PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS FOR PRIOR UBLICATION, AS IS THE CASE UNDER US PATENT LAW.

3). THE REJECTION OF THE EU BIOTECHNOLOGY PATENT DIRECTIVE WAS NOT CONSIDERED A MAJOR BLOW BY THE BRITISH BIOTECH

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INDUSTRY, WHICH BELIEVES THAT UK PATENT LAW PROVIDES FOR GREATER PROTECTION THAN THE PROPOSED DIRECTIVE WOULD HAVE. THAT BEING SAID, HOWEVER, THERE IS A DESIRE TO HAVE HARMONIZED POLICIES THROUGHOUT EUROPE. RON JAMES, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF PPL THERAPEUTICS ADDED THAT "UK BIOPHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES HAVE FOR FAR TOO LONG HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO LIVE WITH THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE CAN OBTAIN SENSIBLE PATENT COVER IN EUROPE FOR PATENT APPLICATIONS WE HAVE MADE .... IF OUR BUILT-IN ASSUMPTION TURNS OUT TO HAVE BEEN WRONG THERE WILL BE A MAJOR HICCUP." THE BRITISH BIOTECH INDUSTRY HAS EXPRESSED A GENERAL MISTRUST OF EUROPEAN PATENT PROTECTION. THIS IS PARTLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT A "EUROPEAN PATENT" CAN BE OVERRIDDEN AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL (AND VICE VERSA) AND PARTLY BECAUSE THE BIOTECH INDUSTRY IS DEVELOPING AT SUCH A FAST PACE. SOME BRITISH BIOTECH EXECUTIVES FEEL THAT THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE HAS BEEN GRANTING PATENTS FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) THAT ARE TOO BROAD.

C. REGULATORY POLICY

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1). UK REGULATIONS REQUIRE LOCAL WRITTEN CONSENT FOR ALL GMO WORK AND NOTIFICATION TO THE GOVERNMENT HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE. THE UK TENDS TO FALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SPECTRUM WITH REGARD TO INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EU DIRECTIVES ON REGULATION. THE VIEW HERE IS THAT GERMANY AND DENMARK TAKE A STRICTER STANCE, WHILE FRANCE AND BELGIUM HAVE LESS STRINGENT POLICIES. THERE ARE NOT SIGNIFICANT REGULATORY OBSTACLES TO US FIRMS TRYING TO OBTAIN FIELD TRIAL APPROVALS IN THE UK.

2.) UK REGULATIONS DO NOT POSE NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO US FIRMS. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT MANY UK FIRMS TEND TO FEEL THAT US REGULATIONS ARE MORE TRANSPARENT AND STREAMLINED. THERE IS A FEAR AMONG SOME THAT THIS FACTOR, REAL OR PERCEIVED, WILL LEAD TO INCREASING NUMBERS OF BRITISH FIRMS CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN THE US. IN THE UK, ASSESSSMENTS ARE HORIZONTAL (PROCESS-BASED), WHICH DOESN'T ALLOW FOR THE "FAST-TRACKING" THAT THE US SYSTEM OF VERTICAL (PRODUCT-BASED) ASSESSMENT DOES. BRITISH BIOTECH FIRMS HAVE XPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR VERTICAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS.

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3). THERE IS AN ACTIVE AND INFLUENTIAL ANIMAL RIGHTS LOBBY IN THE UK. AT THIS TIME, MOST AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH FOCUSES ON PLANTS. (THE ONLY NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS TO THIS IN THE UK ARE PPL THERAPEUTICS AND THE BBSRC.) WITHOUT A CHANGE IN PUBLIC PERCEPTION, THERE IS LITTLE INCENTIVE FOR THE UK GOVERNMNET TO AGGRESSIVELY PROMOTE BIOTECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH INVOLVING ANIMALS. THE EUROPEAN MEDICAL EVALUATION AGENCY, ESTABLISHED IN LONDON EARLIER THIS YEAR, HAS THE AUTHORITY TO LICENSE AND REGULATE MEDICINES FOR HUMAN AND VETERINARY USE. NEW REGULATIONS CALL FOR THE LICENSING AND REGULATION OF ANY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS DEVELOPED BY THE FOLLOWING BIOTECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSES:

- RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNOLOGY;
- CONTROLLED EXPRESSION OF GENES CODING FOR BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE PROTEINS;
- HYBRIDOMA AND MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY METHODS;
- ALL PERFORMANCE ENHANCING VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS (INCLUDING THOSE NOT DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY) WHICH PROMOTE GROWTH OR INCREASE YIELDS.

4). WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S RECENT REJECTION OF THE EU BIOTECHNOLOGY PATENT DIRECTIVE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY AT THIS TIME HOW THE EU POLICY WILL CHANGE IN THE FUTURE. TWO OF THE CHIEF CONCERNS OF THE BRITISH AGRICULTURAL BIOTECH INDUSTRY IN REGARDS TO THE EU DIRECTIVE WERE THE ISSUES OF "FARMER'S PRIVILEGE" AND COMPULSORY CROSS-LICENSING. THESE WILL CONTINUE TO BE AREAS OF INTEREST.

D. TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH EFFORTS

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 04 OF 04 LONDON 006814

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, AINF, KSCA, PINR, UK
SUBJECT: UK INTEREST IN AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY (C-TT5-00161)

1.) A FRENCH FIRM, SEITA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH RHONE-POULENC, HAS RECEIVED EUROPEAN MARKETING APPROVAL FOR TOBACCO PLANTS MODIFIED TO WITHSTAND THE BROMOXYNIL HERBICIDE. ONE OF THE

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FIRST FOOD PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET COULD BE THE AMILOPECTINE POTATO (A MODIFIED STARCH POTATO) FROM THE FIRM AVEBE. COMPANIES SUCH AS VAN DER HAVE, PGS, AND CIBA GEIGY ARE EXPECTED TO COME OUT WITH HERBICIDE RESISTANT PRODUCTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2). IT IS THE OPINION OF MANY IN THE BRITISH BIOTECH INDUSTRY THAT THE PRODUCTION OF TRANSGENIC ANIMALS IN EUROPE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE FOCUSED ON IMPROVING FOOD AND FIBER ALUE OF AGRICULTURAL ANIMALS FOR SOME YEARS BECAUSE OF ANIMAL RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURE GROUPS.

3). MOST OPINION POLLS SUGGEST THAT THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC IS LESS RECEPTIVE TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS AND ANIMALS (FOR FOOD) THAN TO BIOPHARMACEUTICALS. HOWEVER, CROP PROTECTION AND CROP ENHANCEMENT ARE TWO PROMISING MARKETS. THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO PEST-RESISTANT CROPS ON THE MARKET, THOUGH THERE ARE SEVERAL IN THE PIPELINE.

4). BBSRC IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH FUNDING. BBSRC-FUNDED RESEARCH IS COVERED IN QUESTIONS 2 AND 3 OF SECTION "A".

COMMENTS:

TECHNOLOGY FORESIGHT

THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED TECHNOLOGY FORESIGHT REPORT ON AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT (REFTEL C) IDENTIFIES AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY AS ONE OF THREE KEY AREAS RECOMMENDED FOR EXTRA INVESTMENT IN "ANIMAL, MICROBIAL, AND PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY AND COGNATE SCIENCES TO UNDERPIN NEW PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES IN A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, E.G. AQUACULTURE AND PHARMACEUTICALS.

APPROVAL OF FOODS FROM GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS

UK GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN FORMAL SAFETY APPROVAL FOR THREE FOODS DERIVED FROM GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS. THESE INCLUDE TOMATO PASTE FROM ZENECA, UK, RAPESEED OIL FROM PLANT GENETIC SYSTEMS OF BELGIUM, AND SOYA BEAN EXTRACT FROM MONSANTO, A U.S. COMPANY.
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY BERN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8992
INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
SUBJ: SWISS POLICY ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY (C-TT5-00161)

TEXT:

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: AINF, KPRP, PINR, SZ
SUBJECT: SWISS POLICY ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY (C-TT5-00161)

REF: STATE 54634

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE QUESTIONS IN REFTEL WERE DIRECTED TOWARDS EU POLICIES AND PRACTICES, SWISS COMPANIES HAVE ACTIVE PROGRAMS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH, AND THE SWISS GOVERNMENT HAS A MUCH MORE OPEN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT, AND MARKETING, OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS. INDEED, NONE OF THE EU RESTRICTIONS IDENTIFIED IN REFTEL EXIST HERE.

3. WE MET WITH SANDOZ, THE FREDRICH MIESCHER INSTITUTE, THE SWISS HEALTH MINISTRY, AND THE SWISS PATENT OFFICE TO OBTAIN ANSWERS TO REFTEL QUESTIONS. WE ALSO ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT CIBA SEEDS, BUT WERE TOLD THAT THEY HAVE MOVED ALL THEIR OPERATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES. ANSWERS BELOW ARE KEYED TO REFTEL.

A. FUNDING

THE SWISS GOVERNMENT PROVIDES FUNDING, FROM THE SCIENCE MINISTRY BUDGET, FOR AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH (ABR). THE MAIN VEHICLE IS THE GOS 'SCHWERPUNKT' (FOCUS) PROGRAM, WHICH TARGETS PROMISING RESEARCH SECTORS; BIOTECHNOLOGY ("THE BIOTECHNOLOGY OF HIGHER PLANTS") IS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT 'MODULES' IN THE SCHWERPUNKT PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, WHICH ALSO ESTABLISHES RESEARCH

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PRIORITIES. CUMULATIVE SPENDING ON BIOTECHNOLOGY UNDER THIS PROGRAM, ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY ESTIMATES, WAS SFR 37 MILLION BY THE END OF 1994. ACCORDING TO THE FREDERICH MIESCHER INSTITUTE (FMI), ONLY ABOUT ONE-QUARTER OF THE BIOTECH MONEY GOES TO ABR. RECIPIENTS OF THE FUNDS TEND TO BE ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS -- 35 PCT OF THE SFR 37 MILLION WENT TO UNIVERSITIES, 49 PCT TO ETH (SWITZERLAND'S PREMIER RESEARCH/ACADEMIC CENTER), 2 PCT TO ENGINEERING SCHOOLS, 4 PCT TO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS, AND LO PCT TO PRIVATE FIRMS. ETH RECEIVES THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF ABR FUNDS (UP TO 50 PCT) OF ANY SINGLE SWISS INSTITUTION. SWITZERLAND'S LARGEST CHEMICAL COMPANIES (INCLUDING CIBA AND SANDOZ) DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM -- AS A MATTER OF POLICY, THEY DO NOT WANT GOVERNMENT MONEY FOR PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT. FOR THE PERIOD 1996-99, BIOTECH RESEARCH IS SLATED TO RECEIVE SFR 14 MILLION FROM THE SCHWERPUNKT PROGRAM.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ABR COMES FROM A PROGRAM KNOWN AS KFWF (CREDITS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH). THIS FUND ONLY SUPPORTS JOINT INDUSTRY/ACADEMIC PROJECTS, WITH ALL THE MONEY GOING TO THE UNIVERSITY. AT THE END OF 1992 THERE WERE ONLY 8 PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, WITH GOVERNMENT SPENDING VALUED AT SFR 1.9 MILLION AND INDUSTRY SPENDING AT SFR 3.2 MILLION.

SWITZERLAND ALSO PARTICIPATES ON A LIMITED BASIS IN THE EUROPEAN 'EUREKA' PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH OUR SOURCES DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY SWISS MONEY HAD GONE FOR ABR. THE SWISS GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING FOR A PLACE IN THE EU'S FRAMEWORK PROGRAM ON RESEARCH AND WILL CONTRIBUTE HEAVILY TO THAT PROGRAM, BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL IF THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (EXTENSION) SERVICES, THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF DOES NOT CARRY OUT ABR. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS CARRY OUT APPLIED RESEARCH, BUT THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE BEING CUT BACK IN FAVOR OF OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS.

A5. U.S. FIRMS HAVE THE SAME ACCESS TO ABR FUNDS AS SWISS FIRMS AND INSTITUTIONS.

A7. THERE IS NO OVERALL GOS BIOTECHNOLOGY PLAN. OTHER THAN GIVING THE SECTOR PRIORITY AS A MODULE WITHIN THE SCHWERPUNKT PROGRAM, INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS ARE REVIEWED AND APPROVED ON THEIR SPECIFIC MERITS.

A8. BECAUSE OF THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS (PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE KFWF PROGRAM), COMMERCIALIZATION IS NOT A PROBLEM. ONE SOURCE REPORTED, HOWEVER, THAT SWISS RESEARCHERS ARE FAR BEHIND THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS WHEN IT COMES TO SEEKING PATENT PROTECTION FOR
THE FRUITS OF THEIR
RESEARCH.

B. PATENTS

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SWISS PATENT LAW IS IDENTICAL TO MUNICH (THE EUROPEAN PATENT CONVENTION). WHILE, IN THEORY, THE GOS MIGHT PATENT SOMETHING LIKE THE ONCO MOUSE (SINCE THE LAW LEAVES ROOM FOR INTERPRETATION), IN PRACTICE THE GOS WOULD NOT PATENT A CONTROVERSIAL PRODUCT UNTIL A DECISION WAS TAKEN IN MUNICH. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE GOS FOLLOWS THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW WHEN IT COMES TO PATENT ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 BERN 003433

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: AINF, KPRP, PINR, SZ
SUBJECT: SWISS POLICY ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY (C-TT5-00161)

LAW IMPLEMENTATION; THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE LAW IS NOT AS BROAD AS U.S. LEGISLATION IN PROMOTING PATENTABILITY IN THE BIOTECH FIELD.

C. REGULATORY POLICY

ALL OUR SOURCES AGREE THAT GOS REGULATORY POLICY IS SUPPORTIVE OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY. FIELD TRIALS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN APPROVED FOR A GENETICALLY MODIFIED VACCINE TO CONTROL RABIES IN FOXES; THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON SALES OF PRODUCTS FROM ANIMALS WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN GROWTH HORMONES OR BST (PROVIDED THERE IS NO RESIDUE); AND HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIALS TOLD US THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM OBTAINING MARKETING APPROVAL FOR ITEMS LIKE THE FLAVOR-SAVOR TOMATO. THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THIS LAISSEZ FAIRE POLICY IS A LABELING REQUIREMENT FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS. BUT EVEN THIS REQUIREMENT ONLY APPLIES TO FINAL PRODUCTS, BUT ADDITIVES WHICH LEAVE NO RESIDUE.

THERE IS NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST U.S. PRODUCTS. INDEED, SWISS FIRMS CONDUCT MOST OF THEIR ABR IN THE UNITED STATES (THROUGH SUBSIDIARIES OR ACQUISITIONS) AND HAVE ENCOURAGED THE GOS TO MAINTAIN OPEN BORDERS FOR BIOTECH PRODUCTS.

REGARDING FIELD TRIAL REGULATIONS, THE LAW IS SILENT ON THE QUESTION OF TRANSGENIC ORGANISMS. THEREFORE, SUCH TRIALS ARE NOT PROHIBITED. ONE MUST FOLLOW NORMAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS, HOWEVER. BECAUSE THERE IS NO SEED RESEARCH IN SWITZERLAND, THE QUESTION OF FIELD TRIALS HASN'T ARISEN. SWISS COMPANIES TEND TO DO THEIR SEED TRIALS IN THE U.S., HOLLAND, OR FRANCE. WE CAN PROVIDE COPIES (IN GERMAN OR FRENCH) OF SWISS FIELD TRIAL REGULATIONS, IF THESE WOULD BE HELPFUL.

C5. ACCORDING TO THE INDUSTRY, SWISS LAW IS LESS RESTRICTIVE THAN THE UNITED STATES.

COMMENT: THE OUTLOOK FOR GOS REGULATORY POLICY IS CLOUDED BY A VOTER INITIATIVE (SPEARHEADED BY GREENS AND OTHER LEFT-WING GROUPS) THAT WOULD SEVERELY RESTRICT BIOTECH ACTIVITY IN SWITZERLAND. THE PROPOSED LAW WOULD PROHIBIT THE PRODUCTION OR SALE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ANIMALS;

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PROHIBIT FIELD RESEARCH; AND DENY PATENTABILITY FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS AND PARTS, AS WELL AS PROCESSES. THE GOS OPPOSES THE INITIATIVE BUT MUST SCHEDULE A NATIONAL REFERENDUM BEFORE THE END OF 1996.

C6. WITH RESPECT TO ANIMAL RESEARCH, THE SECTOR IS THE MOST HIGHLY REGULATED OF ANY BIOTECH FIELD. THE LAW REQUIRES THAT THE RESEARCH NOT HURT THE DIGNITY OF THE ANIMAL, WHICH HAS MEANT, INTER ALIA, THAT RABBITS CAN'T BE KEPT IN CAGES. OUR INDUSTRY SOURCES CONSIDER BIOTECH RESEARCH INVOLVING ANIMALS TO HAVE LITTLE FUTURE IN SWITZERLAND. WE CAN PROVIDE THE REGULATIONS IN FRENCH OR GERMAN, IF DESIRED.

D. TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH EFFORTS

THE MOST OFTEN-MENTIONED PRODUCTS ARE PHARMACEUTICALS (DIAGNOSTICS) WHICH COME FORM TRANSGENIC ORGANISMS, AND VIRUS AND HERBICIDE RESISTANT VEGETABLES, ESPECIALLY CORN, SOYA, AND SUGAR BEETS. SANDOZ ALSO MENTIONED SOME OF THE OBVIOUS ONES -- GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS, MILK, TOMATOES, SOYBEANS, AS WELL AS CORN AND OTHER OILSEEDS.
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BT
#3433

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 3433
<^SSN>3433

TOR: 950724121030 M1778115
<^TOR>950724121141 M1778117

DIST:
SIT: GARDNER NSC VERSHBOW
□

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA0978 2971433-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 241433Z OCT 95
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 241433Z OCT 95
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHXQ/ALLEU COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: COMMISSIONER GRADIN'S CABINET DENIES HOLDING UP APPROVAL OF GMO PRODUCT AND NEWS REGARDING THE ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN APPROVAL

REFERENCES: (A) STOCKHOLM 6371 (B) USEU BRUSSELS 7555

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 010978

SENSITIVE
OSEC FOR DRAZEK, TO FAS FOR ITP/SCHROETER/ROBERTS AND C&MP/RUDD, TO APHIS FOR MEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY AND KASKA
STATE PASS HHS/FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM
STATE PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI
BONN PASS ATO HAMBURG
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE/THORN
EC POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
MILAN FOR AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: COMMISSIONER GRADIN'S CABINET DENIES HOLDING UP APPROVAL OF GMO PRODUCT AND NEWS REGARDING THE ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN APPROVAL

REFERENCES: (A) STOCKHOLM 6371 (B) USEU BRUSSELS 7555

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

2. CHRISTER ASP (PROTECT), THE CHEF DE CABINET FOR COMMISSIONER ANITA GRADIN, ON 23 OCTOBER DENIED TO DCM THE ASSERTION IN THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE REPORTED REF A THAT COMMISSIONER GRADIN IS DELAYING APPROVAL OF PLANT GENETIC SYSTEMS' (PGS) OILSEED RAPE. ASP INDICATED THAT GRADIN WAS BEING USED BY ENVIRONMENT COMMISSIONER

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BJERREGAARD AS A PATSY TO COVER UP BJERREGAARD'S EFFORTS TO HALT APPROVAL.

3. ASP REPORTED THAT COMMISSIONER GRADIN WAS PRESENTED WITH THE PROPOSAL TO APPROVE THE PGS OILSEED RAPE IN JULY UNDER A WRITTEN PROCEDURE. HE SAID THAT GRADIN ASKED COMMISSION SECRETARY-GENERAL DAVID WILLIAMSON IF SHE COULD PASS THE PROPOSAL WITH A STATEMENT IN THE PROTOCOL EXPRESSING HER PREFERENCE FOR INFORMING CONSUMERS OF THE PRESENCE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. WILLIAMSON REPORTEDLY AGREED TO NOTE HER CONCERN.

4. IT WAS IN MID-SEPTEMBER, ASP SAID, THAT GRADIN'S CABINET HEARD THAT THE APPROVAL WAS BLOCKED AND THAT THE BLAME WAS BEING ATTRIBUTED TO GRADIN. ALTHOUGH COMMISSIONER BJERREGAARD HAD PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED THE OILSEED RAPE, ASP SAID SHE APPARENTLY USED THE STATEMENT FROM COMMISSIONER GRADIN AS AN EXCUSE TO STOP APPROVAL. ASP SAID THAT DAVID WILLIAMSON TOLD HIM TEN DAYS AGO THAT THE STATEMENT IN THE PROTOCOL WAS SETTLED AND THE OILSEED RAPE SHOULD BE APPROVED. BUT ASP SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF BJERREGAARD WAS STILL HOLDING UP APPROVAL. ASP EMPHASIZED THAT COMMISSIONER GRADIN HAD NO WISH TO HALT APPROVAL OF THE PGS OILSEED RAPE OR ANY OTHER PRODUCT, SHE SIMPLY WANTED TO NOTE HER CONCERNS ABOUT A CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO BE INFORMED.

5. ONE OF OUR COMMISSION CONTACTS REPORTS THAT COMMISSIONER BJERREGAARD WANTS TO AMEND THE PGS APPROVAL TO REQUIRE LABELING WHICH WOULD DECLARE THAT THE PRODUCT WAS GENETICALLY MODIFIED. THE CONTACT CLAIMS THAT DAVID WILLIAMSON IS UPSET WITH BJERREGAARD SINCE SHE SIGNED OFF ON THE APPROVAL BEFORE IT WENT TO THE OTHER COMMISSIONERS; IT IS BAD FORM FOR HER TO SEEK CHANGES NOW.

6. FINALLY, REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN, WE HEAR THAT THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN CLEARED BY THE DIRECTORATE-GENERALS CONCERNED. DG XI (ENVIRONMENT) SHOULD FORWARD THE PROPOSAL TO COMMISSIONER BJERREGAARD THIS WEEK. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AND REPORT.

(DRAFTED:FAS:SGNENON; CLEARED:FAS:GPOPE, ECON:BHARMAN; APPROVED:DCM:EAWAYNE) EIZENSTAT
BT
#0978

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 0978
TOR: 951024122725 M1917054

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [U.S. Genetically Modified Soybeans; U.S. Hormone-Treated Beef] (4 pages)	03/04/1996	P1/b(1)
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: Genetically Modified Foods: U/S Wirth Should Raise Roundup~~ Ready Soybean With Sweden's Minister of Environment During Her Call (2 pages)	~~04/23/1996~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2019
~~003. cable~~	~~Re: Anti-GMO Activities Expected with Arrival of U.S. Soybeans in~~ Germany (3 pages)	~~09/03/1996~~	~~R1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2019
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: [Protest Against GMO's] (2 pages)~~	~~09/27/1996~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
005. cable	Re: [European Commission Decision on Genetically Modified Products] (6 pages)	12/13/1996	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1995 - Dec 1996 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 510000

FOLDER TITLE:
[03/04/1996 - 12/13/1996]

2013-0836-F
ke3003

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6620
INFO: RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 1250
SUBJ: GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS: U/S WIRTH SHOULD RAISE ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN WITH SWEDEN'S MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT DURING HER CALL

TEXT:

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 001969

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR G; OES/ENV -- RABADAN; EB/TPP/ATT; AND EUR/NB

COPENHAGEN FOR REGIONAL EST COUNSELOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, SENV, ETRD, SW
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS: U/S WIRTH SHOULD RAISE ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN WITH SWEDEN'S MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT DURING HER CALL

REF: A) STOCKHOLM - OES FAX APRIL 22
B) OES - STOCKHOLM TELECON APRIL 19
C) STOCKHOLM 01833
D) STOCKHOLM 01743
E) STOCKHOLM 01395
F) STOCKHOLM 01322 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) ACTION SUGGESTED -- PARAGRAPHS TWO AND SIX.

2. (SBU) EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT UNDER SECRETARY WIRTH ASK SWEDEN'S MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT ANNA LINDH ABOUT GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) DURING HER APRIL 29 CALL ON HIM TO SEEK MINISTER LINDH'S THOUGHTS ON GMOS IN GENERAL AND EUROPEAN UNION LICENSING OF U.S.-CREATED GMOS FOR IMPORT INTO THE EU IN PARTICULAR.

3. (U) SWEDEN VOTED AGAINST THE ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN (RRS) IN THE MARCH EU COMMISSION DECISINn TO PERMIT IMPORTS OF RRS AND VOTED AGAINST BT CORN IN APRIL. (REFS C - F.)

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4. (SBU) U/S WIRTH SHOULD BE AWARE OF MINISTER LINDH'S OWN ROLE IN SWEDEN'S VOTE AGAINST ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN. ACCORDING TO A SENIOR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS / TRADE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, MINISTER LINDH CONVINCED MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MARGARETA WINBERG, IN THE DAYS JUST BEFORE EU MEMBERS' VOTES WERE DUE IN BRUSSELS, TO VOTE AGAINST THE ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN'S ASSURANCES TO THIS EMBASSY SINCE LATE 1995 THAT SWEDEN WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF RRS. MINISTER LINDH ALLEGEDLY BASED HER POSITION ON THE LANGUAGE OF PARAGRAPH THREE OF THE DRAFT DECISION ON RRS, WHICH SHE FOUND UNCLEAR. EMBASSY HAS SINCE LEARNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN TRIED TO REVERSE ITS VOTE NOT ON THE MERITS OF THE ISSUE BUT BASED ON MFA'S ASSURANCES TO THIS EMBASSY THAT SWEDEN WOULD VOTE "YES." EMBASSY HAS NOT/NOT YET DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH MINISTER LINDH DIRECTLY.

5. (SBU) ACTION SUGGESTED: THAT UNDER SECRETARY WIRTH REFER TO THE ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN VOTE TO SEEK MINISTER LINDH'S READOUT ON SWEDISH VIEWS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOLLOW IN PARAGRAPH SEVEN.

6. (SBU) SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:

-- WHY DID SWEDEN VOTE AGAINST THE ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN AND BT CORN IN THE RECENT EU COMMISSION DECISIONS?

-- WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDENS POSITION ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS?

-- WHAT POLITICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ISSUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT IN DECIDING THIS POSITION?

END SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS.

SIEBERT
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#1969

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 1969
TOR: 960423092144 M2193693
DIST:
SIT: NSC

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ORIG: AMEMBASSY BONN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3270
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4523
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG 0528
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: ANTI-GMO ACTIVITIES EXPECTED WITH ARRIVAL OF U.S.
TEXT:

UNCLAS BONN 013228

SENSITIVE

STATE PASS USTR FOR LANG AND MURPHY

PASS USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK; FAS/ITP/SCHROETER,
WEIA/CHESLEY & OFSTS/HARBERT; FAA/NE/LETARTE;
CMP/O&P/RUDD & COHEN

EU POSTS PASS AGRICULTURE

HAMBURG FOR ATO

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE/ROBERTS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, GM
SUBJ: ANTI-GMO ACTIVITIES EXPECTED WITH ARRIVAL OF U.S.
SOYBEANS IN GERMANY

REF: A) BONN 5570 B) BONN 9243

1. THE IMPENDING IMPORTATION OF 1996 CROP U.S. SOYBEANS CONTAINING SOME OF THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS (RRS) CONTINUES TO GENERATE A CONSIDERABLE LEVEL OF CONCERN AMONG GERMAN IMPORTERS, CRUSHERS, PROCESSORS AND THE RETAIL FOOD TRADE. (THE FIRST SHIPMENTS WITH THE 1996 CROP ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER.) THIS CONCERN HAS NOW BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY EXACERBATED BY SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAT GREENPEACE, AND POSSIBLY OTHER CONSUMER/ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, WILL CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES TO PROTEST THE IMPORTATION BECAUSE RRS ARE GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO). THESE ACTIVITIES PRESUMABLY ARE BEING DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE THE GREATEST POSSIBLE MEDIA ATTENTION AND HAVE THE MAXIMUM IMPACT IN

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AROUSING GERMAN CONSUMERS ABOUT THE ISSUE.

2. ON AUGUST 27 IN HAMBURG CEO STEVE CENSKY AND OTHER VISITING LEADERS OF THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION MET WITH A HIGH-LEVEL EXECUTIVE AT UNILEVER GERMANY, THE LARGEST GERMAN FOOD PROCESSING COMPANY, WHO EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION. THE EXECUTIVE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH FOR NOW UNILEVER IS PLANNING TO USE SOYBEAN OIL FROM THE 1996-CROP U.S. SOYBEANS, HE IS KEEPING "ALL OPTIONS OPEN" AS THE SITUATION PROCEEDS INTO THE FALL. MOST NOTABLY, THE UNILEVER EXECUTIVE SAID HE HAS INFORMATION THAT GREENPEACE WILL BE ENGAGED AGAINST RRS, AND THAT TWO OF GERMANY'S LARGEST RETAIL FOOD CHAINS WILL BE ASKING THEIR SUPPLIERS TO PROVIDE ONLY "GMO-FREE" PRODUCTS.

3. IN A LETTER DATED AUGUST 29, 1996, THE GREENPEACE HAMBURG OFFICE HAS CONTACTED GERMAN FOOD COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATIONS WITH A FOLLOW-UP REQUEST TO ANSWER A PREVIOUS GREENPEACE QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING INTENTIONS TO PROCESS, MARKET AND LABEL "GENETICALLY MANIPULATED" SOYBEANS. (SEE REF A.) THE LETTER STATES THAT GREENPEACE "IS INCREASINGLY GETTING QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC, WHICH STANDS OPPOSED TO THE IMPORTATION OF GENETICALLY MANIPULATED SOYBEANS."

4. THE GREENPEACE LETTER OF AUGUST 29 ENDS WITH THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH. "IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE ANY REACTION FROM YOU BY SEPTEMBER 9, 1996, WE WILL CONCLUDE THAT YOUR COMPANY WILL PROCESS AND DISTRIBUTE GENETICALLY MANIPULATED SOY PRODUCTS. WE WOULD FURTHER ASSUME THAT YOU DO NOT SUPPORT THE LABELING OF PRODUCTS WHICH CONTAIN GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOY."

5. COMMENT. THE INFORMATION ABOUT ANTICIPATED GREENPEACE ACTIVITIES (CORROBORATED BY SOURCES OTHER THAN UNILEVER) AND THE MOST RECENT GREENPEACE LETTER HAVE RAISED THE NERVOUSNESS OF THE GERMAN FOOD INDUSTRY TO NEW HEIGHTS. WORK IS CONTINUING IN THE COMBINED INDUSTRY EFFORT TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION IN GERMANY REGARDING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS AND SPECIFICALLY RRS. SO FAR THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN DESIGNED PRIMARILY FOR THE FOOD TRADE, BUT EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ARE BEING DEVELOPED WHICH WILL TARGET THE INDIVIDUAL CONSUMER AS WELL.

6. THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE SITUATION APPEARS TO BE DELICATE. IF INITIAL EFFORTS BY GREENPEACE AND POSSIBLY OTHERS FIND LITTLE RESONANCE WITH THE MEDIA AND CONSUMERS, THE INDUSTRY WILL LIKELY BE EMBOLDENED TO STICK TOGETHER AND RESIST "ANTI-GMO" PRESSURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF IT APPEARS THAT RRS IMPORTATION IS BEING EFFECTIVELY MADE INTO A HIGH-PROFILE ISSUE WHICH AROUSES AND WORRIES CONSUMERS, GERMAN COMPANIES MAY MOVE INTO SERIOUS DAMAGE CONTROL, E.G., BY SWITCHING FROM SOYBEAN TO RAPESEED OIL AND BY REQUESTING OR PROVIDING DECLARATIONS ABOUT "GMO-FREE" PRODUCTS. BINDENAGEL.

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

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TOR: 960904120423 M2384068
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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By lm NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-M (1.41)

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LINE3: R 271122Z SEP 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 271122Z SEP 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6093
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 9462
SUBJ: AUSTRIAN AGMIN MOLTERER WARNS OF PROTEST AGAINST GMO'S

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ VIENNA 006178

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
USDA FOR FAS/ITP/THORN, O&P/RUDD, DL&P/REDDINGTON
EU POSTS PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: AFTER 9/27/06
TAGS: EAGR, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN AGMIN MOLTERER WARNS OF PROTEST AGAINST GMO'S

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY ALLAN MUSTARD, AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR.
REASON: 1.5(B) AND (D).

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. AUSTRIAN AGMIN MOLTERER WARNED AGCOUN THAT ONE OF AUSTRIA'S LARGEST FOOD RETAIL CHAINS WILL PUBLISH AN OPEN LETTER TO HIM NEXT WEEK CALLING FOR A BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. THIS OPEN LETTER WILL INFLAME THE ALREADY HOT DEBATE OVER GMO'S IN AUSTRIA. MOLTERER CONCEDED THAT OPPOSITION IS BASED NOT ON SCIENCE OR RATIONALITY, BUT RATHER ON EMOTION AND CONSUMER PREFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) AGCOUN PAID INTRODUCTORY CALL ON AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER WILHELM MOLTERER SEPT 27. SEVERAL GENERAL AGRICULTURAL ISSUES RANGING FROM THE U.S. FARM BILL TO AVERAGE SIZE OF AUSTRIAN DAIRY FARMS WERE DISCUSSED. AGMIN MOLTERER EXPRESSED PARTICULAR PLEASURE WITH THE MAY VISIT OF USDA SECRETARY GLICKMAN AND FAS ADMINISTRATOR SCHUMACHER.

4. (SBU) OF ALL THE ISSUES DISCUSSED, MOLTERER WAS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT GMO'S. HE WARNED THAT ONE OF AUSTRIA'S LARGEST SUPERMARKET CHAINS, SPAR (WITH 23 PCT OF MARKET SHARE), WILL PUBLISH AN OPEN LETTER TO HIM NEXT WEEK PROTESTING AND CALLING FOR A BAN ON GMO'S IN FOOD PRODUCTS. HE NOTED THAT THE LARGEST FOOD RETAILER IN AUSTRIA, QBILLA, HAS FORCED ITS SUPPLIERS TO SIGN AGREEMENTS GUARANTEEING THAT NONE OF THEIR PRODUCTS CONTAIN GMO'S. MOLTERER SAID HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED FROM MONSANTO A RESPONSE TO

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THE AS-YET UNPUBLISHED OPEN LETTER, BUT HAD NOT HAD TIME TO READ IT YET.

5. (SBU) MOLTERER SAID THAT UP TO NOW AUSTRIAN FARMERS HAVE NOT BEEN DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY GMO'S AND HORMONES OR BY OTHER CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES LIKE BSE (MAD COW DISEASE) EXCEPT THAT AUSTRIAN FARMERS MUST FACE THEIR IMPACT ON THE DOMESTIC AUSTRIAN MARKET (E.G. BSE-FUELED DECLINING DEMAND FOR BEEF AND THUS LOWER BEEF PRICES, AND CONCERNS ABOUT GMO'S ENTERING THE FOOD SQPLY VIA IMPORTS). THESE ISSUES HAVE, HOWEVER, RAISED THE LEVEL OF CONCERN AMONG AUSTRIAN CONSUMERS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF GENETIC MODIFICATION, HORMONES, AND OTHER UNTRADITIONAL ADVANCES IN PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY ON THEIR HEALTH. HE SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THIS GROWING CONSUMER CONCERN, TRADERS AT THE RETAIL LEVEL ARE THEMSELVES NOW CONCERNED ABOUT CONSUMER REACTION TO POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF GMO'S (AND PERHAPS HORMONES, IF THE U.S. IS SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING THE BAN LIFTED) BY BRUSSELS.

6. ~~(C)~~ MOLTERER VOLUNTEERED THAT OPPOSITION TO GMO'S AND EVEN PERHAPS HORMONES IS NOT BASED ON SCIENCE, AND THAT THE DISCUSSION IN BRUSSELS HAS BECOME MORE EMOTIONAL AND LESS RATIONAL. HE UNDERSCORED THAT OPPOSITION ON THE PART OF AUSTRIAN AND OTHER EU RETAILERS AND, INCREASINGLY, WHOLESALERS IS BASED ENTIRELY ON CONSUMER PREFERENCE AND SATISFACTION (I.E. ON MARKET SHARE), NOT SCIENCE.

7. (SBU) MOLTERER SAID THAT THERE ARE NONETHELESS GOOD REASONS TO QUESTION THE NEED FOR GMO'S AND HORMONES: THERE IS ALREADY TOO MUCH MILK IN THE EU, WHY INTENSIFY PRODUCTION WITH BOVINE SOMATOTROPHIN? GMO COTTON PRODUCED IN THE U.S. LAST YEAR STILL NEEDED CHEMICAL APPLICATION FOR PESTS; WHAT HAD BEEN GAINED?

8. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT. THE GMO ISSUE IS ALREADY WARM IN AUSTRIA, AND IT WILL HEAT UP DRAMATICALLY WHEN SPAR PUBLISHES ITS LETTER NEXT WEEK. IT IS CLEAR MOLTERER UNDERSTANDS THAT OPPOSITION TO GMO'S AND HORMONES (BOTH FOR DOMESTIC USE AND IN IMPORTS) IS NOT BASED ON ANY GENUINE THREAT TO CONSUMER HEALTH, BUT RATHER IS A MANIFESTATION OF THE DEEPLY ROOTED AND WIDESPREAD GREEN MOVEMENT IN AUSTRIA. THAT HAVING BEEN SAID, MOLTERR IS HARDLY IN A POSITION TO SWAY AUSTRIAN PUBLI OPINION (OR AUSTRIA'S VOICE IN THE EU) IN FAVOR O GMO'S OR HORMONES.

9. (SBU) CURIOUSLY, MAD-CO DISEASE, THOUGH AN UNRELATED PHENOMENON, IS ALS HAVING AN APPARENT IMPACT IN THAT IT HAS FOCUSSD CONSUMER ATTENTION ON THE FOOD SUPPLY AND THUS MDE THE DEBATE OVER FOOD SAFETY, AND GMO'S, THAT UCH MORE TOPICAL AND CONTROVERSIAL--EVEN THOUGH TERE ARE NO MAD COWS IN AUSTRIA. END COMMENT.
HNT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 6178
TOR: 960927074337 M2420431
DIST:

SIT: NSC

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. cable~~	~~Re: [Luxembourg MFA Trade Expert] (4 pages)~~	~~02/27/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
002. cable	Re: [France/Agricultural Trade] (5 pages)	03/04/1997	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: [Brazil - EU/Soybeans] (4 pages)	03/07/1997	P1/b(1)
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: Austrian Women's and Consumer Affairs Minister on Genetically~~ Modified Organisms (3 pages)	~~03/12/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
~~005. cable~~	~~Re: [Austrian Position Paper on Genetically Modified Organisms] (2~~ pages)	~~03/14/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
006. cable	Re: [Supplying Genetically Modified Organism-Free Soybeans] (2 pages)	03/19/1997	P1/b(1)
007. cable	Re: [Sale of Genetically Modified Organism-Free Soybeans] (2 pages)	03/20/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:
[01/14/1997 - 03/26/1997]

2013-0836-F
ke3004

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Cable

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (1.44)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHLEA0180 0581637-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 271637Z FEB 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
OSRI: RUEHLE
DTG: 271637Z FEB 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7390
INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 2201
RUEHEPA/HQ EPA WASHDC
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1369
SUBJ: LUXEMBOURG MFA TRADE EXPERT BRIEFLY
- DISCUSSES GMO/BT CORN, LEG-HOLD
- TRAPS/FUR, EMU, AND WTO/TRIPS.

TEXT:
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 LUXEMBOURG 000180

STATE FOR EUR/ERA, EUR/UBI, EB/IPC (SCHMIDT)
- AND OES/RPI (WELLS)
STATE PASS USTR (MURPHY)
STATE PASS USDA FAS WASHDC

EPA FOR OIA (JACOBS-MUDD)
THE HAGUE FOR AGCOUNS

USDA (FAS) FOR ITP/ZEITNER & THORN;
FOR OAA/GALVIN AND
FOR OFSTS/HARBERT)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/26/05
TAGS: PREL, EAGR, ETRD, EFIN, SENV, EUN, LU
SUBJECT: LUXEMBOURG MFA TRADE EXPERT BRIEFLY
- DISCUSSES GMO/BT CORN, LEG-HOLD
- TRAPS/FUR, EMU, AND WTO/TRIPS.

REF: (A) LUXEMBOURG 00150, (B) USEU/BRUSSELS
- 013161, (C) LUXEMBOURG 00168

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE ROBERT J FAUCHER FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. THE TOP TRADE OFFICIAL IN THE LUXEMBOURG MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOLD EMBASSY CHARGE ON FEB. 27TH THAT THE GRAND DUCHY'S NEW COPYRIGHT LAW SHOULD BE VOTED IN PARLIAMENT WITHIN SIX MONTHS. ON THE TWIN

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ISSUES OF LEG-HOLD TRAPS AND GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN, THE "GREENS" HAVE WON THE DAY. ON THE TIMING FOR EMU IMPLEMENTATION, HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE NO DELAY ON THE FIRST WAVE AND THAT SOME WAY WOULD BE FOUND FOR SAVING ITALIAN/SPANISH "FACE." END SUMMARY

3. (U) IN A VERY BROAD-RANGING CONVERSATION ON FEBRUARY 27TH, LUXEMBOURG MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TRADE EXPERT (AND MEMBER OF THE EU'S 113 COMMITTEE) GEORGES FRIDEN SPOKE EMBOFFS.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS/BT CORN

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4. ~~(C)~~ FRIDEN WAS NONPLUSSED WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF THE LUXEMBOURG PRIME MINISTER AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT LUXEMBOURG WAS BANNING THE ENTRY OF BT CORN INTO THE GRAND DUCHY (REF A). HE ADMITTED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE THAT THE BAN EXISTED BUT READILY AGREED THAT IT WAS PROBABLY ILLEGAL UNDER EU LAW. SPECULATING, HE ASSUMED THAT THE MOTIVE WAS A POLITICAL RESPONSE TO "GREEN" SENTIMENT IN THE DOMESTIC BODY POLITIC. FRIDEN PROMISED TO DRAW THE LUXEMBOURG FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTENTION TO THE UPSET THE BAN WILL CAUSE IN TRANSATLANTIC TRADE RELATIONS.

LEG-HOLD TRAPS/FUR

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5 ~~(C)~~ TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF THE U.S.-EU DISPUTE OVER U.S. EXPORTS OF FUR CAUGHT BY LEG-HOLD TRAPS, FRIDEN CONFIRMED THE "VERY POOR" DECISION OF THE EU'S GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC) ON FEBRUARY 24TH (REF B). "UNFORTUNATELY," HE CONTINUED, "LUXEMBOURG SUPPORTED THE GAC DECISION AND NOW THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION WILL JUST HAVE TO GO BACK AND RE-NEGOCIATE THE DRAFT AGREEMENTS ALREADY INITIALLED WITH CANADA AND RUSSIA BEFORE IT CAN EVEN START SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S." TE GREENS SEEM TO HAVE WON ANOTHER DAY, HE ADDED.

TIMING FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE EURO.

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6 ~~(C)~~ FIRST PROTESTING THAT HIS SPECIALTY IS TRADE, NOT FINANCE, FRIDEN ADMITTED THAT IN BRUSSELS CIRCLES (PARTICULARLY WITHIN DUTCH PRESIDENCY CIRCLES) IT IS HELD THAT, AT LEAST PRO FORMA, THE EURO MUST/MUST BE INTRODUCED ON SCHEDULE. WHEN PRESSED, FRIDEN AGREED THAT IT IS UNCLEAR EITHER THE GERMANS OR THE ITALIANS

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WILL MEET EMU CRITERIA ON TIME BUT NEVERTHELESS HE STUCK BY A STATEMENT THAT FOR POLITICAL REASONS THE EURO WILL BE (AT LEAST`OMINALLY) INTRODUCED ON SCHEDULE. AS TO THE ITALIANS AND SPANISH, HE THOUGHT SOME FORMULA COULD BE WORKED OUT AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST WAVE SO THAT THE ITALIANS/SPANISH WOULD BE "ADMITTED" IN 1999 BUT WITH EFFECT FROM A FEW YEARS LATTER.

7. ~~(C)~~ FRIDEN ALSO EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE IDEA OF DECIDING IN OCTOBER, 1997, WHO WAS IN ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 LUXEMBOURG 000180

STATE FOR EUR/ERA, EUR/UBI, EB/IPC (SCHMIDT)
- AND OES/RPI (WELLS)
STATE PASS USTR (MURPHY)
STATE PASS USDA FAS WASHDC
EPA FOR OIA (JACOBS-MUDD)
THE HAGUE FOR AGCOUNS

USDA (FAS) FOR ITP/ZEITNER & THORN;
FOR OAA/GALVIN AND
FOR OFSTS/HARBERT)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/26/05
TAGS: PREL, EAGR, ETRD, EFIN, SENV, EUN, LU
SUBJECT: LUXEMBOURG MFA TRADE EXPERT BRIEFLY
- DISCUSSES GMO/BT CORN, LEG-HOLD
- TRAPS/FUR, EMU, AND WTO/TRIPS.

AND WHO OUT FOR THE FIRST WAVE OF EMU ADMISSIONS, WAS AN UNLIKELY SCENARIO (SEE PARA SIX OF REF C). THE DECISION WILL BE TAKEN IN
1998, HE INSISTED.

WTO/TRIPS

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8. ~~(C)~~ REFERRING TO LUXEMBOURG'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATIONS (WTO) AGREEMENT ON THE TRADE RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (TRIPS), FRIDEN SAID THE MATTER WAS NOW BEFORE A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE (COMMISSION). A TOTAL OVERHAUL OF MANY OTHER ASPECTS OF LUXEMBOURG'S 1972 COPYRIGHT LAW HAD SLOWED DOWN THE PROCESS BUT IN THE NEXT TWO TO SIX MONTHS, HE EXPECTED THE COMMITTEE FAVORABLY TO REPORT OUT A BILL. THIS BILL WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY THEN PASS WITH LITTLE OR NO OPPOSITION. IN THE MEANWHILE, HE NOTED, UNDER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY LAW, THE COMMISSION'S DIRECTIVES ON THE SUBJECT NOW HAD THE FORCE OF LAW, ANYWAY. IF ANYONE COULD SHOW DAMAGE, THE EU'S COURTS WERE AVAILABLE TO HIM/HER.

9. ~~(C)~~ AS TO THE ALLEGATION THAT LUXEMBOURG

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HAS BECOME, A EUROPEAN CENTER FOR TRADE IN "BOOTLEGS" (I.E., UNAUTHORIZED FIXATIONS OF LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCES), FRIDEN SAID HE HAD BEEN SHOWN NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS. HE ASKED IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD ANY EVIDENCE OR WAS BASING ITS ALLEGATION ON HEARSAY.

BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

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10. ~~(C)~~ FRIDEN WAS RAISED IN THE NETHERLANDS AND THUS HAS A PARTICULARLY CLOSE UNDERSTANDING OF THE INNER COUNCILS OF THE TRADE SIDE OF THE DUTCH PRESIDENCY OF THE EU. HE IS FLUENT IN THE DUTCH LANGUAGE.

11. ~~(C)~~ IN THE PAST, WE HAVE FOUND FRIDEN TO BE FRANK, HONEST AND ACCURATE IN GIVING US READ-OUTS OF EU MATTERS.

FAUCHER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 0180
<^SSN>0180

TOR: 970227142229 M2636659
<^TOR>970227141609 M2636642

DIST:

SIT: NSC

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2016
2016-0529-M (1.49)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHVIA1854 0711421-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 121421Z MAR 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 121421Z MAR 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0727
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0044
SUBJ: AUSTRIAN WOMEN'S AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTER - ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ VIENNA 001854

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
SECSTATE FOR EUR/AGS, INR/B, PASS EPA, FDA
USDA/FAS FOR OAA/GALVIN, ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT,
PASS APHIS/MEDLEY
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE
GENEVA FOR USTR, PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/2017
TAGS: EAGR, PINR, PREL, SENV, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN WOMEN'S AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTER - ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR SWANEE HUNT, AMERICAN EMBASSY, VIENNA. REASON: 1.5(D).

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: IN A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR HUNT, AUSTRIA'S NEW MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS BARBARA PRAMMER SAID AUSTRIA CANNOT DEVIATE FOR LONG FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION POLICY ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS, AND THAT AN AUSTRIAN BAN ON THIS TECHNOLOGY IS "NOT POSSIBLE." END SUMMARY.

3. ~~(C)~~ AMBASSADOR HUNT, ACCOMPANIED BY AGCOUN AND AMBASSADOR'S AIDE, MADE AN INTRODUCTORY CALL ON MINISTER PRAMMER MARCH 10. PRAMMER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY KLAUS MAYR, HER CONSUMER AFFAIRS ADVISER. FOLLOWING OPENING PLEASANTRIES, AND AFTER ESTABLISHING THAT PRAMMER'S MINISTRY NOW DEFINITELY HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR APPROVAL OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S), THE AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER PRAMMER WOULD CONTINUE THE POLICIES OF HER PREDECESSOR, WHICH HAD CULMINATED IN A BAN ON CIBA-GEIGY'S GENETICALLY MODIFED BT CORN LINE.

4. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER NOTED THAT JUST THE PREVIOUS WEEK THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT HAD ADOPTED A POSITION PAPER ON GMO'S, WHICH SHE

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CHARACTERIZED AS "CAUTIOUSLY POSITIVE" ON THE SUBJECT. SHE SAID LABELING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION ARE IMPORTANT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION, AND SAID PUBLIC SCEPTICISM TOWARD GMO'S MUST BE RECONCILED, AND AUSTRIAN POLICY UNIFIED, WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY TOWARD GMO'S. SHE SAID A BAN IS "NOT POSSIBLE" AND ALSO MAKES NO SENSE, AND ADDED THAT THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT TO STOP ITS OWN SCIENTISTS AND UNIVERSITIES FROM PURSUING GENE TECHNOLOGY.

5. ~~(C)~~ NOTING THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF AUSTRIANS OPPOSE GMO'S IN FOOD, PRAMMER SAID LABELLING WILL CREATE MORE PROBLEMS FOR CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE OF GM PRODUCTS. SHE SAID SHE HAS NO FINAL OPINION ON THE ISSUE, HOWEVER (AND IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PUBLIC OPINION HAS LARGELY BEEN SHAPED BY THE NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSED TO GMO'S). SHE SAID SHE HERSELF NEEDS MORE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE RISKS PRESENTED BY GMO'S, AND ADDED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET MORE INFORMATION FROM INDUSTRY SUPPORTERS OF GENE TECHNOLOGY OUT TO THE PUBLIC.

6. ~~(C)~~ ON THE MARGINS OF THE MEETING AGCOUN DISCUSSED THE ISSUE OF GETTING INFORMATION OUT TO THE PUBLIC WITH MAYR, AND POINTED OUT TO MAYR THAT THE MINISTRY'S OWN PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM HAS POINTEDLY NOT INCLUDED EITHER MULTINATIONAL GMO PRODUCERS OR U.S EXPERTS IN ITS PR CAMPAIGN ON GMO'S, WHICH GOT UNDERWAY IN FEBRUARY--EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE OFFERED TO ARRANGE FOR EXPERT SPEAKERS. MAYR ADMITTED THAT THE SEMINARS HAVE DRAWN ONLY ON AUSTRIAN SOURCES, AND NOT FROM THE MULTINATIONALS, AND ATTRIBUTED THIS TO AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENTAL RELUCTANCE TO BE SEEN AS IN ANY WAY SUPPORTING THE OPPOSING VIEW BY BRINGING IN FOREIGN EXPERTS PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC REFERENDUM ON BANNING GMO'S TO BE HELD APRIL 14. AFTER APRIL 14, HE SAID, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO INVITE OUTSIDERS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE.

7. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: PRAMMER SOUNDED SINCERE WHEN SHE SAID SHE IS YET UNDECIDED ON THE ISSUE OF GMO'S, A MARKED DIFFERENCE FROM THE POSITION OF FORMER HEALTH MINISTER CHRISTA KRAMMER, WHO IMPOSED THE BAN ON BT CORN LAST DECEMBER. AN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST WHO HAS OPPOSED POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION AND FOUGHT FOR PARKLAND, PRAMMER CAME ACROSS AS MORE DOWN TO EARTH ON GMO'S THAN MOST OTHER ENVIRONMENTALISTS IN AUSTRIA. MAYR'S RATIONALE THAT THE GOV
ERNMENT IS UNWILLING TO BE SEEN AS INFLUENCED BY FOREIGNERS ON GMO POLICY IS PROBABLY RIGHT, THOUGH IT IS CLEARLY NOT THE WHOLE STORY--THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN FORCES WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OPPOSING GMO'S, THOUGH NOW WITH A WRITTEN POLICY ON GMO'S IN PLACE THEY MAY BE BROUGHT MORE INTO LINE.

BIO NOTE

8. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER IS INTELLIGENT AND ALERT, POISED, UNASSUMING, AND QUITE WARM. SHE ENTERED THE BUILDING RIGHT BEHIND THE AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS, FOLLOWED US UP THE STAIRS, AND AT THE ENTRANCE TO HER OUTER OFFICE EXTENDED HER HAND AND INTRODUCED HERSELF WITHOUT STANDING ON CEREMONY. SHE APPEARED GENUINELY PLEASED TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE AMBASSADOR. SHE CONVERSED IN BOTH GERMAN AND ENGLISH, THE LATTER SERVICEABLE (PROBABLY ABOUT THE FSI S-2& LEVEL); SHE UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH QUITE WELL,

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HOWEVER. PRAMMER, WHO RESIDES IN LINZ BUT HAS OF COURSE NOW CREATED A SECOND DOMICILE IN VIENNA, IS MARRIED WITH A SON, 23, AND A DAUGHTER, 17, WHO HAVE REMAINED IN LINZ.
HUNT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1854

TOR: 970312092539 M2661637

DIST:

SIT: NSC

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Cable

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VR NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (1.50)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHVIA1966 0731622-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 141622Z MAR 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 141622Z MAR 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEH/SECSTATE WASHDC 0791
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0054
SUBJ: MINAG OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON THE AUSTRIAN POSITION PAPER ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A~~L VIENNA 001966

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
SECSTATE FOR EUR/AGS, ALSO PASS EPA AND FDA
USDA FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH, THORN, HARBERT,
ALSO COMMODITY DIVISIONS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE
GENEVA FOR USTR, PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/14/2017

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PREL, SENV, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: MINAG OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON THE AUSTRIAN POSITION PAPER ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

REF: A) GEDES REPORT AU7011, B) FBIS SERIAL AU1103173797

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY ALLAN MUSTARD, AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR, AMEMBASSY VIENNA. REASON: 1.5(D).

2. (U) WASHINGTON ADDRESSEES SHOULD BY NOW BE IN RECEIPT OF THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION PAPER ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (REPORTED BY EMBASSY IN REFS), RELEASED MARCH 4 AND PUBLISHED MARCH 8 IN THE AUSTRIAN PRESS. FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE IT YET, THE POSITION PAPER INTER ALIA CALLS FOR

- A TOTAL BAN ON CLONING OF HUMAN BEINGS AND CREATION OF GUIDELINES FOR CLONING WITH A "SOUND ETHICAL BASIS;"

- NEW OPPORTUNITIES AFFORDED BY GENETIC TECHNOLOGY TO BE USED, AND SPECIFICALLY REFERS TO JOBS AND PROGRESS IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT;

- PROVISION OF SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC TO ALLOW FOR

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INFORMED DECISIONS IN CHOOSING PRODUCTS AND "TO PROMOTE CONFIDENCE IN THE USE OF SUCH NEW TECHNOLOGY;"

- RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION, AND CREATION OF A SIMILAR "NOVEL FEEDS" DIRECTIVE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE APPROPRIATE LABELLING OF FEEDS;

- CIRCUMSPECTION WITH RESPECT TO ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE, HERBICIDE TOLERANCE, AND ALLERGENICITY; AND
- PROHIBITION OF THE PATENTING OF "SPECIES OF ANIMALS AND VARIETIES OF PLANTS."

2. ~~(C)~~ AGRICULTURE MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL COUNSEL ANDRAE RUPPRECHTER (PROTECT) SHARED SOME INSIGHTS WITH AGCOUN MARCH 14. RUPPRECHTER SAID THE POSITION PAPER IS INTENDED TO PERFORM TWO FUNCTIONS. FIRST, IT IS TO BRING INTO LINE CERTAIN AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, NOTABLY ENVIRONMENT MINISTER BARTENSTEIN, WHO HAVE UNTIL NOW PURSUED THEIR OWN POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO GMO'S. SECOND, IT IS A FIRST STEP TOWARD NUDGING THE POPULATION IN THE DIRECTION OF ACCEPTING GMO'S.

3. ~~(C)~~ RUPPRECHTER SAID THE POSITION PAPER IS "QUITE PROGRESSIVE" WITHIN THE AUSTRIAN DOMESTIC CONTEXT, WHERE ANTI-GMO FEELINGS RUN HIGH. HE CONCEDED THAT INCLUSION OF LANGUAGE ON LABELLING GENETICALLY MODIFIED LIVESTOCK FEED AND CONTINUED REFERENCE TO ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE AND HERBICIDE TOLERANCE WERE NOT DESIRABLE IN SUCH A DOCUMENT, BUT NOTED THAT THEY WERE "BARTENSTEIN'S CONTRIBUTIONS" AND WERE INCLUDED IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS IN THE GOVERNMENT.

4. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: WITH THIS PAPER, THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS RATHER BOLDLY LAID DOWN A MARKER THAT GENE TECHNOLOGY IS A FACT OF LIFE, THAT IT HAS POSITIVE ASPECTS, AND THAT THE PUBLIC WILL BE GIVEN THE CHOICE OF WHETHER TO USE IT OR, TO THE DEGREE POSSIBLE, AVOID IT. THE INTENT, HOWEVER, IS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF GMO'S, AND IT SIGNALS AN ACCEPTANCE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF THIS TECHNOLOGY. IN THIS SENSE, THE ANTI-GMO COALITION OF GREENPEACE, GLOBAL 2000, AND OTHERS HAS ALREADY SUFFERED A SERIOUS DEFEAT A MONTH BEFORE THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON GENE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14.
CORBETT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1966

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. cable~~	~~Re: [Novartis] (5 pages)~~	~~04/03/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: GMO Referendum in Austria (3 pages)~~	~~04/03/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2019
~~003. cable~~	~~Re: Greenpeace Austria's Views on Genetically Modified Organisms~~ (7 pages)	~~04/21/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
004. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Organisms] (4 pages)	05/08/1997	P1/b(1)
~~005. cable~~	~~Re: Court Challenge Temporarily Blocks GMO Sugarbeet Field Trials~~ in Ireland (3 pages)	~~05/14/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2019

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:
[04/01/1997 - 05/28/1997]

2013-0836-F
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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By YL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (1.53)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHSWA1629 0931254-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 031254Z APR 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BERN
OSRI: RUEHSW
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY BERN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3431
RUEHC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC 0127
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
INFO: RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 2143
SUBJ: NOVARTIS HEAD DISCUSSES HOLOCAUST-ERA ASSETS, GENETICALLY-MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 BERN 001629

STATE FOR EUR/DAS WAYNE AND EUR/AGS (VAN HEUVEN)

USDOC FOR U/S EIZENSTAT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/2/07
TAGS: EFIN, PREL, EAGR, ECON, SZ
SUBJECT: NOVARTIS HEAD DISCUSSES HOLOCAUST-ERA ASSETS, GENETICALLY-MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

REF: BERN 1526 AND PREVIOUS

1. CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR MADELEINE MAY KUNIN. REASON: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

2. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST -- SEE PARAGRAPH 15.

3. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: IN AN APRIL 1 MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR, NOVARTIS PRESIDENT DR. DANIEL VASELLA PROVIDEDAN UPBEAT ASSESSMENT OF HE PROGRESS MADE TO DATE IN MERGING THE TWO SWISS PHARMACEUTICAL GIANTS--CIBA-GEIGY AMD SANDOZ--WHILE ADMITTING THAT THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW NOVARTIS "CULTURE" WOULD OCCUR ONLY OVER TIME. HE FURTHER DISCUSSED THE DEBATE IN SWITZERLAND OVER FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS, AND EXPRESSED FEAR THAT THE SO-CALLED "GENE-PROTECTION INITIATIVE" WHICH WOULD EFFECTIVELY BND GENETIC RESEARCH IN SWITZERLAND MAY BE APPROVED BY SWISS VOTERS NEXT YEAR. VASELLA ALSO PROVIDED HIS VIEWS ON THE ISSUE OF HOLOCAUST-ERA ASSETS, AMD VOICED CONCERN OVER A PIECE OF NEW JERSEY LEGISLATION AIMED AT PUNISHING SWISS FIRMS BECAUSE OF THIS ISSUE. ~~END SUMMARY~~.

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NOVARTIS
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4. ~~(C)~~ IN A FRANK AND WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION, NOVARTIS PRESIDENT DANIEL VASELLA SAID THAT HE IS PLEASED HIS NEW FIRM IS NOW THE WORLD'S LEADING PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURER, BUT ADMITTED TO SOME APPREHENSION OVER THE CHALLENGE OF REMAINING NUMBER ONE. IT IS SOMETIMES EASIER, HE NOTED, TO MOVE UP IN THE RANKINGS THAN TO STAY ON TOP. VASELLA REPORTED THAT NOVARTIS WILL REDUCE ITS NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES FROM AROUND 120,000 TO 90,000 WORLDWIDE LARGELY TO ELIMINATE DUPLICATIONS RESULTING FROM THE MERGER OF CIGA-GEIGY AND SANDOZ. HE DEFENDED THIS DOWN-SIZING AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE MERGER AND A PREREQUISITE FOR INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY AND PROFITABILITY. HE FURTHER INSISTED THAT MANY OF THE JOBS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED THROUGH ATTRITION AND A "GENEROUS" INCENTIVE PACKAGE FOR EARLY RETIREMENT. AMONG OTHER THINGS, VASELLA INDICATED THAT NOVARTIS HAD ESTABLISHED A 100-MILLION-DOLLAR FUND TO PROVIDE FINANCE CAPITAL TO FORMER EMPLOYEES AND OTHERS SEEKING TO START NEW BUSINESSES. OVERALL, HE SAID THAT THE MERGER HAS GONE AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW "NOVARTIS CULTURE" WILL TAKE TIME. CORPORATE ULTURE, HE OBSERVED, CANNOT BE IMPOSED FROM ABOVE, BUT DEVELOPS SLOWLY OVER THE COURSE OF EVENTS.

GMO'S
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5. ~~(C)~~ THE AMBASSADOR RAISED WITH VASELLA THE ISSUE OF FOOD IN SWITZERLAND CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS, ASKING IF NOVARTIS IS CONCERNED GIVEN ITS BT CORN (A TRANSGENIC HYBRID RESISTANT TO THE EUROPEAN CORN BORER). VASELLA CONFESSED THAT HE IS VERY WORRIED ABOUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN SWITZERLAND WITH RESPECT TO THIS ISSUE. PUBLIC OPINION POLLS SUGGEST, HE NOTED, THAT THE AVERAGE CONSUMER IS OPPOSED TO FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMO'S, EVEN WHILE ACCEPTING THE NEED FOR PHARMACEUTICALS CONTAINING GMO'S. (PHARMACEUTICALS ARE PERCEIVED DIFFERENTLY BECAUSE THEY ARE FOR SICK PEOPLE AND THE BENEFIT IS OBVIOUS.) CONVINCING CONSUMERS THAT THEY BENEFIT FROM FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMO'S IS DIFFICULT ESPECIALLY IN A DEVELOPED COUNTRY WHERE FOOD IS ALREADY PLENTIFUL. VASELLA ADDED THAT EVEN IN THE U.S. WHERE THERE APPEARS TO BE MUCH MORE ACCEPTANCE OF GMO'S, STUDIES SHOW THAT PARENTS DO NOT WANT TO FEED THEIR BABIES WITH FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMO'S. (NOVARTIS OWNS

THE GERBER PRODUCT LINE.)

6. ~~(C)~~ FROM A SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVE, VASELLA CONTINUED, ONE CAN SAY THAT PRODUCTS WITH GMO'S POSE NO SIGNIFICANT RISK, BUT THE BENEFITS ARE SIMPLY NOT TANGIBLE ENOUGH TO THE CONSUMER EVEN IF THEY ARE VERY

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REAL. HIS COMPANY'S BT CORN, FOR INSTANCE, WILL ENSURE HIGHER YIELDS AND REDUCE THE NEED FOR PESTICIDES. THE SITUATION IS COMPOUNDED IN SWITZERLAND, HE ADDED, BY THE ABSENCE OF AN RESPECTED GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENT BODY (LIKE THE FDA IN THE U.S.) THAT CAW CERTIFY SUCH PRODUCTS ARE NOT HARMFUL. SWISS CONSUMERS TRUST GREENPEACE OR ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 BERN 001629

STATE FOR EUR/DAS WAYNE AND EUR/AGS (VAN HEUVEN)

USDOC FOR U/S EIZENSTAT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/2/07
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CONSUMER GROUPS MUCH MORE THAN THEY DO SWISS OFFICIALS OR OTHER EXPERTS, MUCH LESS GIANT CORPORATIONS. AGAINST THIS BACKDROP, VASELLA OUTLINED HIS IDEA FOR CREATING AN INDEPENDENT BODY OF EXPERTS IN SWITZERLAND WHO WOULD ADDRESS THESE ISSUES AND, HE HOPES, FOSTER A BETTER, MORE FACTUAL CLIMATE FOR DISCUSSION.

7. ~~(C)~~ VASELLA SAID THAT NOVARTIS IS COORDINATING WITH MONSANTO WHOSE ROUND-UP-READY SOYBEANS ARE THE FIRST PRODUCT TO "TEST THE WATERS" IN SWITZERLAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTS WITH GMO'S. HE BELIEVES THAT LABELING IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION IN SWITZERLAND, SUGGESTING THAT WHAT WILL EVENTUALLY HAPPEN IS THAT MOST FOOD PRODUCTS WILL CONTAIN A "WARNING" READING "THIS PRODUCT MAY CONTAIN GMO'S." STORES WILL ALSO CARRY NON-GMO PRODUCTS, PERHAPS AT PREMIUM PRICES.

8. ~~(C)~~ VASELLA'S REAL FEAR, HOWEVER, IS LESS LABELING THAN THE FATE OF SWITZERLAND'S POPULAR "GENE-PROTECTION INITIATIVE" WHICH SHOULD GO BEFORE THE VOTERS NEXT YEAR. IF PASSED, THIS INITIATIVE WOULD ESSENTIALLY END GENETIC RESEARCH ON PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN SWITZERLAND AND FORCE NOVARTIS AND OTHER SWISS PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS TO TRANSFER ALL THEIR RE8EARCH ABROAD (PRIMARILY TO THE U.S. AND GREAT BRITAIN). SINCE THIS WILL COST JOBS IN SWITZERLAND, REASON MAY PREVAIL BUT VASELLA IS NOT THAT SANGUINE. (IN THE MEANTIME, GREENPEACE OFFICIALS HAVE NOTED THAT THEY MAY LAUNCH A NEW INITIATIVE AIMED AT PROHIBITING FOOD PRODUCTS WITH GMO'S IN THE WAKE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PERMIT ACCESS FOR PRODUCTS CONTAIMING GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS.)

HOLOCAUST-ERA ASSETS
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9. ~~(C)~~ VASELLA NOTED THAT AS HEAD OF NOVARTIS HE

HAS AVOIDED 8PEAKING OUT ON THE ISSUE OF HOLOCAUST-ERA ASSETS, BUT AS AN INDIVIDUAL WITH CONCERN

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ESPECIALLY FOR U.S.-SWISS RELATIONS HE HAS BEEN PRIVATELY ENGAGED. OVERALL, VASELLA BELIEVE THINGS HAVE IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY DESPITE A SERIES OF INCREDIBLE MISSTEPS ON THE SWISS SIDE. WHILE EXPRESSING STRONG PERSONAL DISTASTE FOR POLITICIANS WHO SEEK TO EXPLOIT SUCH ISSUES FOR PERSONAL POLITICAL GAIN, VASELLA ADMITTED THAT PERHAPS IT HAD BEEN NECESSARY TO RAISE THE DECIBEL LEVEL IN ORDER TO GET THIS ISSUE ON THE AGENDA. UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, HOWEVER, HE FEARS THAT TOO MUCH PRESSURE FROM OUTSIDE CAM BACKFIRE AND UNDERMINE DOMESTIC SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION.

10. ~~(C)~~ CHRISTOPH BLOCHER, WHO HAS EMERGED AS THE PRIMARY CHALLENGER OF THE FOUNDATION, IS A FORMIDABLE POLITICAL FORCE AND A CLEVER POLITICIAN. THE PROBLEM, VASELLA ARGUED, IS THAT UNDER THE SWISS SYSTEM THERE IS NO ONE IN GOVERNMENT WHO CAN REALLY STAND UP TO HIM. THE SWISS COLLEGIAL SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION AND ROTATING PRESIDENCY DO NOT ALLOW ANY ONE PERSON TO ASSUME A STRONG POSITION OF POLITICAL AND MORAL LEADERSHIP. ALTHOUGH ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE SIGNS NOW POINT TO POPULAR APPROVAL OF THE FOUNDATION AND EXPRESSING ADMIRATION FOR THE BRILLIANCE OF THE IDEA, VASELLA WARNED THAT IT IS FAR FROM A DONE DEAL.

NOVARTIS' ROLE
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11. ~~(C)~~ WITH RESPECT TO HIS OWN COMPANY'S ROLE IN THIS PROCESS, VASELLA SAID NOVARTIS WILL SUPPORT THE CREATION OF THE SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION ALONG WITH OTHER MAJOR SWISS CORPORATIONS. BUT HE NOTED THAT THEY MUST BE CAREFUL TO AVOID CHARGES OF CORPORATE SELF-INTEREST THAT MIGHT WEAKEN POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID THAT NOVARTIS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE SO-CALLED "SPECIAL FUND" FOR NEEDY VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST AND THEIR HEIRS IN NEED.

12. ~~(C)~~ VASELLA FURTHER INDICATED THAT HE HAS INITIATED A THOROUGH STUDY INTO THE HISTORY OF CIBA-GEIGY AND SANDOZ DURING WORLD WAR II. THE INITIAL STUDY FOCUSED ON WHETHER EITHER FIRM OR THEIR SUBSIDIARIES MIGHT HAVE DELIVERED MATERIAL TO GERMANY FOR USE IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS. FORTUNATELY, THE RESEARCH INDICATED THEY HAD NOT ENGAGED IN SUCH

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BUSINESS. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY ANY SWISS PHARMACEUTICAL OR CHEMICAL COMPANY HAD SOLD PRODUCTS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN USED IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE SWISS INDUSTRY THEN AMD THE FACT THAT THE GERMANS PRODUCED INDIGENOUSLY MOST OF THE BASIC CHEMICALS THEY NEEDED. IN ADDITION, VASELLA CONTINUED, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IG FARBEN AND THE SWISS INDUSTRY WAS SOMEWHAT STRAINED BECAUSE OF EARLIER GERMAN ATTEMPTS TO TAKE OVER THE SWISS CHEMICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY.

13. ~~(C)~~ AT THE SAME TIME, VASELLA ADMITTED THAT THE RESEARCH HAD UNCOVERED SOME HORRIBLE FACTS. AMONG OTHER THINGS, SWISS MANUFACTURERS REALIZED THAT THEIR MARKET FOR CERTAIN DRUGS, LIKE THOSE TO TREAT EPILEPSY, HAD EVAPORATED IN GERMANY. THERE WAS ONLY ONE EXPLANATION--THAT THOSE IN NEED OF SUCH MEDICATION WERE NO LONGER ALIVE.

COHEN-SINGER

14. ~~(C)~~ FINALLY, VASELLA RAISED THE ISSUE OF PENDING LEGISLATION (COHEN-SINGER?) IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY WHICH WOULD APPARENTLY PUNISH SWISS FIRMS FOR THE NAZI GOLD AND HOLOCAUST-ERA ASSETS ISSUE. HE NOTED THAT HE IS VERY WORRIED ABOUT THIS LEGISLATION AND MAY APPROACH THE GOVERNOR. (NOVARTIS HAS SEVERAL SUBSIDIARIES AND SEVERAL THOUSAND EMPLOYEES IN NEW JERSEY.) IN HIS OPINION, THIS LEGISLATION IS EXACTLY THE SORT OF ACTION THAT COULD PROVOKE A RESPONSE IN SWITZERLAND HARMFUL TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION. THE AMBASSADOR SAID SHE WAS UNAWARE OF THE SITUATION IN NEW JERSEY, AND HAD BEEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION BASED UPON REPORTS FROM NEW YORK THAT SUCH PUNITIVE STATE MEASURES HAD BEEN SHELVED FOR NOW.

15. ~~(C)~~ ACTION REQUESTED: WB WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WASHINGTON CAN PROVIDE ON THE COHEN-SINGER LEGISLATION IN NEW JERSEY. IN GENERAL, WE AGREE THAT SUCH ACTIONS COULD DAMAGE OUR INTERESTS HERE AND UNDERMINE THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE ON THE HOLOCAUST-ERA ASSETS ISSUE TO DATE. KUNIN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
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SSN: 1629
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TOR: 970404010653 M2697425
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INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0016
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0073
SUBJ: GMO REFERENDUM IN AUSTRIA

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 002665

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR, PDA AND EPA
USDA FAS POR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT,
EAMED/THORN, COMMODITY DIVISIONS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GEMEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PINR, PROP, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: GMO REFERENDUM IN AUSTRIA

REF: 96 VIENNA 8073

STCABLE 718

1. BACKQROUND AND SUMMARY: ON APRIL 7 - 14, A POPULAR INITIATIVE ("VOLKSBEQEHREN") ON QENE TECHNOLOQY WILL TAKE PLACE (REFTEL). IF APPROVED, AND WE FULLY EXPECT IT WILL BE, THE RESULT WILL BE TO FORCE A DEBATE ON QENE TECHNOLOQY IN PARLIAMENT. UNDER AUSTRIAN LAW, SUCH AN INITIATJVE IS NOT BINDINQ ON THE QOVERNMENT. IN ANY EVENT THE QOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE ABLE T MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE INITIATIVE'S SPONSORS, SINCE A TOTAL BAN ON QENETICALLY MODIFIED ORQANISMS WOULD BE OVERRULED BY THE EU. THE INITIATIVE WILL, HOWEVER, PROVIDE ANTI-GMO FORCES A FORUM TO MOBILIZE PUBLIC OPINION IN A WAY WHICH THE QOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EASILY IQNORE. END BACKQROUND AND SUMMARY.

2. THE INITIATIVE WAS PROMPTED BY ANTI-GMO FACTIONS INCLUDING THE "ECOLOGICAL BUREAU", A COORDINATION OFFICE FOR SUCH ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AS THE WORLD WILDLIFE FEDERATION, GREENPEACE, AND GLOBAL 2000, "LARGE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CREATION",

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A CATHOLIC GROUP OPERATING UNDER AUTHORITY OF AUSTRIA'S BISHOPS; THE AUSTRIAN MOUNTAIN PARMING UNION; AND THE ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP "POUR PAWS". IT IS SUPPORTED IN THE AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT BY A SPRINKLING OF DEPUTIES OF THE OPPOSITION PREEDOM PARTY AND MOST DEPUTIES OF THE GREEN PARTY PLUS SOME LIBERALS, AS WELL AS A FEW INDIVIDUALS FROM THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES, THE PEOPLES' PARTY (OVP) AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (SPO).

3. THE INITIATIVE DEMANDS THE FOLLOWINQ:

- A LAW BANNING PRODUCTION, IMPORT, AND MARKETINQ OF QENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS AND AQRICULTURAL PRODUCTS;

- NO RELEASE OF QENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND MICROORQANISMS; AND

- A LAW BANNINQ THE PATENTINQ OF LIVINQ ORQANISMS.

VIEWS OF AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS
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4. MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION BARBARA PRAMMER, MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MARTIN BARTENSTEIN, AND MINISTER OF AQRICULTURE AND FORESTRY WILHELM MOLTERER HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL NLT SIQN THE REFERENDUM. ECONOMICS MINISTER HANNES FARNLEITNER HAS DEMONSTRATED PUBLICALLY HIS POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, BUT TO OUR KNOWLEDQE, SCIENCE MINISTER CASPAR EINEM HAS NOT MADE HIS POSITION ON THE ISSUE CLEAR. HOWEVER, ACCORDINQ TO UNOFFICIAL SOURCES, EINEM SHARES THE OPINION OF THE MAJORITY OF SCIENTISTS WHO SEE QREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT WITH THIS NEW TECHNOLOQY.

VIEWS OF AQRICULTURALISTS
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5. AQRICULTURALISTS ARE SPLIT OVER THE GMO ISSUE. AS NOTED ABOVE, THE MOUNTAIN FARMERS' UNION IS CO-SPONSORINQ THE INITIATIVE, WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AQRICULTURAL MINISTER IS QENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF APPLICATIONS OF QENE TECHNOLOQY IN AQRICULTURE. MINISTER MOLTERER HAS EVEN EMPHASIZED THE QREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEST RESISTANT PLANTS IN ORDER TO REDUCE PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS IN "ECO-COUNTRY" AUSTRIA. THE PRESIDENT OF THE PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF AUSTRIA'S AQRICULTURAL CHAMBERS, RUDOLF SCHWARZBOECK, HAS STATED THAT QENE TECHNOLOQY IS IN THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF AUSTRIA'S AQRICULTURE. HE PARTICULARLY SEES THIS IN THE SPHERE OF RENEWABLE RAW MATERIALS. RECENTLY, SCHWARZBOECK EVEN REJECTED IN HIS AQRICULTURAL PAPER AN ADVERTISEMENT CALLINQ FOR SIQNINQ THE GMO REFERENDUM.

6. VIRTUALLY ALL SCIENTISTS OF THE FEDERAL OFFICE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AQRICULTURE, THE INTERUNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR AQRICULTURAL BIOLOQY, AND MOST SCIENTISTS OF THE AQRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY FAVOR QENE TECHNOLOQY. SOME OF THEM BLAME THEMSELVES FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION BECAUSE THEY UNDERESTIMATED THE PROFESSIONALISM OF THE ECO-QROUPS AND DID NOT DO ENOUQH TO INFORM THE POPULATION AND TO COUNTER THE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST QENE TECHNOLOQY.

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7. AMONQ AQRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS, THERE IS, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDQE, ONLY ONE PROFESSOR, AN INSTRUCTOR OF ORQANIC FARMINQ AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AQRICULTURE, WHO OPPOSES QENE TECHNOLOQY IN AQRICULTURE. THE MAJORITY OF WORKINQ FARMERS, ESPECIALLY ORQANIC FARMERS, STRONQLY OPPOSE APPLICATION OF THIS NEW TECHNOLOQY IN UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 002665

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR, PDA AND EPA
USDA FAS POR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT,
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TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PINR, PROP, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: GMO REFERENDUM IN AUSTRIA

REF: 96 VIENNA 6073

AQRICULTURE.

ATTITUDE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AUSTRIA
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8. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS NO UNIFORM APPROACH TO QENE TECHNOLOQY. IN A RESOLUTION FROM THE RECENT SPRINQ CONFERENCE, THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS INDICATED A NEUTRAL POSITION ON THE ISSUE. THE PAPER STATES THAT NO REJECTION OF THE NEW TECHNOLOQY CAN BE DEDUCED ON THE BASIS OF CHURCH DOCTRINE; HOWEVER, THE BISHOPS REJECTED ANY IDEOLOQIES, NEW OR OLD, WHICH REDUCE THE HUMAN BEINQ TO A MERE PRODUCT OF QENETICS. SIQNIFICANTLY, THOUQH, THE BISHOP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS STAKED OUT A CLEAR POSITION AQAINST QENE TECHNOLOQY IN AQRICULTURE AND FOOD, ANNOUNCINQ THAT HE WILL SIQN THE INITIATIVE. AND, AS NOTED ABOVE, "ARGE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CREATION", THE CHURCH ORQANIZATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS, IS A CO-SPONSOR OF THE INITIATIVE. IN A LETTER, THIS ORQANIZATION ASKED PRIESTS TO ENCOURAQE THE POPULATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INITIATIVE. IN ADDITION THE ORQANIZATION SUQQESTED A SERMON ON THE ISSUE IN ORDER TO STIMULATE PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN THE INITIATIVE.
HUNT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
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SSN: 2665
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INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0032
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0100
SUBJ: GREENPEACE AUSTRIA'S VIEWS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED
- ORGANISMS: LABELING IS JUST A START, WE WANT A BAN

TEXT:
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 VIENNA 003316

SECSTATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB, PASS USTR, FDA, EPA
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- EAMEDTHORN
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/18/2017
TAGS: EAGR, ECON, ETRD, PGOV, PROP, SCUL, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: GREENPEACE AUSTRIA'S VIEWS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED
- ORGANISMS: LABELING IS JUST A START, WE WANT A BAN

REFS: A) VIENNA 3147, B) VIENNA 2829

1. CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR SWANEE HUNT, AMERICAN EMBASSY, VIENNA, FOR REASONS 1.5(B) AND (D).

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: IN A LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AND AGCOUN, TWO GREENPEACE AUSTRIA LEADERS TERMED GENETIC MODIFICATION A HIGH-RISK TECHNOLOGY WHICH PROVIDES NO BENEFIT TO ANYONE BUT THE FEW WHO PRODUCE GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S). THEY EXPRESSED THE INTENT TO KEEP THE ISSUE ALIVE IN EUROPE FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT TWO YEARS, DURING WHICH TIME THEY EXPECT GREENPEACE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE IT A GLOBAL ISSUE. THEY ALSO ADVISED THAT GREENPEACE BELGIUM IS ALREADY ENGAGING THE EU COMMISSION ON THE TOPIC, AND GREENPEACE AUSTRIA HAS SCHEDULED MEETINGS WITH AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS (INCLUDING THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE) TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED ANTI-GMO INITIATIVE (REF A). END SUMMARY

3. ~~(C)~~ GREENPEACE AUSTRIA ACTIVISTS MATTHIAS SCHICKHOFER AND WOLFGANG PEKNY CALLED ON AMBASSADOR APRIL 16 AT EMBASSY'S INVITATION TO FOLLOW UP ON THE PROTEST AGAINST ROUNDUP READY

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SOYBEANS THEY HAD ORGANIZED THE PREVIOUS WEEK (REF B). AGCOUN SAT IN ON THE HALF-HOUR MEETING, THEN AFTER THE AMBASSADOR EXCUSED HERSELF SPENT ANOTHER TWO HOURS CONVERSING WITH SCHICKHOFER AND PEKNY TO ELICIT THEIR VIEWS ON WHAT'S TO COME NEXT. EMBASSY'S INTENT WAS TO ELICIT GREENPEACE AUSTRIA'S STANDPOINT AND INTENT, NOT TO ENGAGE IN DEBATE OR POLEMICS.

GREENPEACE'S MAIN POINT: THE RISK IS TOO HIGH

4. ~~(C)~~ PEKNY UNDERSCORED THAT THE PROTEST WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THE U.S. PER SE, BUT AGAINST GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS WHICH HAPPEN TO COME FROM THE U.S. HE AND SCHICKHOFER SAID THE MAJOR QUESTION IS HOW GREAT THE RISKS ARISING FROM GENE TECHNOLOGY ARE, AND WHO DECIDES IF THE RISK IS ACCEPTABLE. IN GREENPEACE'S VIEW, THEY SAID, THERE ARE NO/NO ADVANTAGES TO CONSUMERS TO GENE TECHNOLOGY SO THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR RISK, NO MATTER HOW SMALL.

5. ~~(C)~~ THEY SAID GENE TECHNOLOGY WILL NOT REDUCE THE COST OF FOOD, MAKE MORE FOOD AVAILABLE, OR IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF FOOD, AND ADDED THAT CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY ARE BEING "SWEPT UNDER THE RUG." PEKNY ASSERTED THAT MUCH RESEARCH ON ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS HAS EITHER "NOT BEEN DONE OR BEEN SUPPRESSED," AND FOCUSSED ON THREE POINTS:

- WE CAN ONLY TEST FOR KNOWN ALLERGIES. INTRODUCTION OF GENES FROM GENOMES THAT ARE NOT NORMALLY CONSUMED (E.G. THE PETUNIA GENE USED IN THE MODIFIED SOYBEAN) MAY BE ALLERGENIC IN THE LONG TERM, AND WE CAN'T KNOW THAT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.

- THE FOOD QUALITY OF ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS WAS NOT TESTED AFTER TREATMENT WITH GLYPHOSATE, SO WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE IMPACT OF GLYPHOSATE ON THE SOYBEAN IS FROM A CONSUMER STANDPOINT. HE ALSO ALLEGED THAT WE DON'T KNOW THE IMPACT OF GLYPHOSATE BIODEGRADABLES.

- EU AUTHORITIES ASSUME THERE IS NO DANGER OF CREATING HERBICIDE-RESISTANT WEEDS FROM FIELD RELEASE OF THE MODIFIED SOYBEAN. HE NOTED THAT NO SCIENTISTS CAN SAY THERE ARE NO RISKS. PEKNY ALSO ALLEGED THAT GENE TECHNOLOGY RESULTS IN INSTABILITY IN THE GENOME SUCH THAT SPLICED GENES ARE MORE LIKELY TO "JUMP" TO OTHER ORGANISMS, AND CLAIMED TO KNOW OF AN EXAMPLE IN WHICH A SPLICED GENE HAD "JUMPED" TO A SCIENTIFIC WORKER.

6. ~~(C)~~ PEKNY WAS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF BOTH U.S. AND EU REGULATORY AGENCIES. THEY DON'T DO THEIR OWN RESEARCH, HE SAID, AND ONLY RELY ON WHAT DOCUMENTATION THE COMPANIES PROVIDE. HE CAME DOWN HARD ON THE EU COMMISSION FOR NOT BEING RIGOROUS IN ITS EXAMINATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS, AND SAID IT MERELY ACCEPTED THE FINDINGS OF OTHERS. SINCE THERE IS, HE SAID, "NO ASSURANCE THAT GMO'S WON'T BECOME MONSTERS," THEY PUSHED THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT INTO INVOKING ARTICLE 16 TO STOP IMPORTS OF GMO'S INTO AUSTRIA FOR NOW. PEKNY SAID THAT PUBLIC DEBATE OVER GMO'S HAD BEEN ONE-SIDED UNTIL GREENPEACE STEPPED IN TO PROVIDE THE OTHER SIDE.

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7. ~~(C)~~ SCHICKHOFER TERMED PEER REVIEW OF PUBLICATIONS "TAINTED" DUE TO PRESSURE WITHIN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY TO CONFORM AND NOT TO DIVERGE FROM MAINSTREAM THINKING. IN ADDITION, PEKNY SAID, THE BULK OF RESEARCH IN GENE TECHNOLOGY IS PRIVATELY FUNDED, WHICH MEANS THE RESULTS WILL TEND TO BE FAVORABU BIASED. THIS REAL CONCERN ABOUT THE "PURITY OF SCIENCE", HE SAID, IS EXACERBATED BY REDUCTIONS IN GOVERNMENT FINANCING OF BASIC
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 04 VIENNA 003316

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RESEARCH, WHICH LEADS IN TURN TO A LACK OF FAITH IN THE RESULTS OF PRIVATE SECTOR SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY. HE NOTED THE RECENT ADMISSION BY LIGGETT-MYERS THAT CIGARETTE SMOKING CAN CAUSE LUNG CANCER, AND SAID IT TOOK 40 YEARS TO GET A TOBACCO COMPANY TO ADMIT SOMETHING SO OBVIOUSLY LINKED AS SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER. IT WILL BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT, HE SAID, TO LINK PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEMS CAUSED BY GMO'S TO THE GMO IN QUESTION, BUT THE PROBLEMS COULD BE AS SEVERE.

WHAT GREENPEACE WANTS
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8. ~~(C)~~ PEKNY SAID SEGREGATION AND NEGATIVE LABELING OF GMO'S IS NOT ENOUGH, AND IS MERELY THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM TO ALLOW CONSUMERS TO MAKE A CHOICE. HE SAID THAT THE BURDEN OF A DECISION LIKE THIS CANNOT BE PLACED ON UNINFORMED PEOPLE, AND THAT GOVERNMENTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT PEOPLE FROM HIGH RISKS (IN THIS REGARD HE LIKENED PROTECTING THE POPULATION FROM GMO'S WITH PROTECTING THEM FROM COCAINE AND HASHISH). WHAT GREENPEACE REALLY WANTS, HE SAID, IS A BAN ON GENETIC MODIFICATION IN AGRICULTURE "UNTIL WE KNOW IT'S SAFE."

9. ~~(C)~~ SCHICKHOFER ADDED THAT AS GREENPEACE IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION, THEIR FIRST IMPULSE IS TO BAN GMO'S UNTIL THE IMPACT ON ECOSYSTEMS IS KNOWN. THIS IS PART OF THE RATIONALE BEHIND GREENPEACE'S GENERALLY FAVORABLE (COMMENT: AND CONTRADICTORY, END COMMENT) ATTITUDE TOWARD GENE TECHNOLOGY IN MEDICINE, HE SAID. THE PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL INDUSTRIES ARE A "CLOSED LOOP" AND POSE NO THREAT OF RELEASE OF GMO'S TO THE EVIRONMENT.

10. ~~(C)~~ PEKNY ASSERTED THAT GREENPECE DOES NOT SEEK TO DISCREDIT SCIENCE, MERELY TO AIR CONCERNS ABOUT THE BIAS IN RESEARCH DONE SO FR AND TO ENSURE THAT PROPER RESEARCH IS DONE. PENY ALSO SAID THAT GREENPEACE FAVORS ADDITIONAL RESARCH INTO THE RISKS OF GENE TECHNOLOGY.

11. ~~(C)~~ ULTIMATELY, THEY SAID, GREENPEACE WANTS AGRICULURE TO

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MOVE COMPLETELY AWAY FROM USE OF CHEMICAL AND BACK TOWARD ORGANIC FARMING-AND IF THE RISKS OF GENE TECHNOLOGY ARE KNOWN BY THEN, AND ARE DEEMED ACCEPTABLE BY THE POPULATION, SUCH FARMING COULD ENCOMPASS GENETIC MODIFICATION.

AUSTRIA'S ROLE IN THE GENE TECHNOLOGY DEBATE
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12. ~~(C)~~ PEKNY DESCRIBED GENETIC MODIFICATION A "HIGH-RISK TECHNOLOGY" AND NOTED THAT AUSTRIA HAS EXPERIENCE WITH HIGH-RISK TECHNOLOGIES. THE ARGUMENTS OVER GMO'S, HE SAID, ARE SIMILAR TO
THOSE OVER NUCLEAR POWER, AND HE POINTED OUT THAT AUSTRIA HAD DECIDED IN 1978 TO REMAIN NUCLEAR-FREE. THIS POLICY WAS QUESTIONED UNTIL THE 1986 CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT, HE SAID, AFTER WHICH IT CEASED TO BE AN ISSUE. AUSTRIA, HE SAID, WAS HIT HARD
BY CHERNOBYL--FOR AN ENTIRE GROWING SEASON, PEOPLE COULD NOT EAT PRODUCE FROM THEIR GARDENS (COMMENT: DUE TO THE RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION. END COMMENT). HE ADDED THAT THE BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY CRISIS IN EUROPE HAD SHAKEN AUSTRIANS' BELIEF IN SCIENCE.

13. ~~(C)~~ GREENPEACE AUSTRIA, THEY SAID, INTENDS TO PUSH FOR A BAN
IN AUSTRIA EVEN IF IT VIOLATES EU LAW, AND THEN SEE WHERE IT GOES. THEY EXPECT A BAN TO BE IMPOSED IN AUSTRIA, THAT THIS WILL
LIVEN DEBATE IN THE EU", AND EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT INTEREST IN GENE TECHNOLOGY IS GROWING, NOT WANING, IN EUROPE.PEKNY SAID EU HEALTH COMMISSIONER EMMA BONINO IS CONSIDERED "QUITE RADICAL" AND SAID SHE IS "SKEPTICAL" OF THE ASSURANCES OF SAFETY OF GMOS SHE HEARS FROM THE EU SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES. GREENPEACE, HE SAID, HAS ENTREE TO HER AS WELL AS TO ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER RITT BJEGARD AND WILL USE THAT ACCESS TO PRESS FOR A BAN ON GMO'S. GREENPEACE INTENDS TO KEEP THE ISSUE ON THE FRONT BURNER IN EUROPE FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS AT LEAST, THEY SAID, AS CERTAIN OF THE MEMBER STATE BANS ON PLANTING OF BT CORN WILL EXPIRE THEN AND COME UP FOR RECONSIDERATION. PEKNY SAID THE DEBATE SHOULD GO GLOBAL, AND WITH OFFICES IN 40 COUNTRIES, GREENPEACE WOULD WORK TOWARD THAT END. SCHICKHOFER WARNED THAT WHAT WE ARE READING IN THE NEWSPAPERS ABOUT WHAT GREENPEACE IS DOING IN EUROPE IS ONLY WHAT THE PRSS KNOWS ABOUT: "THE CAMPAIGN IS MORE INTENSIVE TAN THE MEDIA PORTRAY."

THE U.S. AND THEWTO
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14. ~~(C)~~ PEKNYACKNOWLEDGED THE ROLE OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZTION AGREEMENT AND EXPANSION OF FREE TRADE IN REDUING THE LIKELIHOOD OF WARS AND DAMPENING THE RISEOF NATIONALISM, BUT SAID THAT U.S. THREATSOF WTO ACTION IF GMO'S ARE BANNED IS

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MARSHALLING ANTI-WTO FORCES IN EUROPE. HE SAID THERE IS A PERCEPTION THAT THE U.S. IS "FORCE-FEEDING" GMO'S TO EUROPE, WHETHER EUROPE WANTS THEM OR NOT, AND IF EUROPE PROTESTS, THE U.S. WILL RESPOND WITH A WTO COMPLAINT. THIS THREAT, HE SAID, IS FUELING ANTI-AMERICAN AND ANTI-WTO FEELINGS. HE CITED THE WTO CASE ON USE OF HORMONES TO PRODUCE BEEF AS AN ANALOGOUS INSTANCE OF THE U.S. "FORCE FEEDING" EUROPE WHICH, IF THE U.S. WINS, WILL ANGER EUROPEANS.

15. ~~(C)~~ PEKNY SAID THEIR EXPERIENCE TO DATE ON OBTAINING GMO-FREE PRODUCTS HAS BEEN "DIFFICULT." MAJOR COMMODITY TRADERS IN THE U.S. AREN'T INTERESTED, AND ESTABLISHING AN IDENTITY-PRESERVED MARKETING CHAIN IS BOTH COMPLICATED AND EXPENSIVE. THE MARKETING CHAIN IS BIASED TOWARD THE MAINSTREAM, HE SAID, AND THOUGH 98 PCT OF THE GLOBAL SOYBEAN HARVEST IS CONVENTIONALLY BRED, CONVENTIONAL BEANS ARE NOW A SCARCE COMMODITY AND COST MORE TO GET BECAUSE THE MAINSTREAM INCLUDES MODIFIED BEANS. HE ADDED THAT GREENPEACE'S LAWYERS ARE LOOKING INTO THAT ASPECT TO SEE IF AN ANTI-TRUST LAWSUIT OR WTO COMPLAINT COULD BE BROUGHT AGAINST THE U.S. GIVEN ITS DOMINANT POSITION IN WORLD SOYBEAN TRADE.

A LITTLE ABOUT GREENPEACE AUSTRIA
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16. (U) GREENPEACE AUSTRIA HAS 28 PAID EMPLOYEES AND 40-50 VOLUNTEERS. THE ORGANIZATION IS PARTICIPATING IN THE FOUR CAMPAIGNS GREENPEACE IS RUNNING AT PRESENT: BIODIVERSITY (WHICH INCLUDES GENE TECHNOLOGY), TOXIC WASTE, ATMOSPHERIC/CLIMATIC CHANGE, AND NUCLEAR POWER/WEAPONS. THE GREENPEACE AUSTRIA WORLD WIDE WEB HOME PAGE CAN BE ACCESSED VIA THE INTERNET AT URL HTTP://WWW.GREENPEACE.OR.AT.

COMMENT AND OBSERVATIONS:
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17. ~~(C)~~ GREENPEACE, AN ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION, HAS IN AUSTRIA PLAYED THE CARD OF PUBLIC FEARS OVER HUMAN HEALTH RATHER THAN THE MORE TYPICAL ECOLOGICAL ISSUE CARD. WHILE TELLING US IN PRIVATE THAT THEIR CONCERN IS LONG TERM IMPACT ON ECOSYSTEMS, GREENPEACE PUBLICLY PLAYS UP FEARS OF UNKNOWN ALLERGENS, "GENE JUMPING" TO HUMANS, AND LONG-TERM, UNPREDICTABLE RISKS AKIN TO THOSE ENCOUNTERED WITH NUCLEAR POWER. WITH THAT IN MIND, WE NOTE AS WELL THAT THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST GMO'S IN AUSTRIA, OF WHICH GREENPEACE AND THE INDIGENOUS ECOLOGICAL GROUP GLOBAL 2000 ARE THE MOST VISIBLE PROPONENTS, HAS EARMARKS OF A PROFESSIONALLY RUN DISINFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN WITH SOME TROUBLING

ELEMENTS OF SUPPRESSION OF INFORMATION THROWN IN. WE HAVE IDENTIFIED SIX ELEMENTS OF THE CAMPAIGN:

- DISCREDITING AND DENUNCIATION OF SUPPORTERS OF GENE

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TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING AD HOMINEM ATTACKS IN THE PRESS,

- SCARE TACTICS SO AS TO FRIGHTEN THE PUBLIC,

- CAMPAIGNS DIRECTED AT INDOCTRINATION OF CHILDREN, TO ENSURE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF OPPOSITION,

- PHYSICAL INTIMIDATION OF PRO-GMO FACTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING OCCUPATION OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE COMPANY OFFICES,

- DISCREDITING OF SCIENCE AS A BASIS FOR MAKING DECISIONS (THE GREENPEACE REPS' PROTESTATIONS TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING), SHIFTING THE FOCUS TO EMOTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN STIRRED BY VISIONS OF "MONSTERS", AND

- GROSS DISTORTIONS OF FACT, WRAPPING MISINFORMATION AND QUOTES TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT AROUND A SMALL KERNEL OF TRUTH.

THE GREENPEACE REPS' ASSERTION THAT GREENPEACE ENTERED THE DEBATE TO BALANCE THE SCALES IS DISINGENUOUS. THE SCALES WERE TIPPED HEAVILY AGAINST GMO'S EARLY ON, AND PROPONENTS OF GENE TECHNOLOGY IN AUSTRIA WERE DROWNED OUT IN THE WELL-ORGANIZED DRIVE TO SWAY PUBLIC OPINION.

18. ~~(C)~~ GREENPEACE AUSTRIA'S ALLEGATIONS OF BIAS IN THE REGULATORY REVIEW PROCESS, THAT GOVERNMENT REGULATORS ONLY REVIEW (POTENTIALLY FALSIFIED) DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY THE COMPANIES, IS STRIKING A CHORD HERE AND WE SUSPECT ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE AS WELL. THE NUB OF THE ISSUE IS THAT WHILE MOST AMERICANS TRUST THEIR FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM, MANY EUROPEANS HAVE HAD THEIR FAITH IN THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY SYSTEMS SHAKEN TO THE FOUNDATIONS BY MAD COW DISEASE AND ARE ONLY TOO WILLING TO LISTEN TO A DOOMSAYER. THE QUESTION FOR BRUSSELS IS WHETHER THE EU COMMISSION CAN CONTINUE TO IGNORE PUBLIC SENTIMENT AND RELY ON SCIENCE TO MAKE ITS

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 04 OF 04 VIENNA 003316

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DECISIONS.

19. ~~(C)~~ THE ISSUE OF LONG-TERM RISKS ("WE ONLY HAVE TEN YEARS OF EXPERIENCE") STRIKES ANOTHER CHORD IN A COUNTRY WHICH STILL MEASURES THE IMPACT OF CHERNOBYL IN TERMS OF THE HALF LIVES OF RADIACTIVE ISOTOPES. GREENPEACE HAS PLAYED THIS CARD QUITE EFFECTIVELY HERE, AND GIVEN THE PUBLIC MOOD, WE THINK THE ISSUE WILL NOT GO AWAY UNTIL SOME SCIENTIFIC ENTITIES THE PUBLIC DOES TRUST ARE ABLE TO PRESENT INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE THAT GENETIC MODIFICATION POSES NO LONG-TERM RISKS TO HEALTH.

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20. ~~(C)~~ SCHICKHOFER'S ADMONITION THAT WE ARE SEEING ONLY THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG CERTAINLY HOLDS TRUE IN AUSTRIA. GREENPEACE HAS MANY ALLIES IN THE ANTI-GMO MOVEMENT AND THE SUCCESS OF THEIR CAMPAIGN IS EVIDENT IN THE UNUSUALLY LARGE TURNOUT--OVER 1.2 MILLION--IN THE APRIL 7-14 NATIONAL INITIATIVE. WE ALSO BELIEVE HIM WHEN HE SAYS GREENPEACE WILL NOT ALLOW THE ISSUE TO DIE. GIVEN THE BOOST THAT THE ANTI-GMO PUBLIC INITIATIVE HAS GIVEN THE ANTI-GMO FACTIONS IN AUSTRIA, THE ISSUE WILL BE WITH US FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT TWO YEARS.
HUNT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 04
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INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0102
SUBJ: COURT CHALLENGE TEMPORARILY BLOCKS GMO SUGARBEET
-- FIELD TRIALS IN IRELAND

TEXT:

UNCLAS DUBLIN 002311

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FAS FOR ITP DIV; OFSTS/HARBERT; FAA/AO/NE/LETARTE

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REF: DUBLIN 2127

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED -- PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) SUMMARY. A MAY 13 HIGH COURT TEMPORARY TNJUNCTION FILED BY A GROUP KNOWN AS "GENETIC CONCERN" HAS STOPPED MONSANTO FROM PLANTING ITS GENETICALLY MODIFIED SUGARBEET IN IRELAND. THE INJUNCTION LASTS UNTIL MAY 22, BY WHICH TIME MONSANTO MUST MAKE ITS ARGUMENTS. IN RESPONSE TO GROWING NEGATIVE PUBLICITY, MONSANTO WILL APPROACH ENTITIES ENGAGED IN BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND/OR PRODUCTION IN TRELAND TO FORMULATE A JOINT PUBLIC RELATIONS APPROACH. ACCORDING TO MONSANTO, THE IRISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY HAS BEEN MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH THAN ITS COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER EU MEMBER STATES. WE WILL MAKE INFORMAL APPROACHES ON BEHALF OF MONSANTO BUT AWAIT GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON BEFORE ENGAGING THE EPA. END SUMMARY.

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2. (SBU) THE IRISH HIGH COURT HAS GRANTED A TEMPORARY INJUNCTION TO A MEMBER OF A GROUP CALLED "GENETIC CONCERN," STOPPING MONSANTO FROM FIELD TRIAL PLANTING OF ITS GMO SUGARBEET. MONSANTO RECENTLY RECEIVED IRISH EPA APPROVAL TO ALLOW IT PLANT THE SUGARBEET WHICH IS RESISTANT TO ITS HERRICIDE ROUNDUP (REFTEL). IRONICALLY, ACCORDING TO MONSANTO OFFICIALS, PLANTING OF THE SUGARBEET HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR MAY 9 BUT DELAYED UNTIL MAY 14 BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER.

3. (SBU) BY COINCIDENCE, ECONOFF AND AGSPECIALIST HAD ARRANGED A MEETING WITH MONSANTO'S UK-BASED GENERAL MANAGER AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVISORS MAY 14 TO DISCUSS THE PROCESS OF THE GMO SUGAR BEET APPROVAL AND OTHER BIOTECHNOLOGY ISSUES. THUS, WE WERE ABLE TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THE HIGH COURT INJUNCTION. THE MONSANQWERE
SHOCKED AT THE DECISION OF THE COURTS AND STILL HAD NOT SEEN ANY OF THE CLAIMS MADE BY THE PLAINTIFF. THEY SAID MONSANTO WOULD FIGHT VIGOROUSLY TO SAFEGUARD THE APPROVAL AND ADDED THAT LOSING THIS COURT ACTION COULD GIVE ANTI-GMO LOBBYISTS AMMUNITION TO UNRAVELING THE GMO APPLICATION PROCESS IN IRELAND AND IN OTHER EU COUNTRIES.

4. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE PLAINTIFF ARGUED FOR THE INJUNCTION AS PLANTING OF THE GMO SUGARBEET WAS IMMINENT; AFTER PLANTING THE SITUATION WOULD BE IRRETRIEVARLE. THE SUBMISSION ALLEGES THAT THE EPA GRANTED APPROVAL TO MONSANTO BEFORE SATISFYING ITSELF THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ADVERSE AFFECT ON HUMAN HEALTH AND THE EMVIRONMENT AND HAD BREACHED REGULATIONS GOVERNING ITS PROCEDURES ON DECIDING GMO APPLICATIONS. FURTHERMORE IT CONTENDED THAT THE PROPOSED DISTANCE OF THE FIELD TRIALS FROM REGULAR SUGAR BEET WAS ONLY TWO METERS, WHILE IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS IT WAS CUSTOMARY FOR A SEPARATING DISTANCE OF A NUMBER OF KILOMETERS.

5. (SBU) MONSANTO REPRESENlATIVES REPORTED THAT THE IRISH EPA WAS A DIFFICULT AGENCY TO DEAL WITH DURING THE 90/220 (EC DIRECTIVE) APPLICATION PROCESS. THEY CLAIMED THAT THE EPA PUT THE MONSANTO APPLICATION "THROUGH HOOPS" AND THE MOST "RIGOROUS SCRUTINY" OF ANY EU COUNTRY IN WHICH GMO APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN FILED BY MONSANTO (EVEN WORSE THAN DENMARK, THEY SAID). MONSANTO REPS WERE VERY ANGRY BECAUSE, THEY FELT THAT THE EPA "DRIP FED" THE MEDIA WITH INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS IN ADVANCE OF INFORMING MONSANTO, RATHER THAN KEEPING TO A MORE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC STANCE OF "NO COMMENT WHILE THE APPLICATION IS UNDER CONSIDERATION."
6. (SBU) IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING NEGATIVE MEDIA COVERAGE OVER
THE GMO SUGARBEET APPLICATION, MONSANTO HAS
DECIDED THAT IT WILL BEGIN TO CONTACT OTHER BIOTECH INDUSTRY FIRMS OPERATING IN IRELAND, AS WELL AS ACADEMICS WORKING ON BIOTECH RESEARCH PROJECTS (MONSANTO CLAIMS THERE ARE OVER 300 SUCH PROJECTS TAKING PLACE IN IRELAND NOW) IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A BALAMCED, INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND GMOS. MONSANTO ASKED EMBOFFS FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO APPROACH

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THIS GROWING PROBLEM.

7. (SBU) WE ADVISED MONSANTO REPS THAT WE WOULD APPROACH THE IRISH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (IDA) INFORMALLY TO SOLICIT ITS VIEWS ON THE MATTER, AS IDA HAS A STAKE IN BUILDING UP A BIOTECH INDUSTRY IN IRELAND. IN OUR VIEW, FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND JOBS ARE THE KEY WORDS TO USE WHEN

ENGAGING THE GOVERNMENT ON ANY ISSUE, AND WE HAVE FOUND IDA TO BE A USEFUL ALLY. WE ALSO ADVISED MONSANTO THAT WE WOULD SPEAK INFORMALLY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S ECONOMIC ADVISOR (AN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST) TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE, ALTHOUGH WITH ELECTIONS DUE TO TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 6 HE WILL RE DIFFICULT TO REACH AND PERHAPS NOT IN A POSITION TO HELP AFTER ELECTIONS. IN OUR VIEW (AND MONSANTO AGREES), A FORMAL USG DEMARCHE TO THE EPA AT THIS TIME WOULD PROBABLY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP WASHINGTON AGENCIES INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SUGARBEET CASE AND WILL AWAIT DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE BEFORE MAKING ANY FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOI ON BEHALF OF MONSANTO. SMITH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2311

TOR: 970514115624 M2758261

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Segregation] (2 pages)~~	~~06/04/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: [EU GMO Policy] (3 pages)~~	~~06/10/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 11/26/2019
~~003. cable~~	~~Re: Recent Developments on the Austrian GMO Sector (3 pages)~~	~~06/12/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 11/26/2019
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: Two EU Biotech Developments (3 pages)~~	~~06/20/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 11/26/2019
005. cable	Re: [European Commission] (3 pages)	06/20/1997	P1/b(1)
~~006. cable~~	~~Re: NZ Developments on Genetically Modified Foods (4 pages)~~	~~06/23/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
007. cable	Re: [Labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms] (3 pages)	06/23/1997	P1/b(1)
008. cable	Re: [Biotechnology] (4 pages)	07/15/1997	P1/b(1)
009. cable	Re: [DREE Director] (4 pages)	07/17/1997	P1/b(1)
~~010. cable~~	~~Re: Egypt Issues Decree Requiring the Certification of Genetically~~ Modified Commodities (GMO) (4 pages)	~~06/28/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 11/26/2019
011. cable	Re: [EU's Common Agricultural Policy] (3 pages)	08/07/1997	P1/b(1)
012. cable	Re: [EU Meeting] (4 pages)	08/28/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:
[06/04/1997 - 08/28/1997]

2013-0836-F
ke3006

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/20/2019
2016-0529-M (1.57)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 041710Z JUN 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 041710Z JUN 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3710
INFO: RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 9342
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: COMMISSION PROPONENTS OF GMO SEGREGATION ADVANCE THEIR CASE

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ BRUSSELS 003995

STATE PASS TO USTR FOR SHER AND MURPHY
STATE PASS TO USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, FAS/OA/GALVIN,
FAS/ITP/ADA/SHEIKH, ITP/OFSTS/SLUTSKY, FAS/ITP/EAMED/THORN

E.O. 12958: 06/05/07
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN
SUBJECT: COMMISSION PROPONENTS OF GMO SEGREGATION ADVANCE THEIR CASE

1. CLASSIFIED BY DCM DONALD B. KURSCH. REASON 1.5 (B/D)

2. ~~(C)~~ A SENIOR, WELL PLACED COMMISSION OFFICIAL INFORMED DCM JUNE 4 THAT THE MODERATE PROPOSALS FOR HANDLING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) DEVELOPED BY COMMISSION SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAMSON AND STRONGLY ENDORSED BY COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT BRITTAN HAD "TAKEN A DRUBBING". HE FEARED THAT IF WILLIAMSON'S PROPOSAL IS NOT APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION, A RADICAL ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL REQUIRING THAT ALL GMOS BE SEGREGATED WAS LIKELY TO BE ENDORSED. THIS ALTERNATIVE, SPEARHEADED BY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER FISCHLER, WAS GATHERING UP STEAM AND OTHER KEY COMMISSIONERS SUCH AS BJERREGAARD (ENVIRONMENT) AND BONINO (CONSUMER AFFAIRS) WERE RELUCTANT TO SUPPORT THE WILLIAMSON APPROACH FOR FEAR OF APPEARING TO BE SOFT ON THE HIGHLY SENSITIVE ISSUE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION. OUR SOURCE NOTED FURTHER THAT PRESIDENT SANTER'S LEADERSHIP ON THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN "WOBILY", AND NEEDED SHORING UP. HE COMMENTED THAT WITHOUT SANTER'S FORCEFUL HANDLING OF THIS QUESTION THERE WAS A GREAT POTENTIAL FOR THINGS TO GO WRONG.

3. ~~(C)~~ OPPONENTS OF THE PROPOSAL TO SEGREGATE GMOS WITHIN THE COMMISSION ARE GATHERING INFORMATION TO DEMONSTRATE THE ENORMOUS COSTS THAT WOULD BE INCURRED IF FISCHLER'S APPROACH

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WERE TO BE ADOPTED. A CRASH EFFORT TO WORK WITH EUROPEAN TRADE ASSOCIATIONS WAS BEING MOUNTED IN ORDER TO GENERATE OPPOSITION. OUR SOURCE COMMENTED THAT EVEN FRENCH TRADERS ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH FISCHLER'S IDEAS, BUT CONTINUED THAT THE HIGHLY EMOTIONAL ENVIRONMENT GENERATED BY BSE HAD CREATED A SITUATION WHERE RATIONAL ECONOMIC CONCERNS COULD BE EASILY OVERIDDEN.

4. ~~(C)~~ OUR CONTACT EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT TIME FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION MAY BE VERY SHORT SINCE WILLIAMSON'S PROPOSALS ARE EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE COMMISSION ON JUNE 10 AND COULD WELL BE REJECTED AT THAT SESSION. AS A RESULT, QUICK ACTION WAS CRITICAL.

5. ~~(C)~~ MISSION IS IN THE PROCESS OF SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE AMBASSADOR WITH SANTER AND SEVERAL OTHER KEY COMMISSIONERS TO EXPRESS OUR SERIOUS CONCERNS REGARDING ANY MEASURES TO SEGREGATE GMOS WHICH, IF ADOPTED, WOULD EFFECTIVELY CUT OFF LARGE PORTIONS OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE EU. IN OUR EFFORT TO TRY AND HEAD THESE BAD IDEAS OFF AT THE PASS WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON INPUT ON AN URGENT BASIS. GIVEN THE SHORT TIME FRAME WE MAY BE WORKING WITH AND THE VERY SERIOUS COMMERCIAL REPERCUSSIONS OF A BAD COMMISSION DECISION, MISSION RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON DIRECT APPROACHES TO KEY CONTACTS IN MEMBER STATES UNDERSCORING OUR SERIOUS CONCERNS. WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3995

TOR: 970604131816 M2789332

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Cable

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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 101255Z JUN 97
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
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DTG: 101255Z JUN 97
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEA
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
SUBJ: COMMISSIONERS DIVIDED ON FUTURE EU GMO POLICY
TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 0044131

SENSITIVE
USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/ADA/SHEIKH,
ITP/EAMED/THORN/CHESLEY/WHEATLEY,
ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT/SLUTSKY, CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER,
CMP/CTOS/BENNETT, APHIS FORMEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE
STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
STATE PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI
STATE PASS FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: COMMISSIONERS DIVIDED ON FUTURE EU GMO POLICY
REFERENCES: USEU BRUSSELS

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

2. SUMMARY. FUTURE EU POLICY REGARDING TREATMENT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS AND DERIVED PRODUCTS REMAINS AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ISSUE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ACCORDING TO JIM CLOOS, CHIEF OF STAFF FOR COMMISSION PRESIDENT SANTER. SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAMSON'S PAPER ATTEMPTING TO FIND A REASONABLE

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SOLUTION HAS MET WITH A DIVISIVE DEBATE. WHILE NO SPECIFIC DATE EXISTS FOR A DECISION ON THE WILLIAMSON PAPER, ACTION WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE AUGUST. SOME COMMISSION SOURCES ARE INDICATING THAT THE USG SHOULD RAISE THE PROFILE OF THIS ISSUE BEFORE MORE EXTREME POSITIONS ARE TAKEN. END SUMMARY.

3. USEU AMBASSADOR WEAVER MET WITH JIM CLOOS, CHIEF OF STAFF FOR COMMISSION PRESIDENT SANTER, ON JUNE 6 TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS FACING FUTURE EU POLICY ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (REFTEL). AMBASSADOR WEAVER OPENED BY POINTING OUT THE BENEFITS OF GMO'S AND THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH MANDATORY SEGREGATION. IN ADDITION, HE ASKED FOR PRESIDENT SANTER'S CONTINUED SUPPORT IN THE APPROVAL OF SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAMSON'S PAPER SETTING THE FUTURE OF EU GMO POLICIES.

4. CLOOS THANKED WEAVER FOR THE INFORMATION AND INDICATED THAT THE ISSUE WAS EXTREMELY POLITICALLY SENSITIVE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION. HE LAMENTED THE FACT THAT THE ISSUE WAS NOT BEING HANDLED EFFECTIVELY OR EFFICIENTLY, FURTHER HEIGHTENING CONSUMER CONCERNS. THE ISSUE OF LABELING WAS A COMPLEX AREA WITH A VERY NARROW LINE BETWEEN HEALTH CONCERNS, PRODUCTION METHODS AND CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO KNOW. HOWEVER, CLOOS SAID THAT VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE COMPANIES THAT HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY APPROACHED TO PROVIDE VOLUNTARY LABELING OF THEIR PREVIOUSLY-APPROVED GMO'S HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE COMMISSION REQUEST.

5. SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAMSON'S COMPREHENSIVE PAPER ON GMO POLICY, CLOOS SAID, WAS AN ATTEMPT TO CHART A FUTURE PATH FOR THE EU BY BRINGING TOGETHER VARIOUS OUTSTANDING COMMISSION PROPOSALS. THIS HAD SPARKED A HEATED DEBATE WITHIN THE COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS ON HOW TO PROCEED. THIS DEBAE WAS CREATING PROBLEMS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE WILLIAMSON PAPER IN LIGHT OF MORE EXTREME POSITIONS CURRENTLY BEING CIRCULATED.

6. WHEN ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD PROCEED ON JUNE 10 WITH THE WILLIAMSON PAPER, CLOOS RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD BE LATER. HE SAID NO DEFINITE DATE HAD BEEN SET BUT THAT IT WOULD OCCUR PRIOR TO THE END OF SUMMER.

7. IN DISCUSSING THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR EU BIOTECH POLICY, CLOOS SAID THAT HE HAD RECENTLY BEGUN TO QUESTION THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN SETTING POLICY ON SUCH MATTERS. HE SPECIFICALLY POINTED TO A RECENT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY HEARING IN WHICH A NUMBER OF U.S. SCIENTISTS HAD PRESENTED TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF THE CONTINUED BAN ON IMPORTS OF BEEF PRODUCED WITH GROWTH PROMOTERS.

8. IN CLOSING, CLOOS INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT SANTER HOPED TO FIND A SOLUTION THAT WOULD CALM CONSUMERS AND BE REASONABLE FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE COMPLEX ISSUE. WEAVER INDICATED THAT HE AND HIS STAFF WOULD BE CONTACTING SEVERAL COMMISSIONERS WHO ARE NOT NORMALLY

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INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURAL ISSUES TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE WILLIAMSON PAPER. CLOOS FELT THAT THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL.
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 004131

SENSITIVE
USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/ADA/SHEIKH, ITP/EAMED/THORN/CHESLEY/WHEATLEY, ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT/SLUTSKY, CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/CTOS/BENNETT, APHIS FORMEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE
STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
STATE PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI
STATE PASS FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: COMMISSIONERS DIVIDED ON FUTURE EU GMO POLICY

9. COMMENT. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IS BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE. ON THE ONE HAND IT WANTS TO BE SEEN AS AGGRESSIVE ON CONSUMER HEALTH ISSUES IN LIGHT OF BSE. ON THE OTHER, THERE ARE MODERATE VOICES THAT UNDERSTAND THE REPERCUSSIONS THAT EXTREME EU POLICIES SUCH AS MANDATORY SEGREGATION AND LABELING WOULD CREATE.

10. SEVERAL COMMISSION SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD RAISE THE PROFILE OF THIS ISSUE IN THE COMING WEEKS. HOWEVER THIS MUST BE HANDLED CAREFULLY GIVEN BSE AND THE RECENT PRESS COVERAGE OF THE HORMONE CASE. USEU HAS BEGUN WORKING LEVEL CONTACT WITH THE STAFFS OF NUMEROUS COMMISSIONERS IN AN EFFORT TO SHORE UP SUPPORT FOR A MODERATE APPROACH IN FUTURE COMMISSION DISCUSSION. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE RAMIFICATIONS OF MANDATORY SEGREGATION INCLUDING POTENTIAL COSTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. END COMMENT.
(DRAFTED:FAS:RICHEY) KURSCH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 4131
<^SSN>4131

TOR: 970610101330 M2797673
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SIT: NSC

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Cable

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RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0075
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0065
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0142
SUBJ: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE AUSTRIAN GMO SECTOR

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 005189

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT,
EAMED/THORN, COMMODITY DIVISIONS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PINR, PROP, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE AUSTRIAN GMO SECTOR

REF: VIENNA 02665

STCABLE 726

A. SUMMARY
AUSTRIA'S BAN ON NOVARTIS BT CORN WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ACCEPTED BY BRUSSELS. IN JULY OR SEPTEMBER AT THE LATEST, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL PROBABLY DECLARE AUSTRIA'S BAN ILLEGAL. IN THIS CASE BARBARA PRAMMER, MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND MARTIN BARTENSTEIN, MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, YOUTH AND FAMILY AFFAIRS ARE READY TO BRING THE CASE TO THE EUROPEAN COURT. AFTER IT BECAME KNOWN THAT BRUSSELS APPROVED TWO GENETICALLY MODIFIED RAPE VARIETIES, PRAMMER STATED THAT THESE VARIETIES WOULD BE BANNED BY AUSTRIA. IN THE QUESTION OF GMO FIELD RELEASE, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT AND GENE TECHNOLOGY OPPONENTS ARE GETTING CLOSER.

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B. AUSTRIA'S BAN ON BT CORN TO FALL SOON?
1. ACCORDING TO TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPER REPORTS, AUSTRIA'S BAN ON BT CORN WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ACCEPTED BY BRUSSELS. A SPOKESMAN OF EU ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER RITT BJERREGAARD SAID THAT THREE SCIENTIFIC BOARDS CAME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION: THE DOCUMENTS FORWARDED TO BRUSSELS BY AUSTRIA TO SUPPORT THE BAN ON BT CORN INCLUDED NO NEW INFORMATION CONCERNING HEALTH HAZARDS.

2. THUS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT IN THE SECOND HALF OF JUNE, BJERREGAARD'S AGENCY WILL RECOMMEND TO AN EXPERT BOARD OF MEMBER COUNTRIES DECLARING AUSTRIA'S BAN AS "NOT EU CONFORMING." THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL DEAL WITH THIS SUBJECT PROBABLY IN JULY OR SEPTEMBER AT THE LATEST. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL ALSO REGARD AUSTRIA'S BT CORN BAN AS UNJUSTIFIED AND DECLARE IT ILLEGAL.

3. COMMENT: WHEN AUSTRIA ANNOUNCED THE BT CORN BAN, THE GOA WAS ALREADY AWARE THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE CHANCE OF GETTING THE BAN APPROVED BY BRUSSELS. HOWEVER, BARBARA PRAMMER, THE MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND MARTIN BARTENSTEIN, MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, YOUTH AND FAMILY AFFAIRS, HAVE FREQUENTLY MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING THE CASE TO THE EUROPEAN COURT IF THE OUTCOME IS NEGATIVE. GENE TECHNOLOGY OPPONENTS ARE NOW DEMANDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT REMAIN FIRM AND GO THIS WAY.

4. IN THEIR FIRST PUBLIC REACTION TO THE NEWS FROM BRUSSELS, PRAMMER AND BARTENSTEIN CONFIRMED THAT AUSTRIA IS READY TO GO TO THE EUROPEAN COURT. CONTACTS CLOSER TO THE CASE ADMIT THAT THERE IS LITTLE HOPE THAT AUSTRIA WOULD WIN SUCH A CASE BUT HOPE THAT THIS PROCESS WOULD SET A PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE CASES AND WOULD IN EFFECT HINDER THE EU APPROVAL OF GMOS/PRODUCTS IN THE FUTURE.

C. AUSTRIA WILL BAN GENETICALLY MODIFIED RAPE
5. AUSTRIA INTENDS TO CONTINUE ITS TRADITIONAL LINE ON THE GENE TECHNOLOGY SECTOR. AFTER IT BECAME KNOWN THAT THE EU COMMISSION HAS APPROVED TWO GM RAPE VARIETIES, PRAMMER ANNOUNCED THAT AUSTRIA WILL BAN THEM. THE BAN IS SUPPORTED BY BARTENSTEIN AND WELCOMED BY GREENPEACE AND GLOBAL 2000.

6. THE BAN WILL AGAIN BE BASED ON ARTICLE 16 OF THE EU RELEASE DIRECTIVE 90/220. HOWEVER, IN CONTRAST TO BT CORN WHERE HEALTH REASONS WERE GIVEN, THE TWO RAPE VARIETIES WILL BE BANNED BECAUSE OF ECOLOGICAL REASONS. PRAMMER AN
D
BARTENSTEIN BELIEVE THAT THERE IS HIGH DANGER OF CROSS OVER TO WILD RAPE PLANTS. IN ADDITION, DEVELOPMENT OF RESISTANCE BY RELATED WEEDS MAY RESULT IN INCREASED HERBICIDE USE.

D. PIRST MEETING OF GENE TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUPS
7. SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER THE GOVERNMENT AND GMO OPPONENTS AGREED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON GMO MATTERS, THE GENE TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUPS ON BOTH SIDEDS OF THE DEBATE MET

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ON JUNE 10 IN THE PEDERAL CHANCELLERY. TOPICS OF THE DISCUSSIONS WERE THE MAIN DEMANDS OF THE GENE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE (REFTEL), NAMELY: A 5-YEAR RELEASE MORATORIUM, GMO PRODUCTION BAN, AND NO PATENT ON LIVING ORGANISMS.

8. IN THE QUESTION OF GMO RELEASE, BOTH SIDES APPARENTLY
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 005189

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT,
EAMED/THORN, COMMODITY DIVISIONS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PINR, PROP, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE AUSTRIAN GMO SECTOR

REF: VIENNA 02665

CAME CLOSER TO AGREEMENT. PRAMMER PLEDGED AGAIN NOT TO PERMIT FIELD RELEASE OF GMOS FOR A 5-YEAR PERIOD. BARTENSTEIN AND WILHELM MOLTERER, MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND PORESTRY, WHILE NOT CALLING FOR A BAN ON RELEASE OF GMOS, DID SUGGEST STRICTER CONDITIONS THAN CURRENTLY REQUIRED FOR GMO RELEASE. HUNT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 5189
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RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
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SUBJ: TWO EU BIOTECH DEVELOPMENTS - COMMISSION ADDS LABELING REQUIREMENTS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220 AND SEGREGATION OF GMO'S LESS LIKELY

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 004419

SENSITIVE
FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH/THORN/WHEATLEY,
C&MP/COTS/BLUM AND C&MP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, TO APHIS FOR
MEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY
STATE PASS HHS/FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM
STATE PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: TWO EU BIOTECH DEVELOPMENTS - COMMISSION ADDS LABELING REQUIREMENTS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220 AND SEGREGATION OF GMO'S LESS LIKELY

REFERENCES: (A) USEU BRUSSELS 4131
(B) NENON/GALVIN E-MAILS 4/2/97 AND 4/3/97
(C) DISCUSSION IN U.S.-EC BILATERALS ON AG BIOTECHNOLOGY 15-16 APRIL 1997

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.
2. SUMMARY: ON 18 JUNE, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ADOPTED EXPECTED AMENDMENTS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220 ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS THAT WILL REQUIRE COMPANIES TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ON LABELING WITH THEIR APPLICATIONS. MOREOVER, IT APPEARS

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THE DEBATE IN THE COMMISSION ON THE TREATMENT OF BIOTECH PRODUCTS HAS MOVED AWAY FROM SEGREGATION OF COMMODITIES. END SUMMARY.

DIRECTIVE 90/220 AMENDED

3. ON 18 JUNE, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ADOPTED A LONG-ANTICIPATED (REFS B AND C) COMMISSION DIRECTIVE WHICH ADDED LABELING PROVISIONS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220 ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S). THE AMENDMENTS REQUIRE COMPANIES TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ON THE LABELING OF THEIR PRODUCTS ALONG WITH THEIR APPLICATIONS. PRODUCTS RECEIVING 90/220 APPROVALS WILL HAVE TO HAVE AN INDICATION, EITHER ON THE LABEL OR ON ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION, THAT THEY WERE OBTAINED BY TECHNIQUES OF GENETIC MODIFICATION. MOREOVER, MIXTURES OF GMO'S AND CONVENTIONAL PRODUCTS WOULD HAVE TO INDICATE THAT THEY "MAY CONTAIN GMO'S". MEMBER STATES WILL HAVE UNTIL 31 JULY 1997 TO TRANSPOSE THESE AMENDMENTS INTO NATIONAL LAW.

4. THE COMMISSION'S PRESS RELEASE (FAXED TO FAS/ITP/EAMED) INDICATED THAT THESE AMENDMENTS WOULD MEAN THAT SHIPMENTS OF COMMODITIES AND POSSIBLY FOODS MADE FROM THEM WOULD BE LABELED. THE RELEASE SAYS THAT ENVIRONMENT COMMISSIONER BJERREGAARD ASKED TWO COMPANIES TO "CONSIDER FURTHER THE ISSUE OF BULK CONSIGNMENTS OF COMMODITIES." SHE IS ALSO QUOTED AS CLAIMING THAT THE AMENDMENTS ARE "A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE COMMISSION OF THE NEW PRINCIPLE OF LABELING GMO'S AS VALUABLE INFORMATION TO THE CONSUMER...." HOWEVER, SINCE DIRECTIVE 90/220 ONLY COVERS ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE, WHICH IS GENERALLY DONE THROUGH THE DISTRIBUTION OF BIOTECHNOLOGICALLY IMPROVED SEEDS, KEEN OBSERVERS EXPECT THESE LABELING REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY ONLY TO SEED BAGS. NOTE: THE SCOPE OF DIRECTIVE 90/220 DOES NOT REACH TO THE DISTRIBUTION OR FURTHER USE OF THE PRODUCTS APPROVED UNDER IT. PROCESSED PRODUCTS ARE COVERED BY THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION. END NOTE.

5. COMMISSIONER BJERREGAARD HAS EXTRACTED VARIOUS PROMISES FROM THE COMPANIES THAT HAVE PRODUCTS PENDING 90/220 APPROVAL TO INDICATE TO PURCHASERS THAT SPECIAL HANDLING MAY BE REQUIRED. HOWEVER, WE ARE TOLD THESE KINDS OF ASSURANCES HAVE LIMITED LEGAL VALUE SINCE SEED PRODUCERS CANNOT MAKE COMMITMENTS FOR USERS FURTHER DOWN THE PRODUCTION STREAM. THE COMPANIES WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH DO NOT BELIEVE THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL HAVE A COMMERCIAL IMPACT SINCE THEY WILL CHARGE PREMIUM PRICES FOR THEIR SEEDS PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY ARE GENETICALLY MODIFIED.

6. MOREOVER, OUR CONTACTS REPORT THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THESE AMENDMENTS BY A REGULATORY COMMITTEE LAST MONTH ALLOWED THE APPROVAL ON 6 JUNE OF TWO RAPESEED VARIETIES DEVELOPED BY PLANT GENETIC SYSTEMS. THE COMMISSION HAD BEEN SITTING ON THESE APPROVALS FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS BECAUSE COMMISSIONER BJERREGAARD INSISTED THAT SOME KIND OF LABELING WAS NECESSARY. OUR CONTACTS SAY THAT THE

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NINE PENDING DIRECTIVE 90/220 APPROVALS CAN MOVE FORWARD NOW THAT THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS ARE CLEAR.

SEGREGATION LESS LIKELY

7. RELIABLE COMMISSION AND INDUSTRY CONTACTS REPORTED TO AGATT THAT SEGREGATION OF FEED INGREDIENTS WOULD NOT BE THE APPROACH TAKEN IN ANY FURTHER COMMUNITY LEGISLATION
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 004419

SENSITIVE
FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH/THORN/WHEATLEY,
C&MP/COTS/BLUM AND C&MP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, TO APHIS FOR MEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY
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STATE PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: TWO EU BIOTECH DEVELOPMENTS - COMMISSION ADDS LABELING REQUIREMENTS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220 AND SEGREGATION OF GMO'S LESS LIKELY

ON BIOTECHNOLOGY (REF A). WHATEVER EMERGES FROM PRESIDENT SANTER'S EFFORT TO ELABORATE A COHERENT POLICY ON THE LABELING AND TREATMENT OF BIOTECH PRODUCTS WOULD "AVOID ANY MANDATORY REQUIREMENT FOR OPERATORS," THE COMMISSION CONTACT SAID. HOWEVE, BOTH CONTACTS NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION MUST STILL FIND A MEANS OF CALMING CONSUMER CONCERNS ABOUT BIOTECHNOLOGY AND THIS WOULD LIKELY COME THROUGH NEW LABELING REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN FORMULATED.

8. THE COMMISSION OFFICIAL SAID THAT, NEXT WEEK, THE COMMISSIONERS' CHIEFS OF STAFF WILL DISCUSS REVISIONS TO PRESIDENT SANTER'S COMMUNICATION ON BIOTECHNOLOGY. THE COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS IS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE REVISED SANTER PAPER ON 2 JULY.
(DRAFTED:FAS:SGNENON) WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

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RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2933
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2351
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
SUBJ: NZ DEVELOPMENTS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000754

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EAP/ANZ
STATE PASS USTR/PHILLIPS/CUMMINGS/STILLMAN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA FOR AG COUNSELOR
USDA FOR ITP/SHEIKH, ZEITNER, ITP/FSTS, FAA/MOLSTAD

E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, WTRO, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: NZ DEVELOPMENTS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

REF: WELLINGTON 01687, WELLINGTON 00188, WELLIGNTON 00477

1. THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE, BUT UNCLASSIFIED.

2. (SBU) SUMMARY: AN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY (ANZFA) "INQUIRY REPORT" REFLECTING PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED RULES CREATING A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS (GMF'S) WILL NOT BE READY UNTIL AUGUST AT THE EARLIEST. THE ANZFA STANDARDS COUNCIL, WHICH WILL RECEIVE THE REPORT, CAN ADOPT, AMEND OR REJECT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. NEIL KIRTON, THE N.Z. ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND A COUNCIL MEMBER HAS DEMONSTRATED LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR ARGUMENTS REFLECTING THE U.S. APPROACH TO REGULATING BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND HAS PUBLICALLY INDICATED SUPPORT FOR MANDATORY LABELING. HOWEVER, PARTLY WITH OUR ENCOURAGEMENT, OTHER GNZ MINISTERS ARE DEVELOPING A GROWING INTEREST IN THE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) ACCORDING TO ANZFA OFFICIALS IN WELLINGTON, AN

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"INQUIRY REPORT" REFLECTING PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE A GMF REGULATORY FRAMEWORK WILL NOT BE READY FOR RELEASE PRIOR TO THE JULY MEETING OF THE ANZFA STANDARDS COUNCIL. THE COMMENT PERIOD FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS TO THE PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD, #A18-FOOD DERIVED FROM GENE TECHNOLOGY" WAS EXTENDED INTO LATE MAY, WELL BEYOND THE APRIL 3 CLOSING DATE. N.Z. MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, AND HEALTH EACH SUBMITTED SEPARATE COMMENTS TO THE RULE. THE VOLUME OF COMMENTS AND THE NUMBER OF ISSUES RAISED PRECLUDED A QUICK TURNAROUND ON A REVISED PROPOSAL BY ANZFA. HOWEVER IT'S LIKELY THE INQUIRY REPORT COULD BE READY FOR RELEASE TO THE ANZFA STANDARDS COUNCIL AND THE N.Z. PUBLIC BY THE END OF AUGUST.

4. (U) THE ANZFA STANDARDS COUNCIL IS COMPOSED OF AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH MINISTERS AND INCLUDES NEIL KIRTON, THE N.Z. ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF HEALTH. THE COUNCIL HAS A RANGE OF OPTIONS INCLUDING TO ADOPT, AMEND OR REJECT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INQUIRY REPORT. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW OR WHEN THE ISSUES SURROUNDING THE RULE WILL BE ADDRESSED BY ANZFA OR INCORPORATED INTO A FINAL REGULATION. HOWEVER THE RELEASE OF THE INQUIRY WILL PUT THE GMF ISSUE INTO THE LIMELIGHT AGAIN.

5. (SBU) NEIL KIRTON APPEARS LARGELY UNSYMPATHETIC TO THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION ON N.Z. AGRICULTURE, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, AND IMPORTERS. HE HAS REFUSED TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FOOD MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION (DESPITE HAVING MET WITH A CROSS-SECTION OF CONSUMER ACTIVIST GROUPS) AND HIS MINISTRY APPEARS UNWILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO A BALANCED DOMESTIC DEBATE.

6. (SBU) IN A JUNE 17 DISCUSSION WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE, KIRTON DEMONSTRATED ONLY LIMITED RECEPTIVITY TO THE IDEA THAT GENETIC ENGINEERING IS USED TO ACHIEVE THE SAME GOALS AS TRADITIONAL BREEDING TECHNIQUES AND THAT LITTLE DISTINGUISHES GMF'S AS A CLASS FROM FOODSTUFFS DERIVED FROM OTHER METHODS. IN EARLY APRIL, MINISTER KIRTON INDICATED IN A PRESS RELEASE THAT HE HAD "STRONG PERSONAL RESERVATIONS OVER THE ISSUE AND HAD CONSIDERED A MORATORIUM ON THE IMPORTATION OF GMF'S."

AT THAT TIME, THE MINISTER WAS ALSO OF THE VIEW THAT #THE CUSTOMER HAS A TOTAL RIGHT TO KNOW THE LEVEL OF GMF IN THEIR FOODSTUFFS" AND CALLED FOR STRICT LABELING REQUIREMENTS. UNFORTUNATELY THE MINISTER'S COMMENTS TO THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT INDICATE HIS VIEWS HAD CHANGED. IN RESPONSE TO INFORMATION FROM THE AMBASSADOR THAT U.S. FOOD LABELING IS USED TO CONVEY INFORMATION ABOUT FOOD ATTRIBUTES (SUCH AS NUTRITIONAL COMPOSITION), THE MINISTER STATED FROSTILY THAT #NEW ZEALAND RESERVED ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO DEVELOP ITS REGULATIONS AS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH."

7. (SBU) THE AMBASSADOR URGED THE MINISTER TO CONSIDER

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THE RANGE OF APPROACHES AVAILABLE TO REGULATE SUCH FOODSTUFFS AND, REFERRING TO POSSIBLE NEGATIVE TRADE IMPACTS, RELAYED THE U.S. DESIRE TO AVOID UNINTENDED INDIRECT CONSEQUENCES OF NEW ZEALAND'S GMF REGULATION. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO REITERATED POINTS MADE IN USDA COMMENTS THAT THE PROPOSED STANDARD, AS CURRENTLY
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000754

SENSITIVE

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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA FOR AG COUNSELOR
USDA FOR ITP/SHEIKH, ZEITNER, ITP/FSTS, FAA/MOLSTAD

E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, WTRO, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: NZ DEVELOPMENTS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

WRITTEN, ISN'T CLEAR HOW AND IN WHAT DETAIL FOODS WILL BE LISTED. HE SUGGESTED THAT EXHAUSTIVE REGULATIONS FOR PRODUCTS THAT DO NOT POSE SIGNIFICANT FOOD SAFETY ISSUES WOULD LIKELY ABSORB MANY RESOURCES AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT ENHANCE PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION.

8. (SBU) OTHER N.Z. POLICY MAKERS ARE DEVELOPING A GROWING AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE REGULATION OF GMF'S. THE AMBASSADOR PROVIDED A NON-PAPER ON U.S. POLICY FOR FOODS DERIVED BY BIOTECHNOLOGY ON JUNE 6 TO ROB EADDY, THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHIEF OF STAFF, AND LATER MENTIONED THE ISSUE TO PRIME MINISTER BOLGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER MCKINNON.

9. (SBU) ON HIS RETURN FROM MAY TRADE DISCUSSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND AGRICULTURE LOCKWOOD SMITH PRIVATELY INDICATED HE RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GMF ISSUE TO THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF N.Z. AGRICULTURE. WE UNDERSTAND MINISTER SMITH WILL MEET WITH KIRTON IN EARLY JULY TO ENSURE THAT THE N.Z. APPROACH TO REGULATING GMF'S REFLECTS BROADER TRADE INTERESTS.

10. (SBU) COMMENT: ALTHOUGH RECENTLY MORE RESERVED IN HIS PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS, KIRTON'S GENERAL NEGATIVISM COULD BE PROBLEMATIC WHEN THE GMF ISSUE REEMERGES FROM THE ANZFA PROCESS LATER THIS SUMMER. KIRTON HAS BEEN IN OPEN CONFLICT BEFORE WITH OTHER CABINET MEMBERS IN THIS FRAGILE COALITION GOVERNMENT. HE MAY PROVE UNPREDICTABLE IN HIS APPROACH TO THE GMF ISSUE REGARDLESS OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE CONCERNS RAISED BY OTHER MINISTERS. END COMMENT. BEEMAN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 0754
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TOR: 970623004121 M2816441
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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-M (1.63)

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RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6578
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4588
SUBJ: DREE DIRECTOR ON SECTORAL INITIATIVES, BANANAS, LEG-HOLD TRAPS, GMO'S AND BEEF HORMONES

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 016116

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/17/02
TAGS: ETRD USTR WTRO FR EC
SUBJECT: DREE DIRECTOR ON SECTORAL INITIATIVES, BANANAS, LEG-HOLD TRAPS, GMO'S AND BEEF HORMONES

REF: A: STATE 130933; B: STATE 128850; C: GLOVER-MCCARTHY EMAIL; D: IVES-SECOR TELECONS; E: PARIS 14902; F: PARIS 14877

1. CLASSIFIED BY A/DCM MEDEIROS FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

2. SUMMARY

-- THE NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET TAKEN A POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF SECTORAL INITIATIVES (REF A).

-- THE OFFICIAL GOF POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED ON BANANAS BUT FRENCH OFFICIALS WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE INFORMALLY WITH USTR OFFICIALS IN LATE JULY (REFS B AND D).

-- THE DREE IS UNCERTAIN WHAT POSITION FRANCE WILL TAKE IN BRUSSELS ON LEG HOLD TRAPS. (AS OF 7/17 A TRADE ADVISER IN THE PM'S OFFICE SAID THAT FRANCE WAS STILL "REFLECTING" ON ITS POSITION.)

-- GOF TRADE OFFICIALS STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT LABELLING IS THE BEST MECHANISM FOR ENSURING MARKET ACCESS FOR GMO'S, GIVEN THE CLIMATE OF EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION ON FOOD SAFETY.

-- DREE ASSERTS THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET LOOKED AT THE BEEF HORMONE ISSUE AND BELIEVES THAT THE ISSUE WILL BE DECIDED AT

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THE EU LEVEL. END SUMMARY.

3. ON JULY 16, A/DCM DISCUSSED A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES WITH TRADE DIRECTORATE (DREE) DIRECTOR JACQUES DE LAJUGIE. DAVID APPIA, DE LAJUGIE'S NEW DEPUTY FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS (REPLACING DENIS TERSEN, WHO HAS MOVED UP TO BECOME AN ADVISER ON TRADE ISSUES TO MINISTER OF ECONOMY, FINANCE AND INDUSTRY STRAUSS-KAHN), DESK OFFICER CLAIRE THIRRIOT, AND EMBASSY TRADE POLICY OFFICER ALSO ATTENDED MEETING. SEPTELS COVER DISCUSSION OF BOEING-MCDONNELL DOUGLAS MERGER AND HELMS-BURTON PERNOD-RICARD CASE.

SECTORAL INITIATIVES

4. IN RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHE ON SECTORAL INITIATIVES (REF B), DE LAJUGIE COMMENTED THAT NEITHER THE PREVIOUS JUPPE GOVERNMENT NOR THE CURRENT JOSPIN GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED ON WHAT APPROACH FRANCE SHOULD TAKE TOWARD A NEW URUGUAY-TYPE ROUND OR THE ALTERNATIVE OF SECTORAL INITIATIVES. HE ASKED WHETHER THE USG'S APPARENT PREFERENCE FOR A SECTORAL APPROACH IS DRIVEN BY THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION CAN OBTAIN FAST TRACK AUTHORITY FROM CONGRESS. A/DCM RESPONDED THAT THE USG SIMPLY SEES OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADE LIBERALIZATION VIA A SECTORAL APPROACH AS OBTAINABLE IN THE NEAR TERM. IF WE START A NEW ROUND, TRADE LIBERALIZATION WILL COME TO A HALT FOR A RELATIVELY LONG PERIOD, UNTIL COUNTRIES DECIDE WHAT AND WHEN TO DEAL.

5. DE LAJUGIE ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHAT CANADA'S POSITION IS ON THE SECTORAL APPROACH. HE NOTED THAT NEW NEGOTIATIONS ON CERTAIN SECTORS WERE MANDATED BY THE MARRAKECH AGREEMENT AND THAT FRANCE LOOKED AT THESE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEED TO ADDRESS THE TRADE "ANDS" (ENVIRONMENT, LABOR AND COMPETITION POLICY) IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE SAID THE DREE WILL STUDY OUR SECTORAL SUGGESTIONS AND PROVIDE RESPONSES WHEN AVAILABLE. HE DID NOTE THAT THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR REMAINS AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ONE IN FRANCE. A/DCM RESPONDED THAT NEGOTIATIONS IN THIS SECTOR WERE IN FACT MANDATED AT MARRAKECH. DE LAJUGIE COMMENTED THAT EU ENLARGEMENT WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON THE EU POSITION REGARDING FURTHER LIBERALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT -- WITH CONTINUING RESTRUCTURING OF FRANCE'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND A SECOND REFORM OF THE CAP COMING UP -- THE DEBATE ON MULTILATERAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE LESS INTENSE THAN THAT IN 1993-94.

GMO'S AND LABELLING

6. CONTINUING THE DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES, DE LAJUGIE NOTED THAT FRANCE, LIKE THE U.S., HAS A VERY STRONG AND EFFECTIVE AGRICULTURAL LOBBY. HE MENTIONED HIS MEETING IN JUNE WITH USDA FAS ADMINISTRATOR SCHUMACHER (REF F) AND ASKED WHETHER THE USG CAN BE MORE FLEXIBLE ON THE LABELLING ISSUE FOR GMO'S. HE NOTED THE VERY STRONG CONSUMER PROTECTION SENSITIVITIES IN NORTHERN EUROPE, AND COMMENTED THAT HE VIEWS LABELLING AS THE BEST MECHANISM FOR OBTAINING MARKET ACCESS FOR GMO'S. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THE ISSUE IN FRANCE, HE REFERRED TO FORMER FRENCH AG MINISTER VASSEUR'S DECISION TO APPROVE PLANTING OF BT CORN, AND COMMENTED ON HOW STARTLING IT HAD BEEN WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER OVERTURNED VASSEUR'S DECISION WITHIN THE SPACE OF 24 HOURS, BASED ON POLITICAL CONCERNS.

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BEEF HORMONES

7. DE LAJUGIE SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT YET READY TO PROVIDE ITS POSITION ON THE BEEF HORMONE ISSUE. HE SAID HE WAS SURPRISED AT THE VIRULENT EUROPEAN PRESS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE INITIAL PANEL DECISION. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE ISSUE WOULD BE DECIDED AT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/17/02
TAGS: ETRD USTR WTRO FR EC
SUBJECT: DREE DIRECTOR ON SECTORAL INITIATIVES, BANANAS, LEG-HOLD TRAPS, GMO'S AND BEEF HORMONES

THE EU LEVEL.

BANANAS

8. A/DCM PRESENTED REF A DEMARCHE TO DE LAJUGIE. DE LAJUGIE OUTLINED (AS HE HAD IN JUNE - REF E) THE DEPENDENCE OF THE ECONOMY OF MARTINIQUE AND GUADELOUPE ON BANANAS AND THE POTENTIAL FOR SOCIAL UNREST IF THE BANANA TRADE IS SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES HAVE SENT A MESSAGE TO THE WHITE HOUSE ASKING FOR U.S. RESTRAINT ON THE BANANA TRADE ISSUE. AND HE AGAIN MENTIONED THE ECUADORIANS, NOTING THAT THEY WERE TRYING TO BE HELPFUL (NO FURTHER SPECIFICS), UNDERSTANDING THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON BANANA-DEPENDENT CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES. DE LAJUGIE COMMENTED AGAIN ON HOW SENSITIVE THE ISSUE IS POLITICALLY IN FRANCE. HE SAID THE REACTION OF THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP WHEN IT TRIES TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE PANEL DECISION'S IMPLICATIONS MAY NOT BE RATIONAL. HE ADDED THAT IT DOES NOT MATTER HOW RATIONALLY AND LEGALISTICALLY THE ISSUE IS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER: IT WILL BE REGARDED AS A POLITICAL MATTER. HE SAID THAT THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY IS NOT ONLY A QUESTION OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE OFFICIALS ELECTED FROM THE ISLANDS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BUT ALSO THE FACT THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF INFLUENTIAL SENIOR BUREAUCRATS HAVE WORKED IN THE DOM-TOMS AND ARE PROTECTIVE OF THEM.

9. A/DCM RESPONDED THAT FRANCE AND THE EU MUST DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE WITHIN A SET TIMEFRAME. WHAT THE USG SEEKS IS OBVIOUSLY NOT TO UNDERMINE THE ISLAND ECONOMIES BUT RATHER FOR THE EU TO ESTABLISH A NEW BANANA REGIME IN EUROPE THAT IS WTO CONSISTENT AND THAT ALLOWS THE GROWTH OF THE LATIN AMERICAN BANANA TRADE. WE EXPECT THE EUROPEANS TO SET UP SUCH A SYSTEM, WHICH COULD ALSO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE CARIBBEAN BANANA-DEPENDENT STATES.

10. DE LAJUGIE ASKED IF THE USG IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE BANANA CASE INFORMALLY BEFORE THE FINAL PANEL DECISION. A/DCM NOTED THAT DAUSTR IVES IS PREPARED TO MEET WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS IN PARIS IN LATE JULY. DE LAJUGIE WELCOMED IVES' VISIT AND SUGGESTED THAT USTR REPS COME PREPARED WITH IDEAS REGARDING REFORM OF THE EU STRUCTURE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOF WANTED TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE INFORMALLY, AND SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT AFTER THE FINAL PANEL DECISION. (COMMENT. THE FRENCH ARE VERY ANXIOUS ON THIS ISSUE. THE DREE DOES NOT LIKE PANEL DECISIONS FINDING FRANCE AND THE EU IN THE WRONG. DE LAJUGIE APPEARS OPENLY TO BE SEEKING IDEAS OR ADVICE ON HOW THE SYSTEM CAN BE REFORMED IN A WTO-CONSISTENT MANNER. WE SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSION AS TO THE VERY SENSITIVE

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POLITICAL POTENTIAL THE ISSUE HAS HERE. THE FACT THAT DE LAJUGIE IS SEEKING DISCUSSIONS IS A GOOD SIGN. WHAT PROGRESS WE CAN MAKE IS ANOTHER QUESTION. END COMMENT)

LEG HOLD TRAPS

11. DE LAJUGIE SAID THAT AN INTERMINISTERIAL MEETING WAS SCHEDULED ON THE ISSUE TODAY (7/16). HE SAID HE REALLY DID NOT KNOW WHAT FRANCE'S POSITION WOULD BE. (MARC BOREL, A FORMER DREE OFFICE DIRECTOR, NOW A TRADE ADVISER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, TOLD US 7/17 THAT THE 7/16 INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING HAD REACHED NO CONCLUSION ON THE ISSUE AND THAT FRANCE WAS STILL "REFLECTING" ON WHAT POSITION IT WOULD FINALLY ADOPT. LAST WEEK HE HAD TOLD US THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THE ISSUE WOULD PLAY OUT BETWEEN THE DREE, MFA AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY.) THE DREE IS TAKING THE POSITION THAT FRANCE AND THE EU MUST CONFORM TO WTO RULES. DE LAJUGIE COMMENTED THAT THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY -- WITH A GREEN PARTY MINISTER -- IS TAKING A VERY STRONG POSITION ON THIS ISSUE AGAINST THE DREE. HE RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO REACH A DECISION BY JULY 22. (COMMENT. IN JUNE WE DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH DREE AND MFA STAFFERS. AT THAT TIME THEY COULD OFFER US ONLY THEIR OWN MINISTRIES' POSITIONS -- BOTH FAVORED A WTO CONSISTENT POLICY AND A QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT INVOLVING THE EU AND ALL THREE PRODUCERS: THE U.S., CANADA AND RUSSIA. IT IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL IN FRANCE FOR MINISTRIES TO OFFER A POSITION THAT HAS NOT BEEN FULLY GOF CLEARED AND ESTABLISHED BY INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION. THIS IS A SIGN OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S INITIAL SETTLING-IN DIFFICULTIES. AS A SEPARATE MATTER, THE CANADIAN EMIN TOLD US LAST WEEK THAT HE IS VERY WORRIED THAT CANADA WILL NOT REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE EU AND THAT A TRADE BAN WILL BE PUT IN PLACE BY DEFAULT. END COMMENT)

12. DE LAJUGIE ASKED WHETHER, IF THE EU APPROVES A DEAL WITH RUSSIA AND CANADA, IT IS "CONCEIVABLE" THAT THE USG COULD SIGN ON. A/DCM RESPONDED THAT IN THE U.S. THE STATES, NOT THE USG, WILL HAVE THE FINAL SAY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REASONS. THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO SIGN ON TO THE CANADA/RUSSIA DEAL IF IT INCLUDES A BAN ON LEG HOLD TRAPS. OUR NDERSTANDING IS THAT THE U.S. PROBLEM WITH THE CANADA/RUSSIA AGREEMENTS INVOLVES THE BAN ON LG HOLD TRAPS, HOWEVER, NOT THE NEGOTIATED INTRNATIONAL HUMANE TRAPPING STANDARDS.

BANDLE

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 6116
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TOR: 970717092339 M2851669
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DIST:

SIT: PETERS TARULLO
SIT: NSC

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHEGA7660 2090457-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 280457Z JUL 97
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TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8664
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY 0746
INFO: RUCNWTOWORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2527
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
SUBJ: EGYPT ISSUES DECREE REQUIRING THE CERTIFICATION
- OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED COMMODITIES (GMO)

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 O 02 CAIRO 007660

FAS FOR ADMINISTRATOR,DA/ITP AND ITP/OFSTS,DA/CMP,CMP/GF AND CMP/COTSD, AND DA/EC
STATE FOR EB/TPP AND ALSO USTR ELECTRONICALLY
COMMERCE FOR 4520/MAC/ANE/ONE
GENEVA FOR FAS AND USTR
BRUSSELS FOR FAS/POPE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD,WTRD,EG
SUBJECT: EGYPT ISSUES DECREE REQUIRING THE CERTIFICATION
- OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED COMMODITIES (GMO)

1. IN A TOTALLY UNEXPECTED MOVE, THE EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) HAS ISSUED A DECREE REQUIRING THAT ALL AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS BE CERTIFIED AS NOT/NOT HAVING BEEN CULTIVATED OR PRODUCED BY GENETICALLY MODIFIED MEANS. THE DECREE TOOK EFFECT ON JULY 1, 1997, ALTHOUGH IT HAS ONLY RECENTLY BECOME PUBLIC. NEWS OF THE DECREE CREATED IMMEDIATE CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY IN THE MARKET.

2. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY THE MOH FELT COMPELLED TO ISSUE THE DECREE. BIOTECHNOLOGY AND GMO RESEARCH HAS NOT BEEN A HOT ISSUE IN EGYPT. WHATEVER THE REASON, TRADE REACTION TO THE DECREE NOTICE AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH GOE OFFICIALS STRONGLY INDICATE THAT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ACTED ALONE AND WITHOUT INTERNAL CONSULTATION. OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TRADE (MOS) IN PARTICULAR WERE CAUGHT OFF GUARD AND OPENLY AND VISIBLY UPSET AT THE ACTION. THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY IS REPORTED TO HAVE COMPLAINED BITTERLY ABOUT THE DECREE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S CABINET MEETING ON JULY 27. THAT WAS FOLLOWED

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BY A QUICK MOVE TO HAVE WHEAT EXCLUDED FROM THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT. BY THE END OF THE WEEK (I.E., JULY 24-25), THE MOH HAD RETREATED SOMEWHAT. IN AN INTERNAL MEMO APPROVED BY THE MINISTER, THE MOH ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS POSTPONING IMPLEMENTING THE DECREE FOR THREE MONTHS AND WAIVING THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR ALL COMMODITIES, EXCEPT SOYBEANS.

3. EMBASSY'S AGCOUNSELOR SPENT THE WEEK OF JULY 20 COMMUNICATING WITH THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IN THE MINISTRY AND HEALTH (BELIEVED TO BE THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ISSUING THE DECREE) AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL AUTHORITY FOR SUPPLY COMMODITIES (GASC) IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TRADE TO ASCERTAIN THE REASON FOR THE DECREE AND TO OBTAIN DETAILS ON HOW THE DECREE WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

A. THE MOH/UNDER SECRETARY DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO THE QUESTION OF WHY THE DECREE WAS NECESSARY,BUT SUGGESTED THAT DISCUSSIONS IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA HAD LEFT THE ISSUE OF THE SAFETY OF GMO COMMODITIES UNRESOLVED. HE DID NOT GET SPECIFIC ON WHICH MEETINGS OR WHICH DISCUSSIONS. HE ASKED FOR A CLARIFICATION ON WHAT THE U.S. WAS PREPARED TO DO TO CERTIFY GMO COMMODITIES. HE WAS TOLD THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT CERTIFY ANY AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY AS "GMO-FREE."

B. THE MEETING WITH THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF GASC GOT TO THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM. HE COMPLAINED THAT THE ACTION HAD TAKEN AWAY HIS FLEXIBILITY TO ENTER THE GRAIN MARKET AT WILL. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN FORCED TO SUSPEND ALL GRAIN PURCHASES PELING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MOH. HE TOO ASKED ABOUT U.S. CERTIFICATION OF GMO COMMODITIES AND WAS TOLD THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT CERTIFY GMO COMMODITY EXPORTS. HE ASKED FOR WRITTEN CONFIRMATION, WHICH HE RECEIVED. WE HAVE GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY REFERRED TO THE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S CABINET MEETING, AND THAT THE MOS ALSO USED IT IN ARGUING WITH THE MOH THAT WHEAT SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE LIST OF BANNED COMMODITIES.

4. CURRENT STATE OF PLAY:

A. THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH AND SUPPLY/TRADE HAVE BEEN ADVISED IN WRITING THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT CERTIFY GMO COMMODITY EXPORTS.

B. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS BEEN GIVEN INFORMATION CONCERNING THE U.S. REGULATORY APPROVAL PROCESS FOR GMO COMMODITIES AND A LIST OF CURRENT APPROVED CROPS IN THE U.S. (AS OF JUNE 1997).

C. BOTH MINISTRIES HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS ABOUT THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DECREE ON U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO EGYPT AND ON TRADE IN GENERAL.

D. AGCOUNSELOR HAS REQUESTED AN URGENT MEETING WITH THE

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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, DR. YOUSSEF A. WALLY, TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IS IN THE FOREFRONT OF BIOTECHNIC RESEARCH IN EGYPT. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE MINISTRY IS ALSO INVOLVED IN A HOST OF COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS WITH THE U.S (SOME WITH USAID, OTHERS WITH FAS MARKET DEVELOPMENT COOPERATORS) IN THE AREAS OF POULTRY, DAIRY AND ANIMAL
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 00760

FAS FOR ADMINISTRATOR,DA/ITP AND ITP/OSTS,DA/CMP,CMP/GF AND CMP/COTSD, ANDDA/EC
STATE FOR EB/TPP AND ALSO USTR ELECTROICALLY
COMMERCE FOR 4520/MAC/ANE/ONE
GENEVA FOR FAS AND USTR
BRUSSELS FOR FAS/POPE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD,WTRD,EG
SUBJECT: EGYPT ISSUES DECREE REQUIRING THE CERTIFICATION
- OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED COMMODITIES (GMO)

PRODUCTION. ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS DEPEND HEAVILY ON THE UNINCUMBERED IMPORTATION OF CORN, OTHER COARSE GRAINS, SOYBEANS, AND RELATED BY-PRODUCTS. ALL WILL BE SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED IF IMPORTS REMAIN BLOCKED.

E. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT MOS/MOH OFFICIALS WILL TRY TO MEET ON JULY 28-29 TO RESOLVE THE LONGER-TERM PROBLEM (I.E., WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE THREE MONTHS HAVE EXPIRED), AT LEAST AS IT CONCERNS WHEAT. THE MOS ALSO HAS AGREED TO USE THE MEETING TO REINFORCE U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT ON OTHER KEY IMPORTS SUCH AS SOYBEANS.

F. THE MEETING WITH THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (IF IT TAKES PLACE) WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL.

5. FINAL NOTE:

THE THREE MONTH EXTENSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECREE DOESN'T GIVE THE GOE MUCH TIME TO SOLVE THE GROWING CRISIS AND CALM THE MARKET, AND MOST OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN QUICK TO NOTE THAT. WITH NOTICE OF THE THREE MONTH EXTENSION, THE MOS QUICKLY ENTERED THE WHEAT MARKET FOR 450,000 MT, ALL FOR AUGUST DELIVERY. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, ONE SOYBEAN SHIPMENT WAS REJECTED BY IMPORT AUTHORITIES FOR NOT HAVING THE REQUIRED CERTIFICATION, AND AT LEAST TWO OTHER ORDERS, ONE FOR SOYBEANS AND THE OTHER FOR CORN, REPORTEDLY WERE CANCELED BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY. THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THE MOH IS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND FROM TRADERS TO BACK OFF ITS POSITION. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER IT WILL BE ABLE TO FIND A FACE-SAVING WAY TO DO IT. WALKER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. cable~~	~~Re: EU Commission Wants Austria to Lift Import Ban on Genetically~~ Modified Corn (2 pages)	~~09/11/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 11/26/2019
002. cable	Re: [Labeling Genetically Modified Products] (3 pages)	10/02/1997	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: [EU Meetings] (4 pages)	10/06/1997	P1/b(1)
004. cable	Re: [French Position on Genetically Modified Corn] (3 pages)	10/22/1997	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Re: [European Commission] (5 pages)	11/21/1997	P1/b(1)
006. cable	Re: [French Policy on Genetically Modified Organisms] (3 pages)	11/26/1997	P1/b(1)
~~007. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Corn Vote] (2 pages)~~	~~12/12/1997~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:
[09/11/1997 - 12/31/1997]

2013-0836-F
ke3007

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
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LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA8355 2541623-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3092
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0131
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0111
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0185
SUBJ: EU COMMISSION WANTS AUSTRIA TO LIFT IMPORT BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN

STCABLE 735

TEXT:

UNCLAS VIENNA 008355

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT, EAMED/THORN, COMMODITY DIVISIONS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: EU COMMISSION WANTS AUSTRIA TO LIFT IMPORT BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN

STCABLE 735

1. ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1997 THE EU COMMISSION AGREED TO DEMAND THAT AUSTRIA LIFT ITS IMPORT BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN. ACCORDING TO THE COMMISSION, AUSTRIA WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVE THAT GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN ENDANGERS HUMAN HEALTH OR THE ENVIRONMENT.

2. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO BOTH NEWSPAPER REPORTS AND UNOFFICIAL INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM SOURCES OF THE MINISTRY FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY, AUSTRIA INTENDS TO MAINTAIN THE GOVERNMENT DECISION ON THE BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN.

3. THE MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, BARBARA PRAMMER, FAVORS ACTIVE STEPS AGAINST THE DECISION AND THEREFORE WILL BRING SUIT IN THE EU COURT.

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HOWEVER, IF AUSTRIA WANTS TO BRING THE CASE TO THE EU COURT, IT HAS TO WAIT UNTIL THE DECISION BECOMES OFFICIAL. THIS IS EXPECTED TO TAKE AT LEAST SIX WEEKS. THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL HAS TO PASS FIRST THE ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE, AFTER WHICH THE EU COMMISSION CAN MAKE A FINAL DECISION.

4. PRAMMER EXPRESSED HER DISAPPOINTMENT WITH COMMISSIONER FRANZ FISCHLER, WHOM SHE ACCUSED OF NOT HAVING SUPPORTED AUSTRIA.

5. THE MINISTERFOR ENVIRONMENT, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MARTIN BATENSTEIN STATED THAT HE FULLY SUPPORTS HIS COLLEAGE PRAMMER IN MAINTAINING THE BAN. IN ADDITION, THE LABOR CHAMBER, THE GRECN PARTY AND VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS DEMANDED REJECTION OF THECOMMISSION'S DECISION.

6. COMMENT: AUSRIAN OFFICIALS EXPECTED THIS KIND OF DECISION BY THE EU COMMISSION. IN ADDITION, THEY ARE CERTAIN THEY WILL ALSO LOSE IN THE EUROPEAN COURT. HOWEVER, IN BRINGING THE CASE TO COURT, AUSTRIANS GAIN TIME AND POLITICIANS CAN PROVE TO THE STRONGLY ENVIRONMENTALLY ORIENTED POPULATION THAT THEY TRIED EVERYTHING TO KEEP GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 8355

TOR: 970911131402 M2926262

DIST:

SIT: NSC

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VZ NARA, Date 11/26/16
2016-0529-M (1.78)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHTHA8934 3461450-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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LINE3: R 121450Z DEC 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
OSRI: RUEHTH
DTG: 121450Z DEC 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6310
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0036
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GREECE TO ABSTAIN ON GMO CORN VOTE

TEXT:

UNCLAS ATHENS 008934

FAS FOR ITP/PSHEIKH AND G&F/CRADLER

E.O. 1258: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, GR, EUN

SUBJECT: GREECE TO ABSTAIN ON GMO CORN VOTE

REF: THESSALONIKI 00307 (NOTAL)

1. SOURCES IN THE GREEK BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE AND THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT HAVE REPORTED THAT GREECE WILL ABSTAIN ON THE DEC. 15 VOTE ON THE APPROVAL OF MONSANTO'S BT CORN DOSSIER. IN GREECE, THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR VOTING ON THIS ISSUE.

2. TWO REASONS WERE GIVEN FOR THIS INACTION. THE FIRST, ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT SOURCE, IS THAT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE MADE LITTLE EFFORT TO JUSTIFY A NEED FOR ACCEPTING THIS PRODUCT. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT IF THE MINAG MADE THIS JUSTIFICATION, AND IT WAS STRONG ENOUGH, THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT WOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT NEEDED TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MONSANTO DOSSIER OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF THE GREENS, MOST NOTABLY GREENPEACE. EFFORTS WERE MADE BY THE AGATTACHE TO SEEK A MEETING WITH MINAG OFFICIALS TO TRY TO SECURE THIS JUSTIFICATION BUT POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS WERE NOT AVAILABLE PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE.

3. THE SECOND REASON, ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE THAT EVALUATED THE

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MONSANTO DOSSIER, IS RELATED TO CONCERNS IN THE GREEK SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY OVER THE EU INSECT RESISTANT MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRM). THIS PLAN IS DESIGNED TO EVALUATE OVER TIME WHETHER INSECTS BECOME RESISTANT TO THE INSECTICIDE INCORPORATED INTO THE BT CORN. IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD NO SCIENTIFIC REASON FOR NOT ACCEPTING MONSANTO'S DOSSIER. HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOG NOT VOTE ON ANY GMO PRODUCTS UNTIL THE IRM PROPOSAL IS FINALIZED. THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE'S CONCERNS INCLUDE THE EU'S DELAY IN FINALIZING THE PLAN; FEAR THAT MEMBER STATE FUNDING, AS OPPOSED TO EU, WILL BE REQUIRED; AND THAT THERE WILL BE LITTLE FOLLOW UP AND COORDINATION REQUIRED BETWEEN MEMBER STATES.

4. IN A RELATED EVENT, THE GREEK CHAPTER OF GREENPEACE DISRUPTED UNLOADING OF A SHIPMENT OF U.S. CORN IN THE GREEK PORT OF THESSALONIKI ON DECEMBER 5-6 (REF). GREENPEACE OBJECTED TO THE UNLOADING OF THE "MUTANT" CORN, EVEN THOUGHT ITS FINAL DESTINATION WAS FYROM AND NOT GREECE.

5. COMMENT: THIS INCIDENT, FORTUNATELY MORE OF AN INCONVENIENCE THAN A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE SHIPPER, HIGHLIGHTS THE SENSITIVITY OF A SMALL, BUT VOCAL, GROUP OPPOSED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF GMO'S INTO GREECE. IN 1996, WHEN THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT APPROVED GMO SOYBEANS, GREENPEACE STAGED A LARGE PROTEST IN FRONT OF HIS OFFICE. SINCE THAT TIME HE HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO TAKE ANY ACTION, POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, ON GMO'S. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE COMMENT ON THE LACK OF MINAG SUPPORT FOR BT CORN WAS ONLY AN EFFORT TO SHIFT THE BLAME TO A DIFFERENT MINISTRY. END COMMENT.

BURNS

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 8934

TOR: 971212105840 M3067546

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SIT: NSC

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Japan - U.S. Patents and Biotechnology] (3 pages)	01/20/1998	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: [European Commission] (3 pages)	01/23/1998	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: [Biosafety] (8 pages)	02/10/1998	P1/b(1)
004. cable	Re: [France - U.S. Agricultural Trade] (2 pages)	02/10/1998	P1/b(1)
~~005. cable~~	~~Re: [Agricultural Biotechnology] (4 pages)~~	~~02/27/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~006. cable~~	~~Re: NZ Developments on Genetically Modified Foods (2 pages)~~	~~03/04/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2014
~~007. cable~~	~~Re: [Irish Politics] (5 pages)~~	~~03/12/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~008. cable~~	~~Re: [French Opposition to GMOs] (2 pages)~~	~~03/16/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~009. cable~~	~~Re: [Monitoring] (2 pages)~~	~~03/17/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~010. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Corn] (3 pages)~~	~~03/17/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2014
~~011. cable~~	~~Re: [EU Vote on GMO Corn] (2 pages)~~	~~03/18/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2014
~~012. cable~~	~~Re: [USTR Ambassador Scher's Bilaterals] (9 pages)~~	~~03/18/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~013. cable~~	~~Re: EU Committee Approves GMOs (2 pages)~~	~~03/19/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2014

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:
[01/08/1998 - 03/27/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3008

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
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P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
014. cable	Re: [GMO Corn Approval Vote] (3 pages)	03/19/1998	P1/b(1)
~~015. cable~~	~~Re: Next Step on GMO Approvals (2 pages)~~	~~03/27/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2014

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:
[01/08/1998 - 03/27/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3008

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0524-M (1.87)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 271356Z FEB 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5299
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INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
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RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0333
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 0257
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0073
SUBJ: STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATION
- IN SLOVAKIA

CLASSIFIED BY ALLAN MUSTARD, AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR, AMERICAN EMBASSY VIENNA, FOR REASONS 1.5(B) AND (D)

TEXT:
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 001776

FROM REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR/JIM MURPHY, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT, EAMED/THORN
COMMODITY DIVISIONS
USDA PASS APHIS FOR OA/MEDLEY, PAYNE
BRUSSELS FOR USEU, PASS AGRICULTURE AND APHIS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/27/2008
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, LO
SUBJECT: STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATION
- IN SLOVAKIA

CLASSIFIED BY ALLAN MUSTARD, AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR, AMERICAN EMBASSY VIENNA, FOR REASONS 1.5(B) AND (D)

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: BIOTECHNOLOGY HAS NOT YET BECOME A PUBLIC ISSUE IN SLOVAKIA. OFFICIALS ARE BEGINNING TO GATHER INFORMATION FROM EU INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVE EXPERIENCE IN THIS SECTOR. IN ADDITION THEY ARE PREPARING FOR POSSIBLE FIELD TESTS SINCE SOME COMPANIES HAVE BEGUN TO EXPRESS INTEREST. FIELD TESTS CAN ONLY BE CARRIED OUT BY THE CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION AND TESTING INSTITUTE. IN MID-MARCH, THREE EU REGULATIONS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SLOVAKIA. GMOS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN ORGANIC

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FARMING. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) FEBRUARY 24, 1998, VIENNA-BASED AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST WALTER KRUCSAY HELD A MEETING AT THE CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION AND TESTING INSTITUTE (CAITI) IN BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA, TO GATHER INFORMATION ON THE SLOVAK BIOTECHNOLOGY SITUATION. SLOVAK PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED PAVEL FILKORN, DIRECTOR OF CAITI; MARGITA ANTOLIKOVA, SPECIALIST FOR FEED REGISTRATION OF CAITI; WLADIMIR SODOMA, DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF VARIETIES OF CAITI; ROMAN HARVANIK, DEPARTMENT OF SEEDS OF CAITI; DR. LUBOMIR HORVATH, CHIEF OF BIOCHEMICAL LABORATORIES OF CAITI, BATOROVA BRONISLAVA, PLANT BREEDER RIGHTS DEPARTMENT OF CAITI; STEFAN PALACKA, HEAD OF PLANT PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY; ANDREA TURDA, FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY; JAN KREIZ, RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PLANT PRODUCTION, PIESTANY; JAN TURNA, DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF UNIVERSITY BRATISLAVA; OTTAKAR KUDELA, INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY OF THE SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES; DR. PETER SIEKEL, SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY OF THE FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE; AND DR. JOSEF TIMKO, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

3. (U) CAITI IS AN OFFICIAL INSTITUTE WHERE TESTING AND REGISTRATION OF SEEDS AND PLANTING MATERIAL, FEEDSTUFF, PESTICIDES, AND FERTILIZERS ARE CARRIED OUT. IT IS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY.

4. ~~(c)~~ MOST OF THE INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY PAVOL FILKORN AND STEFAN PALACKA (PROTECT). THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS PROBABLY THE FACT THAT SLOVAKIA IS GOING TO IMPLEMENT EU REGULATIONS 90/220, EEC (NOVEL FOOD) 94/15 EC (AMENDMENT TO 90/220), AND 94/90EC (FEEDSTUFF). THESE REGULATIONS HAVE SIMPLY BEEN TRANSLATED AND WILL BE ADOPTED WITHOUT AMENDMENT. THEY WILL BE PUBLISHED MARCH 15, 1998 AND BECOME EFFECTIVE THE SAME DAY.

5. (SBU) IN AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION IN DECEMBER 1997, AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE AND AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST WERE INFORMED THAT SLOVAKIA IS WORKING ON BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATIONS WHICH WILL BE BASED ON EU REGULATIONS. HOWEVER, IN THE MEANTIME THE SLOVAKS CHANGED THEIR COLLECTIVE MIND AND INTEND SIMPLY TO APPLY FULLY THE EU REGULATIONS. THIS IS NO SURPRISE SINCE SLOVAKIA WANTS TO JOIN THE EU AND THUS, IN GENERAL, SEEKS TO HARMONIZE ITS REGULATIONS WITH THOSE OF BRUSSELS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT EU REGULATIONS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY TO COME OUT LATER WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT CHANGE.

6. (SBU) UP TO MARCH 15, 199
8, THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY REGULATION
OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. HOWEVER, SLOVAK PARTICIPANTS AT THE MEETING VAGUELY STATED THAT EU REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN APPLIED.

7. (SBU) THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY RECENTLY COMPLETED A DRAFT REGULATION CONCERNING ORGANIC FARMING WHICH BANS THE USE OF GMOS IN THIS SECTOR. THE REGULATION MAY BECOME EFFECTIVE IN FALL 1998. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO PALACKA, IN PREVIOUS YEARS AND AT PRESENT, ORGANIC FARMERS HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO USE GMOS.

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8. (U) FIELD TESTS WITH GMOS CAN ONLY BE CARRIED OUT BY CAITI, WHICH HAS MANY TEST FIELDS IN ALL SOIL AND CLIMATIC REGIONS. TESTS ON PRIVATE FIELDS ARE NOT PERMITTED. ALL FIELD RELEASES WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY. COMPANIES INTERESTED IN SUCH TESTS HAVE TO APPLY AT CAITI AND PROVIDE AT THE SAME TIME DOCUMENTS WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PRODUCT AND RESULTS OF THEIR OWN TESTS. IF TESTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CARRIED OUT IN OTHER EU COUNTRIES, CAITI WILL ASK FOR

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 001776

FROM REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR/JIM MURPHY, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT, EAMED/THORN
COMMODITY DIVISIONS
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/27/2008
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- IN SLOVAKIA

INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE PRODUCT.

9. (U) CAITI IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TESTING AND REGISTRATION OF GMO SEEDS AND GMO FEEDSTUFFS. IN REGARD TO FEEDSTUFF INCLUDING GMO FEEDSTUFF, CAITI COOPERATES WITH THE STATE VETERINARY AUTHORITY.

10. (SBU) SO FAR, NO GMO TESTS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN SLOVAKIA. HOWEVER, THREE COMPANIES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST IN FIELD TESTS. AGREVO IS INTERESTED IN TESTS WITH GENETICALLY MODIFIED RAPESEED AND DEKALB IN GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN FIELD TESTS. PIONEER HAS RECENTLY APPLIED FOR FIELD TESTS WITH A BT CORN AND AN HERBICIDE RESISTANT CORN STRAIN. DUE TO THE FACT THAT SLOVAK AUTHORITIES HAVE NO EXPERIENCE WITH RELEASE APPLICATIONS, NO FIELD TESTS CAN BE HELD IN 1998. ACCORDING TO PIONEER, TESTS FOR 1999 MAY BE PERMITTED BUT NO ASSURANCE IS GIVEN.

11. ~~(C)~~ SINCE ECOLOGICAL GROUPS ARE NOT EXISTENT OR AT LEAST NOT VISIBLE, NO ANTI-BIOTECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES HAVE TAKEN PLACE I SLOVAKIA SO FAR. THUS, THE POPULATION HAS PAID LITTLE OR NO ATTENTION TO GMOS. IN ADDITION, GIVEN THE STILL-LOW LIVING STANDARD, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED WITH EVERYDAY DIFFICULTIES AND NOT WITH "LUXURY" PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, OFFICIALS DO NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS FROM HUNGARY AND PARTICULARLY AUSTRIA, WHERE SUCH ORGANIZATIONS ARE STRONG, BECOMING ACTIVE IN SLOVAKIA AND THUS STIRRING UP EMOTIONS. (COMMENT: SIMILAR ACTIVITIES BY AUSTRIAN AND HUNGARIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOCUSING ON ANTI-NUCLEAR SENTIMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN EXPERIENCED AT ATOMIC POWER PLANTS IN SLOVAKIA.) TO AVERT DISSEMINATION OF MISINFORMATION BY THESE GROUPS, OFFICIALS INTEND TO CARRY OUT AN INFORMATION CAMPAIGN BEFORE GMOS ARE RELEASED.

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12. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: THE GENERAL IMPRESSION OF THE MEETING WAS THAT SLOVAK OFFICIALS ARE ONLY VAGUELY INFORMED ABOUT THE GMO SITUATION AND THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET MADE UP THEIR MIND HOW TO HANDLE BIOTECHNOLOGY. ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING HELD THE OPINION THAT SOYBEAN MEAL IMPORTS AND IMPORTED SOYBEAN PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR FOODS ARE GMO FREE. THEY DID NOT KNOW THAT THE U.S., ARGENTINA, AND BRAZIL ARE ALREADY GROWING AND CRUSHING GMO BEANS ON A LARGE SCALE WHICH ARE MIXED WITH CONVENTIONAL BEANS. SLOVAKS CAN STILL AFFORD TO NEGLECT GMO MATTERS SINCE THEY HAVE NOT YET BECOME A PUBLIC ISSUE. SLOVAKIA HAS NO EQUIPMENT FOR TESTING PRODUCTS FOR GMO CONTENT, HAS NOT YET SET UP A SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY AND HAS NO REGULATIONS FOR GMOS IN FOOD OR LABELING OF GMO PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, OFFICIALS ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THE METHODS BY WHICH THESE ISSUES ARE HANDLED BY OTHER COUNTRIES. FILKORN SHOWED AGSPECIALIST A LIST OF INSTITUTES IN EU COUNTRIES WHICH THEY ARE PLANNING TO CONTACT IN ORDER TO LEARN FROM THEM. THE GREAT INTEREST IN OTHER COUNTRIES' SYSTEMS IS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE FACT THAT A LARGE PART OF THE TWO-HOUR MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO EXTRACTING INFORMATION FROM THE AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST ON HOW BIOTECHNOLOGY IS HANDLED IN AUSTRIA. END COMM
ENT.
HALL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 1776
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TOR: 980302142430 M3176470
<^TOR>980302142521 M3176472

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INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0064
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 3521
SUBJ: NZ DEVELOPMENTS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

TEXT:

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 000266

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EAP/ANP
STATE PASS USTR/STILLMAN
CANBERRA FOR AG COUNSELOR
USDA FOR ITP/SHEIKH, ZEITNER, ITP/FSTSD, FAA/MOLSTAD

E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, WTRO, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: NZ DEVELOPMENTS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

REF: 97 WELLINGTON 01687, 97 WELLINGTON 00188,
97 WELLINGTON 00477, 97 WELLINGTON 0754

1. THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE, BUT UNCLASSIFIED.

2. (SBU) SUMMARY: THE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY (ANZFA) HAS RELEASED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON A STANDARD FOR THE REGULATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS. THE STANDARD DEPARTS SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE INITIAL PROPOSAL FLOATED IN APRIL 1996, WHICH HAD CONCERNED THE USG, AND RECOMMENDS LABELING ONLY FOR FOODS WHICH ARE NOT "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT." THE REVISED PROPOSED STANDARD CONTINUES TO HAVE THE EFFECT OF NOT ALLOWING THE SALE OF A GMF UNLESS APPROVED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. WELLINGTON OFFICIALS SUGGEST THE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL (ANZFSC), MADE UP THE AUSTRALIAN STATE AND TERRITORY HEALTH MINISTERS AND THE NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF HEALTH, WILL APPROVE THE REVISED REGULATION IN AN OUT-OF-SESSION DECISION IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. THE REVISED PROPOSAL IS CURRENTLY

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BEING SUPPORTED BY THE GNZ AND A NEW STANDARD IS EXPECTED TO BE IMPLEMENTED NINE MONTHS AFTER APPROVAL IN ORDER TO ENABLE ANZFA TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC GMF APPLICATIONS. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) ON FEBRUARY 24 ANZFA MADE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON REGULATING GMF'S TO HEALTH MINISTERS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL RELEASED IN APRIL 1996, RECOMMENDATIONS DID NOT INCLUDE MANDATORY LABELING REQUIREMENTS. ANZFA CITED DIFFICULTIES IN TRACKING FOOD COMPONENTS THROUGH THE FOOD CHAIN, THE PROBLEM OF ENFORCING SUCH REQUIREMENTS EQUALLY FOR IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC PRODUCTS, LIMITED EVIDENCE THAT LABELING WAS USEFUL FOR CONSUMERS, AND POSSIBLE CONFLICT WITH WTO OBLIGATIONS AS REASONS FOR DROPPING MANDATORY LABELING.

4. (U) THE REVISED PROPOSED STANDARD WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF NOT ALLOWING THE SALE OF A GMF UNLESS APPROVED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. APPROVAL IS TO FOCUS ON A RISK ASSESSMENT BASED ON SCIENTIFIC DATA AND INTERESTED PARTIES WILL HAVE NINE MONTHS AFTER ANZFSC APPROVAL TO HAVE THEIR PRODUCTS INCLUDED ON A POSITIVE LIST BEFORE THE STANDARD IS IMPLEMENTED. THE PROPOSED STANDARD DOES NOT REGULATE FOOD ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS THAT ARE DERIVED FROM GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS BECAUSE OTHER STANDARDS ALREADY REQUIRE PREMARKET APPROVAL FOR THESE ITEMS.

5. (SBU ALTHOUGH THE ANZFSC HAS A RANGE OF OPTIONS INCLUDING TO ADOPT, AMEND OR REJECT THE ANZFA RECOMMENDATIONS, THE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN MET POSITIVELY BY JOHN DELAMERE, NZ ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND NEW ZEALAND'S REPRESENTATIVE TO ANZFSC. DELAMERE REPLACED NEIL KIRTON AS ASSOCIATE MINISTER IN A CABINET SHUFFLE LATE LAST YEAR. (KIRTON HAD BEEN AN UNPREDICTABLE AND SOMETIMES DIFFICULT PLAYER IN THE MONTHS FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF THE ORIGINAL GMF PROPOSAL.) DELAMERE IS REPORTED TO HAVE VETTED THE ISSUE WITHIN CABINET AND RECEIVED INDICATIONS OF GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT. EARLY ON, MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND AGRICULTURE LOCKWOOD SMITH WAS CONCERNED THAT THE NZ APPROACH TO REGULATING GMF'S REFLECT NEW ZEALAND'S BROADER TRADE AND AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.

6. (SBU) PREDICTABLY, ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ANZFA RECOMMENDATIONS WAS MET WITH DISAPPOINTMENT FROM ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING TO RESTRICT GMF'S. ALTHOUGH LOBBYING EFFORTS DIRECTED AT THE GOVERNMENT ARE UNDERWAY, CURRENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE GNZ WILL APPROVE THE REGULATION IN AN OUT-OF-SESSION DECISION IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. BEEMAN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0266

TOR: 980304190222 M3181199

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/20/2019
2016-0529-M (1.88)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHDLA1391 0711456-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 121456Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
OSRI: RUEHDL
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3047
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0049
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: DUBLIN'S SUPPORT FOR GENETICALLY-MODIFIED FOODS STILL HOSTAGE OF IRISH POLITICS

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 DUBLIN 001391

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
STATE PASS USTR
STATE PASS FDA
STATE PASS USDA FAS WASHDC
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
FAS FOR ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 3/12/18
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EI
SUBJECT: DUBLIN'S SUPPORT FOR GENETICALLY-MODIFIED FOODS STILL HOSTAGE OF IRISH POLITICS

REFS: A) DUBLIN 01196 B) USEU 01301 C) DUBLIN 00837
D) 97 DUBLIN 06997

1. CLASSIFIED BY DCM MADELYN SPIRNAK - REASON 1.5 (D).

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. ACTION REQUEST FOR FAS WASHINGTON SEE PARA. 8. DCM DISCUSSED IRISH GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS), AND IN PARTICULAR THE UPCOMING MARCH 18 EU VOTE ON GMO CORN STRAINS (REF B), DURING A MEETING WITH GERALDINE TALLON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT. IRELAND STILL INTENDS TO ABSTAIN AT THE MARCH 18 VOTE, LARGELY BECAUSE ENVIRONMENT MINISTER DEMPSEY WILL NOT APPROVE ANY PUBLIC STAND IN FAVOR OF GMOS FOLLOWING HIS STATEMENTS DURING THE LAST ELECTION CAMPAIGN CALLING FOR MORE PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE GMO ISSUE (REF A). ACCORDING TO TALLON (FULLY PROTECT), IRELAND'S ABSTENTION IS NOT AN INDICATION OF OPPOSITION TO GMOS OR BIOTECH DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL. AN ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY PAPER

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SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND SALE OF GMOS WILL BE PRESENTED TO DEMPSEY BY THE END OF MARCH AND, FOLLOWING HIS EXPECTED APPROVAL, THE PAPER WILL BE PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, SATISFYING THE MINISTER'S PRE-ELECTION PLEDGES. TALLON BELIEVES IRISH PUBLIC DEBATE ON GMOS HAS BECOME MORE BALANCED IN RECENT WEEKS, BUT MADE REPEATED REFERENCE TO THE SUSPICIOUS ATTITUDES OF EUROPEAN PUBLICS TOWARD FOOD SAFETY REGULATORS WHICH THE BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) OUTBREAK PRODUCED THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND WHICH MAKE THE GMO ISSUE MORE POLITICALLY-CHARGED IN IRELAND THAN IN THE UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.

IMPLICATION OF IRELAND'S ABSTENTION ON GMO CORN

3. (U) DCM MET ON MARCH 9 WITH GERALDINE TALLON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL AFFAIRS TO DISCUSS THE MARCH 18 EU VOTE ON GMO CORN STRAINS, U.S. CONCERNS OVER IRELAND'S PLANNED ABSTENTION AT THE VOTE, AND WHAT POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS THE ABSTENTION CARRIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BIOTECH IN IRELAND. THIS WAS DCM'S SECOND MEETING WITH TALLON ON THE ISSUE IN THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS (REF D). DCM POINTED OUT TO TALLON THAT SINCE THEIR LAST MEETING THE EU SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE HAD APPROVED THE GMO CORN STRAINS SO THERE WAS NO SCIENTIFIC RATIONALE FOR ABSTAINING FROM AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE ON MARCH 18. THIS RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WAS ABSTAINING AS A SIGN IT WAS MOVING AWAY FROM PREVIOUS SUPPORT FOR BIOTECH RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY.

4. ~~(C)~~ TALLON, WHO IS CLOSELY INVOLVED IN THE FULL RANGE OF CURRENT BIOTECH ISSUES, ASSURED DCM THAT THE ABSTENTION ON GMO CORN DOES NOT REPRESENT AN IRISH POLICY DECISION REGARDING GMOS. THE ABSTENTION REFLECTS THE "POLITICAL REALITY" THAT THE CURRENT MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, NOEL DEMPSEY, PLEDGED DURING THE 1997 ELECTION CAMPAIGN MORE PUBLIC DEBATE AND REVIEW OF THE ISSUES RAISED BY GMO USE AND DEVELOPMENT BEFORE FINAL GOVERNMENT DECISIONS WERE TAKEN. THE MINISTER IS TAKING A PRECAUTIONARY STANCE, GIVEN HIS ELECTION PLEDGES, AND DOES NOT WANT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT TO PUBLICLY ENDORSE GMOS IN ANY FORUM AT THIS TIME. AN ABSTENTION ON MARCH 18 IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO MOVE AT THIS TIME.

5. (SBU) TALLON SAID THAT, IN REALITY, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CHARGED WITH REVIEWING GMOS FOR USE AND DEVELOPMENT HAVE CONCLUDED THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE ESTABLISHES THEIR USE IS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE. THE EU SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE REPORTS ISSUED AS PART OF THE GMO CORN APPROVAL PROCESS HAD AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE IN THIS REGARD. AS TALLON HAD INDICATED PREVIOUSLY (REF D), MINISTER DEMPSEY HAS REQUESTED A POSITION PAPER FROM THE IRISH EPA AND OTHER APPROPRIATE IRISH AGENCIES SETTING FORTH VIEWS ON THE ISSUE. TALLON SAID THIS PAPER, WHICH WILL ENDORSE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF GMOS AS SAFE AND VALUABLE FOR IRISH AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMERS, IS EXPECTED TO BE READY FOR THE MINISTER'S REVIEW BY THE END OF MARCH. FOLLOWING HIS EXPECTED APPROVAL, THE PAPER WILL BE MADE PUBLIC AND SERVE

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AS THE BASIS FOR A ROUND OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND DEBATE ON THE ISSUE, WHICH WILL MEET THE MINISTER'S ELECTION PLEDGES OF OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON THE ISSUE. TALLON EXPECTED THE PUBLIC DEBATE AND COMMENT PERIOD TO LAST UNTIL THE AUTUMN, AT WHICH TIME THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ISSUE A FINAL STATEMENT SETTING FORTH A BIOTECH POLICY.

PUBLIC MOOD IS CHANGING ON GMOS

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 DUBLIN 001391

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 3/12/18
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6. (U) TALLON ASSERTED THAT THE PUBLIC DEBATE ON GMOS AND OTHER BIOTECH ISSUES HAS "MOVED ALONG" OVER THE LAST MONTHS, AND THOUGH STILL AN ISSUE AMONG THE PUBLIC, ATTITUDES HAVE BECOME MORE "BALANCED." TALLON CITED RECENT ARTICLES AND STATEMENTS BY PROFESSORS AND EXPERTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRINITY COLLEGE, INCLUDING AN UPCOMING PUBLIC CONFERENCE ON "400 YEARS OF GENETIC RESEARCH AT TRINITY COLLEGE" AS MOVING THE PUBLIC PERCEPTION IN FAVOR OF GMO USE. TALLON AGREED WITH DCM THAT PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM A NOTED IRISH FOOD WRITER AND MEMBER OF THE FOOD SAFETY BOARD, WHICH WERE HOSTILE TO GMO-PRODUCED FOOD AND
WIDELY REPORTED IN THE IRISH PRESS (REF C), WERE "UNFORTUNATE," BUT TRIED TO DOWNPLAY THEM BY POINTING OUT THAT THE COMMENTS FOCUSED ON THE NEED FOR PUBLIC DEBATE, NOT A BLANKET CONDEMNATION OF GMOS.

7. (U) THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION, TALLON STRESSED THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF THE BSE OUTBREAK ON THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC'S TRUST IN GOVERNMENT CONSUMER AND FOOD-SAFETY REGULATORS. UNLIKE THE U.S., SHE POINTED OUT, WHERE THE FDA IS VIEWED AS TRUSTWORTHY, EUROPEAN REGULATORS FACED A "BSE CULTURE" IN WHICH THE PUBLIC MISTRUSTED ANY GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ON FOOD SAFETY. MOREOVER THERE IS A STRONG PUBLIC BELIEF THAT SCIENTIFIC STUDIES CANNOT PREDICT THE IMPACT THAT NEW GMO-STRAINS MIGHT HAVE ON PUBLIC SAFETY OVER A TWENTY OR THIRTY YEAR PERIOD. IT WAS THIS CULTURE IN WHICH HER DEPARTMENT AND MINISTER OPERATE AND WHY PUBLIC DEBATE IS NEEDED.

8. (U) TALLON SAID THAT IT WOULD BE QUITE USEFUL FOR HER MINISTRY IF THEY COULD OBTAIN A "USER-FRIENDLY" DESCRIPTION OF THE U.S. APPROVAL PROCESS FOR GMO PLANT

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STRAINS AND GMO-PRODUCED FOOD ITEMS. UNDERSTANDING THE FDA PROCESS FOR APPROVING "END" FOOD PRODUCTS FROM GMOS WOULD HELP IN THE PUBLIC DEBATE OVER PERMITTING THE SALE OF U.S. GMO-PRODUCED FOODS IN IRELAND. ACTION REQUEST: EMBASSY REQUESTS FAS PROVIDE SOONEST ANY BACKGROUND OR TALKING POINTS, AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE, THAT OUTLINE FDA APPROVAL PROCESS FOR GMO PLANT STRAINS AND FOR FOOD PRODUCTS PRODUCED FROM SUCH STRAINS. END ACTION REQUEST.

OTHER BIOTECH ISSUES

9. (U) ON THE ISSUE OF LABELING RETAIL FOOD GOODS CONTAINING GMOS, TALLON SAID THAT IRELAND STILL AWAITED FINAL EU ACTION ON THE ISSUE, BUT COULD NOT PREDICT WHEN SUCH ACTION WOULD OCCUR GIVEN THE DIFFICULT SITUATION THE EU FINDS ITSELF IN BECAUSE OF THE BANS IMPOSED BY AUSTRIA AND LUXEMBOURG. CLEARLY, THOUGH, THE ISSUE WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED BEFORE THE AUSTRIAN EU PRESIDENCY OR ELSE IT WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT RESOLUTION IN 1999 BECAUSE IT WOULD BE AWKWARD FOR AUSTRIA TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE DURING ITS PRESIDENCY. IN THE MEANTIME, TALLON WELCOMED RECENT VOLUNTARY LABELING GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE IRISH FOOD AND BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION (SEPTEL), WHICH INDUSTRY HAD ADOPTED IN THE ABSENCE OF EU GUIDELINES. SHE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE U.S. AND EUROPEAN POSITIONS ON GMO LABELING DIFFERED, BUT CAU
TIONED THAT IT WAS POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE
FOR THE EU NOT TO IMPOSE A LABELING REQUIREMENT ON FOODSTUFFS WITH GMOS, DESPITE THE HARDSHIP THIS IMPOSES ON U.S. PRODUCERS WHO OFTEN CANNOT SEGREGATE GMO-PRODUCED HARVESTS FROM NON-GMO PRODUCTION.

10. ~~(C)~~ TALLON TOLD THE DCM THAT THE IRISH EPA'S REVIEW OF MONSANTO CORPORATION'S APPLICATIONS TO CONDUCT PLANT TRIALS OF GMO SUGARBEET STRAINS, IN WEXFORD COUNTY, IS NEARING COMPLETION (REF C). TALLON SAID THERE WAS SOME FRUSTRATION ON THE PART OF THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTER THAT MONSANTO HAD PUSHED FORWARD WITH APPLICATIONS TO CONDUCT PLANT TESTS AT OVER TEN DIFFERENT SITES. GIVEN THE PUBLIC CONCERN, TALLON REMARKED THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BEST FOR MONSANTO TO CONDUCT LIMITED TRIALS AT THE ONE SITE ALREADY APPROVED FOR SUCH TESTS IN IRELAND, A BOTANICAL RESEARCH CENTER, OR NOT TEST THEM AT ALL IN IRELAND BUT RELY ON TESTS CONDUCTED ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE TO MAKE THE CASE FOR APPROVAL TO PLANT IN IRELAND. TALLON AGREED WITH DCM'S POINT THAT CONVINCING IRISH FARMERS OF THE STRAINS' SUITABILITY LIKELY REQUIRED TESTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN IRELAND, BUT WONDERED IF THE RESULTING BAD PRESS OVER THE ISSUE HAD UNDERCUT ANY CHANCE MONSANTO NOW HAD TO MARKET THE STRAINS IN IRELAND.

COMMENT

11. (U) IT IS CLEAR IRELAND IS NOT GOING TO VOTE IN

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
STATE PASS USTR

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STATE PASS FDA
STATE PASS USDA FAS WASHDC
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
FAS FOR ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 3/12/18
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EI
SUBJECT: DUBLIN'S SUPPORT FOR GENETICALLY-MODIFIED FOODS STILL HOSTAGE OF IRISH POLITICS

FAVOR OF NEW GMO APPLICATIONS FOR THE TIME BEING, DESPITE EARLIER PLEDGES TO EXAMINE EACH ON A "CASE BY CASE" BASIS (REF C). EMBASSY DOES NOT SHARE AS STRONGLY TALLON'S BELIEF THAT PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD GMOS ARE BECOMING MORE "BALANCED" AND NOTES THAT THE MARCH 11 IRISH TIMES RAN A PAGE 2 STORY WITH THE HEADLINE "TAMPERING WITH BEET IS THREAT TO NATURE, FARMERS SAY" AND GIVING PROMINENCE TO ANTI-GMO VIEWS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENGAGE THE IRISH GOVERNMENT ON THE GMO ISSUE. SPIRNAK

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 1391
<^SSN>1391
<^SSN>1391

TOR: 980312101641 M3193458
<^TOR>980312101743 M3193461
<^TOR>980312101917 M3193465

DIST:
SIT: BUTLER
SIT: NSC

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-M (1.89)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHCAA6668 0751723-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 161720Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 161720Z MAR 98
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 9765
INFO: ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: FRENCH OPPOSITION TO GMO'S BLOCKING EU APPROVAL

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ STATE 046668

E.O. 12958: DECL: 3/15/08
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH OPPOSITION TO GMO'S BLOCKING EU APPROVAL

REF: (A) STATE 45312, (B) USEU BRUSSELS 1304

CLASSIFIED BY: E. ANTHONY WAYNE, EUR PDAS. REASONS FOR CLASSIFICATION: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. ~~(C)~~ REF A ASKS POSTS TO STRESS TO HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT MEMBER STATES APPROVE THREE U.S. GENETICALLY-MODIFIED (GMO) CORN VARIETIES AT THE MARCH 18 ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE MEETING. FOLLOWING TRANSMISSION OF REF A, WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE LEARNED THAT FRANCE MAY ABSTAIN FROM THE MARCH 18 VOTE. AS FRANCE HOLDS 10 OF THE 62 VOTES NEEDED FOR A QUALIFIED MAJORITY, ITS ABSTENTION COULD PREVENT APPROVAL OF THE THREE CORN VARIETIES.

2. ~~(C)~~ REPORTEDLY THE FRENCH FINANCE AND TRADE MINISTRIES FAVOR APPROVAL OF THE THREE VARIETIES, THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY IS AGAINST, AND THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY HAS NOT YET MADE A DECISION. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THE ISSUE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER FOR A DECISION ON

MARCH 17. AGENCIES APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS AMEMBASSY PARIS HAS ALREADY MADE ON THIS ISSUE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT POST HAS ALREADY FOLLOWED UPON REF A AND ASK THAT POST CONTINUE TO GIVE THIS MATTER A HIGH PRIORITY.

3. ~~(C)~~ AS NOTED REF A, THIS COMMISSION-LEVEL SCIENTIFIC REVIEW FOLLOWS A SIMILAR REVIEW AT THE MEMBER STATE LEVEL, WHICH APPROVED ALL THREE VARIETIES. WITH TWO SCIENTIFIC REVIEWS COMPLETED AND NO PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED, THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR FRANCE OR OTHER MEMBER STATES TO VOTE

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AGAINST APPROVAL OF THESE THREE VARIETIES AT THE MARCH 18 ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE MEETING. BECAUSE OF DELAYS IN APPROVING THESE CORN VARIETIES, THE U.S. HAS ALREADY LOST OPPORTUNITIES TO SELL MAIZE TO SPAIN UNDER A QUOTA ESTABLISHED TO COMPENSATE THE UNITED STATES FOR TRADE LOST AS A RESULT OF SPANISH ACCESSION TO THE EU. FAILURE TO APPROVE THE THREE CORN VARIETIES AT THE MARCH 18 MEETING COULD DISRUPT UP TO USD 1.2 BILLION IN U.S. CORN EXPORTS, AND WOULD CREATE A MAJOR TRADE DISPUTE.

4. ~~(c)~~ PLEASE REPORT ON HOST GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO POST'S APPROACHES.
ALBRIGHT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6668

TOR: 980316130604 M3198766

DIST:

SIT: BANDLER BOONE BROWN BUTLER DAVIDSON KYLE LEE MCELDOWNEY SAPIRO
SIT: NSC

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VR NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0579-M (1.90)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHSMA1586 0761625-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 171625Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
OSRI: RUEHSM
DTG: 171625Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1312
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: EU COMMISSION'S FAILURE TO INSTITUTE MONITORING REGIME COMPLICATES SWEDEN'S GMO CORN VOTE

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ STOCKHOLM 001586

DEPT. FOR EUR/ERA AND EUR/NB

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO USDA FAS

USDA FOR OSEC/PDRAZEK, ITP/EAMED/CTHORN, ITP/FSTS/LHARBERT, CMP/GFD/RRIEMENSCHNEIDER, FAA/LETARTE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/17/08
TAGS: ETRD EAGR EUN SW
SUBJECT: EU COMMISSION'S FAILURE TO INSTITUTE MONITORING REGIME COMPLICATES SWEDEN'S GMO CORN VOTE

REF: STATE 47160

1. (U) THIS CABLE IS CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL BY ACTING ECONOMIC COUNSELOR ERIC BENJAMINSON. REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

2. () FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REFTEL, DCM, AG COUNSELOR, AND A/ECON COUNSELOR URGED THE SWEDES TO REVERSE THEIR ABSTENTION ON THE AGREVO VARIETY G-M CORN FOR THE VOTES SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18. WE SPOKE DIRECTLY WITH STATE SECRETARY YVONNE GUSTAFSSON AT THE TRADE MINISTRY; STATE SECRETARY MADELEINE EMERWALD AT THE AG MINISTRY; AND THE HEAD OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIVISION ARNE RODIN. WE REINFORCED THIS MESSAGE WITH MINAG'S HEAD OF SECTION FOR GMO ISSUES.

3. ~~(C)~~ BY COB LOCAL TIME, WE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO OUR URGENT DEMARCHES:

-- THE GOS ASKED THE EU COMMISSION IN EARLY 1997 TO SET UP A SPECIAL MONITORING PROGRAM FOR HERBICIDE-RESISTANT CORN VARIETIES TO ADDRESS GOVERNMENTAL AND CONSUMER CONCERNS

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ABOUT THESE VARIETIES. THE COMMISSION HAS NOT DONE SO. (COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS FROM LOCAL PARTIES THAT THE EU MAY ANNOUNCE A COMMITMENT TO INSTITUTE SUCH A PROGRAM IN ADVANCE OF THE MARCH 18 VOTE. END COMMENT.)

-- IF THESE RUMORS ARE TRUE, SAY THE SWEDES, SUCH AN ACTION BY THE COMMISSION WOULD CONSTITUTE "NEW CIRCUMSTANCES". IN THIS CASE, THE SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE REP IN BRUSSELS WOULD BE LEFT TO VOTE ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY. (COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE'S ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION TO THE SWEDISH MINAG WAS FOR ACROSS-THE-BOARD APPROVAL OF ALL CORN DOSSIERS. THUS, A LAST-MINUTE EU ANNOUNCEMENT OF A MONITORING PROGRAM MIGHT TIP THE SWEDES IN OUR DIRECTION. END COMMENT.)

-- THE GOS DOES NOT FEEL THAT IT CAN VOTE FOR A HERBICIDE-RESISTANT TYPE OF CORN IN THE ABSENCE OF EU ACTION. THEY SAY THAT THEY PROMISED THEIR OFFICIALS AND CONSUMERS THAT SUCH A REGIME WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED, AND THEY DO NOT WANT TO GIVE BRUSSELS THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY DO NOT CARE ABOUT THE ISSUE.

-- WE WERE ALSO TOLD THAT THE GOS "IS NOT CONVINCED BY THE FINDINGS OF THE EU'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ALONE REGARDING HERBICIDE-RESISTANT CORN STRAINS." THAT IS WHY THEY HAVE BEEN PUSHING FOR A SPECIAL MONITORING PROGRAM.

4. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: OUR DEMARCHES AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR GOT THE SWEDES' ATTENTION. WE RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT THIS MAY/MAY LEAD TO STOCKHOLM GIVING THEIR REP AT THE ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE MEETING MORE FLEXIBILITY AND DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY. THE GOS, HOWEVER, IS INCLINED TO BLAME THE EU COMMISSION AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR TAKING FIRMER ACTION BASED ON THEIR OWN EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS. THEY ALSO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE OTHER MEMBER STATES WHO WILL JOIN THEM IN MAKING AN ISSUE OF THE UNINSTITUTED MONITORING REGIME. END COMMENT.

OLSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1586

TOR: 980317113824 M3200959

DIST:

SIT: BANDLER BROWN BUTLER DAVIDSON MCELDOWNEY SAPIRO
SIT: NSC

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Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHBSA1688 0761804-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDCQE 7573
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0231
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0074
SUBJ: GMO CORN: BELGIUM LIKELY TO VOTE TO APPROVE, BUT SUPPORT NOT CERTAIN

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 001688

QQQQ
SENSITIVE

NOFORN

STATE PASS USDA FOR DRAZEK/FAS/ITP/OFS&TS AND
WEIAD AND CMP/G&F; PLETARTE/FAA;

STATE PASS TO USTR

GENEVA ALSO FOR USTR AND AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, BE
SUBJECT: GMO CORN: BELGIUM LIKELY TO VOTE TO APPROVE, BUT SUPPORT NOT CERTAIN

REF: A) STATE 45312 B) STATE 47160

THIS MESSAGE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU SUMMARY: BELGIUM WILL VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE THREE US PRODUCTS UP FOR APPROVAL AT THE MARCH 18 ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE IF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ACCEPTS THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. HOWEVER, WE WERE UNABLE TO CONFIRM WITH AG OFFICIALS THAT THEY WILL DO SO, AND HENCE, CANNOT BE SURE (AS REF B SUGGESTS) OF BELGIAN SUPPORT. END SUMMARY

2. (SBU) EMBASSY DELIVERED USG COMMENTS ON THE UPCOMING ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE VOTE TO THE BELGIAN MINISTRIES OF

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AGRICULTURE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH JOINTLY DETERMINE BELGIUM'S POSITION; OFFICIALS FROM BOTH MINISTRIES WILL REPRESENT BELGIUM IN THE ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE MEETING ON MARCH 18. TO DATE, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAS ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE HEALTH MINISTRY EXPERT ON HOW TO VOTE.

3. (SBU) THE HEALTH MINISTRY'S EXPERT, DR. WILLIAM MOENS, TOLD US ON MARCH 17 THAT HE PERSONALLY HAS NO RESERVATIONS ABOUT A POSITIVE VOTE ON THE THREE US PRODUCTS. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, "USUALLY" FOLLOWS HIS ADVICE. ASKED IF HE AGREES THAT THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC BASIS TO BLOCK THE APPROVAL OF THE THREE CORN VARIETIES, HE REPLIED THAT THE "THREE U.S. APPLICATIONS COVER ALL APPROPRIATE STEPS." MOENS WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE EU COMMISSIONER AND HOW SHE HAS POSITIONED THIS ISSUE: "WE LOST NINE MONTHS" DUE TO ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES FOR WHICH THERE IS NO LEGAL BASIS, HE SAID.

4. (SBU) THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE'S KEY OFFICIAL FOR QUESTIONS/ISSUES RELATED TO GMO'S AND THE BELGIAN AG REP IN ALL COMMISSION MEETINGS/DISCUSSIONS ON GMO ISSUES, INSPECTOR ERIC LIEGEOIS, IS CURRENTLY IN THE US ON A IV GRANT. IN HIS ABSENCE, WE SPOKE TO MR.HOUINS, LIEGEOIS' SUPERVISOR, WHO IS LIKELY TO REPLACE HIM AT THE ARTICLE 21 MEETING. HOUINS REACTED SHARPLY, DECLINING TO SAY HOW BELGIUM WILL VOTE. HE SAID THE QUESTION WAS INAPPROPRIATE. THE US, IN TYPICAL FASHION, WAS "PRESSURING" THE EU. HOUINS SAID THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR THE THREE PRODUCTS IS INCOMPLETE AND LEAVES ROOM FOR QUESTIONS (ONE RELATING SPECIFICALLY TO DNA SPECIFICATIONS ON NEW GENETIC MATERIALS). HOUINS ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT DR. CELIE RENCKENS, WHO WORKS FOR MOENS AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WOULD ALSO ATTEND THE ARTICLE 21 MEETING AND THAT SHE WOULD VOTE.

5. (SBU) IN LIGHT OF HOUIN'S REACTION, WE FOLLOWED UP WITH THE COUNSELOR IN THE CABINET OF AG MINISTER PINXTEN WHO FOLLOWS GMO ISSUES, HARRY ARIJS. HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE VOTE AND COULD SHED NO LIGHT ON THE AG MINISTRY'S LIKELY FINAL POSITION. HOWEVER, HE RECEIVED REF A MESSAGE WITHOUT THE HOSTILITY EXHIBITED BY HOUINS AND SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND GET BACK TO US. AS OF COB ON MARCH 17, HE HAD NOT.

6. (SBU) THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE FULLY SUPPORTS APPROVAL, BUT BY ITS OWN ADMISSION, PLAYS NO ROLE IN THE PROCESS. SENIOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS/TRADE OFFICIALS WERE UNAWARE OF THE MARCH 18 VOTE. COMPLAINING THAT THEY ARE NOT KEPT INFORMED BY THEIR OWN COLLEAGUES, THEY ASKED US FOR THE NAMES OF THE RELEVANT BELGIAN OFFICIALS AT HEALTH AND AG. THEY HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE THAT THEY COULD INFLUENCE THE BELGIAN POSITION, HOWEVER.

7. (SBU) COMMENT: IF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WINS THE DAY, WE CAN EXPECT BELGIUM TO VOTE TO APPROVE THE THREE US

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PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE ATTITUDES DISPLAYED AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, IT IS NOT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. BLINKEN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1688

TOR: 980317132016 M3201158

DIST:

SIT: NSC

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Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
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TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7580
INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: EU VOTE ON GMO CORN VARIETIES: GREECE MAY VOTE FOR APPROVAL

TEXT:

UNCLAS E F T O ATHENS 001653

QQQQ
SENSITIVE

NOFORN

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO USTR - J. MURPHY AND D. SCHOONOVER

DEPT PLEASE PASS USDA/FAS - P. DRAZEK AND FAS/ITP - SHEIKH

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, GR
SUBJECT: EU VOTE ON GMO CORN VARIETIES: GREECE MAY VOTE FOR APPROVAL

REF: A) STATE 45312 B) ATHENS 1451 C) 3/17 HADDA-BOOTH TELCON

1. PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REF A, WE HAD PICKED UP HINTS FROM MEMBERS OF GREECE'S BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE AND THE LOCAL MONSANTO REPRESENTATIVE THAT THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF ALL THREE VARIETIES OF GMO CORN UP FOR APPROVAL AND, SURPRISINGLY, THAT GREECE WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF APPROVAL AT TODAY'S ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE BARRING LAST MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CONTRARY FROM THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT. THE GREEK REPRESENTATIVE WHO WILL VOTE TODAY IS A MEMBER OF THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE KNOWN TO BE A PROPONENT OF GMOS.

2. FOLLOWING REFTELCON WE TRIED TO CONTACT THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, THEODOROS KOLIOPANOS, WHO IS THE ULTIMATE GOG DECISION MAKER

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ON GMO ISSUES. IN THE PAST, HE HAS REFUSED TO ENDORSE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE AND INSTRUCTED THAT GREECE ABSTAIN ON GMO VOTES. (NOTE: THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS, TOWN PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO DISCUSSIONS ON GMOS, INSISTING THE BUCK STOP WITH KOLIOPANOS ON THOSE ISSUES. WE HAD ALSO PREVIOUSLY BEEN TOLD BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE THAT PRIME MINISTER SIMITIS IS OPPOSED TO GMOS. END NOTE) UNABLE TO TALK TO KOLIOPANOS YESTERDAY EVENING, AND NOT WANTING TO STIR UP UNWANTED ATTENTION LEAST WE DERAIL A POSITIVE DECISION, WE SENT A FAX TO KOLIOPANOS HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF TODAY'S VOTE TO THE U.S. AND URGING THAT GREECE ACCEPT THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AND VOTE FOR APPROVAL.
SNELL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1653

TOR: 980318060021 M3202330

DIST:

SIT: NSC

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-M (1.91)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHFRA6179 0771556-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 181556Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 181556Z MAR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4380
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0288
RUCPDOC/DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
XXXXXX/DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6476
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 1618
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 0308
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2465
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0008
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 0001
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 0208
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 0228
SUBJ: USTR AMBASSADOR SCHER'S MARCH 6 BILATERALS WITH FRENCH:
- NO MOVEMENT ON NTM, GMO'S, BANANAS OR HORMONES.

CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC MINISTER COUNSELOR JOHN MEDEIROS FOR REASONS

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 05 PARIS 006179

USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER AND O/SEC FOR DRAZEK, FAS FOR
HATAMIYA/GALVIN
GENEVA FOR USTR AND RESSLER
USTR FOR SCHER AND IVES

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, FR, WTRD
SUBJECT: USTR AMBASSADOR SCHER'S MARCH 6 BILATERALS WITH FRENCH:
- NO MOVEMENT ON NTM, GMO'S, BANANAS OR HORMONES.

CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC MINISTER COUNSELOR JOHN MEDEIROS FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

REF: PARIS 5488

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. USTR AMBASSADOR PETER SCHER MET WITH FRENCH TRADE AND AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS IN PARIS MARCH 6. HE PRESENTED THE CASE FOR ADVANCING US-EU TRADE LIBERALIZATION, FOR PROGRESS IN COMPLYING WITH THE BANANAS AND BEEF HORMONE WTO CASES, AND FOR A BETTER SYSTEM FOR GMO APPROVALS. THE FRENCH WERE INFLEXIBLE IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE COMMISSION'S TRADE INITIATIVE, WOULD NOT SAY FOR SURE WHETHER THE EU WOULD COMPLY WITH THE WTO HORMONE DECISION EVEN

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IF A RISK ASSESSMENT SHOWED NO RISK, REITERATED FRANCE'S PARAMOUNT INTEREST IN PROTECTING BANANA PRODUCTION AND WORKFORCE IN FRANCE'S OVERSEAS TERRITORIES, AND OFFERED LITTLE HOPE THAT THE GMO APPROVAL PROCESS WOULD IMPROVE, CITING NEGATIVE PUBLIC OPINION AND THE UNWILLINGNESS OF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TO ACT. END SUMMARY.

2. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT. ON THE COMMISSION'S TRADE INITIATIVE, THE FRENCH SAID THAT THEY WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE DOWN THE WHOLE PACKAGE IN THE COUNCIL BY VIRTUE OF THE NEED FOR A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO AUTHORIZE NEGOTIATIONS ON SERVICES. ON THE HORMONE ISSUE, FRENCH RHETORIC HAS CHANGED SOMEWHAT IN RECENT WEEKS. TRADE OFFICIALS HAD BEEN TELLING US THAT THIS WAS A BIGGER ISSUE FOR THE NORTHERN EUROPEANS BUT NOW EMPHASIZE HOW BIG A PROBLEM THIS WILL BE FOR FRENCH CONSUMERS. THERE IS SOME TRUTH IN THIS, IN THAT THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC AND MEDIA ATTENTION IN RECENT WEEKS TO THE SAFETY OF NEW FOOD TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING BOTH GMO'S AND HORMONES. ON BANANAS THE FRENCH CONTINUE TO EXPRESS A WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS A SOLUTION BUT APPEAR NOT TO HAVE ANY NEW IDEAS, JUST FEARS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF A NEW SYSTEM ON UNCOMPETITIVE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND THE BANANA WORKFORCE. ON GMO'S THE FRENCH HOPE THAT THEY CAN SWING PUBLIC OPINION TO FAVOR GMO PRODUCTS, BUT BELIEVE THIS WILL BE AN UPHILL STRUGGLE. FOOD SAFETY, IN THE WAKE OF THE VARIOUS SAFETY SCANDALS (OF WHICH BSE IS ONLY THE MOST RECENT) CONTINUES TO PREOCCUPY FRENCH BUREAUCRATS AND LIMIT THE GOF'S SCOPE OF ACTION. END COMMENT.

3. (U) ON MARCH 6, USTR SPECIAL TRADE AMBASSADOR PETER SCHER MET WITH FRENCH TRADE AND AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS. AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HE SAW AGRICULTURE ADVISOR CLAUDE CHEREAU AND TRADE ADVISOR MARC BOREL. AT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY SCHER MET WITH DENIS TERSEN, TRADE ADVISOR TO FINANCE MINISTER STRAUSS-KAHN, PIERRE GRANDJOUAN, ADVISOR TO JUNIOR MINISTER FOR TRADE JACQUES DONDOUX, AND MICHEL PINET, HEAD OF THE AGRICULTURE OFFICE AT THE TRADE DIRECTORATE (DREE). SCHER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR USTR REPRESENTATIVE AT USEU NANCY ADAMS, D/AUSTR FOR EUROPE RALPH IVES, AND A/ECOUNS PETER SECOR.

NEW TRANSATLANTIC MARKETPLACE (NTM)
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4. ~~(C)~~ SCHER PRESSED STRONGLY IN BOTH MEETINGS FOR A MORE FAVORABLE FRENCH REVIEW OF THE NEED FOR A NEW INITIATIVE, ALONG THE LINES OF THE COMMISSION'S NTM IDEA. HE ARGUED THAT WE NEED SOME IMPETUS TO CARRY US INTO THE NEXT ROUND OF WTO TALKS. AN NTM COULD HELP AND STRENGTHEN THE MULTILATERAL AGENDA BY PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO RE-EMPHASIZE OUR COMMITMENT TO MULTILATERALISM AND THE BUILT-IN WTO AGENDA. SCHER NOTED THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL ISSUES TO U.S. AND EU TRADE WOULD MAKE IT HARD NOT TO INCLUDE THE SECTOR IN AN NTM. BUT HE TOLD THE FRENCH THAT THE USG AND THE U.S. AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY DO NOT SEE THE NTM AS A MEANS OF ADDRESSING CAP REFORM ISSUES - THOSE ARE FOR THE EU ITSELF AND PERHAPS FOR THE NEXT WTO ROUND. WE COULD, HOWEVER, USE THE NTM TO ADDRESS AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY ISSUES, WHICH COULD HELP DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN EUROPE. WE ARE REALISTIC ABOUT WHAT OPPORTUNITIES NTM PRESENTS (AND CONVERSELY DOES NOT).

5. ~~(C)~~ BOREL RESPONDED WITH THE USUAL SET OF GOF TALKING POINTS:

-- WE ARE UNSURE IT'S LEGALLY CONSISTENT WITH A MULTILATERAL

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APPROACH.

-- THE ASIA CRISIS RAISES THE POSSIBILITY OF A RESURGENCE OF PROTECTIONISM. WHAT SIGNAL WOULD BILATERAL U.S.-EU TALKS SEND? WE DON'T WANT TO STEP BACKWARDS.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 05 PARIS 006179

USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER AND O/SEC FOR DRAZEK, FAS FOR HATAMIYA/GALVIN
GENEVA FOR USTR AND RESSLER
USTR FOR SCHER AND IVES

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, FR, WTRD
SUBJECT: USTR AMBASSADOR SCHER'S MARCH 6 BILATERALS WITH FRENCH:
- NO MOVEMENT ON NTM, GMO'S, BANANAS OR HORMONES.

-- FROM A PRAGMATIC VIEW, AN NTM IS UNLIKELY TO BE THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS.

-- HOW WILL WE DEFINE WHAT WE WILL DISCUSS?

-- WHY DO WE NEED A NEW STRUCTURE?

6. ~~(C)~~ TERSEN MADE A NUMBER OF POINTS WHICH WE HAVE NOT HEARD BEFORE FROM FRENCH OFFICIALS. HE SAID THAT FRANCE HAS NO APPREHENSION ABOUT THE DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURE OR AUDIOVISUAL IN AN NTM BECAUSE SIR LEON BRITTAN HAS ASSURED THE GOF THAT THEY WILL NOT BE INCLUDED. HE SUGGESTED THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT THE NEXT MULTILATERAL ROUND AND AIMING OUR RESOURCES. AT THIS MOMENT, WITH A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO DO IN CONVINCING TRADING PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD (ESPECIALLY THE DEVELOPING WORLD) OF THE BENEFITS OF A BROAD ROUND, FRANCE NEEDS TO WORK WITH THE U.S., NOT AGAINST IT, AND TO DEVOTE RESOURCES TO THE MULTILATERAL EFFORT. IF WE WERE TO START AN NTM FRANCE WOULD BE NEGOTIATING WITH THE EU AGAINST THE U.S. AS AN EXAMPLE OF ThG DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED, TERSEN POINTED TO THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT (MRA) TALKS: "LOOK HOW HARD MRA'S WERE AND HOW MUCH TIME THEY TOOK." AND BRITTAN WANTS TO CONCLUDE AN NTM BY THE END OF 1999 - "THIS IS UNREALISTIC".

7. ~~(C)~~ SCHER ASKED ABOUT THE NTM DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN THE EU COMMISSION. TERSEN COMMENTED THAT, DESPITE THE OPPOSITION OF THE TWO FRENCH COMMISSIONERS, A MAJORITY OF THE COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS HAD AGREED TO GO FORWARD WITH BRITTAN'S PROPOSAL ON NTM. HE SAID THAT WITHIN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, MOST TRADE ISSUES ARE DECIDED BY MAJORITY VOTE. BUT SERVICES ISSUES REQUIRE UNANIMITY. THEREFORE, THE GOF BELIEVES THAT WHEN AN NTM PACKAGE (NECESSARILY INCLUDING SERVICES) COMES UP FOR APPROVAL IN THE COUNCIL THE GOF WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STOP IT.
8. ~~(C)~~ ACCORDING TO TERSEN, MOST FOREIGN MINISTRIES IN THE MEMBER STATES FAVOR AN NTM FOR POLITICAL REASONS, WHILE HE CLAIMED THAT FOR PRAGMATIC REASONS MOST TRADE MINISTRIES OPPOSE IT. HE SAID IT WOULD BE HARD TO BUILD DOMESTIC POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR AN NTM. THE GOF IS STILL SUFFERING THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF THE PUBLIC CONTROVERSY ON THE OECD MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON INVESTMENT (MAI) TALKS. IF THAT MUCH OPPOSITION COULD BE GENERATED TO WHAT HE TERMED A

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"TECHNICAL AGREEMENT WHICH WAS NOT THAT DIFFICULT", IMAGINE WHAT AN UPHILL BATTLE THE GOF WILL HAVE WITH AN NTM.

9. ~~(C)~~ TERSEN ASKED WHEN THE USG WILL MAKE AN INTER-AGENCY DECISION ON NTM. SCHER REPLIED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL LIKELY FINALIZE ITS IDEAS WITHIN SEVERAL WEEKS. TERSEN ASKED WHETHER THE USG WOULD NEED THE FORMAL SUPPORT OF CONGRESS. SCHER RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF AN NTM, BUT THAT FORMAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE REQUIRED. TERSEN THEN ASKED WHETHER AN NTM WOULD NEED AT LEAST POLITICAL, IF NOT LEGAL, CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT. SCHER REPLIED THAT POLITICAL SUPPORT WOULD BE NECESSARY, AND WAS A KEY REASON WHY WE WOULD HAVE TO ADDRESS SOME AGRICULTURE ISSUES IN AN NTM.

10. ~~(C)~~ SCHER AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT WE ARE NOT TRYING TO NEGOTIATE THE CAP IN AN NTM BUT RATHER AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY ISSUES. ADAMS NOTED THAT AN NTM COULD BE USED TO DEVELOP CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THESE REGULATORY ISSUES. TERSEN RESPONDED THAT REGULATORY ISSUES ARE AMONG THE MOST INTRUSIVE AND THEREFORE MOST DIFFICULT TO ADDRESS AND RESOLVE. GRANDJOUAN NOTED WE SHOULD NOT IMPLY FROM FRANCE'S OPPOSITION TO AN NTM THAT IT DOES NOT WANT TO DISCUSS ISSUES OR THAT IT IS TRYING TO UNDERCUT IMPETUS FOR MULTILATERAL TALKS. IT SIMPLY DOES NOT THINK NTM THE RIGHT VEHICLE OR THE RIGHT TIME. SCHER RESPONDED THAT THE USG BELIEVES THAT WE DO NEED A MECHANISM LIKE NTM TO ADDRESS ISSUES - ESPECIALLY CONTINUAL ONES IN AGRICULTURE WHICH ARE ALWAYS PERCEIVED AS A THORN IN THE SIDE OF OUR RELATIONS.

AGRICULTURE ISSUES
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11. ~~(C)~~ SCHER OUTLINED FOR CHEREAU AND BOREL (PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE) THE USG VIEW THAT THE WORLD FACES GREAT CHALLENGES IN MEETING GROWING DEMAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION. WE AND OUR FARMERS MUST ASSUME THE INEVITABILITY OF CHANGE IN WORLD AGRICULTURE. HE NOTED THE USG'S CONCERN ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES, ESPECIALLY THE WTO CASES ON BANANAS AND HORMONES AND THE GMO APPROVAL PROCESS.

USD FOR U/S SCHUMACHER AND O/SEC FOR DRAZEK, FA FOR
HATAMIYA/GALVIN
GENEVA FOR USTR AND RESLER
USTR FOR SCHER AND IVES

E.O. 12958: DCL: 09/03/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, F, WTRD
SUBJECT: USTR AMBASSADOR SCHER'S MRCH 6 BILATERALS WITH FRENCH:
- NOMOVEMENT ON NTM, GMO'S, BANANAS OR HORMONES

CHEREAU COMMENTED THAT THE GOF WANTS TO AVOID ISPUTES WITH THE USG BUT CANNOT IGNORE PUBLIC OPNION. HE SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN A STRONG RECTION ON THESE ISSUES - A REACTION WHICH IS NOT EW. THE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO MANAGE THE ISUES AND MAKE PROGRESS, BUT THIS MAY OCCUR SLOWL TO TRY NOT TO LET THE PUBLIC "REACTION" GET OUT OG HAND. AS EVIDENCE OF THE PUBLIC'S INCREASINGLY STRIDENT MOOD HE CITED THE DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE PARIS AGRICULTURAL FAIR AND A RECENT CASE IN WHICH ACTIVISTS HAD DESTROYED NOVARTIS GMO CORN (REFTEL). ALTHOUGH THE ACTIVISTS HAD BEEN FINED AND SENTENCED TO SHORT JAIL TERMS, CHEREAU SAID HE WORRIED THAT THE ANTI-GMO

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ORGANIZATIONS WERE ACCELERATING THEIR ACTIVITIES. HE SAID THAT THIS WILL MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE GOF'S ATTEMPT TO MANAGE A PUBLIC DEBATE ON GMO'S BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE. (COMMENT: THE GOF VIEWS THE "DEBATE," SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20, AS A MECHANISM FOR DEVELOPING A MORE FAVORABLE PUBLIC CONSENSUS ON GMO'S. END COMMENT.)

GMO'S

12. ~~(C)~~ CHEREAU NOTED THE GOF'S POSITION THAT IT MUST DEVELOP A CONSENSUS PUBLIC OPINION FAVORING GMO'S. SCHER RESPONDED THAT THE USG APPRECIATES THE STEPS FRANCE IS TAKING. GMO'S ARE REALLY AN ENVIRONMENTALLY BENEFICIAL TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN HELP ADDRESS OUR LONG TERM FOOD PROBLEMS, AND OUR HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS ABOUT FAMINE AND MALNUTRITION. BUT, HE NOTED, WE NEED TO MAINTAIN CONSUMER CONFIDENCE THAT WE ARE ASSURING SAFE FOOD. HE SUGGESTED THAT BETTER SCIENCE-BASED REVIEWS WOULD HELP EUROPE DEAL WITH PROBLEMS LIKE BSE. CHEREAU DISAGREED, CITING THE EFFECT OF RECENT SCANDALS (BEGINNING WITH THE TAINTED BLOOD SCANDAL IN THE MID-80'S) IN UNDERMINING EUROPEAN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN REGULATORS. THIS IS A MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SITUATION IN THE U.S. AND IN EUROPE. AND THIS IS ONE REASON WHY THE GOF IS NOW PURSUING THE IDEA OF A PUBLIC DEBATE ON GMO'S.

13. ~~(C)~~ SCHER EXPLAINED THAT WE HAVE A VERY DIFFERENT ATTITUDE IN THE U.S. WHEN COMPANIES HAVE FOOD/PRODUCT SAFETY PROBLEMS IN THE U.S. THEY REACT QUICKLY AND OPENLY TO TRY TO REASSURE AND REGAIN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE. THE FDA IS NOT SUBJECT TO POLITICAL INTERFERENCE. THAT IS A PROBLEM IN EUROPE. THE COMMISSION AND ITS PROCESSES ARE SUBJECT TO POLITICAL INTERFERENCE AND THE CONTINUAL RULE CHANGING CREATES A PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF UNCERTAINTY. CHEREAU AGREED, SAYING THAT THE NEW COMMISSIONER BONINO COMMITTEE REVIEW CAME AS A SURPRISE TO FRANCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, FRANCE WAS MAKING PROGRESS: WITNESS THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL FOR THE PLANTING OF BT CORN LAST FALL. HE SAID THAT THE GOF AND THE COMMISSION NOW HAVE A WORKABLE M|ECHANISM TO DEAL WITH CORN BUT FACE DIFFICULTIES WITH GMO CANOLA AND RAPESEED APPROVALS (NOTE: EMBASSY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT GMO CORNS CANNOT SPREAD THEIR GENE CHARACTERISTICS TO OTHER PLANTS. GMO RAPESEED CANOLA CAN CROSS-POLLINATE WITH A VARIETY OF OTHER PLANTS, POSSIBLY SPREADING THEIR MODIFIED GENES. END NOTE).

14. ~~(C)~~ CHEREAU SAID THAT THE 3 VARIETIES OF GMO CORN RECENTLY APPROVED BY THE BONINO COMMITTEE WILL BE VOTED ON BY THE AGRICULTURE COUNCIL MARCH 18. SCHER ASKED IF FRANCE WILL SUPPORT THEM. CHEREAU'S RESPONSE: "I HOPE SO - THE ISSUE IS UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE GOVERNMENT". SCHER NOTED THAT THE EU APPROVAL PROCESS IS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO U.S. INDUSTRY. ADAMS ADDED THAT THE ORIGINAL SCIENCE ON SOME OF THE PRODUCTS UP FOR APPROVAL WAS DONE IN FRANCE. CHEREAU RESPONDED THAT FRANCE IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND THAT FRENCH FARMERS WANT TO USE THEM - ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE BEING USED BY THEIR COMPETITORS. BOREL COMMENTED THAT THE PROBLEM IS POLITICAL, AND INVOLVES BRINGING PUBLIC OPINION ALONG. HE SAID THAT MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (MEP'S) ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY GMO'S.

15. ~~(C)~~ SCHER TOLD CHEREAU AND BOREL THAT OPPONENTS OF LIBERALIZED TRADE IN THE U.S. CONGRESS ARE QUESTIONING WHY THE U.S. SHOULD CONTINUE OPENING UP TO TRADE AND ABIDING BY WTO FINDINGS AGAINST IT IF OTHERS DO NOT. IF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM IS TO BE

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SUSTAINED GOVERNMENTS MUST MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS. POLITICAL LEADERS MUST LEAD. ADAMS SAID THAT THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAD RECENTLY HELD A PRODUCTIVE MEETING ON GMO'S AND THE ENVIRONMENT. CHEREAU COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS A BIG CHANGE FROM ONE YEAR AGO. MEP'S HAVE LEARNED FROM THE SPECIFIED RISK MATERIALS (SRM) EXPERIENCE OK THE BROAD IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED IN PRODUCT REGULATION. THE PARLIAMENT IS BEGINNING TO REALIZE IT MUST BE MORE CAREFUL IN ITS RHETORIC. SCHER CONCLUDED THE ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 04 OF 05 PARIS 006179

USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER AND O/SC FOR DRAZEK, FAS FOR HATAMIYA/GALVIN
GENEA FOR USTR AND RESSLER
USTR FOR SCHER AND IVES
E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, FR, WTRD
SUBJECT: USTR AMBSSADOR SCHER'S MARCH 6 BILATERALS WITH FRENCH
- NO MOVEMENT ON NTM, GMO'S, BNANAS OR HORMONES.

DISCUSSION OF GMO'S BY RITERATING THAT WE NEED A STABLE, TRANSPARENT AD SCIENCE-BASED APPROVAL SYSTEM. WE WILL MEET HE SCIENCE STANDARDS -- BUT THE EU MUST AGREE O A RATIONAL, STABLE PROCESS.

BEEF WITH HRMONES
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16. ~~(C)~~ CHEREA FRANKLY PREDICTED THAT FRENCH AND EUROPEAN CONSMERS WILL REJECT MEAT PRODUCED WITH HORMONES. HESAID THAT GOVERNMENTS CANNOT SOLVE THIS PROBLEM Y THEMSELVES. CHEREAU SAID THAT FRANCE FACES WO ISSUES: CONSUMER ATTITUDES AND THE SITUATION OF FRENCH BEEF PRODUCERS IN THE POST-BSE ERA. (NOTE: DEMAND FOR BEEF IN FRANCE IS STILL BELOW PRE-BSE LEVELS AND PRODUCERS FACE INTENSE SCRUTINY ON SAFETY ISSUES. MUCH TOUGHER LABELLING REQUIREMENTS ARE ONE RESPONSE TO THE SITUATION.) CHEREAU NOTED THAT IMPORTS OF NON-HORMONE-PRODUCED U.S. BEEF TO FRANCE ARE VERY LOW AND HE ASKED WHETHER THESE IMPORTS COULD BE DEVELOPED AS AN ALTERNATIVE WAY OF ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF AMERICAN BEEF PRODUCERS.

17. ~~(C)~~ SCHER RESPONDED THAT THE USG RECOGNIZED THAT EUROPE NEEDS TIME TO DEAL WITH CONSUMER CONCERNS. HE SAID THE USG WOULD CONSIDER CHEREAU'S NOTION OF INCREASING EXPORTS OF BEEF PRODUCED WITHOUT HORMONES -- BUT THAT THIS WOULD OFFER ONLY A VERY TEMPORARY FIX. HE SAID WE WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO DISCUSS INCREASING IN THE SHORT TERM EXPORTS OF U.S. BEEF PRODUCED WITH HORMONES (SUITABLY LABELLED) FOR RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS, IN ORDER TO HELP DEVELOP CONSUMER AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE. SCHER EMPHASIZED THAT THERE IS INTENSE CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE. WE HAVE WAITED TEN YEARS TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE EU MARKET AND THE COMMON FEELING IN THE U.S. IS THAT WE HAVE WAITED LONG ENOUGH. IF EUROPE WANTS TO PROCEED WITH A SCIENCE-BASED RISK ANALYSIS, WE CAN LIVE WITH IT. BUT MANY IN WASHINGTON QUESTION WHETHER THE EU WILL EVER HAVE THE POLITICAL WILL TO LIFT THE BAN AND OPEN MARKETS AFTER A RISK ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION SHOWS NO RISK.

18. ~~(C)~~ SCHER RAISED THE SAME POINT WITH TERSEN. TERSEN SUGGESTED THAT IF COMPLIANCE WITH A WTO DECISION IS TOO DIFFICULT POLITICALLY, THEN WE SHOULD TRY TO FIND FLEXIBLE SOLUTIONS -- WHICH THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM SHOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH. HE COMMENTED

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THAT THE CURRENT ISSUE OF BEEF PRODUCED WITH HORMONES IS NOT A CLASSIC CASE OF TRADE PROTECTIONISM, BUT RATHER MORE A QUESTION OF CONSUMER PREJUDICES. GRANDJOUAN EXPRESSED THE WORRY THAT THE GOF DOES NOT WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO BUILDING UP A MORE POWERFUL ANTI-FREE TRADE CONSTITUENCY, SOME OF WHICH ALREADY EXISTS IN SMALLER FORM. SCHER RESPONDED THAT THE POLITICAL REALITY IN THE U.S. IS SUCH THAT WE CANNOT TELL CONGRESS AND THE INDUSTRY THAT THEY MUST WAIT 15 MONTHS FOR A NEW RISK ASSESSMENT - AT THE END OF WHICH WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

19. ~~(C)~~ SCHER EMPHASIZED THAT NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE WTO DECISION UNDERMINES SUPPORT FOR THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM. HE ASKED WHETHER THERE IS SOME MIDDLE GROUND WE CAN PURSUE NOW. HE UNDERLINED THE PROBLEM THE USG FACES IF THE EU SAYS IT WILL NOT COMPLY WITH THE WTO DECISION. TERSEN ASKED ABOUT THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE USG IF THE EU DOES NOT ACT WITHIN THE 15 MONTH TIMEFRAME FOR ANNOUNCING HOW IT WILL COMPLY. SCHER RESPONDED THAT THE WTO PANEL WAS VERY CLEAR ON HORMONES: SIMPLY PUNTING AND PUTTING OFF A DECISION - DEALING WITH IT ONLY AFTER A RISK REVIEW - IS INSUFFICIENT, AND MAY MAKE THE POLITICAL DECISION AT THE END OF THE ROAD EVEN HARDER. HE TOLD TERSEN THAT COUNTRIES RETAIN SOVEREIGNTY IN THE WTO DISPUTE PROCESS. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER FOR FRENCH AND EU RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IF THEY WOULD TELL US NOW THAT THEY WILL NOT COMPLY RATHER THAN DRAG THE ISSUE OUT AND STILL NOT COMPLY.

20. ~~(C)~~ PINET SUGGESTED THAT THE GOF COULD DECIDE MORE EASILY WHAT TO DO IF IT KNEW NOW WHAT THE RISK ASSESSMENT CONCLUSIONS WOULD BE AND IF IT COULD PREDICT THE POLITICAL SITUATION MORE ACCURATELY. BUT IT WAS UNCERTAIN WHAT THE ASSESSMENT WOULD BE. SCHER RESPONDED THAT THE WTO SAYS THAT A DECISION MUST REFLECT A SCIENCE-BASED RISK ASSESSMENT - USING STANDARD VARIABLES. HE AGAIN NOTED THE POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS PROBLEMS IF THE U.S. HAS THE PERCEPTION THAT IT IS JUST BEING JERKED AROUND. HE UNDERLINED THAT THE USG IS SKEPTICAL OF THE EU'S POSITION. "DON'T EXPECT US TO WAIT 15 MONTHS - THAT WOULD BE POLITICALLY UNSUSTAINABLE. THIS IS A FAIR POSITION FOR US TO HOLD GIVEN THE WTO OBLIGATIONS INVOLVED."
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 05 OF 05 PARIS 006179

USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER AND O/SEC FOR DRAZEK, FAS FOR HATAMIYA/GALVIN
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BANANAS
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21. ~~(C)~~ DISCUSSION OF BANANAS AND THE EU'S WTO COMMITMENTS PARALLELED THE REVIEW OF HORMONES. BOREL NOTED THAT FRANCE'S KEY CONCERNS WERE WITH EMPLOYMENT IN THE FRENCH DEPARTMENTS (NOTE: GUADELOUPE AND MARTINIQUE). HE EMPHASIZED A FRENCH NEED FOR CAUTION. CHEREAU REMINDED USTR REPS OF A TWO-YEAR OLD STATEMENT BY THE U.S. MILITARY COMMANDER IN THE CARIBBEAN CONCERNED ABOUT A

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SHIFT FROM PRODUCING BANANAS TO DRUGS. HE SAID THAT THE GOF IS DISCUSSING THE BANANA ISSUE WITH THE COMMISSION, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF DECOUPLING SUBSIDY INCOME TO THE FARMERS FROM PRODUCTION. IT IS A MONEY QUESTION FOR THE EU. SCHER RESPONDED THAT THE USG DOES CARE ABOUT CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DRUG ISSUE - SINCE THE U.S. WOULD BE THE MOST AFFECTED NATION. BUT WE ARE EXTREMELY FRUSTRATED BY THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE COMMISSION TO SIT DOWN WITH US AND DISCUSS A SOLUTION. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR WTO COMPLIANCE AND SAID THIS ISSUE RAISES THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE WTO CAN SETTLE DISPUTES -ESPECIALLY AGRICULTURAL ONES. CHEREAU REPLIED THAT FRANCE IS IN FAVOR OF DISCUSSING THE ISSUE COOPERATIVELY (AND QUIETLY) TO LOOK AT OUR OBJECTIVES, EXPLORE COSTS AND EXAMINE DIFFERENT POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS. HE SUGGESTED THAT USTR WORK VIA THE U.S. EMBASSY TO UNDERTAKE THIS DISCUSSION WITH THE GOF.

22. ~~(C)~~ PINET REITERATED THE EU COMMISSION LINE THAT THE EU WILL RESPECT ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. HE SAID THAT THERE IS AN INTERNAL EU PROCESS TO EXAMINE THE ISSUE AND EXPLAINED THAT THE GOF CANNOT SAY WHAT THE SOLUTION WILL BE UNTIL AFTER THIS INTERNAL EXAMINATION. SCHER TOLD TERSEN AND THE OTHERS THAT THE NEW COMMISSION PROPOSAL ON BANANAS IS MORE PROTECTIONIST THAN THE CURRENT REGIME. WE HAVE DEEP CONCERNS ABOUT THE EU'S WILLINGNESS TO COMPLY WITH THE WTO DECISION AND COOPERATE WITH THE COMPLAINING PARTIES. HE CITED THE REFORMULATED GAS WTO DECISION WHICH THE U.S. HAD LOST, AND SAID THAT IN THAT CASE THE U.S. HAD COOPERATED WITH THE COMPLAINING PARTIES AS IT DEVELOPED ITS PLAN OF COMPLIANCE ON A VERY SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE. HE SAID THAT WE ARE VERY WORRIED ABOUT THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS, GIVEN THE LACK OF COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION ON HOW IT PLANS TO COMPLY.

WHEAT GLUTEN

23. (U) CHEREAU ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE WHEAT GLUTEN ISSUE IN THE USG. SCHER REPLIED THAT THE ITC HAS RULED AND MUST NOW SEND ITS FINDINGS REGARDING THE IMPACT ON TRADE. USTR AND USDA WILL HlE TO EVALUATE THE INFORMATION AND THEN MAKE A RECOMMENDQOQO THE PRESIDENT.

24. (U) THIS CABLE WAS CLEARED BY D/AUSTR IVES.

ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 05
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RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
SUBJ: EU COMMITTEE APPROVES GMO'S

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 001717

USDA PASS OSEC/SCHUMACHER/DRAZEK; FAS FOR OA/HATAMIYA & GALVIN; ITP/THORN/CHESLEY; CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: EU COMMITTEE APPROVES GMO'S

1. THE EU COMMISSION'S ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE TODAY VOTED TO APPROVE ALL THREE VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN, AS WELL AS GENETICALLY-MODIFIED RAPESEED.

2. DETAILS OF THE VOTE ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE, ALTHOUGH THE RESULTS SUGGEST THAT A NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES WHO HAD BEEN LEANING TOWARDS ABSTENTION WERE PERSUADED TO VOTE IN FAVOR. SOURCES SAY IRELAND, GREECE, DENMARK AND SWEDEN MIXED THEIR VOTES ON DIFFERENT VARIETIES, AND THAT FRANCE ABSTAINED ON ALL THREE CORNS.

3. NORMALLY, FROM AN ARTICLE 21 VOTE TO A FINAL OFFICIAL APPROVAL TAKES TWO TO THREE WEEKS; HOWEVER, WE MUST CAUTION THAT THIS HAS NOT BEEN A "NORMAL" CASE.

4. AFFECTED COMPANIES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DELIGHT WITH THE OUTCOME.

5. ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND A VOTE BREAKDOWN WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTEL. THE OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE WILL BE

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FAXED TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES AS SOON AS IT IS OBTAINED.
(DRAFTED:RGIFFORD) WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1717

TOR: 980319014657 M3204226

DIST:

SIT: NSC
<^DIST>
SIT: BUTLER

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA1938 0860647-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 270647Z MAR 98
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 270647Z MAR 98
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
SUBJ: NEXT STEP ON GMO APPROVALS

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 001938

FAS FOR OSEC/SCHMACHER, ITP/THORN/CHESLEY, OA/HATAMIYA AND GALVIN, OFSTS/SLUTSKY
STATE PASS USTR/MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: NEXT STEP ON GMO APPROVALS

1. FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S POSITIVE VOTE BY THE ARTICLE 21 REGULATORY COMMITTEE, THE NEXT STEP IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE THREE GMO CORN VARIETIES IS A VOTE BY THE COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS.
POST HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS DID NOT REPEAT NOT TAKE ACTION ON THE APPROVALS FOR GMO CORN AT THEIR MARCH 25 MEETING. THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1. IF ACTION IS NOT TAKEN AT THIS MEETING, THE APPROVAL PROCESS MAY RUN AFOUL OF THE EASTER HOLIDAY, CAUSING FURTHER DELAYS.
2. COMMISSION SOURCES SAY IT IS THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE THAT A COMMISSIONER COULD PUT A HOLD ON THE VOTE, BUT THAT THIS IS UNLIKELY.

3. AFTER COMMISSION APPROVAL, THE DOSSIERS ARE RETURNED TO THE MEMBER-STATE RAPPORTEURS WHO ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED THEM, WHO THEN MUST ISSUE A CONSENT FOR THE PRODUCTS TO BE PUT ON THE MARKET. FOR THE NOVARTIS CORN, THE UK IS THE RAPPORTEUR, AND WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE UK ALREADY

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IS PREPARING ITS POSITIVE CONSENT.

4. FOR THE MONSANTO AND AGREVO CORNS, HOWEVER, THE RAPPORTEUR IS FRANCE. BOTH INDUSTRY AND COMMISSION SOURCES FEAR THAT FRANCE WILL DELAY ISSUING ITS CONSENT FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

5. THERE IS PRECEDENCE FOR A RAPOORTEUR FAILING TO ISSUE CONSENT. THE COMMISSION APPROVED TWO VARIETIES OF CANADIAN GMO RAPESEED IN JUNE 1997, YET FRANCE SO FAR HAS FAILED TO ISSUE CONSENT. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE COMMISSION THIS WEEK IS BEGINNING PROCEDURES TO FORCE THE FRENCH TO ISSUE CONSENT.

6. COMMENT: POST BELIEVES HIGH-LEVEL ENCOURAGEMENT FROM WASHINGTON MAY BE USEFUL TO ENSURE THAT THE COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS VOTES NEXT WEEK AND NO LATER. THE FRENCH SITUATION MAY BE MORE COMPLICATED. END COMMENT. (DRAFTED:RGIFFORD)

WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1938

TOR: 980327022434 M3217330

DIST:

SIT: NSC

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. cable~~	~~Re: GMOs, Corn Gluten Feed and Agenda 2000 (4 pages)~~	~~04/02/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 11/26/2019
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: [Ambassador's Call on Consumer Protection Minister] (5 pages)~~	~~04/03/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
003. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Corn] (2 pages)	04/28/1998	P1/b(1)
004. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Corn] (3 pages)	05/01/1998	P1/b(1)
~~005. cable~~	~~Re: U.S. Belgian Exchange on AG Trade: GMOs, Hormones (7~~ pages)	~~05/17/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 11/26/2019
~~006. cable~~	~~Re: Strategy for Handling GMO Food and Agriculture Issues with the~~ French (5 pages)	~~05/29/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:
[04/02/1998 - 05/29/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3009

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 021630Z APR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
OSRI: RUEHTC
DTG: 021630Z APR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8574
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0526
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0069
SUBJ: GMO'S, CORN GLUTEN FEED AND AGENDA
TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 001179

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS FOR FAA/PLETARTE;
ITP/PSHEIKH/EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON,
CMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG,
ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT;
APHIS AND FSIS AT USDA
STATE PASS TO USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, NL
SUBJECT: GMO'S, CORN GLUTEN FEED AND AGENDA
2000.

1. SBU: SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.
OFFICIAL SOURCES REPORTED, PLEASE HANDLE
ACCORDINGLY.

2. SUMMARY: DESPITE RECENT POSITIVE
MOVEMENTS ON A NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE
ISSUES, AGRICULTURAL FRICTION POINTS FLOURISH
BETWEEN THE EU AND THE U.S.- AT LEAST FROM
OUR PERSPECTIVE IN THE NETHERLANDS. IN A
RECENT SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH DUTCH
OFFICIALS AND AGRIBUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES,
TOGETHER WITH ALEX THIERMANN FROM USEU, WE
HAVE EXPLORED THEIR VIEWS OF THESE PROBLEM
AREAS. THE MOST URGENT POINT IN THEIR VIEW
IS TO RESOLVE THE GMO ISSUE, PARTICULARLY IN
CONNECTION WITH CORN GLUTEN FEED. THEY ALSO
BLUNTLY TALKED ABOUT CURRENT DISCUSSIONS IN

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BRUSSELS TO LINK THE U.S. WHEAT GLUTEN COMPLAINTS WITH THE CORN GLUTEN PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

3. GMO'S AND CORN GLUTEN FEED (CGF): THE NETHERLANDS IS THE PREMIER MARKET FOR U.S. CORN GLUTEN FEED (ABOUT $400 MILLION ANNUALLY). GMO-RELATED FRICTION WILL BE GENERATED AGAIN WITH THE AUTUMN 1998 HARVEST UNLESS EU AUTHORITIES APPROVE ALL VARIETIES WHICH COULD BE CONTAINED IN SHIPMENTS TO THE NETHERLANDS. THE GMO ISSUE IS RATHER COMPLICATED AS IT TOUCHES ON INTERACTING DOMAINS RELATED TO TRADE/ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENT, AND CONSUMER PREFERENCES IN THE NETHERLANDS. IF CONSUMERS IN THE NETHERLANDS OR NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES SUCH AS GERMANY WHO RECEIVE (FOR EXAMPLE DUTCH DAIRY PRODUCTS), REFUSE TO PURCHASE FOOD PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM ANIMALS FED WITH SUCH CORN GLUTEN FEED, THEN CORN GLUTEN IMPORTS WOULD LIKELY DECLINE SHARPLY. FOR BOTH THE U.S. SUPPLIERS AND THE DUTCH FEED INDUSTRY, THE GMO ISSUE MUST BE RESOLVED. IF CGF WILL BE EXCLUDED (DUE TO GMO-BELATED ASPECTS) PRICE OF ANIMAL FEED WILL INCREASE BY AT LEAST 1 DFL. PER 100 KILOS (ABOUT $5.00 PER METRIC TON). THIS WAS REPORTED TO US BY A FEED INDUSTRY SOURCE WHO SAID THE DUTCH DAIRY INDUSTRY IS READY TO PAY THIS IF A SOLUTION IS NOT FOUND SOON FOR THE GMO-CORN PROBLEM IN THE 1998 HARVEST.

4. CORN GLUTEN FEED AND WHEAT GLUTEN: IF CORN GLUTEN FEED WERE TO BE RECLASSIFIED A COMPOUND FEED, AS IS RUMORED IN BRUSSELS, THEN A LEVY FOR FEED INGREDIENTS WOULD BE IMPOSED AND DISRUPT TRADE. IT SEEMS THAT SOME EU MEMBER STATES ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING SUCH RECLASSIFICATION. ESPECIALLY THE FRENCH (THIBEAULT) AIM AT PROTECTING THEIR MARKET FOR FEED INGREDIENTS ACCORDING TO OUR DUTCH SOURCES WHO ATTEND MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS. WHEN DISCUSSING THE CORN GLUTEN FEED ISSUE, MINAG OFFICIALS BRIEFLY MENTIONED THE WHEAT GLUTEN ISSUE. THEY SUGGESTED THAT A TRADE DEAL COULD BE MADE CONSIDERING WHEAT GLUTEN IMPORTS FROM THE EU TO THE U.S. AND U.S. CORN GLUTEN FEED TO THE EU.

5. GMO'S AND LABELING: ACCORDING TO OUR DUTCH CONTACTS, DUTCH OFFICIALS SUPPORT EU MOVES TOWARD REINFORCED AND MORE DETAILED LABELING OF FOOD PRODUCTS AND SUPPLYING INFORMATION ON THE PRODUCTION PROCESS. AS THE GMO AND HORMONE ISSUES ARE VERY SENSITIVE, THEY ADVOCATE THAT CONSUMERS SHOULD BE INFORMED SO THEY CAN MAKE THEIR OWN

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DECISIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, AS AGREED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN DUTCH CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS, INDUSTRY, RETAIL TRADE AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES IN 1994, LABELING OF ALL FOOD PRODUCTS WHICH CONTAIN
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 THE HAGUE 001179

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS FOR FAA/PLETARTE;
ITP/PSHEIKH/EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON,
CMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG,
ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT;
APHIS AND FSIS AT USDA
STATE PASS TO USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, NL
SUBJECT: GMO'S, CORN GLUTEN FEED AND AGENDA 2000.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEAN PROTEIN, SOYBEAN FLOUR OR SOYBEAN MEAL WAS REQUIRED AS OF APRIL 1, 1997. OUR DUTCH FEED INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION CONTACT, H. HEUVER (FNM), SUGGESTED THAT ONE WAY FOR THE DUTCH FEED INDUSTRY TO SURVIVE WOULD BE TO BUILD CONFIDENCE AMONG THEIR CLIENTS, PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. IN THE NETHERLANDS THERE IS A LARGE AND GROWING EMPHASIS ON HEALTHY FOODS (SAFETY), CONVENIENCE FOODS, ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND ORGANIC PRODUCTS.

6. AGENDA 2000: THE KEY ISSUES ARE: REDUCTION OF PRICES FOR MILK (15&), BEEF (30&), GRAIN (20&) TO MOVE INTERNAL EU PRICES TOWARD WORLD MARKET PRICES. HOWEVER, PARTIAL INCOME SUPPORT TO FARMERS AND DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES JOINING THE EU (POLAND, HUNGARY, CZECH. REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, SLOVENIA) COMPLICATE THE POLICY ENVIRONMENT. ACCORDING TO OUR DUTCH FEED INDUSTRY CONTACTS, PRICE REDUCTIONS WILL ALLOW FOR AN INCREASE IN EU EXPORTS. THUS FEED MILLERS COULD BE A BENEFICIARY.

7. HORMONE-TREATED BEEF: ACCORDING TO THE MINAG OFFICIALS, HORMONE-TREATED BEEF REMAINS A SENSITIVE ISSUE. NEVERTHELESS R. VAN DER FLIER MENTIONED THAT THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET IN MEMBER STATES OF THE EU AND THAT THE ACTORS INVOLVED (INCLUDING POLICY MAKERS) ARE 'THINKING OVER' THE ISSUE.

8. MR H. HEUVER (FNM) MENTIONED THAT THERE

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ARE TENDENCIES AMONG CONSUMERS TOWARD EROSION OF TRUST IN OFFICIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS WHO REVIEW AND APPROVE MATTERS REGARDING FOOD SAFETY. SCIENCE IS NO LONGER EMBRACED AS THE SINGLE TRUTH; OTHER FACTORS INFLUENCE DECISION MAKING IN EUROPE. ACCORDING TO VAN DER FLIER, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME DEGREE OF INCOMPATIBILITY IN INTERPRETATION OF SCIENCE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EU. THE SCIENTIFIC APPROACH WAS STRESSED BY MR. A. THIERMANN (USEU) AND HE MENTIONED THAT EUROPE IS NOT YET WELL ORGANIZED WITH REGARD TO ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL. REGULATIONS, PRODUCTION AND CONTROL SYSTEMS HAVE NOT YET BEEN STREAMLINED WHICH COULD LEAD TO LAX DISEASE CONTROL IN THE EUROPEAN UNION. DORNBUSH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 1179
<^SSN>1179

TOR: 980402103336 M3227334
<^TOR>980402103337 M3227335

DIST:

SIT: USTR
SIT: NSC

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Cable

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VZ NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-M (1,94)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHVIA3039 0931417-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 031417Z APR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 031417Z APR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5772
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0104
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON CONSUMER PROTECTION MINISTER: GMO'S, HORMONES, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY, AND THE UPCOMING EU PRESIDENCY

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA KATHRYN WALT HALL FOR

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 VIENNA 003039

SECSTATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB, PASS USTR FOR JIM MURPHY, ALSO PASS FDA

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, ALSO FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH, EAMED/THORN, FSTSD/HARBERT, DLP/REDDINGTON, PASS ALSO APHIS/VS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE, BRUSSELS PASS ALSO APHIS/THIERMANN
GENEVA FOR USTR, PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/3/2018
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, PINR, PREL, SOCI, TBIO, EUN, AU
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON CONSUMER PROTECTION MINISTER: GMO'S, HORMONES, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY, AND THE UPCOMING EU PRESIDENCY

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA KATHRYN WALT HALL FOR REASONS 1.6X5 AND 1.6X6.

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: DURING AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MINISTER OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION BARBARA PRAMMER, PRAMMER ADVISED THAT

- DURING AUSTRIA'S EU PRESIDENCY, AN "INFORMAL" JOINT COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT ISSUES WILL BE FORMED BETWEEN THE COUNCILS SHE AND MINISTER OF LABOR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS HOSTASCH CHAIR;

- AUSTRIA IS MAKING PROGRESS ON THE BIOTECHNOLOGY FRONT, WITH PREPARATION OF A LIABILITY LAW AND MOVEMENT WITHIN THE EU ON DEVELOPING REGULATIONS ON LABELLING AND FIELD RELEASE;

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AND

- THE HORMONE ISSUE IS "NOT AT THE TOP" OF THE EU'S LIST OF ISSUES TO ADDRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. ~~(C)~~ AMBASSADOR HALL, ACCOMPANIED BY AGCOUN AND ECON SPECIALIST, CALLED ON AUSTRIAN MINISTER OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION BARBARA PRAMMER APRIL 2. PRAMMER WAS JOINED BY KLAUS MEYER OF HER STAFF. AS MINISTER WITH THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO, PRAMMER HAS GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION OVER BIOTECHNOLOGY AND VETERINARY SERVICES IN AUSTRIA, AND INSTRUCTS THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER ON HOW TO VOTE ON THESE ISSUES IN THE EU AGRICULTURE MINISTERS COUNCIL.

EU PRESIDENCY

3. (SBU) PRAMMER OPENUD WITH THE COMMENT THAT IT IS AN "INTENSE TIME" IN THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT DUE TO PREPARATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING EU PRESIDENCY. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION, PRAMMER SAID ONE MAJOR IMPACT ON HER MINISTRY WILL BE CREATION OF A SEPARATE, INFORMAL, JOINT COUNCIL WITH THE COUNCIL CHAIRED BY MINISTER OF LABOR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS LORE HOSTASCH TO DEAL WITH WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT ISSUES. THOSE ISSUES ARE NOT DEALT WITH SEPARATELY, SHE SAID, BUT RATHER ARE NORMALLY SUBSUMED INTO THE SOCIAL AND LABOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. PRAMMER SAID ONLY NORTHERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CAN BE COMPARED TO THE U.S. WITH RESPECT TO ACCEPTANCE OF WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE, AND NOTED THAT IT IS STILL QUITE RARE TO FIND FEMALE EXECUTIVES IN EUROPEAN ENTERPRISES, AND SHE NOTED THAT IN AUSTRIA THERE ARE ONLY FIVE MAJOR ENTERPRISES WITH AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLANS. THE JOINT COUNCIL WILL BE FORMED TO GET THESE TOPICS ONTO THE AGENDA, SHE SAID.

GMO'S

4. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER SAID AUSTRIA HAS WORKED HARD AND DONE A GOOD JOB OF COMPLETING WORK ON THE NEW GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM (GMO) LIABILITY LAW (REPORTED SEPTEL), WHICH IS DUE OUT OF PARLIAMENT APRIL 16. NOTING THAT THE U.S. HAS GENERAL LIABILITY LAWS WHICH PROVIDE JURISDICTION OVER GMO'S ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE, PRAMMER SAID THAT SINCE AUSTRIA HAS NO SUCH ALL-ENCOMPASSING LEGISLATION IT WAS NECESSARY TO CREATE LAWS TO ADDRESS GMO LIABILITY SPECIFICALLY. WITH ITS PASSAGE, SHE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO SAY IT ADDRESSED THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE ANTI-GMO INITIATIVE. SMILING, PRAMMER SAID THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL NGO'S AND GENETICS INDUSTRY APPEAR EQUALLY DISPLEASED WITH THE LEGISLATION, WHICH MUST MEAN IT WAS "THE BEST WAY." SHE ASSERTED THAT SHE HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS NECESSARY STEPS WITHOUT PUBLIC FANFARE.

5. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER SAID AUSTRIA IS DEEPLY ENGAGED IN THE EFFORT TO RESOLVE LABELLING IN THE EU. SHE SAID THE SITUATION IS

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CURRENTLY INADEQUATE DUE TO THE LACK OF IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS. ONCE LABELLING AND LIABILITY ARE BOTH RESOLVED, SHE SAID, THE ISSUE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY WILL BE "MANAGEABLE". SHE SAID THE AUSTRIAN POSITION IS THAT EACH APPLICATION MUST BE DECIDED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, AND THESE NEW RULES WILL LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR BEING ABLE TO DO THAT.

6. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER ALSO SAID THE EU IS CURRENTLY DISCUSSING

SECSTATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB, PASS USTR FOR JIM MURPHY,
ALSO PASS FDA

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, ALSO FAS FOR OA/GALVIN,
ITP/SHEIKH, EAMED/THORN, FSTSD/HARBERT,
DLP/REDDINGTON, PASS ALSO APHIS/VS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE, BRUSSELS PASS ALSO APHIS/THIERMANN
GENEVA FOR USTR, PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/3/2018
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, PINR, PREL, SOCI, TBIO, EUN, AU
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON CONSUMER PROTECTION MINISTER:
GMO'S, HORMONES, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY, AND
THE UPCOMING EU PRESIDENCY

INSTITUTING EU-WIDE MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT OF FIELD RELEASE OF GMO CROPS IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO U.S. CONTROLS OF CERTAIN GMO'S (SUCH AS BT CORN). SHE SAID THE EU RECOGNIZES IT "STARTED LATE" WITH RESPECT TO DEALING WITH BIOTECHNOLOGY AND IS WORKING HARD TO CATCH UP.

7. (SBU) ON THE NOVARTIS BT CORN BAN, PRAMMER SAID THE DECISION IS PENDING IN BRUSSELS WHETHER THE EU WILL SUE AUSTRIA TO LIFT ITS BAN, OR WHETHER AUSTRIA WILL SUE THE EU. SHE SEES RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE NO EARLIER THAN LATE THIS YEAR AT BEST.

HORMONES

8. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER SAID THE HORMONE BAN IS "NOT AT THE TOP OF THE LIST" IN THE EU FOR DISCUSSION, AND ASSERTED THAT THE REAL ISSUE IS RESIDUE TESTING. AT PRESENT, SHE SAID, LIABILITY FOR RESIDUE IS GOVERNED BY MEMBER STATE LAW AND SUCH LAWS ARE INADEQUATE IN AUSTRIA, IN PART BECAUSE IN NO CASE CAN A FARMER EVER BE HELD LIABLE FOR UNSAFE FOOD HE MIGHT PRODUCE--UNDER THE LAW, IT IS ALWAYS SOMEBODY ELSE'S FAULT, AND NEVER THE FARMER'S. THAT MAY BE CHANGED LATER THIS YEAR WITH A NEW EU DIRECTIVE ON FOOD SAFETY LIABILITY, SHE NOTED.

9. ~~(C)~~ AGCOUN INTERJECTED THAT FROM THE U.S. PERSPECTIVE THE HORMONE CASE IS STRICTLY POLITICAL, AS BOTH EU AND U.S. SCIENTISTS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE RISKS ARE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME WHETHER ONE EATS ORGANIC BEEF OR BEEF PRODUCED WITH PROMOTANTS, AND THAT SCIENTISTS AGREE THAT COLESTEROL AND

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FAT FROM BEEF PRESENT MORE OF A HEALTH RISK THAN DO HORMONES. AGCOUN ALSO NOTED THAT THE EU HAD NINE YEARS TO CONDUCT RISK ANALYSIS, AND IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANYTHING NEW WILL BE TURNED UP BY YET ANOTHER. PRAMMER SMILED DISARMINGLY AND RESPONDED, "IT IS AS YOU SAY, IT IS CLEARLY POLITICAL." SHE SAID IT IS CLEAR THAT IN THE EU THE POSITIONS ON HORMONES ARE NOT CLOSELY LINKED TO SCIENCE. SHE ADDED THAT IN THE EU EACH MEMBER STATE HAS ITS OWN TOPICAL INTERESTS, AND HORMONE USE REALLY ISN'T AN ISSUE IN AUSTRIA. AGCOUN COMMENTED THAT IT IS AN ISSUE WITH SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WTO, PARTICULARLY IF THE EU SEEKS TO AVOID COMPLIANCE WITH THE WTO DECISION. PRAMMER DID NOT RESPOND TO THAT COMMENT, BUT IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION SAID SHE HAS NO IDEA WHEN OR HOW IT WILL BE RESOLVED.

VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY

10. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER WAS NOT WELL BRIEFED ON THE VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY AGREEMENT AND WAS UNABLE TO RESPOND TO OUR POINTS ON LIFTING THE BAN ON POULTRY. SHE DID NOTE HOWEVER THAT DURING AUSTRIA'S EU ACCESSION, NEGOTIATION OF VETERINARY PROTOCOLS WAS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT ASPECTS, IN PART BECAUSE AUSTRIA'S STANDARDS WERE IN SOME CASES MORE STRINGENT THAN THE EU'S.

BIO NOTE

11. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER WAS HER USUAL WARM AND ENGAGING SELF, SMOOTH BUT MORE FORTHCOMING THAN WE EXPECTED. HER ENGLISH HAS IMPROVED MARKEDLY SINCE THE LAST TME WE HAD A CHANCE TO GAUGE IT. SHE CONDUCTED VRTUALLY THE ENTIRE MEETING IN GRAMMATICALLY NEARLY FLAWLESS ENGLISH AND RELIED ON AN INTERPRETER ONLY FOR INDIVIDUAL WORDS ND ONE LONE, TECHNICAL STATEMENT ON LIABILITY FO WHICH SHE LACKED THE TECHNICAL VOCABULARY. WE OULD GUESS HER ENGLISH IS NOW AT ABOUT THE FSI S3 LEVEL.

COMMENT

12. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER PRESENTS A FAR MORE POSITIVE FACE TO US ON GMO'S THAN SHE DOES TO THE PUBLIC, AND WE TEND TO THINK THAT IN SOME MEASURE IT IS DUE TO AN INSTINCT TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR. OUR INDUSTRY CONTACTS DO NOT REPORT GOOD RELATIONS WITH HER, AND HER PROFESSIONAL STAFF ON BIOTECHNOLOGY ISSUES (STRICTLY PROTECT) HAVE GRUMBLED TO US PRIVATELY ABOUT HER WILLINGNESS TO CAVE IN TO THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS OUT OF POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY WHILE IGNORING SCIENTIFICALLY BASED ADVICE. STILL, HER COMMENTS GIVE US

SECSTATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB, PASS USTR FOR JIM MURPHY,
ALSO PASS FDA

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, ALSO FAS FOR OA/GALVIN,
ITP/SHEIKH, EAMED/THORAL, PASTSD/HARBERT,

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POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE, BRUSSELS PASS ALSO APHIS/THIERMANN
GENEVA FOR USTR, PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/3/2018
TAGS: EAGR, ETRDPGOV, PINR, PREL, SOCI, TBIO, EUN, AU
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON CONSUMER PROTECTION MINISTER: GMO'S, HORMONES, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY, AND THE UPCOMING EU PRESIDENCY

HOPE THAT CONTINUING TO APPLY PRESSURE TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT AND PRAMMER HERSELF TO DO THE RIGHT THING ON BIOTECHNOLOGY IS NOT A WHOLLY WASTED EFFORT.

13. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER'S COMMENT ON EU CONSIDERATION OF MONITORING GMO'S AFTER FIELD RELEASE IS NEWS TO US, AS WAS HER COMMENT ON A POSSIBLE EU-WIDE LIABILITY DIRECTIVE. PERHAPS WE HAVE MISSED SOMETHING IN THE TORRENTIAL PAPER FLOW ON EU REGULATION, AND USEU IS ALREADY FULLY AWARE OF THEM, BUT IT OCCURS TO US THESE STEPS WOULD APPEAR TO BE ITEMS THE U.S. HAS AN INTEREST IN INFLUENCING.

14. ~~(C)~~ ON HORMONES, WE WERE FRANKLY A BIT SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT HORMONES ARE NOT AN ISSUE WITH A HIGHER PROFILE IN THE EU, GIVEN THE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS WITH RESPECT TO WTO OBLIGATIONS THE OUTCOME OF THIS CASE CAN HAVE. WE WOULD BE CURIOUS TO KNOW IF PRAMMER'S COMMENT JIBE WITH OBSERVATIONS OF OUR COLLEAGUES IN BRUSSELS, OR IF PRAMMER WAS SIMPLY DODGING THE ISSUE.

15. ~~(C)~~ ON VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY, WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH A LETTER TO PRAMMER OUTLINING THE U.S. POSITION ON THE POULTRY ISSUE AND ASKING HER TO LOOK INTO IT. END COMMENT.
HALL

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C a b l e PREC: ROUTINE CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA3047 1371535-UUUU--RHEHAAX. LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH LINE3: R 171535Z MAY 98 LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS OSRI: RUEHBS DTG: 171535Z MAY 98 ORIG: AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8368 RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0247 INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0124 SUBJ: U.S.-BELGIAN EXCHANGE ON AG TRADE: << GMO'S>> , HORMONES, TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 BRUSSELS 003047 SENSITIVE STATE FOR EUR/UBI, EUR/ERA, EB/DCT STATE PASS TO USTR - SCHOONO-ER FAS FOR ITP/DA/SHEIKH FAA/PLETART/ITP.EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON COMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG, ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT GENEVA FOR USTR E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, TBIO, EUN, BE SUBJECT: U.S.-BELGIAN EXCHANGE ON AG TRADE: << GMO'S>> , HORMONES, ANTIBIOTICS, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY RESIDUES, BANANAS, RICE REF: (A) BRUSSELS 0748, (B) BRUSSELS 1688, (C) BRUSSELS 2845 SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY. ---------- SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION ---------- 1. (SBU) SUMMARY: DURING A MAY 7 MEETING WITH FAS INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY DIRECTOR CRAIG THORN, TOP BELGIAN TRADE AND AGRICULTURE POLICYMAKERS: (A) EXPRESSED THEIR FRUSTRATIONS ABOUT INADEQUATE INFORMATION FROM -- AND INSUFFICIENT COORDINATION WITHIN -- THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC) ON AG TRADE ISSUES; (B) VOICED THE CONCERNS THEY SHARE WITH THE U.S. AND MANY MEMBER STATES ABOUT DELAYS AND POLICITIZATION OF EU APPROVALS OF PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM ENETICALLY << MODIFIED>> ORGANISMS (<< GMO'S>>); (C) EMPHATICALLY STATED THEIR OPPOSITION TO IMPORTS OF HORMONE-TREATED BEEF, EVEN WITH LABELING; (D) OUTLINED THE SCIENTIFIC AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES OF ARRIVING AT APPROPRIATE COMMON POLICIES ON THE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS; (E) RECEIVED AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE U.S.-EU AGREEMENT ON VETERINARY EQUIVALENCE, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO ONGOING DISCUSSIONS ON MONITORING OF RESIDUES IN ANIMAL PRODUCTS; (F) CONFIRMED BELGIUM'S INITIAL PREFERENCE FOR A TARIFF-BASED SCHEME FOR EU BANANA IMPORTS, BUT THEIR WILLINGNESS AS A PRACTICAL MATTER TO SETTLE FOR A TARIFF-RATE QUOTA ALTERNATIVE; AND (G) WERE BRIEFED ON POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE CUMULATIVE RECOVERY SYSTEM FOR RICE. END SUMMARY 2. (U) AS PART OF AN OVERALL EFFORT TO ENHANCE DIALOGUE WITH EU MEMBER STATES AND TO IMPROVE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF MAJOR U.S.-EU AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES, CRAIG THORN, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY DIVISION, HAD TWO MEETINGS WITH KEY BELGIAN OFFICIALS ON MAY 7. AMONG THE ISSUES DISCUSSED WERE THE STATUS OF << GMO>> APPROVALS, << GMO>> LABqLING, BEEF HORMONES, THE VETERINARY EQUIVALENCE AGREEMENT, RESIDUE TESTING IN MEAT, THE BANANA REGIME, AND THE CUMULATIVE RECOVERY SYSTEM FOR RICE. THE FIRST MEETING WAS AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE; THE BELGIANS PRESENT WERE PIET VANTHEMSCHE (AG MINISTER'S CHIEF OF STAFF), XAVIER DE CUYPER (DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF), HARRY ARIJS (ATTACHE IN THE MINISTER'S CABINET), AND G. YSEBAERT (AG MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DIVISION). THE SECOND MEETING TOOK PLACE AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE (MFAT), WHERE THORN MET PHILIPPE HARVENGT (ACTING HEAD OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE OFFICE), FRANCE CHAINAYE (ACTION OFFICER FOR AG TRADE ISSUES), GERARD COCKX (ACTION OFFICER FOR BANANA TRE, INTER ALIA), AND, (AGAIN) G. YSEBAERT. THORN WAS ACCOMPANIED TO BOTH MEETINGS BY AG ATTACHE SCANDURRA AND ECONOMIC OFFICER BRAKEL. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR DERSE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING AT MFAT. 3. (SBU) THORN BEGAN BOTH MEETINGS BY STRESSING THE U.S.

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DESIRE FOR BETTER COMMUNICATION WITH THE EU ON PENDING AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES. HE NOTED THAT ON THESE ISSUES THE U.S. WAS DEALING WITH 15 MEMBER STATES AS WELL AS THE COMMISSION, AND THAT WE WANTED TO BE CERTAIN THAT OUR VIEWS WERE GETTING THROUGH TO BOTH THE FORMER AND THE LATTER. AT THIS POINT AGRICULTURE CHEF DE CABINET VANTHEMSCHE INTERJECTED WITH SOME EMPHASIS THAT "YOU'RE DEALING WITH THE COMMISSION, AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED," SEEKING TO UNDERSCORE THE COMMISSION'S COMPETENCE IN THESE MATTERS. THORN REPLIED THAT THE USG WAS NOT TRYING TO CIRCUMVENT EU PROCEDURES, BUT NEVERTHELESS SAW THE NEED TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH MEMBER STATES SINCE, IN OUR EXPERIENCE, OUR MESSAGE DID NOT ALWAYS GET TRANSMITTED FULLY BY THE COMMISSION. 4. (SBU) AT THE MFAT, HARVENGT RESPONDED TO THORN'S OPENING PITCH BY POINTING OUT THAT AG TRADE ISSUES TENDED TO BE VERY TECHNICAL AND THAT THESE WERE GENERALLY UNDER THE COMMISSION'S SCOPE OR COMPETENCE; THE MFAT MULTILATERAL TRADE OFFICE THEREFORE ONLY DEALT "A LITTLE" WITH THESE AGRICULTURAL MATTERS. HE ADMITTED TO HIS OWN DIFFICULTIES IN WORKING WITH THE EC: "THE COURSE OF ACTION TAKEN BY`1E COMMISSION IS NOT ALWAYS CLEAR TO US." YSEBAERT ADDED THAT HIS MINISTRY OFTEN LACKED DATA IT NEEDED FROM THE COMMISSION. UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 06 BRUSSELS 003047 SENSITIVE STATE FOR EUR/UBI, EUR/ERA, EB/DCT STATE PASS TO USTR - SCHOONOVER FAS FOR ITP/DA/SHEIKH FAA/PLETART/ITP.EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON COMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG, ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT GENEVA FOR USTR E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, TBIO, EUN, BE SUBJECT: U.S.-BELGIAN EXCHANGE ON AG TRADE: << GMO'S>> , HORMONES, ANTIBIOTICS, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY RESIDUES, BANANAS, RICE REF: (A) BRUSSELS 0748, (B) BRUSSELS 1688, ---------- BELGIANS SHARE U.S. CONCERNS ON << GMO>> APPROVALS ---------- 5. (SBU) THORN NOTED THAT "PRESSURES ARE BUILDING" BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EU OVER BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND SPECIFICALLY << GMO>> APPROVALS. IN HIS VIEW THERE WAS A TRANSITION OCCURRING IN EUROPE REGARDING THE REGULATION OF THESE NEW AND CONTROVERSIAL TECHNOLOGIES. HE NOTED THAT THE POLICIES BELGIUM `AD PURSUED IN THIS REGARD HAD BEEN "ENLIGHTENED" AND SCIENTIFICALLY BASED. THORN SAID THAT THE INITIAL U.S. ATTITUDE ON EUROPEAN APPROVALS OF U.S. << GMO>> PRODUCTS HAD BEEN TO GIVE THE EU TIME TO DEVELOP ITS OWN PROCEDURES; BUT "OUR PATIENCE HAS BEEN TESTED" WITH NUMEROUS UNANTICIPATED DELAYS IN THE APPROVAL OF NEW MAIZE VARIETIES. THERE WAS STRONG PRESSURE ON THE USG TO ACT, PARTICULARLY WITH THE RECENT NEWS THAT FRANCE, AS RAPPORTEUR FOR ONE NEW VARIETY, WOULD DELAY FINAL APPROVAL UNTIL AFTER A JUNE 20 "CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS." APPROVAL DECISIONS MUST BE TIMELY, TRANSPARENT AND SCIENCE-BASED, THORN STRESSED. NOW, HE SAID, << GMO>> APPROVALS HAVE BECOME A TRADE ISSUE. 6. (SBU) ARIJS RESPONDED THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY EXPLANATION OF FRANCE'S LATEST POSITION. YSEBAERT MUTTERED IN AN ASIDE TO HIS COLLEAGUES IN DUTCH ABOUT "THE FRENCH PROBLEMS," THEN CONTINUED IN ENGLISH WITH, "IF ONE MEMBER STATE PICKS UP ARGUMENTS THAT GO BEYOND THE REAL (SCIENTIFIC) ARGUMENTS, IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND IT." HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT EU APPROVAL PROCESSES WERE LENGTHY AND NEEDED TO BE STREAMLINED, BUT WHEN A PROBLEM AROSE IN ONE MEMBER COUNTRY OTHER MEMBER STATES HAD NO ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THE PROCESS. VANTHEMSCHE CONCURRED THAT "FRANCE CREATES A PROBLEM FOR THE FOURTEEN OTHERS." YSEBAERT ADDED THAT, "BECAUSE IT'S NOW A COMMERCIAL PROBLEM, THIS

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SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE 113 COMMITTEE." 7. "(SBU) THORN SAID HE WANTED THE BELGIANS TO UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND THE NEXT STEPS THE USG WOULD BE TAKING. HE REITERATED THAT THE CURRENT EU APPROVAL PROCESS FOR << GMO'S>> CONTAINED TOO MANY STEPS THAT COULD BE POLITICIZED. THE PROBLEM WOULD ONLY GET WORSE IN THE FUTURE, SINCE THE NUMBER OF VARIETIES SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL -- THREE THIS YEAR -- WAS LIKELY TO TRIPLE NEXT YEAR. VANTHEMSCHE TOOK THE POINT, NOTING THAT "YOUR POSITION IS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM NOW." 8. (SBU) AT THE MFAT, THORN STRESSED THAT THE USG CONCERN WAS WITH AN EU APPROVAL PROCESS FOR << GMO'S>> THAT WAS SLOW, COULD BE POLITICIZED, AND THAT, BECAUSE OF DELAYS, HAD ALREADY COST U.S. FIRMS SOME $100 MILLION IN LOST TRADE; "THOSE COUNSELING PATIENCE IN THE U.S. ARE LOSING THEIR CREDIBILITY." YSEBAERT, MORE VOCAL IN THE MFAT SETTING THAN PREVIOUSLY WITH HIS POLITICAL BOSSES AT THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, SAID THAT THE 113 COMMITTEE HAD DISCUSSED THE APPROVAL PROCESS AND "RECOGNIZED THAT THE PROCESS TAKES TOO LONG -- THERE IS BROAD CONSENSUS (AMONG MEMBER STATES) ON THAT." HE ADDED THAT PUBLIC OPINION IS VERY SENSITIVE ON << GMO'S>> , WITH SOME 60PPERCENT OF THE FRENCH POPULACE HAVING CONCERNS ABOUT THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY, AND WITH THE BELGIAN PUBLIC SPLIT ABOUT 50-50. THORN CONCURRED THAT PUBLIC OPINION COULD NOT BE IGNORED, BUT ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT POLITICAL LEADERS COULD INDEED LEAD, AND NOT JUST FOLLOW, PUBLIC OPINION. YSEBAERT SAID HE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THIS TO HIS OWN MINISTRY, BUT "IT IS HARD TO INTRODUCE THIS INTO SOME MINDS ... I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO CONVINCE THOSE CLOSER TO THE TOP." 9. (SBU) MFAT OFFICER CHAINAYE TURNED TO THORN, SAYING "OUR CONCERNS ARE THE SAME AS YOURS." SHE THEN ASKED WHAT PROGRESS THE TRANSATLANTIC BUSINESS DIALOGUE HAD MADE IN THIS AREA. THORN SAID THAT UNILEVER AND MONSANTO HAD MET TWICE TO SKETCH OUT AREAS FOR COOPERATION ALONG THE LINES OF A MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT FOR << GMO>> PRODUCT APPROVALS. AMONG THE FEATURES OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIMULTANEOUS SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS, HARMONIZED DATA REQUIREMENTS, TRANSPARENCY, PREDICTABILITY, AND FIXED TIME LIMITS. 10. (SBU) MFAT'S HARVENGT COMMENTED THAT THE 113 COMMITTEE UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 06 BRUSSELS 003047 SENSITIVE STATE FOR EUR/UBI, EUR/ERA, EB/DCT STATE PASS TO USTR - SCHOONOVER FAS FOR ITP/DA/SHEIKH FAA/PLETART/ITP.EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON COMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG, ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT GENEVA FOR USTR E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, TBIO, EUN, BE SUBJECT: U.S.-BELGIAN EXCHANGE ON AG TRADE: << GMO'S>> , HORMONES, ANTIBIOTICS, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY RESIDUES, BANANAS, RICE REF: (A) BRUSSELS 0748, (B) BRUSSELS 1688, COULD PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE TO AVOID THE "VERY EMBARRASSING DELAYS" AND POSSIBLE RECOURSE TO PROTECTIONIST MEASURES. BUT, HE, ADDED, ENVIRONMENTALISTS HAVE PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN THE GO APPROVAL ISSUE, AND "THEY ARE ALSO PART OF THE COMMUNITY." CHAINAYE ADDED THAT THE 113 COMMITTEE NEEDS TO SORT OUT THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF DG-I (EXTERNAL RELATIONS), DG-XI (ENVIRONMENT) AND DG-XXIV (CONSUMER POLICY) IN THIS FIELD. THERE IS A GENERAL PROBLEM OF COORDINATION AT THE COMMISSION, ACCORDING TO CHAINAYE, AND "WE SUFFER FROM THIS." ---------- LABELING << GMO'S>> ---------- 11. (SBU) AT THE AG MINISTRY, THORN RAISED THE SUBJECT OF LABELING FOR << GMO>> PRODUCTS IN SOME DETAIL. HE SAID THE U.S. SAW NO NEED FOR IT, BUT UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE LABELING IN EUROPE. FROM THE USG PERSPECTIVE, SUCH A LABELING SCHEME, IF DONE RIGHT, WOULD NOT NECESSARILY HAVE

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NEGATIVE COMMERCIAL CONSEQUENCES. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THE USG HAS INFORMED THE COMMISSION THAT, EXCEPT ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, THE SEGREGATION OF << GMO>> AND << NON-GMO>> PRODUCTS IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES. IN THE CASE OF SOYBEANS, FOR INSTANCE, SOME 40 PERCENT OF NEXT YEAR'S U.S. CROP WILL BE << GENETICALLY MODIFIED>> . ALSO, FOR PRACTICAL REASONS RELATING TO TESTING OF PRODUCTS, THE U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT A NEGATIVE LABEL ("DOES NOT CONTAIN << GMO'S>> "), BUT NOT A POSITIVE ("DOES CONTAIN << GMO'S>>) LABELING SCHEME. 12. (SBU) VANTHEMSCHE ASKED HIS COLLEAGUES WHERE BELGIUM STOOD ON THE LABELING QUESTION. NONE RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY, BUT DE CUYPER OFFERED THAT THIS WAS A MATTER FOR THE MINISTRIES OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT. ---------- ---------- HORMONES IN BEEF PRODUCTION: BELGIUM OPPOSED ---------- ---------- 13. (SBU) THORN SAID THAT THE USG SAW LABELING AS A POSSIBLE WAY TO RESOLVE THE U.S.-EU DISPUTE OVER HORMONES IN BEEF. USDA SECRETARY GLICKMAN HAD PROPOSED THIS TO EU AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER FISCHLER AT THE OECD IN MARCH, ACCORDING TO THORN, BUT FISCHLER HAD NOT WANTED TO DISCUSS THIS. THORN SAID THE U.S. WAS DISAPPOINTED OVER THE LACK OF EU FLEXIBILITY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WTO APPELLATE BODY'S DECISION. THE POTENTIAL MARKET FOR U.S. BEEF IN EUROPE THAT IS CURRENTLY BEING BLOCKED IS LARGE, HE NOTED; U.S. MEAT, WITH ITS REPUTATION FOR QUALITY AND ITS BSE-FREE STATUS, ALREADY SELLS WELL IN SWITZERLAND. THORN ASKED THAT BELGIUM ENCOURAGE THE COMMISSION TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE. 14. (SBU) VANTHEMSCHE RESPONDED, "YOU KNOW THE SENSIBILITY (HE MEANT SENSITIVITY) OF THIS ISSUE; EVENTUALLY WE WILL HAVE TO COME TO TERMS ON THIS, BUT UNDER YOUR CONDITIONS OR OURS? AND HOW?" THORN COMMENTED THAT THE HORMONE ISSUE HAD IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE WTO'S SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) RULES. LATER IN THE CONVERSATION, VANTHEMSCHE RETURNED TO THE SUBJECT, SAYING, "ON HORMONES, OUR POSITION IS CLEAR; WE ARE AGAINST THE USE OF HORMONES -- EVEN WITH LABELING ... MEAT THAT DOES NOT MEET OUR STANDARDS DOES NOT ENTER (BELGIUM)." 15. (SBU) AT THE MFAT, THORN NOTED THAT THE U.S. AND EU DIFFERED ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE WTO APPELLATE BODY REPORT, STRESSING THE U.S. VIEW THAT THE EU'S BAN HAS TO BE REMOVED, AND THAT THE EU RESPONSE CALLING FOR A DELAY OF ANOTHER FOUR YEARS FOR FURTHER RISK ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION WOULD MAKE A MOCKERY OF THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCESS. THORN ALSO RAISED AGAIN SECRETARY GLICKMAN'S PROPOSAL ON LABELING AND FISCHLER'S FAILURE TO TAKE UP A DISCUSSION ON THIS. YSEBAERT RESPONDED THAT FISCHLER HAD TO HAVE THE BACKING OF THE AG MINISTERS BEFORE AGREEING TO SUCH A PROPOSAL, WHICH HE DID NOT HAVE AT THE TIME. HE THOUGHT THE LABELING OPTION WOULD BE DISCUSSED SUBSTANTIVELY WITHIN THE EU AT SOME FUTURE OCCASION. ---------- PRESSURE BUILDING TO RESTRICT USE OF ANTIBIOTICS UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 06 BRUSSELS 003047 SENSITIVE STATE FOR EUR/UBI, EUR/ERA, EB/DCT STATE PASS TO USTR - SCHOONOVER FAS FOR ITP/DA/SHEIKH FAA/PLETART/ITP.EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON COMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG, ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT GENEVA FOR USTR E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, TBIO, EUN, BE SUBJECT: U.S.-BELGIAN EXCHANGE ON AG TRADE: << GMO'S>> , HORMONES, ANTIBIOTICS, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY RESIDUES, BANANAS, RICE REF: (A) BRUSSELS 0748, (B) BRUSSELS 1688, ---------- ---------- 16. (SBU) VANTHEMSCHE, A VETERINARIAN BY TRAINING, BROUGHT UP THE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS AS GROWTH PROMOTERS IN CATTLE, STATING THAT IN EUROPE

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THERE WAS A STRONG TENDENCY TO RESTRICT THIS PRACTICE. HE POINTED TO CONCERNS ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF MICROBIAL RESISTANCE TO ANTIBIOTICS -- NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROBLEM MIGHT DIFFER FROM CONTINENT TO CONTINENT; IT MIGHT THEREFORE BE NECESSARY, STRICTLY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY REASONS, TO FIND DIFFERENT SOLUTIONS IN DIFFERENT PLACES. VANTHEMSCHE PREDICTED THAT THE ANTIBIOTICS QUESTION WOULD BE A BIG PROBLEM BECAUSE IT AFFECTED BOTH DAIRY AND MEAT PRODUCTION, HAD A SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON EFFICIENCY OF PRODUCTION (ON THE ORDER OF 10-15 PERCENT), AND BECAUSE PUBLIC PRESSURE TO RESTRICT THE PRACTICE WAS BUILDING UP. DE CUYPER ADDD THAT SWEDEN HAD ALREADY ADOPTED A TOTAL BAN AND THAT DENMARK WAS DOING SO ON A PRODUCT-BY-PRODUCT BASIS, AND THAT THIS WOULD TEND TO DRIVE THE DEBATE WITHIN THE EU. HE THOUGHT THIS ISSUE WOULD BE "VERY, VERY DIFFICULT TO HANDLE." EVENTUALLY, HE SAID, THERE WILL BE AN EU DIRECTIVE -- "IN MY FEELING, SOME KIND OF RESTRICTION." 17. (SBU) THORN REPLIED THAT U.S. SCIENTISTS HAD ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT WIDESPREAD USE OF ANTIBIOTICS; THE ANTIBIOTICS QUESTION WAS A MORE LEGITIMATE ISSUE THAN HORMONES, IN HIS VIEW. HE NOTED THAT, UNDER THE SPS RULES, A COUNTRY COULD INSTITUTE RESTRICTIONS, PROVIDED THEY WERE BASED ON SOUND SCIENCE. AN ANTIBIOTICS CASE COULD TEST AND STRENGTHEN THE SPS AGREEMENT. VANTHEMSCHE COMMENTED THAT THE REAL DISCUSSION WOULD THEN BE AROUND WHAT CONSTITUTES A SOUND RISK ASSESSMENT. HE THOUGHT A KEY DIFFICULTY WOULD BE TO DEMONSTRATE SCIENTIFICALLY THE LINKS BETWEEN THE HUMAN AND ANIMAL POPULATIONS. ---------- VETERINARY EQUIVALENCE ---------- 18. (SBU) ON VETERINARY EQUIVALENCE, THORN MENTIONED AT THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY THAT SECRETARY GLICKMAN HAD SENT A LETTER IN MARCH OUTLINING PROPOSED U.S. REGULATIONS. ORN WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE RULES WOULD BE PUBLISHED BY THE END OF MAY, OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER. THE USG IS ANXIOUS TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE, AND HOPES FOR EXPEDITIOUS AGREEMENT BY THE EU COUNCIL OF AG MINISTERS, HE ADDED. HE ATTRIBUTED PART OF THE DELAYS IN FINALIZING A VETERINARY EQUIVALENCE ACCORD TO THE FACT THAT THE COMMISSION WAS UNDERSTAFFED, AND WAS NOT ABLE TO RELAY NEEDED DATA THAT, IT LATER TURNED OUT, ALREADY EXISTED IN THE MEMBER STATES. VANTHEMSCHE CONCURRED THAT THE COMMISSION WAS UNDERSTAFFED IN THE AREA OF ANIMAL HEALTH. DE CUYPER SAID HE DID NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE A PROBLEM GETTING THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF FRANCE. -------- RESIDUES -------- 19. (SBU) THORN SAID THAT THE USG HAD WANTED TO INCLUDE A VETERINARY EQUIVALENCE AGREEMENT (VAE) ON RESIDUES IN ANIMAL PRODUCTS, BUT THAT THE COMMISSION HAD DEMURRED LARGELY ON THE BASIS OF A NEGATIVE REPORT BY DG-XXIV ON ANIMAL MONITORING IN THE U.S. THE USG HAD SENT A WRITTEN REBUTTAL TO THE DG-XXIV REPORT ON MARCH 6, AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT THIS DOCUMENT HAD NOT RECEIVED WIDE DISTRIBUTION WITHIN THE COMMISSION (DG-VI, INTER ALIA, DID NOT HAVE IT UNTIL RECENTLY). 20. (SBU) THORN EXPLAINED THAT PART OF THE PROBLEM ON A RESIDUES VAE WAS A DIFFERENCE IN THE APPROACH TO ANIMAL MONITORING ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC: THE U.S. APPROACH WAS BASED MORE ON RISK FACTORS, WHILE THE EUROPEANS TOOK A MORE PRESCRIPTIVE STANCE. QUICKLY GRASPING THORN'S POINT, VANTHEMSCHE INTERJECTED, "FOR EXAMPLE, YOU DON'T SCREEN FOR THINGS YOU NEVER FIND?" THORN SAID YES, CITING DIETHYL SYLVESTROL (DES) AS AN EXAMPLE. MOREOVER, HE CONTINUED, THE DG-XXIV TEAM HAD ONLY OBSERVED RANDOM TESTING,

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EB/DCT STATE PASS TO USTR - SCHOONOVER FAS FOR ITP/DA/SHEIKH FAA/PLETART/ITP.EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON COMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG, ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT GENEVA FOR USTR E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, TBIO, EUN, BE SUBJECT: U.S.-BELGIAN EXCHANGE ON AG TRADE: << GMO'S>> , HORMONES, ANTIBIOTICS, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY RESIDUES, BANANAS, RICE REF: (A) BRUSSELS 0748, (B) BRUSSELS 1688, NOT THE TARGETED TESTING THAT THE USG ALSO CARRIES OUT. HE SAID THE EMBASSY WOULD PROVIDE THE BELGIANS WITH A COPY OF THE U.S. RESPONSE TO DG-XXIV. IN JUNE THERE WILL BE A FOLLOW- UP VISIT TO THE U.S. BY DG-XXIV, AND IN SEPTEMBER THERE WILL BE A MEETING TO COMPARE DOCUMENTS AND RESOLVE ANY REMAINING DIFFERENCES. ---------- -- BANANAS: BELGIANS INCLINED TO SUPPORT C TARIFF-RATE QUOTA ---------- ---------- 21. (SBU) THORN ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES THAT THE BELGIANS WANTED TO RAISE. VANTHEMSCHE AND HIS COLLEAGUES COULD THINK OF NOTHING, APART FROM THE WTO BANANA CASE WHICH THEY PROCEEDED TO DISCUSS BRIEFLY, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT IN THORN'S PORTFOLIO. DE CUYPER OBSERVED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SURPRISINGLY LITTLE DISCUSSION OF THE BANANA CASE AT THE LAST AG COUNCIL MEETING. VANTHEMSCHE CONFIRMED BELGIUM'S INITIAL INTEREST IN A TARIFF-BASED SYSTEM (SEE REF C), BUT NOTED THAT "BELGIANS ARE VERY PRACTICAL." SEEING THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH SUPPORT FOR THEIR VIEW WITHIN THE EU, THE BELGIANS ARE NOW INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH THE EC- PROPOSED TARIFF-RATE QUOTA SOLUTION AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE, ALTHOUGH VANTHEMSCHE WONDERED ALOUD IF IT WOULD BE WTO- CONSISTENT. 22. (SBU) THE BANANA REGIME WAS ALSO DISCUSSED AT THE MFAT MEETING. COCKX, THE MINISTRY'S EXPERT ON THIS, RESTATED BELGIUM'S INITIAL VIEW THAT A TARIFF-ONLY SYSTEM WOULD BE THE IDEAL SYSTEM TO SUPPLANT THE EXISTING WTO-INCONSISTENT REGIME. AT THIS POINT, ACCORDING TO COCKX, THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL WAS STILL ON THE TABLE. HE SAID IT WAS NOT CLEAR THAT THERE IS MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR THIS PROPOSAL. ASKED ABOUT A DUTCH-PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE, COCKX SAID CAREFULLY THAT "WE MUST START FROM THE BASIS OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL." SEVEN COUNTRIES HAD BEEN INVITED TO DISCUSS AN ALTERNATIVE, HE ADDED, "BUT TO SAY WE ARE ALL IN AGREEMENT WOULD BE GOING TOO FAR." HARVENGT SAID HE THOUGHT THE MATTER WOULD BE DECIDED AT THE END OF THE UK PRESIDENCY, AT THE JUNE AG COUNCIL MEETING. ---------- RICE CUMULATIVE RECOVERY SYSTEM (CRS) ---------- 23. (SBU) AT EACH OF THE TWO MEETINGS, THORN BRIEFLY RAISED THE RICE CRS THAT THE EU DEVEPED FOR HUSKED RICE UNDER THE 1995 GRAINS AGREEMENT, A MATTER HE SAID COULD BECOME A SIGNIFICANT TRADE ISSUE. HE NOTED U.S. INDUSTRY CONCERNS ABOUT DELAYS IN THE REQUIRED EU REVIEW OF THE CRS, BUT THAT OPINION AMONG BELGIAN RICE MILLERS ON THE REBATE SYSTEM APPEARS TO BE MIXED. VANTHEMSCHE APPEARED TO BE UNAWARE OF THIS ISSUE, SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO BELGIAN COMMENT FOR NOW. ------- COMMENT ------- 24. (SBU) THE BELGIAN AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS THORN MET WITH APPEARED TO BE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON VETERINARY AND TECHNICAL ISSUES RELATED TO THEIR PORTFOLIOS, BUT SEEMED LESS INFORMED ABOUT THE STATUS OF POLICY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EU -- A GAP THAT THORN'S BRIEFING FILLED ADMIRABLY. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH BRIEFINGS OF MEMBER STATES BY VISITING WASHINGTON POLICY EXPERTS ARE EXTREMELY VALUABLE, PARTICULARLY IN UP-AND-COMING AREAS WHERE EU POSITIONS HAVE NOT YET SOLIDIFIED {ND WHERE WE STILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE DECISIONMAKING WITH

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INFORMATION TARGETED AT EXPERTS AND OFFICIALS BASED IN THE FIFTEEN CAPITALS. THE ANTIBIOTICS ISSUE THAT THE BELGIANS THEMSELVES RAISED WITH US STRIKES US AS ONE WHERE TIMELY, PROACTIVE DIPLOMACY MIGHT YET HELP AVERT OR REDUCE A POTENTIAL TRANSATLANTIC CONFLICT. 25. (SBU) WE THINK THAT EARLY INTERVENTION ON OUR PART WITH SOLID, PEER-REVIEWED, SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION CAN BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN STRENGTHENING THE HAND OF MEMBER-STATE TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN THEIR OWN INTERNAL BATTLES WITH THEIR MORE POLITICALLY INCLINED BOSSES. (DURING THORN'S CALLS WE UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 06 BRUSSELS 003047 SENSITIVE STATE FOR EUR/UBI, EUR/ERA, EB/DCT STATE PASS TO USTR - SCHOONOVER FAS FOR ITP/DA/SHEIKH FAA/PLETART/ITP.EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON COMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG, ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT GENEVA FOR USTR E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, TBIO, EUN, BE SUBJECT: U.S.-BELGIAN EXCHANGE ON AG TRADE: <u><<</u> GMO'S<u>>></u> , HORMONES, ANTIBIOTICS, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY RESIDUES, BANANAS, RICE REF: (A) BRUSSELS 0748, (B) BRUSSELS 1688, CAUGHT AN INKLING OF THE TENSION BETWEEN THESE TWO CAMPS IN THE INTERACTION BETWEEN CAREER CIVIL SERVANT YSEBAERT AND THE POLITICALLY APPOINTED STAFFERS IN THE MINISTER'S CABINET.) IN THE AREA OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, WHERE WE ARE ADVOCATING A SCIENCE-BASED, TRANSPARENT APPROACH TO REGULATION, GETTING OUR VIEWS ACROSS TO THE NATIONAL EXPERTS -- BE IT THROUGH VISITS OF U.S. EXPERTS OR DELIVERY NON-PAPERS AND FACT SHEETS -- MAY HELP THEM OVERCOME THE LESS RATIONAL ARGUMENTS THAT THE POLITICIANS ARE HEARING FROM OTHER CONSTITUENCIES. 26. (U) CRAIG THORN DID NOT CLEAR THIS CABLE. BLINKEN SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 06 <^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 06 <^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 06 <^SECT>SECTION: 04 OF 06 <^SECT>SECTION: 05 OF 06 <^SECT>SECTION: 06 OF 06 SSN: 3047 <^SSN>3047 <^SSN>3047 <^SSN>3047 <^SSN>3047 <^SSN>3047 TOR: 980517113605 M3291795 <^TOR>980517113651 M3291796 <^TOR>980517113737 M3291797 <^TOR>980517113823 M3291798 <^TOR>980517113910 M3291799 <^TOR>980517113910 M3291800 DIST: SIT: NSC

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White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By N2 NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0579-M (1.99)

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RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6521
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0461
SUBJ: STRATEGY FOR HANDLING GMO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ISSU9S WITH THE FRENCH

CLASSIFIED BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION W. ROBERT PEARSON FOR REASON

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 012080

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER, ESSERMAN, NOVELLI AND MURPHY
STATE PASS USDA FAS WASHDC
GENEVA FOR USTR AND AGRICULTURE

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, U/S SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEAID/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE;
APHIS/ADMINISTRATOR

E.O. 12958: DECL:05/29/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PREL, US, FR, EUN
SUBJECT: STRATEGY FOR HANDLING GMO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ISSU9S WITH THE FRENCH

CLASSIFIED BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION W. ROBERT PEARSON FOR REASON 1.5(B)

SUMMARY
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1. ~~(C)~~ THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE FINAL FOLLOW-UP TO THE APRIL 22 EU COMMISSION DECISION TO APPROVE TWO ADDITIONAL VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN HAS DELAYED ADMITTANCE OF THESE CORN PRODUCTS INTO THE EU, COST U.S. FARMERS MAJOR LOST OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE CORN TENDERS, AND CREATED ENORMOUS FRUSTRATION IN WASHINGTON. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE LOOKING AT POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR RETALIATION TO EITHER PRESSURE THE GOF TO QUICKLY APPROVE THE

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GMO CORNS OR TO PUNISH THEM FOR THE DAMAGE DONE TO U.S. TRADE INTERESTS BY THE LOSS OF THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE TENDER OPPORTUNITIES. AS WASHINGTON DECISIONMAKERS WEIGH NEXT STEPS, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REVIEW THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN FRANCE ON GMO ISSUES.

2. ~~(C)~~ THIS ISSUE IS A HIGHLY POLITICAL ONE FOR THE JOSPIN GOVERNMENT, HICH DEPENDS FOR ITS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY ON THE SUPPORT OF THE GREEN PARTY. IT IS ALSO A QUESTION WITH GREAT RESONANCE; FOOD AND FOOD SAFETY ARE SENSITIVE ISSUES IN THIS COUNTRY. AS RECENTLY SEEN IN THE MAI NEGOTIATIONS, SENSITIVE FRENCH ISSUES CAN BLOW UP, AND ESCAPE FROM THE CONTROL OF THE TECHNOCRATS. OUR PRINCIPAL GOAL IS THE LONGER-TERM ONE OF WINNING ACCEPTANCE FOR FOOD PRODUCTS BASED ON GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES, AS WELL AS ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE RATIONAL EU-WIDE APPROVAL POLICIES. TO THAT END WE SUGGEST A STRATEGY THAT DIVIDES OUR ACTIONS INTO SHORT-TERM AND MEDIUM TERM COMPONENTS. THE OPTION OF RETALIATION SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN FOR THE MEDIUM TERM, BUT IN THE SHORT TERM WE SUGGEST PRESSING FOR POLITICAL AGREEMENT AT HIGH LEVELS IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO OPEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. EXPORTERS. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND
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3. ~~(C)~~ THIS IS A TOUGH POLITICAL ISSUE FOR THE JOSPIN GOVERNMENT, WHICH RELIES FOR ITS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY ON THE VOTES OF THE GREEN PARTY. THE ISSUES OF FOOD QUALITY AND FOOD SAFETY ARE HIGH-PROFILE ONES IN THIS COUNTRY. SOME OF THIS IS DUE TO THE CULTURAL EMPHASIS ON FOOD. THE RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT NEW TECHNOLOGIES ALSO STEMS FROM THE REPEATED BUNGLES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN THE BSE AND TAINTED BLOOD SCANDALS. WHATEVER THE REASON, THERE IS A HIGH PROPENSITY AMONG FRENCH VOTERS TO SEE GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES AS THREATENING AND UNWELCOME. U.S. INDUSTRY, WITH MONSANTO IN THE LEAD, IS MOUNTING A PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO OBTAIN GREATER PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE. MONSANTO'S EXECUTIVES HAVE TOLD US THEY BELIEVE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL MOVE TO APPROVE THE TWO NEW CORN VARIETIES FOLLOWING THE JUNE CONFERENCE ON CONSENSUS. (THIS WOULD MESH WITH THE INTERESTS OF FRENCH AGRICULTURE, WHICH HOPES TO BE ABLE TO USE GMO SEEDS TO PLANT IN THE NEXT GROWING SEASON, AS THE CURRENT SEASON'S PLANTINGS ARE ALREADY IN THE GROUND.)

4. ~~(C)~~ THE GOF'S SO-CALLED "CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS ON THE USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD" WILL TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 20-21. THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN ORGANIZED BY THE PARLIAMENTARIAN OFFICE OF EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHOICES (OPECST), AN ORGANIZATION (MUCH LIKE THE FORMER U.S. OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT) WHICH PROVIDES SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISE TO THE FRENCH SENATE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON MAJOR POLICY ISSUES.

5. ~~(C)~~ THE PUBLIC CONFERENCE IS SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT THE CULMINATION OF CONSIDERABLE DEBATE WITHIN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND IN THE GENERAL PUBLIC, FUELED BY MEDIA REPORTS ON ALL SIDES OF THE ISSUE. AS LONG AGO AS 1996, OPECST WAS REQUESTED BY THE PARLIAMENT TO STUDY THE SCIENCE OF GENES AND THEIR USE. PARLIAMENTARIAN (AND RAPPORTEUR OF THE STUDY) JEAN-YVES LE DEAUT DECIDED TO LIMIT THE STUDY TO THE USE OF GMO'S IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. NEVERTHELESS, THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IN LATE 1997 TO

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AUTHORIZE DOMESTIC PLANTING OF ONE GMO CORN VARIETY ONLY HEIGHTENED THE LEVEL OF SENSITIVITY TO THIS ISSUE WITHIN THE ENVIRONMENTAL, TRADE, AND AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES. THIS FORMED THE BASIS FOR A JOINT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT DECISION TO ORGANIZE THE PUBLIC CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO EDUCATE POPULAR SENTIMENT ON THE MATTER.

6. ~~(C)~~ AT THE SAME TIME, TESTIMONY OF GMO EXPERTS BEFORE THE ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 PARIS 012080

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER, ESSERMAN, NOVELLI AND MURPHY
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USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, U/S SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
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FRENCH PARLIAMENT CONTINUES. CONGRESSMAN LE DEAUT HAS TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT HE HAS BEEN PROCEEDING TOWARD CONCLUSION OF A REPORT THAT IS LIKELY TO BE GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO GMO'S. HOWEVER, HE IS NOW CONSTRAINED BY THE NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC DEBATE. WE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT HE WILL PROVIDE AN INTERIM REPORT TO THE PRIME MINISTER WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER THE JUNE CONFERENCE (W(HCH MIGHT PROVE SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW QUICK GOF ACTION TO APPROVE THE PENDING GMO CORNS). HIS FINAL REPORT IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE, HOWEVER, UNTIL OCTOBER.

POLICY VOLATILITY -- THE MAI/CULTURE EXAMPLE
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7. ~~(C)~~ WE RECENTLY WITNESSED AN EXPLOSION OF PUBLIC/PRESS/POLITICAL SENTIMENT ABOUT A "TECHNICAL" INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATING ISSUE: FRENCH GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES TOWARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT NEGOTIATIONS WERE SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERED BY THE MAJOR PUBLIC FLAP THAT RESULTED FROM THE CULTURE LOBBY'S PUBLIC FOCUS ON THE ALLEGED EFFECT OF AN MAI ON LANGUAGE AND CULTURE POLICIES. THE OVERHANG FROM THAT SPECIFIC ISSUE AFFECTED FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE NTM/TEP PROPOSAL AT THE LAST US-EU SUMMIT, AND WILL CONTINUE TO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR OUR EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE TRADE LIBERALIZATION WITH EUROPE. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE FUTURE EFFORTS TO WIN ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. FOOD PRODUCTS MADE WITH GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES SIMILARLY HANDICAPPED BY A LOUD PUBLIC SPAT OVER THE CURRENT GMO CORN APPROVALS. IT WILL NOT DO U.S. AGRICULTURE OR THESE PRODUCTS ANY GOOD TO BE IDENTIFIED IN THE PUBLIC MIND WITH EFFORTS TO "FORCE" ACCEPTANCE OF PRODUCTS ON RELUCTNT FRENCH CONSUMERS. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT EU MEMBER STATES RECOGNIZE THE CLUMSINESS AND INEFFICIENCY OF THEIR 90-220 APPROVAL PROCESS, AND ARE WORKING TO CHANGE IT. SUCH EFFORTS COULD BE DERAILED BY A PUBLIC SPAT OVER RETALIATION.

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PROPOSED STRATEGY
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8. ~~(C)~~ WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT WHILE PUSHING FOR FRANCE TO FINALIZE EU ACCEPTANCE OF THE TWO CORN VARIETIES OVER THE MEDIUM TERM, WASHINGTON EMBARK ON A SHORT-TERM COURSE OF ACTION DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE THE CHANCE FOR A MAJOR PUBLIC DISPUTE, WHILE OBTAINING SOME RELIEF FOR U.S. FARMERS. PUBLIC THREATS OF RETALIATION -- EVEN IF IN THE END THE ACTION IS NOT TAKEN -- ARE A SURE WAY TO GENERATE A BACKLASH. RETALIATION WOULD NOT ONLY BE SEEN AS COUNTER TO WORLD TRADING RULES (SINCE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES HAVE NOT YET BEEN TRIED), BUT WOULD STIFFEN FRENCH RESISTANCE TO THE VERY PRODUCTS WHOSE APPROVAL WE ARE SEEKING. MOREOVER, A PUBLIC FOCUS ON RETALIATION BEFORE THE "CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS" COULD COLOR THAT EVENT'S OUTCOME AND JEOPARDIZE THE APPROVAL OF THESE PRODUCTS EVEN FOR THE NEXT GROWING SEASON.

9. ~~(C)~~ WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH AND EU OFFICIALS, WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY HAVE FLOATED THE IDEA THAT FRANCE COULD TAKE "HALF-MEASURES" SHORT OF FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THE GMO CORN VARIETIES IN THE FRENCH MARKET, BUT WHICH WOULD OPEN THE DOOR FOR U.S. IMPORTS TO SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND OTHER EU MEMBERS. WE SUGGEST THAT OUR EFFORTS IN THE SHORT TERM SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO PRESS FOR ACCEPTANCE AT THE TOP OF THE GOF OF THIS IDEA. ACTIONS THAT WE CAN -- AND SHOULD -- TAKE, INCLUDE:

-- AN INSTRUCTED DEMARCHE TO BE MADE BY THE AMBASSADOR DESCRIBING THE PROBLEM, ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S., THE COSTS FRENCH INACTION ARE IMPOSING ON OUR FARMERS, THE GROWING FRUSTRATION AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES THIS IS CREATING IN WASHINGTON, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A PROPORTIONATE RESPONSE (WHICH COULD BE AIMED AT FRENCH PRODUCTS) TO RETALIATE FOR CONCRETE TRADE BENEFITS WE ARE LOSING. THE DEMARCHE SHOULD INDICATE UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES THIS ISSUE CAUSES THE JOSPIN GOVERNMENT, AND SHOULD OFFER THE "HALF-MEASURES" AS A POSSIBLE WAY OUT THAT WOULD MEET JOSPIN'S POLITICAL NEEDS AND OUR COMMERCIAL ONES.

-- A COORDINATED APPROACH TO OTHER EU MEMBERS, OMITTING SOME OF THE DETAILS, BUT STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE TO THE U.S., AND ASKING FOR THEM TO PRESSURE THE GOF TO GET WITH THE PROGRAM. (PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT UNITED PRESSURE FROM THEIR EU COLLEAGUES IS ONE OF THE FEW LEVERS THAT SOMETIMES WORKS ON THE GOF.)

-- CONTINUED CONSULTATION WITH MAJOR U.S. AND EUROPEAN GENETIC TECHNOLOGY FIRMS ON THEIR PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE CAMPAIGN

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 PARIS 012080

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER, ESSERMAN, NOVELLI AND MURPHY
STATE PASS USDA FAS WASHDC
GENEVA FOR USTR AND AGRICULTURE

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, U/S SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEAID/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;

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CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE;
APHIS/ADMINISTRATOR

E.O. 12958: DECL:05/29/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PREL, US, FR, EUN
SUBJECT: STRATEGY FOR HANDLING GMO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ISSUES WITH THE FRENCH

-- RAISING THIS ISSUE FIRMLY -- IN PRIVATE AND WITHOUT DESCRIPTIVE REPORTS TO THE PRESS -- IN UPCOMING MEETINGS WITH JOSPIN, FOREIGN MINISTER VEDRINE AND ECONOMY MINISTER DOMINIQUE STRAUSS-KAHN BY THEIR USG COUNTERPARTS. THEY SHOULD BE WARNED THAT RETALIATION IS A VIABLE OPTION, BUT ONLY IF WASHINGTON DETERMINES -- AFTER CONSULTING WITH U.S. INDUSTRY THAT WE WOULD REALLY BE PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION.

-- BEGINNING A PROCESS OF WTO CONSULTATIONS DESIGNED TO OBTAIN COMPENSATION FOR WHATEVER COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE LOST IN THIS YEAR'S SPANH AND PORTUGUESE TENDERS

-- CLOSE MONITORING AND REPORTING BY THE EMBASSY OF THE "CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS." ONCE THAT EXERCISE IS CONCLUDED, WASHINGTON CAN EVALUATE THE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER MOVEMENT BY THE FRENCH, AND DETERMINE NEXT STEPS ACCORDINGLY.

10. (U) THIS MESSAGE BENEFITTED FROM INTELLECTUAL INPUT FROM USEU AND EMBASSY LONDON, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT CLEARED BY THEM.

ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 2080
<^SSN>2080
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TOR: 980529120352 M3310596
<^TOR>980529120518 M3310598
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DIST:

SIT: NSC

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. cable~~	~~Re: [Genetically Modified Corn] (3 pages)~~	~~06/04/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
002. cable	Re: [French] (4 pages)	06/04/1998	P1/b(1)
~~003. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Approvals] (4 pages)~~	~~06/04/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: Demarche on GMO Corn Approval (4 pages)~~	~~06/05/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~005. cable~~	~~Re: U.S. Position on GMO Corn Approval (2 pages)~~	~~06/12/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~006. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Trials] [incomplete message] (3 pages)~~	~~06/26/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~007. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Trials] [incomplete message] (2 pages)~~	~~06/26/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~008. cable~~	~~Re: GMO: Where Does France Stand? (3 pages)~~	~~06/26/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:
[06/04/1998 - 06/26/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3010

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2015
2016-0524-M (2.00)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHCAA9873 1550205-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 040203Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 040203Z JUN 98
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO: ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN: DEMARCHE SEEKING FRENCH APPROVAL FOR TWO NEW VARIETIES

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ STATE 099873

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/3/08
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN: DEMARCHE SEEKING FRENCH APPROVAL FOR TWO NEW VARIETIES

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY EUR PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY E. ANTHONY WAYNE. REASON 1.5(D)

2. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA 6.

3. ~~(C)~~ FRANCE IS WITHHOLDING MARKETING CONSENT FOR TWO U.S. VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED CORN UNTIL AFTER ITS BIOTECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE ON JUNE 20-21. IT SEEMS THAT U.S. EXPORTERS WILL LOSE OUT ON ALL OPPORTUNITIES TO BID ON THE REMAINING SPANISH CORN IMPORT CONTRACTS, WHICH POSSIBLY EXCEED USD 120 MILLION, WITH SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. EU TRADE.

4. ~~(C)~~ THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION APPROVED THREE GMO VARIETIES ON APRIL 22 AFTER AN EXTENDED PROCESS. FRANCE INTRODUCED TWO OF THE PRODUCTS INTO THE EU APPROVAL PROCESS AND THE UK THE THIRD. BEFORE THE PRODUCTS CAN BE MARKETED, HOWEVER, THE SPONSORS OF THE VARIETIES MUST GRANT THEIR FINAL

CONSENT. KRENCH OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THEY WILL DO THIS ONLY

OFFICIALS ADMIT THAT THE DELAY IN GRANTING CONSENT IS NOT BASED ON SCIENTIFIC GROUNDS, BUT CONCERN OVER NEGATIVE POLITICAL REACTION FROM FRENCH CONSUMER GROUPS AND CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE GREEN PARTY. THE UNITED STATES CANNOT ACCEPT SUCH A LARGE AND UNWARRANTED LOSS IN TRADE

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FRANCE 'S INACTION IS ELEVATING THIS TRADE DISPUTE INTO AN URGENT BILATERAL MATTER GIVEN THE INTENSE INDUSTRY AND POLITICAL PRESSURE IN THE U.S. TO RESPOND. THE UK HAS ALSO NOT GRANTED PERMISSION, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THA APPROVAL WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

5. ~~(C)~~ WE ARE URGING THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES TO RECONSIDER THEIR DECISION TO DELAY APPROVING THE CORN VARIETIES SO THAT U.S. EXPORTERS STILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BID ON REMAINING CONTRACTS BEFORE THE CORN IMPORT SEASON CLOSES IN JUNE. IF WE DO NOT HAVE INDICATIONS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS THAT THIS WILL OCCUR, WE WANT THE FRENCH AND OTHER EU MEMBERS TO KNOW THAT THE U.S. WILL CONSIDER OPTIONS TO PROTECT ITS TRADE INTERESTS.

6. ~~(C)~~ ACTION FOR PARIS AND LONDON: AMBASSADOR OR DCM IN PARIS SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING KEY POINTS IN EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE TRADE DISRUPTION. POINTS SHOULD BE MADE TO APPROPRIATE SENIOR-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN THE FOREIGN AND AGRICULTURAL MINISTRIES AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SECRETARIES ALBRIGHT AND GLICKMAN AND USTR BARSHEFSKY WILL SEND LETTERS TO THEIR FREEH COUNTERPARTS TO UNDERSCORE U.S. VIEWS. EMBASSY LONDON SHOULD DELIVER RELEVANT POINTS TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS.

KEY POINTS:

- THE UNITED STATES IS DEEPLY TROUBLED BY THE PROSPECT OF THE LOSS OF U.S. CORN EXPORTS TO THE EU THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF DELAYS IN GRANTING APPROVAL TO THREE GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN VARIETIES.

- ALTHOUGH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION GRANTED FINAL MARKETING CONSENT TO THESE CORN VARIETIES ON APRIL 22, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS STILL BEEN BLOCKING THEIR IMPORTATION INTO THE EU. SCIENTIFIC REVIEWS BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAVE SHOWN THESE PRODUCTS TO BE SAFE. CONTINUING DELAYS APPEAR TO BE MOTIVATED BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONCERNS, RATHER THAN SCIETIFIC CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR SAFETY. THIS RAISES

  QUESTIONS OF GOOD FAITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU DECISION TO GRANT FINAL MARKETING CONSENT.

- THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN VERY PATIENT WITH THE EU DURING THE EXTREMELY LENGTHY APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THESE PRODUCTS.

- WE HAVE RESPECTED THE RIGHT OF THE EU TO CONDUCT ITS OWN SCIENTIFIC REVIEWS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE ALWAYS EXPECTED THAT, ONCE THE REVIEWS WERE COMPLETED AND THE PRODUCTS FOUND TO BE SAFE, THEY WOULD BE ALLOWED INTO THE EU.

- AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THE LOSS OF 220 MILLION DOLLARS IN CORN EXPORTS THIS YEAR (OVER USD 120 MILLION SINCE THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION GRANTED ITS APPROVAL ON APRIL 22) IS AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ISSUE IN THE UNITED STATES. IT

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IS GENERATING INTENSE PRESSURE FROM OUR FARMERS AND OUR CONGRESS TO RESPOND STRONGLY.

- THE UNITED STATES IS CONSIDERING OPTIONS TO PROTECT ITS TRADE INTERESTS.

- WE WANT TO AVOID HAVING THIS BECOME AN ISSUE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY ON THE EVE OF PRIME MINISTER JOSPIN' 5 VISIT TO THE U.S. WE HOPE THAT FRANCE WILL APPROVE THE TWO VARIETIES OF CORN BEFORE THE VISIT SO THAT U.S. EXPORTERS STILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BID ON CONTRAC(S BEFORE THE IMPORT SEASON ENDS IN JUNE, OR, FAILING THAT, MAKE A BINDING DECISION TO ADD THIS YEAR'S QUOTAS TO NEXT YEAR'S.

- THERE ARE ALSO A NUMBER OF GMO VARIETIES STILL IN THE EU APPROVAL PROCESS, WHICH ARE ALREADY APPROVED IN THE U.S. WE THUS WOULD LIKE FRANCÈ'S ACTIVE LEADERSHIP IN ESTABLISHING AN ACCELERATED U.S.-EU (AND BILATERAL) DIALOGUE ON HOW TO ASSURE THAT THE EU APPROVAL PROCESS FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS WORKS ON A TIMELY FASHION AND AVOIDS FUTURE TRADE DISRUPTION.

END TALKING POINTS.

7. ~~(C)~~ ACTION FOR OTHER EU POSTS. IF POSTS BELIEVE THAT A DEMARCHE WOULD BE HELPFUL, THEY SHOULD FIND AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. IN MAKING YOUR PRESENTATION, YOU CAN NOTE THAT CONSEQUENCES OF TRADE DISRUPTION COULD AFFECT BROADER EU INTERESTS AND NOT JUST THOSE OF FRANCE.
TALBOTT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 9873
TOR: 980603220718 M3318760
DIST:
SIT: ANTHOLIS MCELDOWNEY ORFINI SANDALOW
SIT: NSC

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/16/2015
2016-0529-M (2.03)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHLOA5756 1551657-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 041657Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG: 041657Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6658
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0264
SUBJ: UK TO PROD ON GMO APPROVALS; TROIKA MAY PLAY ROLE ON TEP IMPLEMENTATION

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 005756

USTR FOR NOVELLI, MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR
USDA FOR FAS/ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/04/08
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, UK
SUBJECT: UK TO PROD ON GMO APPROVALS; TROIKA MAY PLAY ROLE ON TEP IMPLEMENTATION

REF: A). STATE 99873

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY: ECONOMICS MINISTER-COUNSELOR CHARLES P. RIES. REASON: 1.5(D)

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: UK TRADE DG HUTTON TOLD EMIN 6/4 THAT:

-- UK WILL PROD FRENCH ON GMO APPROVAL AT 6/5 113 DEPUTIES;
-- UK'S OWN DELAY IN FINALIZING APPROVAL IS PROBABLY RELATED TO 6/4 MINISTERIAL MEETING ON BIOTECH; HUTTON EXPECTS QUICK ACTION BUT WILL FOLLOW-UP WITH AGRICULTURE MINISTRY;
-- COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING HAVING EU TROIKA (UK, AUSTRIAN AND GERMAN PRESIDENCIES) BE INVOLVED IN "TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP" (TEP) IMPLEMENTATION;
-- HIS OFFICE IS AWARE OF SERIOUSNESS OF U.S. POSITION ON BANANAS.

SEPARATELY, HUTTON'S STAFF TOLD ECOUNS:

-- EU WILL LIKELY PURSUE WTO CASE AGAINST FSC, DESPITE OUR REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS ON EU PRACTICES. END SUMMARY.

GMO CORN

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3. (U) EMIN AND ECOUNS DELIVERED REFTEL TALKING POINTS (EXPRESSING USG CONCERNS ABOUT DELAYS IN GMO CORN APPROVALS) TO UK DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSY (DTI) TRADE POLICY AND EUROPE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TONY HUTTON AND NORTH AMERICA OFFICE DIRECTOR JOHN FOGGO ON JUNE 4. AT THE SAME TIME, EMIN EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE UK HAD NOT FINALIZED ITS OWN GMO APPROVAL, DESPITE HMG ASSURANCES A FEW WEEKS AGO (LONDON 4756).

4. ~~(C)~~ HUTTON UNDERSTANDS THE U.S. CONCERN ABOUT THE DELAY IN THE FRENCH APPROVAL OF THE GMO CORN, AND AGREED THAT THE JUNE 20 CONFERENCE IN PARIS COULD EASILY MAKE APPROVAL MORE DIFFICULT. HE IS AWARE THE EU IS OBLIGED TO IMPORT THE CORN AS PART OF THE XXIV:6 COMPENSATION FOR THE SPAIN/PORTUGAL ENLARGEMENT, AND ACCEPTS THAT THE OPTIONS ARE IMMEDIATE FRENCH APPROVAL, SOME OTHER "QUICK FIX" TO LET SPAIN AND PORTUGAL IMPORT THE CORN, OR ROLL-OVER OF THE QUOTA TO NEXT YEAR. HE AGREED TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH FRENCH TRADE D-G DELAJUGIE AT NEXT WEEK'S MEETING OF EU TRADE DIRECTORS-GENERAL, AND INSTRUCTED FOGGO TO HAVE THE U REPRESENTATIVE TO THE 113 DEPUTIES RAISE IT WITH THE FRENCH AT 6/5 MEETING OF THAT GROUP.

5. ~~(C)~~ HUTTON WAS UNAWARE OF THE DELAY IN THE UK "FINAL CONSENT" FOR THE GMO CORN VARITY IT SPONSORED. HE PROMISED TO FOLLOW-UP WITH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTUD, FOOD AND FISHERIES (MAFF). RECALLING THE UK'S GENERALLY FAVORABLE PRE-DISPOSITION TO BIOTECHNOLOGY, HE DOUBTED THE DELAY REPRESENTED ANY PRINCIPLED PROBLEM. INSTEAD, HUTTON SPECULATED THAT THE CONSENT HAD BEEN PUT OFF UNTIL AFTER A MINISTERIAL MEETING ON BIOTECHNOLOGY SCHEDULED FOR THIS AFTERNOON (JUNE 4). AGRICULTURE MINISTER CUNNINGHAM, MAFF JUNIOR MINISTER ROOKER, SCIENCE MINISTER BATTLE AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER MEACHER ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING. HUTTON PROMISED TO GET BACK TO EMIN ON THIS AS SOON AS HE HAD HAD WORD FROM MAFF. (NOTE: PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL, AG MINCOUNS HEARD FROM UK ENVIRONMENT OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPROVALS THAT MAFF -- WHICH IS STILL SMARTING FROM THE FALLOUT FROM BSE -- IS THE ONE MINISTRY THAT HAS NOT YET SIGNED OFF.)

TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
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6. ~~(C)~~ THE UK SHARES US CONCERN ABOUT THE SLOWNESS OF FOLLOW-THROUGH ON THE "TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP" (TEP) ANNOUNCED AT THE MAY 18 US-EU SUMMIT. NOTING THAT PAUL MADDEN OF THE UK EMBASSY HAD DISCUSSED THIS WITH AUSTR NOVELLI ON JUNE 3, HUTTON SAID HE CALLED EU COMMISSN DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL GERARD DEPAYRE ABOUT IT EARLIER TODAY. DEPAYRE REPORTED THE COMMISSION SERVICES ARE STILL DEBATING NEXT STEPS. DEPAYRE ALSO SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE COMMISSION IS CONSIDERINHAVING THE EU TROIKA (THE CURRENT, PREVIOUS AND NEXT EU PRESIDENCIES, IN THIS CASE THE UK, AUSTRIA AND GERMANY) PLAY A PART IN FOLLOW-UP, GIVEN THE PROMINENT ROLE THE UK PRESIDENCY PLAYED IN NEGOTIATING THE ACCORD AFTER THE FRENCH REACTED SO NEGATIVELY TO SIR LEON BRITTAN'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. HUTTON, NOTING THE VERY AGGRESSIVE POSITION THE

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GERMANTOOK AGAINST THE FRENCH IN THE MAY 17 113 MEETING JUST BEFORE THE SUMMIT, SPECULATED THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE REASSURING TO WASHINGTON; EMIN AGREED IT WOULD.

BANANAS

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 005756

USTR FOR NOVELLI, MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTRUSDA FOR FAS/ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/04/08
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, UK
SUBJECT: UK O PROD ON GMO APPROVALS; TROIKA MAY PLAY ROLE ON TEP IMPLEMENTATION

REF: A). STAT99873

7. ~~(C)~~ HUTTON ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF A COPY OF USTR AMBASSADOR SCHER'S MAY 28 LETTER TO EU COMMISSION AGRICULTURE DIRECTOR-GENERAL GUY LEGRAS, WHICH REITERATES OUR BELIEF THAT THE COMMISSION BANANAS PROPOSAL IS NOT WTO-CONSISTENT AND WHICH UNDERLINES OUR WILLINGNESS TO "EXERCISE OUR FULL RIGHTS UNDER THE WTO" IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED AS IS. (ECOUNS FORWARDED THE tETTER TO HUTTON'S OFFICE ON JUNE 2.) ALTHOUGH PRPFESSING HE DID NOT WANT TO TALK ABOUT BANANAS, HUTTON SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE USG'S POSITION, WHICH WE HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY AND CLEARLY, MOST RECENTLY BY USTR BARSHEFSKY DURING THE MAY 18 US-EU SUMMIT. THE CONCERNED HMG DEPARTMENTS MEET ON BANANAS TOMORROW (JUNE 5) AFTERNOON, HUTTON SAID, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT EXPRESS ANY HOPE HMG WOULD CHANGE ITS STANCE OF SUPPORTING THE COMMISSION APPROACH. (NOTE: ALL THE KEY PARTICIPANTS IN THS MEETING HAVE ALSO RECEIVED A COPY OF THE SCHER LETTER, INCLUDING MARTIN DONNELLY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN SECRETARIAT IN THE CABINET OFFICE, WHO IS LIKELY TO CHAIR THE MEETING. ECOUNS IS SCHEDULED TO SEE DONNELLY MONDAY AFTERNOON.)

BARLEY/WHEAT GLUTEN
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8. ~~(C)~~ HUTTON DID NOT RAISE THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO PROVIDE IMPORT RELIEF FOR U.S. WHEAT GLUTEN PRODUCERS, BUT DID JOIN IN THE GENERAL LAUGHTER OVER EMIN'S PROFESSED ASTONISHMENT THAT A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN WOULD CHARACTERIZE OUR EEP-SUBSIDY OF BARLEY EXPORTS TO NORWAY, CYPRUS AND ALGERIA AS "A TOTALLY DISPROPORTIONATE RESPONSE" TO THE EU'S SALE OF SUBSIDIZED BARLEY INTO THE UNITED STATES.

FSC
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9. ~~(C)~~ IN A SEPARATE MEETING, FOGGO AND MARY GREW, HEAD OF DIT'S WTO POLICY SECTION, REPORTED TO ECOUNS THEY EXPECT THE EU WILL GO AHEAD WITH ITS WTO CASE AGAINST THE U.S.'S FOREIGN SALES CORPORATION (FSC) SCHEME. THEY REPORTED THAT THIS HAD RECENTLY BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE 113 DEPUTIES COMMITTEE, AND,

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WHILE THE EU HAD NOT FOUND ANY SNIFICANT USE OF THE FSC FOR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS, MEMBER STATES WERE STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROGRAM. THE U.S. REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS ON TAX-DISTORTING PRACTICES IN FIVE EU MEMBER STATES, THEY SAID, WAS CONSIDERED INCONSEQUENTIAL. ALTHOUGH THE UK HAD NOT YET FORMALLY DETERMINED ITS POSITION ON THIS, FOGGO AND GREW IMPLIED LONDON WILL SUPPORT GOING TO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT. THE FACT THAT NY LARGE UK-OWNED COMPANIES BASED IN THE UNITED STATES ALSO MAKE USE OF THE PROGRAM IS NOT DISSUASIVE (AND INDEED COULD WORK THE OTHER WAY), AND A CHALLENGE TO "U.S. SUBSIDIES" WILL BE "DIFFICULT TO TURN DOWN." LADER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 5756
<^SSN>5756

TOR: 980604130615 M3319891
<^TOR>980604130631 M3319892

DIST:

SIT: BANDLER BOONE BROWN BUTLER DAVIDSON HAINES KYLE LEE MCELDOWNEY SAPIRO
SIT: NSC

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PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 051547Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 051547Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6494
INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0565
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 3591
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 1102
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 1595
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0474
SUBJ: DEMARCHE ON GMO CORN APPROVAL

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-M (2.04)

TEXT:
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 012551

STATE PASS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY; OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER; CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE; APHIS/ADMINISTRATOR

USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR AND FOR RESSLER

EU POSTS FOR ECON AND AGR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/5/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, FR, US, EUN
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON GMO CORN APPROVAL

REF: STATE 99873

CLASSIFIED BY EMIN JOHN MEDEIROS FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR AND DCM MADE REFTEL DEMARCHE JUNE 5 TO JEAN-MAURICE RIPERT, THE PRIME MINISTER'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER, EMPHASIZING THE POLITICAL NATURE OF THE GMO APPROVAL PROBLEM AND UNDERSCORING OUR POSITION THAT IT BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON JUNE 17-19. RIPERT SAID HE WAS UNCERTAIN IT COULD BE RESOLVED THAT QUICKLY. IN A SEPARATE MEETING, CLAUDE CHEREAU, THE PM'S AGRICULTURE ADVISER, TOLD EMIN AND AGMINCOUNS THAT A FINAL FRENCH DECISION TO ACCEPT GMO CORNS WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY BEFORE THE CONFERENCE ON CONSENSUS ON JUNE 19-20. HOWEVER, HE DID ALLUDE TO EFFORTS IN BRUSSELS TO OPEN THE SPANISH

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TENDER TO AMERICAN CORN EVEN BEFORE FORMAL FRENCH FORWARDING OF THE DOSSIERS ACCEPTING THE GMO CORN VARIETIES, AND SAID THAT SEEMED LIKE AN IDEA WORTH SUPPORTING. HE ALSO TOOK NOTE OF OUR REQUEST (REFTEL) FOR CARRYOVER OF THIS YEAR'S QUOTA TO NEXT YEAR, AND OBSERVED THAT PRECEDENTS EXIST FOR SUCH A MOVE. END SUMMARY.

2. ~~(C)~~ AMBASSADO8AND DCM TOLD RIPERT THAT THE GMO APPROVAL ISSUE IS SERIOUS AND COULD THREATEN THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE JOSPIN VISIT. DCM EMPHASIZED THAT AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES ARE RECEIVING GREAT ATTENTION IN WASHINGTON, AND CITED THE EDITORIAL REACTION ACROSS THE U.S. MIDWEST TO THE BARLEY SUBSIDY ISSUE AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW VOLATILE AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES CAN BE IN THE U.S. WITH REGARD TO GMOS, THE U.S. CANNOT UNDERSTAND FRANCE'S PROBLEM; FRANCE IS A LEADER IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND UNDERSTANDS FULL WELL THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THIS TECHNOLOGY. WE UNDERLINED THE NEED TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE TWO GMO CORN APPROVALS BEFORE PRIME MINISTER JOSPIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON THIS MONTH - NOTING THAT THIS IS REALLY A POLITICAL, NOT AN ECONOMIC OR SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM.

3. ~~(C)~~ RIPERT RESPONDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE BUT SAID HE WAS NOT CERTAIN IT COULD BE RESOLVED BEFORE JOSPIN'S VISIT. HE ASKED THAT EMBASSY DISCUSS THE ISSUE IN GREATER DETAIL WITH CLAUDE CHEREAU, THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISER FOR AGRICdLTURAL AFFAIRS. HE SAID HE WOULD BRIEF CHEREAU ON OUR DEMARCHE. DCM TOLD RIPERT THAT WE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH CHEREAU RIGHT AWAY.

4. ~~(C)~~ EMIN AND AGMIN MET WITH CHEREAU LATER THE SAME DAY. THEY PRESENTED A NON-PAPER DRAWN FROM REFTEL, AND REITERATED THAT -- WITH MAJOR LOSSES NOW BEING INCURRED BY U.S. EXPORTERS -- THIS ISSUE HAD GONE FROM THE REALM OF THE TECHNICAL TO THE HIGHLY POLITICAL. CHEREAU (WHO KNOWS THE DOSSIER WELL), SAID HE TOOK THE ISSUE VERY SERIOUSLY, AND OBSERVET!THAT OUR DEMARCHE INDICATED WE WERE GIVING IT NEW IMPORTANCE, A FACTOR ALSO UNDERLINED IN MEETINGS LAST WEEK BY FRENCH EMBASSY AGCOUNS PAILLE AND AMB SCHER.

5. ~~(C)~~ CHEREAU OUTLINED THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS THIS ISSUE POSED FOR THE JOSPIN GOVERNMENT. THE GREENS, AS WELL AS A PART OF THE SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, JOINED NGOS LIKE GREENPEACE WHICH WERE OPPOSING AUTHORIZATION FOR GMO VARIETIES. THE GOVERNMENT HAD DESIGNED ITS LATE JUNE "CONFERENCE ON CONSENSUS" WITH THE IDEA THAT IT WOULD GIVE A CLEAR VISION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE TECHNOLOGIES -- TO PROVIDE REASONS WHY THEY ARE ACCEPTABLE. THE PROBLEM IS TO CONVINCE CONSUMERS AND POLITICIANS TO SUPPORT EVENTUAL POSITIVE DECISIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE READY BEFORE THE END OF JUNE, WITH A MORE COMPLETE REPORT LATER IN THE FALL. HOWEVER, CHEREAU SAID, IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO MAKE DECISIONS ON THE GMO CORN VARIETIES. "I CANNOT TELL YOU IT WILL HAPPEN BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT. THAT SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY."

6. ~~(C)~~ EMIN AND AGMIN OBSERVED THAT THE ISSUE WAS NOW CREATING POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN THE UNITED STATES AS WELL. IF IT WERE NOT ON THE ROAD TO RESOLUTION BEFORE THE JOSPIN VISIT, WE COULD NOT RULE OUT POSSIBLE NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS, SUCH AS DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRONT OF BLAIR HOUSE AND ATTENDANT PUBLICITY THAT WOULD ATTRACT EVEN MORE NEGATIVE ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE.

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7. ~~(C)~~ EMIN ASKED ABOUT REPORTS FROM BRUSSELS THAT SOME SORT OF SOLUTION OPENING THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE TENDERS TO U.S. PARTICIPATION WAS BEING CONSIDERED. CHEREAU CONFIRMED THAT THE EU COMMISSION IS WORKING ON AN ATTEMPT TO ALLOW IMPORTS OF U.S. CORN EVEN WITHOUT FORMAL FRENCH APPROVAL OF THE PORTFOLIO. PERSONALLY, ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 012551

STATE PASS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY; OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER; CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE; APHIS/ADMINISTRATOR

USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR AND FOR RESSLER

EU POSTS FOR ECON AND AGR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/5/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, FR, US, EUN
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON GMO CORN APPROVAL

REF: STATE 99873

HE THOUGHT THIS WAS SOMETHING FRANCE COULD SUPPORT. BeU THIS WAS ALSO A COURSE WITH SOME RISK: IF GROUPS (NGOS?) OPPOSED TO GMOS IN SPAIN OR PORTGUGAL DECIDED TO MAKE A FUSS, IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW THE LEGAL SITUATION WOULD SORT OUT. IT WAS ALSO LATE IN THE YEAR, AS THE SPANISH HARVEST WOULD BE ON THE MARKET RELATIVELY SOON. SO HE WAS NOT SURE HOW MUCH CORN COULD BE IMPORTED THIS YEAR UNDER THIS SOLUTION. BUT IT WAS WORTH CONSIDERING, AND THE PROCESS HAD BEGUN DURING YESTERDAY'S GRAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING IN BRUSSELS.

8. ~~(C)~~ CHEREAU ALSO NOTED THE LANGUAGE IN OUR DEMARCHE WHICH ASKED FOR A ROLLOVER OF THIS YEAR'S QUOTA TO THE NEXT YEAR. HE NOTED THERE WAS PRECEDENT FOR THIS. (APPARENTLY, IN THE MID-80S DURING THE PHASE-IN OF EU ENLARGEMENT THE COMMISSION WAS SLOW IN ORGANIZING THE TENDERS, AND ONE YEAR'S QUOTA WAS ROLLED OVER TO THE NEXT.)

9. ~~(C)~~ BUT THIS WAS NOT THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION. HE NOTED THAT EVEN THE GMO CORN WHICH WAS APPROVED FOR ENTRY INTO FRANCE (NOVARTIS') WAS HAVING PROBLEMS; IMPORTERS WERE AFRAID TO ACCEPT IT BECAUSE THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT POPULAR REACTIONS -- BOYCOTTS, ETC. AS A RESULT OF THIS SAME CONCERN, LESS THAN 1,000 HECTARES IN FRANCE HAD BEEN SOWN WITH NOVARTIS' CORN, SINCE FARMERS WERE WORRIED THAT NGOS WOULD S@GE ATTEMPTS TO UPROOT IT. THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION HAD TO PERSUADE THE PUBLIC THESE PRODUCTS WERE ACCEPTABLE. (HE ALSO NOTED THAT SPANISH FARMERS HAD SOWN MUCH MORE GMO CORN THAN WAS THE CASE IN FRANCE, AND THAT THIS WOULD ADD TO THE PROBLEMS IN THE COMING MONTHS.)

10. ~~(C)~~ EMIN REITERATED THE HIGH POLITICAL PROFILE OF THIS ISSUE, AND ASKED CHEREAU IF HE THOUGHT LETTERS FROM USG CABINET SECRETARIES TO GOF MINISTERS WOULD BE HELPFUL. CHEREAU RESPONDED THAT -- IN LIGHT OF THE POLITICS OF THE ISSUE AND THE UPCOMING JOSPIN KSIT -- LETTERS TO MINISTERS WOULD NOT MAKE MUCH

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DIFFERENCE. WHAT MIGHT BE USEFUL WOULD BE A LETTER DIRECTLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER. EMBASSY IS PREPARING SUCH A LETTER FROM THE AMBASSADOR (BASED ON REFTEL POINTS) AND WILL TRANSMIT IT SHORTLY.

ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 2551
<^SSN>2551

TOR: 980605121844 M3322070
<^TOR>980605121934 M3322071

DIST:

SIT: NSC

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Cable

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-M (2.05)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHFRA3205 1631543-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 121543Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 121543Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6671
INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0593
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 3606
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 1105
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 1604
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0489
SUBJ: U.S. POSITION ON GMO CORN APPROVAL
TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ PARIS 013205

STATE PASS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN; ITPDA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY; OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER; CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE; APHIS/ADMINISTRATOR

USTR FOR SCHER & MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR RESSLER

EU POSTS FOR ECON & AGR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/12/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, FR, US, EUN
SUBJECT: U.S. POSITION ON GMO CORN APPROVAL

REFS: A) PARIS 12551 & B) STATE 99873

CLASSIFIED BY W. ROBERT PEARSON FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

1. ~~(C)~~ REF A PROVIDED A SUMMARY OF POST INTERACTIONS WITH GOF OFFICIALS CONCERNING REF B DEMARCHE ON GMO CORN APPROVAL. AMBASSADOR, DCM, AND OTHER EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES EMPHASIZED THE SERIOUSLY NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF FRENCH FAILURE TO PROVIDE FINAL MARKETING CONSENT TO THESE CORN VARIETIES. MOREOVER, EMBASSY REPS DREW ON REF B DEMARCHE TO UNDERSCORE OUR DETERMINATION TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER IN ADVANCE OF THE JUNE 17-19 VISIT OF PM JOSPIN TO WASHINGTON.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, POST UNDERSTANDS THAT THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON RECEIVED FROM USTR OFFICIALS A FORMULATION OF U.S. OBJECTIVES THAT DIFFERED IN SOME WAYS FROM THOSE IN REF B, INCLUDING OPTIONS TO RESOLVE THE MATTER IN A TIMEFRAME THAT EXTENDS

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INTO THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAS ASKED USTR OFFICIALS TO RECONCILE APPARENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MESSAGES PASSED BY THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN USTR AND THE FRENCH EMBASSY REPS. THE FACT THAT THE GOF SEEKS THIS CLARIFICATION SUGGESTS THAT FRENCH OFFICIALS SHARE THE U.S. DESIRE TOQESOLVE THIS MATTER IN A FASHION THAT AVOIDS DIVISIVE EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE LEADERS DURING THE JOSPIN VISIT -- THEY WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE REALLY WANT. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT, WHILE THE ULTIMATE U.S. OBJECTIVE HAS NOT CHANGED, FRENCH OFFICIALS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS ARE NOT RECEIVING A CONSISTENT U.S. MESSAGE ON HOW WE WOULD LIKE THEM TO MOVE TO MEET OUR GOALS.

4. POST RECOGNIZES THAT WE ARE IN A PERIOD OF CONTINUOUS NEGOTIATION ON THIS ISSUE. POST REPRESENTATIVES ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE ENGAGING THE FRENCH ON THIS ISSUE, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER TO PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS -- PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RAPIDLY APPROACHING JOSPIN VISIT -- ALL USG INTERLOCUTORS (INCLUDING STATE, USDA, THE EMBASSY, AND USTR) NEED TO PRESENT A CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE USG NEGOTIATING POSITION. AS THE DIALOGUE WITH THE GOF SHIFTS TO WASHINGTON (MINISTERS VEDRINE AND STRAUSS-KAHN WILL BOTH BE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER), WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT A RANGE OF SENIOR USG OFFICIALS WILL WANT TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH THEIR FRENCH COUNTERPARTS. THEY, AND WE AT POST, MUST ENSURE THAT WE ARE WORKING FROM A COMMON NEGOTIATING STANCE. ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3205

TOR: 980612184550 M3333641

DIST:

SIT: BANDLER HAINES LEE MCELDOWNEY
SIT: NSC

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PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA4730 1771508-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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LINE3: R 261508Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 261508Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4384
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0200
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0437
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: SUBJECT: GMO TRIALS IN PROGRESS IN
TEXT:

////////////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////////////

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 004730

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA MARKINGS)

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
USDA FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR, FDA AND EPA
USDA FOR FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
OFSTS/HARBERT, EAMED/THORN, G&F/RADLER
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE
GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - NOT FOR PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION

E.O. 1295B: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, IT
SUBJECT: SUBJECT: GMO TRIALS IN PROGRESS IN
ITALY

REF: ROME 1997 08523

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: DESPITE THE FACT THAT THERE WAS
A BAN IN PLACE ON PLANTING GMO CORN BETWEEN
MARCH AND SEPTEMBER 1997, ITALY HARVESTED
15,0p3 MT OF BT CORN LAST YEAR BASED ON
TESTING PERMITS ISSUED PRIOR TO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAN. THE CORN WAS
THEN SOLD INTO THE NORMAL MARKETING CHANNELS
WITH NO SPECIAL LABELING OR SEGREGATION.
(IT IS NOT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS CORN
IS BEING MARKETED, PRESUMABLY FOR FEED USE.)
ONCE SEED TRIALS ARE COMPLETED, BT CORN COULD

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BE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL SEED REGISTRY BY THE YEAR 2000. IN THE MEANTIME, FARMERS CAN USE SEED FROM COUNTRIES WITH A FASTER APPROVAL PROCESS, BUT LIMITED SUPPLIES ARE EXPECTED TO KEEP PRODUCTION TO NO MORE THAN 40,000 HECTARES. EXPERIMENTAL TRIALS ARE BEING DONE ON GMO SOYBEANS, BUT OFFICIAL TRIALS WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL EU APPROVAL IS GIVEN FOR PLANTING GMO SOYBEAN VARIETIES. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) AGATTACHE AND AGSPECIALIST MET WITH MR NORBERTO PUGNA, DIRECTOR OF THE GRAIN XPERIMENTAL INSTITUTE TO DISCUSS THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND CURRENT STATUS OF EXPERIMENTAL TRIALS FOJ,GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN VARIETIES. THE INSTITUTE IS PART OF THE ITALIAN MINAG BUT ALSO SUPPORTS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS. IN RECAPPING THE SHORT HISTORY OF GMO ACTIVITIES IN ITALY, MR PUGNA SAID THAT IN 1997, DESPITE HE BAN ON PLANTING BT CORN IN ITALY, (REF) NOVARTIS WAS ALLOWED TO CONDUCT SEED TRIALS OF BT CORN AT 250 FARMS. PERMISSION FOR THE TRIALS WAS GIVEN BY THE ITALIAN MINISTER OF HEALTH IN MARCH, 1997, BASED ON APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE BAN. (THE BAN WAS IMPLEMENTED MARCH 4, 1997 IN RESPONSE TO CONCERNS OVER BT CORN'S EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT. FOLLOWING A RESOLUTION OF THESE CONCERNS, AND PRESSURE FROM THE EU, THE BAN WAS REMOVED THE LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER, 1997.) IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 15,000 MT OF BT CORN WAS HARVESTED (BASED ON CURRENT YIELDS AND AN AVERAGE FARM SIZE OF ABOUT 6 HECTARES). ACCORDING TO PUGNA, THIS CORN WAS SOLD INTO THE NORMAL MARKETING CHANNELS, WITH NO SPECIAL LABELING OR SEGREGATION.

3. (SBU) DESPITE THE TRIALS MADE LAST YEAR, PUGNA BELIEVES THAT THE COMMERCIAL PLANTING OF GM CORN IN ITALY WILL NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE 2000. ITALIAN LAW REQUIRES TWO YEARS OF TRIALS BEFORE A VARIETY CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER. FOR POLITICAL REASONS, LAST YEAR'S TRIALS MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED VALID FOR TESTING PURPOSES, HOWEVER, A FINAL DECISION ON THIS MATTER HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED. TO BE ACCEPTED, THE REGIONAL AUTHORITIES MUST AGREE THAT THE TESTING WAS VALID AND IN SOME REGIONS. OPPOSITION FROM THE GREEN PARTY OR ANTI-GMO ORGANIZATIONS MAY ME THIS DIFFICULT.

4. (SBU) IN 1997, ACCORDING TO PUGNA, 64 VARIETIES OF GM CORN WERE TESTED, MAINLY VARIETIES FROM MONSANTO, NOVARTIS AND AGREVO, AS WELL

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AS CROSSES WITH TRADITIONAL VARIETIES. IT IS NORMAL FOR THE INSTITUTE TO TEST CORN VARIETIES PRIOR TO THEIR APPROVAL BY THE EU IN ORDER TO SPEED UP THE AVAILABILITY OF NEW VARIETIES. IN COMPARING BT CORN TO TRADITIONAL VARIETIES, THE TESTS SHOWED HIGHER YIELDS FOR BT CORN OF 1.6 PERCENT TO 28.2 PERCENT, WITH AN AVERAGE RATE OF 11.1 PERCENT. THE WIDE RANGE IS BECAUSE OF DIFFERENT CORN BORER INFESTATION RATES IN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02

SSN: 4730

TOR: 980701215723 M3360362

DIST:

SIT: NSC

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Cable

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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 261508Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4385
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0201
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0438
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: SUBJECT: GMO TRIALS IN PROGRESS IN
TEXT:

////////////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////////////

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 004730

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA MARKINGS)

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
USDA FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR, FDA AND EPA
USDA FOR FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
OFSTS/HARBERT, EAMED/THORN, G&F/RADLER
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE
GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

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E.O. 1295B: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, IT
SUBJECT: SUBJECT: GMO TRIALS IN PROGRESS IN
ITALY

REF: ROME 1997 08523

THE 5 DIFFERENT AREAS IN WHICH TESTING WAS
PERFORMED.

5. (SBU) THEORETICALLY, ADDED PUGNA, THE ITALIAN
FARMERS DO NOT NEED TO WAIT FOR 2000 BEFORE
PLANTING GM CORN, AS THEY COULD USE SEEDS OF
VARIETIES ALREADY INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL
REGISTERS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, LIKE SPAIN AND
FRANCE, WHERE THE REGISTRATION PROCESS IS
SHORTER. HOWEVER, SEED AVAILABILITY OF
THESE VARIETIES IS LIMITED AND IT IS

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EXPECTED THAT NO MORE THAN 40,000 HECTARES COULD BE PLANTED IN ITALY.

6. (SBU) IN A LATER PHONE CONVERSATION WITH MR RANALLI, DIRECTOR OF THE INDUSTRIAL CROP EXPERIMENTAL INSTITUTE, THE CORRESPONDING AGENCY FOR OILSEEDS, SUGAR BEETS AND POTATOES, IT WAS REPORTED THAT, TO DATE, NO OFFICIAL TRIALS HAVE TAKEN PLACE FOR GMO SOYBEANS. RANALLI SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR INSTITUTE IS "HOSTING" SOME EXPERIMENTAL TRIALS FOR MONSANTO ON "ROUND-UP READY" SOYBEANS. THESE TESTS ARE BEING PERFORMED UNDER STRICT SECURITY MEASURES AND IN ISOLATION FROM OTHER PLANTS. OFFICIAL TRIALS WOULD NOT BE PERFORMED UNTIL EU APPROVAL IS GIVEN FOR PLANTING OF GMO VARIETIES.
FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 4730

TOR: 980701055345 M3358812

DIST:

SIT: NSC

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Cable

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-M (2.08)

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: PAACZYUW RUEHFRA4579 1771617-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
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OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 261617Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7142
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0518
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6541
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 9293
SUBJ: GMO'S: WHERE DOES FRANCE STAND?
TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ PARIS 014579

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MU@PHY
STATE PASS USDA FOR GLICKMAN, SCHUMACHER, DRAZEK AND GALVIN
STATE PASS FDA FOR COMMISSIONER
GENEVA FOR USTR, AGRICULTURE AND RESSLER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/24/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, EUN, FR, KSCA
SUBJECT: GMO'S: WHERE DOES FRANCE STAND?

REF: PARIS 14245

CLASSIFIED BY DCM W. ROBERT PEARSON FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

1. ~~(C)~~ INITIAL CONTACTS WITH THE GOF AFTER THE JUNE 21-22 CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS ON GMO'S SUGGEST THAT IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A FEW DAYS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO SORT OUT ITS PLAN OF ACTION WITH REGARD TO THE PENDING APPROVAL OF THE TWO GMO CORN VARIETIES AND A LONGER TIME TO DETERMINE A MORE GENERAL GMO POLICY. WE ANTICIPATE THAT DECISIONS ON THE CORN APPROVALS WILL ONLY OCCUR AFTER HIGH LEVEL INTER-MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS, PROBABLY INVOLVING THE PRIME MINISTER. THE KEY INTER-MINISTERIAL PLAYERS ARE FINANCE (TRADE), AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT. (ACCORDING TO A DREE CONTACT, THE FIRSTF THESE DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE JUNE 24.) THE PM WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT HIS DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON, THE MIXED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS (REFTEL), FRENCH ECONOMIC INTERESTS (INCLUDING THE DESIRE OF MANY FARMERS TO USE GMO'S), AND THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF THE COALITION, ESPECIALLY THE POSITION OF THE "GREEN" ENVIRONMENT MINISTER AND HER PARTY.

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

2. ~~(C)~~ BOTH TRADE AND AGRICULTURE CONTACTS HINT THAT A DECISION ON THE TWO CORNS MAY HAPPEN IN JULY, BUT FOR NOW NO ONE IS PREDICTING ANY SPECIFIC DATES. HOWEVER, THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISER TO THE PRIME MINISTER IS HOPEFUL THAT THE ISSUE CAN BE RESOLVED BY MID-JULY. HE ALSO OPINED, PERSONALLY, THAT THE MATTER WILL LIKELY BE RESOLVED FOR IMPORTS BEFORE A FULL DECISION ON DOMESTIC COMMERCIALIZATION, SUCH AS WAS DONE FOR NOVARTIS' BT CORN. HE BELIEVES THAT IT WILL BE EASIER TO RESOLVE THE CORN APPROVALS THIS WAY THAN BY WAITING TO RESOLVE ALL THE DOMESTIC ASPECTS. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE U.S. WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO EXPORT CORN TO THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS OF THIS YEAR'S MARKETING SEASON. HOWEVER, THE GOF WILL NOT/NOT MOVE ON ANYTHING BEFORE RECEIVIQE INQ
(INTERIM) GMO REPORT ON JUNQVES LQ
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S OFFICE OF EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHOICES.

TRANSATLANTIC DISCUSSION: TEP OR BILATERAL OR BOTH
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3. ~~(C)~~ A MINAG CONTACT HAS TOLD EMBASSY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER INTENDS TO TRY TO ESTABLISH A U.S.-FRENCH GROUP OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO STUDY THE GMO ISSUE. THE PRIME MINISTER'S AGRICULTURAL ADVISER CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY AGMINCOUNS 6/26 THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING A GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT EXPERTS GROUP TO DISCUSS THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF GMO'S AS WELL AS LABELLING ISSUES. THE PM'S ADVISER STATED THAT SUCH A DIALOGUE WOULD NOT INVOLVE TRADE ASPECTS OF GMO'S AND WOULD COMPLEMENT, NOT INTERFERE WITH, U.S.-EU POLICY DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT. TRADE POLICY OFFICER RAISED THIS MATTER WITH A SENIOR DREE OFFICIAL, NOTING THAT WHAT THE U.S. HAS IN MIND IS THE PROPOSED U.S.-EU TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (TEP) DISCUSSION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY (INCLUDING GMO) APPROVAL PROCESSES, NOT A BILATERAL U.S.-FRENCH DIALOGUE. DREE ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS INTERESTED IN A SEPARATE, COMPLEMENTARY (TO TEP) BILATERAL APPROACH.

4. ~~(C)~~ THE DREE OFFICIAL REITERATED THE GOF AND FRENCH PUBLIC'S CONCERNS ABOUT FOOD AND HEALTH SAFETY IN THE AFTERMATH OF VRIOUS SCANDALS OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, ESPECIALLY THOSE INVOLVING TAINTED BLOOD AND BSE. HE CITED THESE SCANDALS AND DIMINISHED PLIC TRUST IN EUROPEAN REGULATORS AND GOVERNMENTS AS REASONS FOR THE GOF'S CURRENT COURSE OF ACTION.

5. ~~(C)~~ WE TOLD THE DREE OFFICIAL THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST ON A SCIENCE-BASED APPROVAL PROCESS. NOTING THAT THE CONFERENCE OF CONSENSU$PANELISTS (ALL NON-SCIENTISTS) HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOF NOT APPROVE GMO'S WITH ANTIBIOTIC GENE MARKERS OR THOSE THAT CAN SPREAD THEIR GENE CHARACTERISTICS TO OTHER PLANT VARIETIES, WE REMINDED HIM THAT CERTAIN GMO'S WHICH HAVE MET THE SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL IN THE U.S. HAVE THESE CHARACTERISTICS. WE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOF BEAR OUR CONCERNS ON SCIENCE-BASED APPROVAL IN MIND AS IT MAKES DECISIONS.

ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4579

TOR: 980626123918 M3353155

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Biosurveillance] (5 pages)	07/02/1998	P1/b(1)
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: [French GMO Corn Approvals] (2 pages)~~	~~07/06/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
003. cable	[duplicate of 001] (5 pages)	07/07/1998	P1/b(1)
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Corn Approvals] (2 pages)~~	~~07/10/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
005. cable	Re: [Argentina] (4 pages)	07/10/1998	P1/b(1)
006. cable	Re: [GMO Approvals] (5 pages)	07/17/1998	P1/b(1)
~~007. cable~~	~~Re: Status of French Decision on GMO Corn (3 pages)~~	~~07/20/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
~~008. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Impasse] (2 pages)~~	~~07/29/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
009. cable	Re: [GMO Issue] (4 pages)	07/31/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:
[07/02/1998 - 07/31/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3011

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (2.11)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHFRA4992 1870530-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 060530Z JUL 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 060530Z JUL 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7293
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0534
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6547
SUBJ: FRENCH GMO CORN APPROVALS EXPECTED SOON, WE HOPE

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ PARIS 014992

STATE PASS USDA FOR SECRETARY GLICKMAN, OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER, FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/SHSIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY

USTR FOR SCHER, NOVELLI AND MURPHY
STATE PASS FDA FOR COMMISSIONER
GENEVA FOR USTR AND AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/2/03
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH GMO CORN APPROVALS EXPECTED SOON, WE HOPE

REF: (A) PARIS 14579, (B) PARIS 14245

CLASSIFIED BY A/MNE KIRK RESSLER FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

SEE PARA 5 FOR ACTION REQUEST.

1. ~~(C)~~ BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER'S AGRICULTURE AND TRADE ADVCSERS HAVE TOLD US THAT THE GOF SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM APPROVING THE TWO PENDING GMO CORNS - THE QUESTION IS WHEN. THE ISSUE WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT THE JULY 1 INTERMINISTERIAL MEETING CHAIRED BY THE PRIME MINISTER. SUCH MEETINGS ARE HELD EACH WEDNESDAY. THE AG ADVISER TOLD US THAT MINISTRIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE LE DEAUT REPORT (REFTELS) BY NEXT WEDNESDAY. BOTH CONTACTS HINTED THAT THE APPROVALS ARE ON THE WAY AND THAT IT IS SIMPLY A MATTER OFjAITING - CORNS
WOULD BE APPROVED AT THE JULY 8 MEETING. HOWEVER, OUR GUESS IS THEY WILL BE.

2. ~~(C)~~ WE RAISED WITH THE TRADE ADVISER THE POSSIBLE TIME LAG BETWEEN GOF APPROVAL AND GETTING ALL THE PAPERWORK DONE TO ACTUALLY ALLOW THE CORNS INTO THE EU, NOTING THAT IT HAD TAKEN SOME WEEKS

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FOR THE UK TO DO IT AND THAT THE SEASON FOR SHIPPING TO SPAIN WAS FAST DRAWING TO A CLOSE. WE ASKED WHETHER FRANCE COULD NOT GET THE PAPERWORK PREPARED IN ADVANCE OR TALK TO THE SPANISH INFOR}LLY TO LET THEM KNOW THAT THE APPROVALS ARE ON THE WAY. THE TRADE ADVISER SAID HE HAD NOT KNOWN ABOUT POSSIBLE POST-APPROVAL DELAYS. HE TOOK ON BOARD OUR SUGGESTIONS BUT MADE NO PROMISES.

3. ~~(C)~~ BOTH ADVISERS TOLD US THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WANTS TO HAVE BILATERAL SCIENTIST TO SCIENTIST DISCUSSIONS ON GMO'S. THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD INTERFERE WITH A U.S.-EU DIALOGUE UNDER THE TEP. TRADE ADVISER NOTED THAT FOR THE LONGER TERM THE GOF FAVORS THE USE OF GMO'S. IT IS EUROPE'S BIGGEST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER AND HAS THE MOST DEVELOPED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. THE PROBLEM FOR FRANCE IS TO ENSURE THAT THE ISSUE DOES NOT BLOW UP DOMESTICALLY AND RESTRICT ITS LONGER TERM ABILITY TO USE GMO'S. THE CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS WAS A PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO PUT A GOOD SPIN ON THE MATTER. HE SAID THAT WE SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO THE INTERIM (JUNE 30) LE DEAUT REPORT, HINTING THAT THIS WAS THE VERSION THE GOF IS LOOKING AT CLOSELY.

4. ~~(C)~~ PM'S TRADE ADVISER NOTED THAT THE GOF DID HAVE PROBLEMS WITH GMO'S CONTAINING ANTIBIOTIC GENE MARKERS AND VARIETIES THAT CAN SPREAD IN THE WILD (LIKE CANOLA). WE TOLD HIM THAT GMO'S WITH ONE OR BOTH OF THESE CHARACTERISTICS HAVE MET THE STANDARDS FOR APPROVAL IN THE USG AND THAT FRANCE SHOULD AIM FOR A SCIENCE-BASED APPROVAL PROCESS. (COMMENT: OBTAINING APPROVALS FOR THESE TYPES OF GMO'S ARE LIKELY TO BE A PROBLEM FOR US WITH FRANCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. EN COMMENT.) TRADE ADVISER REITERATED THE GOF'S INTEREST IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG SCIENTISTS, NOTING THAT MOST SCIENTISTS ARE GOING TO AGREE ON WHAT IS SAFE AND WHAT IS NOT.

5. ~~(C)~~ PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE ASAP ON HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND TO THE GOF'S INTEREST IN SCIENTIST TO SCIENTIST DISCUSSIONS. IF WE COULD CARRY OUT THIS TYPE OF DISCUSSION WITHOUT INTERFERING WITH THE TEP AND WITHOUT ENCOURAGING 14 OTHER U.S.-EU MEMBER STATE SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUES ON THE SAME SUBJECT, WE THINK IT WOULD BE A VALUABLE EXERCISE IN MOVING FORWARD THE GMO DOSSIER HERE. AT A MINIMUM WE THINK IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE FOR US TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF SUCH A DIALOGUE FURTHER WITH THE GOF.

ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 4992
TOR: 980706013642 M3363830
DIST:

SIT: NSC

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VZ NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-m (2.14)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHFRA5673 1912041-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 102041Z JUL 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 102041Z JUL 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7536
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0543
SUBJ: GMO CORN APPROVALS STILL ON HOLD - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE EVALUATING OVERALL GMO POLICY

CLASSIFIED BY DCM W.R. PEARSON FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ PARIS 015673

STATE PASS USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER, DRAZEK, HATAMIYA, GALVIN, SCHEIKH, THORN, AND CHESLEY
USTR FOR SCHER, NOVELLI AND MURPHY
STATE PASS FDA
GENEVA FOR USTR AND AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/10/03
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, FR, TBIO, KSCA
SUBJECT: GMO CORN APPROVALS STILL ON HOLD - PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE EVALUATING OVERALL GMO POLICY

CLASSIFIED BY DCM W.R. PEARSON FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

REF: (A) PARIS 14992; (B) PARIS 14833

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. THE DCM SPOKE JULY 9 WITH JEAN-MAURICE RIPERT, THE PRIME MINISTER'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER. HE EMPHASIZED TO RIPERT THE POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF THE STALLED APPROVAL FOR THE TWO PENDING GMO CORN VARIETIES AND THE LIKELY REACTION IF U.S. INDUSTRY WERE NOT ABLE TO EXPORT CORN TO EUROPE THIS SUMMER. GOF COmTACTS TELL US THAT THE CURRENT PLAN IS FOR ADVISERS IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE TO MEET MONDAY, JULY 13 TO REVIEW THE LE DEAUT REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS (REF B). THE ADVISERS ARE TO PROVIDE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS ON OVERALL GMO POLICY TO THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO WILL THEN "REFLECT" ON THE RECOMMENDED POLICY AND EITHER MAKE A DECISION HIMSELF (ON THE POLICY AND THE PENDING CORN APPROVALS) OR BRING IT TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN THE ADVISERS WILL PRESENT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PM, HOW LONG HE WILL REFLECT, OR WHEN A DECISION WILL BE MADE, A CLEAR CHANGE OF HEART FROM THE POSITIONS GIVEN IN REF A. ALTHOUGH SOME CONTACTS CONTINUE TO TELL US THAT A DECISION ON THE CORNS IS LIKELY WITHIN

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TWO WEEKS, WE DOUBT THAT ANYONE IN THE GOF REALLY KNOWS WHEN THIS WILL HAPPEN. END SUMMARY.

2. ~~(C)~~ IN ADDITION TO THE DCM'S APPROACH NOTED ABOVE, EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED THE GMO CORN SITUATION WITH CLAUDE CHEREAU, THE PM'S AGRICULTURAL ADVISER, SOPHIE BERANGER, FOOD SAFETY ADVISER TO THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AND VISITING COMMERCE A/S MULLOY RAISED THE ISSUE WITH SENIOR DREE OFFICIALS PAUL-HENRI RAVIER AND DAVID APPIA. THE DREE OFFICIALS SAID THEY DID NOT KNOW AND COULD NOT SPECULATE AS TO WHEN THE TWO GMO CORNS WOULD BE APPROVED.

3. ~~(C)~~ PM AG ADVISER CHEREAU SAID THAT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PM JOSPIN ARE STILL BEING PREPARED BY TECHNICAL EXPERTS, WHO WILL MEET NEXT WEEK TO TRY TO FINALIZE THE RECOMMENDATIONS. BERANGER SPECIFIED THAT A MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY JULY 13, AND WILL INCLUDE ALL THE ADVISERS TO THE PRIME MINISTER WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE GMO ISSUE. SHE EXPECTS THAT ALL THE PROPOSALS FROM THE TECHNICAL EXPERTS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE MEETING. IF THE PARTICIPANTS REACH A CONSENSUS THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL THEN BE PRESENTED TO JOSPIN. (COMMENT. BUT WE ARE NOT SURE WHEN THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL REACH JOSPIN OR HOW LONG JOSPIN MAY "REFLECT" ON THE SUGGESTED POLICY. END COMMENT.)

4. ~~(C)~~ ACCORDING TO CHEREAU, THE RECOMMENDATIONS INVOLVE FRANCE'S FUTURE GMO POLICIES AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE MOSTLY IN LINE WITHTTHE LE DEAUT REPORT (REF B). THE ISSUE OF GMO VARIETIES CONTAINING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT MARKERS SEEMS ESPECIALLY CONTENTIOUS. CHEREAU SAID THERE IS DIFFICULTY FOR RAPESEED/CANOLA. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE ADVISERS' RECOMMENDATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE TWO PENDING CORN VARIETIE.

5. ~~(C)~~ BERANGER, WHO CONCEDED SHE MAY BE TOO OPTIMISTIC, OPINED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S FINAL DECISION IS LIKELY TO OCCUR IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. (AN ADVISER IN THE PM'S OFFICE WHO IS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE GMO ISSUE CONFIRMED THE PLANNED MONDAY MEETING AND THE GENERAL EXPECTATION THAT A DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN WITHIN TWO WEEKS.) HOWEVER, CHEREAU WOULD ONLY SAY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL OBTAIN THE FINAL RECOMMENDATION "SOMETIME BEFORE THE END OF JULY". AFTER RECEIVING THE RECOMMENDATION, THE PRIME MINISTER COULD THEN MAKE A DECISION ON THE TWO VARIETIES HIMSELF OR, MORE LIKELY, DECIDE TO DISCUSS IT AT A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING.

6. ~~(C)~~ WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION THIS WEEK OPENED A CORN TENDER FOR SPAIN BUT THAT RESPONSE WAS MINIMAL AND NO OFFERS WERE ACCEPTED, POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF THE RISK ASSOCIATED WITH SHIPPING U.S. CORN NOT YET APPROVED IN EUROPE.

ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 5673
TOR: 980710165014 M3372587
DIST:

SIT: NSC

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0524-M (2.19)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHFRA6146 2011436-CCCC--RHEHAAA.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 201436Z JUL 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 201436Z JUL 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7712
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0553
SUBJ: STATUS OF FRENCH DECISION ON GMO CORN

CLASSIFIED BY DCM W.R. PEARSON FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ PARIS 016146

WHITE HOUSE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
STATE PASS USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER, DRAZEK, HATAMIYA, GALVIN, SCHEIKH, THORN, AND CHESLEY
USTR FOR SCHER, NOVELLI AND MURPHY
STATE PASS FDA
GENEVA FOR USTR AND AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/20/03
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, FR, TBIO, KSCA
SUBJECT: STATUS OF FRENCH DECISION ON GMO CORN

CLASSIFIED BY DCM W.R. PEARSON FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

REF: (A) PARIS 14992; (B) PARIS 14833

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. THE FRENCH DECISION ON POLICY TOWARD GMOS, INCLUDING THE TWO GMO CORNS WHICH MUST BE APPROVED NOW FOR EXPORT THIS SUMMER, REMAINS UNDER CONSIDERATION WITHIN PRIME MINISTER JOSPIN'S OFFICE. HIS ADVISORS, WHO MET ON JULY 13, HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO HIM ON AN OVERALL FRENCH POLICY TOWARD GMOS. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE NEXT STEP MAY BE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO RAISE THE ISSUEhAT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL TOWARD THE END OF JULY. OUR BEST HOPE FOR OBTAINING A QUICK DECISION ON THE TWO GMO CORNS MAY BE TO ENCOURAGE THE GOF TO SEPARATE THE TIME-SENSITIVE ISSUE OF THE TWO CORNS FROM OVERALL FRENCH POLICY TOWARD GMOS, WHICH IS A POLITICIZED ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE WITHIN FRANCE. OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SUCH A SEPARATION OF THE TWO GMO CORNS FROM THE OVERALL FRENCH POLICY TOWARD GMOS HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED TO DATE, BUT HIGH-LEVEL PRESSURE FROM WASHINGTON COULD HELP. POSSIBLE POINTS TO USE IN SUCH A CALL ARE INCLUDED IN PARAGRAPH 5. END SUMMARY.

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2. ~~(C)~~ THE DCM AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE CONTINUED TO PRESS PRIME MINISTER JOSPIN'S ADVISORS ON THE GMO CORNS. THE DCM UNDERLINED THE SENSITIVE POLITICAL NATURE OF THE ISSUE IN THE U.S. DIRECTLY TO JOSPIN'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR, JEAN-MAURICE RIPERT. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN IN FREQUENT TOUCH WITH CLAUDE CHEREAU, THE PM'S AGRICULTURAL ADVISER, SOPHIE BERANGER, FOOD SAFETY ADVISER TO THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AND LAURANT ROY, TECHNICAL ADVISOR FOR THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT. HOWEVER, TO DATE THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE IS NOT ABLE TO GIVE US A DATE BY WHICH A DECISION WILL BE TAKEN.

3. ~~(C)~~ BERANGER TOLD US JULY 20 THAT THE JULY 13 MEETING OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S TECHNICAL ADVISERS FAILED TO PRODUCE A CONSENSUS ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRIME MINISTER. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN TOLD THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS COULD BE PRESENTED TO JOSPIN SOON, BUT BERANGER NOW SAYS THAT JOSPIN MAY WISH TO DISCUSS GMO POLICY AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL TOWARD THE END OF JULY. (COMMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT RESISTANCE FROM THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT IS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR A LACK OF CONSENSUS, BUT WE WERE NOT GIVEN FULL DETAILS. END COMMENT.) ROY TOLD US TODAY THAT SOME OF THE MOST URGENT DECISIONS COULD BE TAKEN BY THE END OF JULY.

4. ~~(C)~~ ACCORDING TO PM AG ADVISER CHEREAU, THE TECHNICAL ADVISERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FRANCE'S FUTURE GMO POKCIES WERE EXPECTED TO BE MOSTLY IN LINE WITH THE LE DEAUT REPORT (REF B), WHICH WOULD INDICATE APPROVAL FOR THE GMO CORNS. BEFORE THE JULY 13 MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORS, WE WERE TOLD THAT THE ISSUE OF GMO VARIETIES CONTAINING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT MARKERS WAS ESPECIALLY CONTENTIOUS AND THAT THERE WAS DIFFICULTY FOR RAPESEED/CANOLA BECAUSE OF HERBICIDE RESISTANCE ISSUES. ROY ADDED TODAY THAT LABELING AND TRACEABILITY OF GMO'S WERE ALSO BEING DEBATED. CHEREAU EXPECTED THE ADVISERS' RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE TWO PENDING CORN VARIETIES. IT IS NOT CLEAR IF THE FAILURE TO REACH A CONSENSUS AT JULY 13 THE MEETING INVOLVES ANY ISSUE INVOLVED WITH THE CORN VARIETIES. HOWEVER, IN THE ABSENCE OF A CONSENSUS ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE LIKELIHOOD OF A DECISION IN TIME FOR U.S. CORN SALES TO SPAIN IS DIMINISHING EACH DAY.

5. POSSIBLE POINTS TO USE WITH PRIME MINISTER JOSPIN

-- WE UNDERSTAND THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THE GMO ISSUE IN FRANCE.

-- HOWEVER, AS YOU KNOW FROM YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON IN JUNE, THE ISSUE OF CORN SALES TO SPAIN IS VERY IMPORTANT IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THE LACK OF FRENCH APPROVAL OF THE TWO GMO CORNS AT ISSUE ARE BLOCKING THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH SALES.

-- FRENCH APPROVAL OF THE TWO GMO CORNS IS URGENTLY REQUIRED NOW TO PERMIT EXPORTS OF U.S. CORN THIS SUMMER.

-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT APPROVAL OF THE TWO GMO CORNS IN QUESTION DOES NOT INVOLVE SOME OF THE ISSUES WHICH ARE SENSITIVE FOR FRENCH POLICY TOWARD GMOS IN GENERAL, SUCH AS ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT MARKERS AND VARIETIES WHICH MIGHT SPREAD IN THE WILD.

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-- IN VIEW OF THE URGENT NEED FOR A DECISION NOW ON THE TWO GMO CORNS, FRANCE COULD PROVIDE APPROVAL FOR THE CORNS WITHOUT CURTAILING THE DISCUSSION OF ITS OVERALL POLICY TOWARD GMOS IN GENERAL.

PEARSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6146

TOR: 980720104818 M3384477

DIST:

SIT: JORDAN
SIT: NSC
<^DIST>
SIT: MCELDOWNEY
<^DIST>
SIT: DAVIDSON
<^DIST>
SIT: BANDLER NORRIS SAUNDERS
PRT: FUERTH

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By YL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (2.20)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHMDA7739 2100850-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH (CCY ADX59556D MSI2855)
LINE3: R 290850Z JUL 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
OSRI: RUEHMD
DTG: 290850Z JUL 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1274
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GMO IMPASSE: FRANCE CONTINUES TO BENEFIT FROM INCREASED CORN SALES TO SPAIN

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ MADRID 007739

2ND C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ((PASSING INSTRUCTIONS))

STATE PAS USDA FAS

STATE PASS STR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2/28/08
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, SP
SUBJECT: GMO IMPASSE: FRANCE CONTINUES TO BENEFIT FROM INCREASED CORN SALES TO SPAIN

1. ~~(C)~~ CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, STEPHEN V. NOBLE, FOR REASONS
1.5 (B) AND (D)

2. ~~(C)~~ MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR EU AGRICULTURAL ISSUES CLETO SANCHEZ TOLD ECONOFF ON JULY 27 THAT IN THE CURRENT IMPASSE WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CONCERNING APPROVAL FOR THE SALE OF GMO CORN VARIETIES, THE GOS WAS FULLY BEHIND THE US ON THIS ISSUE. HE NOTED REMARKS MADE BY THE GOS IN THE JULY 17 COREPER MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT AS WELL AS REMARKS BY AGMINISTER LOYOLA DE PALACIOS AT THE JULY 20 AGRICULTURE COUNCIL. IN COREPER, THE SPANISH CITED THE NEGATIVE IMPACT THAT THE FRENCH DELAY IN GRANTING APPROVAL FOR GMO CORN IMPORTS WAS HAVING ON U.S.-EU TRADE RELATIONS IN GENERAL, ON THE GRAIN MARKETS IN SPAIN AND ON SPANISH-U.S. TRADE&IN CEREALS. THE SPANISH MADE CLEAR THAT THEY EXPECTED FRENCH APPROVAL BY THE END OF JULY AT THE LATEST. THE SAME MESSAGE WAS REPEATED THREE DAYS LATER BY DE PALACIOS WHO EXPRESSLY OBJECTED TO "INCOMPREHENSIBLE" FRENCH DELAYS.

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3. ~~(C)~~ SANCHEZ ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE PRINCIPAL EXPLANATION FOR FRENCH FOOT-DRAGGING, GOF CONCERNS ABOUT CONSUMER PUBLIC REACTION TO THE SALE OF GMO CORN VARIETIES IN EUROPE. HOWEVER, HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT FRENCH FARMERS ARE MEETING THE GAP IN SUPPLY AND SELLING AN ADDITIONAL 300,000 TONS OF CORN TO SPAIN AT A SLIGHTLY HIGHER PRICE THAT SPANISH PURCHASERS WOULD HAVE BOUGHT IT FROM U.S. SUPPLIERS. (NOTE: FRANCE IS THE MAJOR EU SUPPLIER OF CORN TO SPAIN, WHILE THE U.S. IS THE PRINCIPAL NON-EU SUPPLIER, WITH THE MARKET DIVIDED ABOUT EQUALLY BETWEEN FRANCE AND OTHER, NON-EU COUNTRIES. SPAIN PRODUCES APPROXIMATELY 4.3 MILLION TONS OF CORN EACH YEAR, BUT IMPORTS 2.8 TO 3 MILLION ADDITIONAL TONS TO MEET DOMESTIC DEMAND.)

4. ~~(C)~~ OUR MFA CONTACT SPECULATED THAT FRENCH AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS MIGHT VERY WELL PLAY A ROLE IN FRENCH FOOT-DRAGGING AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL ON APPROVAL OF THE NEW CORN VARIETIES. AS HE POINTED OUT, FRENCH FARMERS AND GRAIN EXPORTERS HAVE CLEARLY BENEFITED FROM THE SITUATION AND STAND TO BENEFIT EVEN MORE IF IT IS PROLONGED UNTIL SO LATE IN THE SEASON (THE POINT WHEN SPANISH CROPS ARE ABOUT TO BE HARVESTED AND COME ON MARKET) AS TO GUARANTEE A HIGHER THAN NORMAL LEVEL OF SALES FROM FRANCE.
WALSH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 7739

TOR: 980730041014 M3399257

DIST:

SIT: NSC

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Final Authorization for Genetically Modified Corn Varieties] (3 pages)	08/04/1998	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: [France] (3 pages)	08/12/1998	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: [U.S. Position on Labelling Requirements] (4 pages)	08/19/1998	P1/b(1)
004. cable	Re: [Biosafety] (3 pages)	08/25/1998	P1/b(1)
~~005. cable~~	~~Re: New Deadline for GMO Cotton Vote (1 page)~~	~~12/09/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NLC 11/29/2016

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 - Dec 1998 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:
[08/03/1998 - 12/23/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3012

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA7493 3430709-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 090709Z DEC 98
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 090709Z DEC 98
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
SUBJ: NEW DEADLINE FOR GMO COTTON VOTE

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 007493

USDA FOR OSEC/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/SLUTSKY,
CMP/COTS/BLUM
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: NEW DEADLINE FOR GMO COTTON VOTE

REF: BRUSSELS 7429

1. ACCORDING TO A SOURCE IN DG XI (ENVIRONMENT) THE NEW DEADLINE FOR THE WRITTEN VOTE BY MEMBER STATES TO APPROVE TWO GENETICALLY-MODIFIED COTTONS IS JANUARY 8, 1999.

2. THE SOURCE CONFIRMED THE INFORMATION IN REF ON WHY THE DEADLINE HAD BEEN RESCHEDULED. WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 7493
TOR: 981209022003 M3594348
DIST:
SIT: BANDLER BELL BRADEN BROWN FLANAGAN HAMMONDS HURLEY LEE MCELDOWNEY SAPIRO WITKOWSKY
SIT: NSC

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. cable~~	~~Re: Scenesetter for Visit of U/S Loy to France (3 pages)~~	~~02/05/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 4/3/2020
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Assessment] [incomplete message] (4 pages)~~	~~03/05/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 4/3/2020
~~003. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Assessment] [incomplete message] (2 pages)~~	~~03/05/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 4/3/2020
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Assessment] [incomplete message] (3 pages)~~	~~03/05/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 4/3/2020
~~005. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Regulations] (5 pages)~~	~~03/09/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 4/3/2020
006. cable	Re: [European Commission] (2 pages)	04/01/1999	P1/b(1)
007. cable	Re: [France] (4 pages)	04/01/1999	P1/b(1)
~~008. cable~~	~~Re: GMO Labeling Delayed Again (3 pages)~~	~~04/09/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 11/26/2014
~~009. cable~~	~~Re: [Controls on GMO Products] (3 pages)~~	~~04/16/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 11/26/2014

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:
[02/05/1999 - 04/26/1999]

2013-0836-F
ke3013

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Cable

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VR NARA, Date 11/26/2015
2016-0529-M (7.31)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHFRA2797 0361418-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH (CCY)
LINE3: O 051418Z FEB 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 051418Z FEB 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3078
INFO: RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 6007
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
SUBJ: SCENESETTER FOR VISIT OF U/S LOY TO FRANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRADE IN GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. SHE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY THE FRENCH PRESS AS ONE OF THE "ANTI-U.S."

TEXT:

////////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////////

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 04 PARIS 002797

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (DECL. DATE ADDED E.O. LINE)

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PLS PASS TO U/S LOY AND NIGEL PURVIS

E.O. 12958: DECL;02/05/2009
TAGS: SENV, PREL, FR
SUBJECT: SCENESETTER FOR VISIT OF U/S LOY TO FRANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRADE IN GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. SHE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY THE FRENCH PRESS AS ONE OF THE "ANTI-U.S." FORCES WITHIN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

10. (SBU) AFTER A STRING OF EARLY POLITICAL GAINS--ATTRIBUTABLE LARGELY TO EASY, PRE-ELECTION CONCESSIONS BY JOSPIN TO THE GREENS FOR JOINING HIS COALITION--SHE HAS MET WITH DECIDEDLY MIXED SUCCESS AGAINST THE POWERFUL MINISTRY OF THE ECONOMY, FINANCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT AND HOUSING ON MORE DIFFICULT ISSUES IN HER PORTFOLIO. SHE IS A FIRM SUPPORTER OF FRENCH SOCIAL PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE 35-HOUR WORK WEEK.

11. (SBU) IN RECENT WEEKS, MINISTER VOYNET HAS MET WITH DIFFICULTIES ON SEVERAL FRONTS. THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON HER PROPOSED BILL ON REGIONAL PLANNING CONTINUES TO DRAG ON (36 ARTICLES WITH CURRENTLY 1230 AMENDMENTS) AND HER COMPETENCE AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE ISSUES HAVE BEEN LOUDLY QUESTIONED BOTH WITHIN THE GOF AND THE OPPOSITION.

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NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS HAS RECEIVED AMPLE PRESS COVERAGE. THE FINAL VOTE ON THE BILL HAS AGAIN BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY 3-9. SHE ALSO HAS BEEN CRITICIZED RECENTLY BY SOCIALIST MEMBERS OF THE COALITION FOR EXPENDING TOO MUCH EFFORT ON THE UPCOMING EUROPEAN ELECTIONS, WHERE HER GREEN PARTY HOPES TO DISPLACE THE COMMUNISTS AS THE SECOND STRONGEST FORCE OF THE MAJORITY. MOREOVER, THIS COULD PROVE TO BE A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD, AS VOYNET FACES THE PROSPECT OF BEING UPSTAGED BY THE MEDIAGENIC GREEN CANDIDATE, DANIEL COHN-BENDIT.

12. (SBU) THE SUCCESS OF THE GERMAN GREEN PARTY IN THE RECENT GERMAN ELECTIONS AND THE NEW GERMAN POLITICAL LANDSCAPE CLEARLY HAVE EMBOLDENED MINISTER VOYNET IN HER BID TO SEEK AN EXPANDED ROLE FOR FRENCH GREENS IN THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. SHE HAS TRIED TO SEIZE THIS "GREEN MOMENTUM' TO RENEW DEBATE IN FRANCE ON ISSUES WITH WHICH SHE HAS KNOWN LITTLE SUCCESS IN THE PAST, SUCH AS FRENCH NUCLEAR AND FUEL TAXATION POLICIES. THE GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO HER RECENT ACTIVISM ON THESE ISSUES, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN MUTED AND, IN SOME WAYS, OVERSHADOWED BY CONTROVERSY OVER HER SHARPLY CONTRARY VIEWS ON NUCLEAR POWER AND IMMIGRATION, AS WELL AS OTHER ASPECTS OF GOF SOCIAL POLICY.

13. (SBU) AT A TIME WHEN THE FRENCH GREEN PARTY IS SEEKING TO EXPAND ITS ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN NON-ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS, SUCH AS FRENCH SOCIAL AND IMMIGRATION POLICY, THE PARTY HAS PREDICTABLY BEEN VOCAL, IF NOT EXTREME, ON ISSUES THAT CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS CLOSE TO THE DAILY CONCERN OF THE PUBLIC. GREEN PARTY AMBITIONS TO INCREASE REPRESENTATION IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEAN THAT THE PARTY IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO BE VOCAL ON TRADITIONALLY STRONG GREEN THEMES AS OPPORTUNITIES ARISE IN ORDER TO GENERATE INCREASED PUBLIC SUPPORT.

14. (SBU) STILL, DOMESTIC ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS, INCLUDING A STUBBORNLY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE SINCE THE MID-NINETIES, MAY READILY SUPPLANT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AS PRIORITIES FOR THE FRENCH PUBLIC. AN ENVIRONMENTAL BURDEN ON CONSUMERS AND INDUSTRY IN FORMS SUCH AS FISCAL ENVIRONMENTAL TAXES ON WASTE, GAS, DIESEL VEHICLES, ETC., WHICH ARGUABLY MIGHT ERODE RECENT ECONOMIC GAINS, ARE UNLIKELY TO BE WELL-RECEIVED. THEREFORE, ADVANCES IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES BY THE FRENCH PUBLIC DO NOT THEMSELVES TRANSLATE INTO WILLINGNESS TO TAKE EXTREME ACTIONS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED TO MEET LOCAL, MUCH LESS GLOBAL, OBLIGATIONS.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE
---

15. (SBU) COMING OUT OF THE NOVEMBER 1998 FOURTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN BUENOS AIRES, THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE REMAIN AT ODDS ON A NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES. VOYNET AND THE GREENS ARE STRONG SUPPORTERS OF EU STRATEGIES TO LIMIT THE USE OF MARKET-BASED, FLEXIBILITY MECHANISMS (EMISSIONS TRADING, JOINT IMPLEMENTATION AND THE CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM FOR

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PARTIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS, AS AGREED UNDER THE KYOTO PROTOCOL. THEY SUPPORT STRONG DOMESTIC ACTION PROGRAMS AND ARE VOCAL PROPONENTS OF QUANTITATIVE "CAPS" ON THE PERCENTAGE OF A PARTY'S OBLIGATION THAT CAN BE MET THROUGH EMISSIONS TRADING OR OVERSEAS CREDITS. THERE IS A PREVAILING SENTIMENT IN FRANCE THAT THE U.S. WILL TRY TO MEET ITS OBJECTIVES LARGELY THROUGH USE OF THE FLEXIBILITY MECHANISMS IN LIEU OF DOMESTIC REDUCTION MEASURES.

16. (SBU) FRENCH GREENS AND OTHER EUROPEAN ECOLOGIST GROUPS HAVE SUPPORTED CAPS ON MORAL GROUNDS AS WELL, CITING THE NEED TO ENSURE A SOLUTION TO GLOBAL WARMING BY FORCING ALL INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES (THE PERCEIVED SOURCE OF THE

SECT: SECTION: 02 OF 04

SSN: 2797

TOR: 990214063432 M3694883

DIST:

SIT: NSC

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Cable

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By MC NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0524-M (2.32)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHBYA0718 0640742-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 050742Z MAR 99 (TAO)
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
OSRI: RUEHBY
DTG: 050742Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3061
INFO: RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0461
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 3010
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0727
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0156
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0147
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0079
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 1879
RUEHBAD/AMCONSUL PERTH 0157
SUBJ: BIOSAFETY: GMO ASSESSMENT THREATENS TRADE, COOPERATION
TEXT:

////////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////////

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 CANBERRA 000718

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
GENEVA PASS USTR
AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/EAP/OPB/GPAINE
USDOC FOR 3132/USFCS/OIO/EAP/TFALCO
USDOC FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/04/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, EAGR, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: GMO ASSESSMENT THREATENS TRADE, COOPERATION
REF: (A) WELLINGTON 254 (NOTAL); (B) 98 SYDNEY 2296 (NOTAL)

(U) CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR CURTIS STEWART FOR 12958 REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: A FOOD SAFETY STANDARD REQUIRING INDIVIDUAL RISK ASSESSMENTS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPONENTS AS A PRECONDITION TO THE SALE OF FOOD PRODUCTS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IS THREATENING U.S.-AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION ON BIOSAFETY ISSUES, AS WELL AS U.S. FOOD EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA.

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STANDARD A18 PROHIBITS THE SALE OF FOOD CONTAINING BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS AFTER MAY 13, IF THE INDIVIDUAL BIOTECH COMPONENTS HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES. U.S. BUSINESS BELIEVES THAT THE POTENTIAL FOR DISRUPTION TO TRADE COULD BE SIGNIFICANT, DEPENDING IN PART ON HOW STRINGENTLY THE REQUIREMENT IS APPLIED. THE AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY (ANZFA), WHICH ADMINISTERS THE STANDARD, SAYS THAT TO DATE ONLY MONSANTO HAS APPLIED FOR "RISK ASSESSMENTS," FOR ONLY SIX OF ITS PRODUCTS. IN LIGHT OF THE POOR RESPONSE, ANZFA IS NOW ACTIVELY SOLICITING APPLICATIONS. IT IS ALSO CONSIDERING AN INTERIM REGIME UNDER WHICH AN APPLICATION (AS OPPOSED TO A POSITIVE ASSESSMENT) WOULD SUFFICE TO TEMPORARILY CLEAR PRODUCTS FOR SALE. AUSTRALIA'S USE OF SUCH A STANDARD COULD CLOUD THE VERY SUCCESSFUL U.S.-AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION IN BLOCKING UNWORKABLE BIOSAFETY PROVISIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY. END SUMMARY.

2. ~~(C)~~ AN IMPENDING DEADLINE ON A FOOD STANDARD (SEE PARAGRAPH 10 FOR TEXT) THAT WOULD OUTLAW THE SALE OF ALL PRODUCTS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS IF THE UNDERLYING GENE TECHNOLOGY HAS NOT BEEN ASSESSED FOR SAFETY HAS RIVETED THE ATTENTION OF U.S. BUSINESSES IN AUSTRALIA. AMCHAM AUSTRALIA BRIEFED THE AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 3 ON THE AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY'S (ANZFA) STANDARD A18, DUE TO TAKE EFFECT MAY 13. AMCHAM MEMBERS SAID THE THREAT TO U.S. EXPORTS, AS WELL AS POTENTIALLY TO U.S. FOOD INDUSTRY FIRMS MANUFACTURING IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, IS SIGNIFICANT FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES. THEY ASKED FOR EMBASSY HELP IN ALERTING AUSTRALIAN AND U.S. AUTHORITIES TO THE PROBLEM.

3. ~~(C)~~ ACCORDING TO ANZFA, ONLY ONE COMPANY, U.S. BIOTECH FIRM MONSANTO'S AUSTRALIAN SUBSIDIARY, HAS APPLIED TO HAVE ITS PRODUCTS ASSESSED. MONSANTO SUBMITTED SIX OF ITS GENTECH PRODUCTS FOR ASSESSMENT, TWO OF WHICH HAVE SO FAR BEEN CLEARED AS SUITABLE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION (REF A). ANZFA SAYS IT IS HOPING TO AVOID A POTENTIAL DISASTER AFTER MAY 13 BY TEMPORARILY CLEARING PRODUCTS FOR WHICH AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE, PENDING SUBSEQUENT ASSESSMENT. ANZFA MUST SEEK APPROVAL FOR THIS TEMPORARY EXEMPTION APPROACH FROM THE AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL (ANZFSC), CONSISTING OF THE HEALTH MINISTERS OF THE EIGHT AUSTRALIAN STATES AND TERRITORIES, AND THE THOSE OF THE TWO FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS, WHICH HAS STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOOD STANDARDS. IT WAS THE COUNCIL THAT VOTED IN JULY TO REQUIRE THE ASSESSMENTS.

4. ~~(C)~~ ANZFA SAYS THAT, IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF RESPONSE FROM OTHER GENTECH COMPANIES OTHER THAN MONSANTO, IT HAS DECIDED TO ACTIVELY SOLICIT APPLICATIONS FROM COMPANIES IT BELIEVES HAVE PRODUCTS THAT COULD POSSIBLY BE FOUND IN FOOD IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. IN A MARCH 5 LETTER TO THE EMBASSY, ANZFA WROTE THAT "A NUMBER OF IMPORTED FOODS" MIGHT BE AFFECTED AND THAT IT WISHED TO ADVISE POTENTIALLY AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE STANDARD. "IN PARTICULAR, ANZFA WISHES TO ALERT A NUMBER OF US BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANIES THAT MAY BE KEY OWNERS OF PATENTS OR

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OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF THE PRIMARY COMMODITIES INVOLVED. THESE COMPANIES INCLUDE: MYCOGEN CORPORATION, NORTHRUP SEED LTD., ASGROW SEED CO., AGRITOPE, CIBA-GEIGY,
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 03 OF 04 CANBERRA 000718

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
GENEVA PASS USTR
AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/EAP/OPB/GPAINE
USDOC FOR 3132/USFCS/OIO/EAP/TFALCO
USDOC FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/04/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, EAGR, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: GMO ASSESSMENT THREATENS TRADE, COOPERATION

IN ANY CASE. SINCE ANZFA IS RELYING FOR ITS ASSESSMENTS ON THE SAME, SCIENTIFICALLY RIGOROUS DATA USED BY THE GENTECH COMPANIES FOR THEIR U.S. EVALUATIONS, WE CANNOT FAULT THE SCIENCE EITHER. WE WOULD HOPE TO FOCUS SECONDARILY, BUT EARNESTLY, ON AVOIDING ANY UNNECESSARY NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE CRUCIAL U.S.-AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION ON THE BIOSAFETY FRONT. END COMMENT.

10. (U) FOOD STANDARD A18 APPEARS BELOW:

BEGIN TEXT

FOOD STANDARDS CODE

STANDARD A18 - FOOD PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY

NOTE: TO COMMENCE ON 13 MAY 1999

PURPOSE

THIS STANDARD REGULATES THE SALE OF FOODS AND FOOD INGREDIENTS, OTHER THAN ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS, WHICH ARE PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY. THE STANDARD PROHIBITS THE SALE OF THESE FOODS UNLESS THEY ARE INCLUDED IN THE TABLE TO CLAUSE 2 AND COMPLY WITH ANY SPECIAL CONDITIONS IN THAT TABLE.

THE AUTHORITY WILL ASSESS THE SAFETY FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OF EACH FOOD OR CLASS OF FOOD PRIOR TO ITS INCLUSION IN THE TABLE. THE SAFETY ASSESSMENT WILL BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY'S APPROVED SAFETY ASSESSMENT CRITERIA.

ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS WHICH ARE PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY ARE NOT REGULATED IN THIS STANDARD. OTHER STANDARDS IN THIS CODE REGULATING ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS REQUIRE PRE-MARKET APPROVAL FOR THESE SUBSTANCES.

TABLE OF PROVISIONS

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1. DEFINITIONS
2. GENERAL PROHIBITION ON THE SALE OF FOOD PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY
3. LABELING

DEFINITIONS

1. IN THIS STANDARD -

A "FOOD PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY' IS A FOOD WHICH HAS BEEN DERIVED FROM AN ORGANISM WHICH HAS BEEN MODIFIED BY GENE TECHNOLOGY, BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY SUBSTANCE REGULATED AS A FOOD ADDITIVE OR A PROCESSING AID.

'GENE TECHNOLOGY' REFERS TO RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNIQUES THAT ALTER THE HERITABLE GENETIC MATERIAL OF LIVING CELLS OR ORGANISMS.

GENERAL PROHIBITION ON THE SALE OF FOOD PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY

2. A FOOD PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY MUST NOT BE SOLD OR USED AS AN INGREDIENT OR COMPONENT OF ANOTHER FOOD UNLESS IT IS LISTED IN COLUMN 1 OF THE TABLE TO THIS CLAUSE AND COMPLIES WITH THE CONDITIONS, IF ANY, SPECIFIED IN COLUMN 2.

LABELING

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 04
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 04

SSN: 0718
<^SSN>0718

TOR: 990308053357 M3731423
<^TOR>990308025332 M3731207

DIST:
SIT: NSC

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PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH (ADX00AB1632)
LINE3: O 050742Z MAR 99 (TAO)
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
OSRI: RUEHBY
DTG: 050742Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3064
INFO: RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0464
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 3013
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0730
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0159
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0150
RUEHSG/AMEBASSY SANTIAGO 0082
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MEBOURNE 1882
SUBJ: BIOSAFETY: GMO ASSESSMENT THREATENS TRADE, COOPERATION

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/16/2016
2016-0529-M (2.33)

TEXT:

////////////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////////////

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 04 OF 04 CANBERRA 000718
C O R R E C T E D C O P Y
DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
GENEVA PASS USTR
AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/EAP/OPB/GPAINE
USDOC FOR 3132/USFCS/OIO/EAP/TFALCO
USDOC FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/04/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, EAGR, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: GMO ASSESSMENT THREATENS TRADE, COOPERATION

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3. A FOOD THAT IS, OR CONTAINS AS AN INGREDIENT OR COMPONENT, A FOOD PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY THAT --

A. CONTAINS NEW OR ALTERED GENETIC MATERIAL; AND

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B. IS NOT SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT IN ANY CHRACTERISTIC OR PROPERTY OF THE FOOD;

MUST INDICATE ON THE LABEL THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE CHARACTERISTIC OR PROPERTY MODIFIED.

EDITORIAL NOTE: NOT SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT IN ANY CHARACTERISTIC OR PROPERTY OF THE FOOD INCLUDES --

A. WHERE THE MODIFICATION RESULTS IN ONE OR MORE SIGNIFICANT COMPOSITIONAL OR NUTRITIONAL PARAMETERS HAVING VALUES OUTSIDE OF THE NORMAL RANGE OF VALUES FOR THE EXISTING EQUIVALENT FOOD OR FOOD INGREDIENT; OR

B. WHERE THE LEVEL OF ANTI-NUTRITIONAL FACTORS OR NATURAL TOXICANTS ARE CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT IN COMPARISON TO THE EXISTING EQUIVALENT FOOD OR FOOD INGREDIENT; OR

C. WHERE THE FOOD CONTAINS A NEW FACTOR KNOWN TO CAUSE AN ALLERGIC RESPONSE IN PARTICULAR SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION; OR

D. WHERE THE INTENDED USE OF THE FOOD OR FOOD INGREDIENT IS DIFFERENT TO THE EXISTING EQUIVALENT FOOD OR FOOD INGREDIENT.

HOLMES

SECT: SECTION: 04 OF 04

SSN: 0718

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2016-0574-M (7.34)

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RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 8346
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RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0463
SUBJ: BIOSAFETY: GMO ASSESSMENT THREATENS TRADE, COOPERATION

DE KALB AND ZENECA."

TEXT:

////////////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////////////

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 04 CANBERRA 000718

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
GENEVA PASS USTR
AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/EAP/OPB/GPAINE
USDOC FOR 3132/USFCS/OIO/EAP/TFALCO
USDOC FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/04/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, EAGR, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: GMO ASSESSMENT THREATENS TRADE, COOPERATION

DE KALB AND ZENECA."

5. (U) FOR ITS PART, THE GOA SAYS EMPHATICALLY IT DOES NOT

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HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO BLOCK THE APPLICATION OF THE STANDARD, SINCE STATE-LEVEL HEALTH MINISTERS CONTROL FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL STATES AND TERRITORIES. STATE AND TERRITORY PLANS FOR ENFORCING THE BAN ON UNAPPROVED FOODS ARE UNCLEAR, AND PROBABLY NOT FAR ADVANCED. ONE GOA AGENCY, THE AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICE (AQIS), WILL, HOWEVER, BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. AGAIN BY STATUTE, IT WILL BE AQIS' RESPONSIBILITY TO ENFORCE THE STANDARD AT THE NATIONAL BORDERS, AS DIRECTED BY ANZFA.

6. ~~(C)~~ ANDREW CARROLL IN AQIS' FOOD INSPECTION SECTION TOLD ESTOFF THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE STANDARD, THOUGH THE ISSUE OF GMOS IN IMPORTS IS OF GROWING INTEREST IN GENERAL. HE SAID THAT SUCH A STANDARD WOULD LIKELY BE "INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE, BECAUSE YOU CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING." UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY ANZFA, HE SAID, AQIS WOULD NOT SUBJECT FOOD IMPORTERS TO QUESTIONING ON THEIR PRODUCTS UNLESS THERE WAS "A VERY GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE" THEY CONTAINED GENTECH COMPONENTS. HOWEVER, IF AN IMPORTED FOOD WERE LABELED AS CONTAINING SUCH PRODUCTS, AQIS WOULD THEN LOGICALLY APPLY THE STANDARD AND ASK IF THE SUBJECT TECHNOLOGY HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ASSESSED.

7. (U) (NOTE: A18 ALSO REQUIRES THAT FOODS CONTAINING GENTECH COMPONENTS AND "IS NOT SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT IN ANY CHARACTERISTIC OR PROPERTY OF THE FOOD" MUST BE LABELED AS CONTAINING SUCH MATERIAL. AS REPORTED REF A AND B, ANZFSC HAS ALSO VOTED TO REQUIRE THE LABELING OF FOODS THAT ARE SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT. THIS "ADDENDUM" TO THE STANDARD IS CURRENTLY BEING DRAWN UP BY ANZFA. END NOTE.)

8. ~~(C)~~ OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE NOTED THAT A DRAFT OF THE STANDARD WAS REPORTED TO THE WTO IN FEBRUARY 1998. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE REGULATION IS FULLY IN CONFORMITY WITH AUSTRALIA'S WTO RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS. NONETHELESS, THEY AGREED THAT IF THE STANDARD RESULTS IN TRADE DISRUPTION, OPPONENTS OF THE US.-AUSTRALIA POSITION ON THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL WILL SEEK TO USE ANY DISCORDANCE TO DISCREDIT THAT POSITION. DFAT OFFICIALS EXPRESSED THEIR SYMPATHY WITH THE CONCERNS OF U.S. BUSINESSES IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENT. THEY CONFIRMED THAT THE GOA CANNOT IN ANY WAY "OVERRULE" THE STATE AND TERRITORY HEALTH AUTHORITIES ON FOOD SAFETY. THEY CONCEDED THAT THE STANDARD DOES NOT PROVIDE A CLEAR ANSWER TO ALL OF THE POSSIBLE SITUATIONS CONFRONTING BUSINESS, BUT THEY URGED BUSINESS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GET TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIERS TO MAKE APPLICATIONS FOR ASSESSMENTS. OFFICIALS FOR DFAT'S ENVIRONMENT BRANCH PLAN ON BEING IN WASHINGTON FOR THE UPCOMING UMBRELLA GROUP MEETING AND WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE FOOD STANDARD ISSUE. ENVIRONMENT BRANCH OFFICIALS SAID THEY WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH US TO MANAGE POTENTIAL FALLOUT FROM THE NEW STANDARD. THEY DID NOT, HOWEVER, SEE THE STANDARD AS CONTRADICTING THEIR NATIONAL POSITIONS ON BIOSAFETY (SEPTEL).

9. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: THE EMBASSY WILL FOCUS FOREMOST ON THE CONCERNS OF THE U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN DEALING WITH THE STANDARD. THE AMBASSADOR WILL RAISE BUSINESS'S CONCERNS

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WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND TRADE MINISTER TIM FISCHER DURING A MEETING ON MARCH 11. WE WILL WORK WITH ANZFA AS WELL, WHICH HAS SHOWN ITSELF SYMPATHETIC TO OUR CONCERNS, WHILE KEEPING AMCHAM AND ITS MEMBERS INFORMED OF OUR PROGRESS. THE INTERIM PROPOSAL SUGGESTED BY ANZFA PROVIDES LITTLE HELP, BUT IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE STANDARD WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN. BASED ON AQIS' SANGUINE VIEWS, ENFORCEMENT MAY BE LESS THAN RIGOROUS, AT LEAST INITIALLY. HOW LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES APPLY THE STANDARD PROHIBITIONS IS FAR LESS CLEAR. BUSINESS WILL BE FACED WITH MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS

SECT: SECTION: 02 OF 04

SSN: 0718

TOR: 990307163947 M3730887

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/20/19
2016-0529-M (7.35)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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LINE3: O 092326Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
OSRI: RUEHBY
DTG: 092326Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3096
INFO: RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0481
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 3014
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0731
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0160
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0151
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0084
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0267
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 1904
RUEHBAD/AMCONSUL PERTH 0178
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 8371
RUEHWLB/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND 0078
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0466
SUBJ: BIOSAFETY: GMO REGULATIONS BURDEN COOPERATION

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 CANBERRA 000748

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
DEPARTMENT PASS USDA/FAS
GENEVA PASS USTR
AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/EAP/OPB/GPAINE
USDOC FOR 3132/USFCS/OIO/EAP/TFALCO
USDOC FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: GMO REGULATIONS BURDEN COOPERATION

REF: (A) CANBERRA 718; (B) WELLINGTON 254 (NOTAL); (C) 98 SYDNEY 2296 (NOTAL)

(U) CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR CURTIS STEWART FOR 12958 REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: THE GOA DENIES THAT A TRIO OF LABELING AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS COVERING FOODS CONSISTING OF

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OR CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) (REFTELS) CONTRADICTS AUSTRALIA'S BIOSAFETY STRATEGY. OFFICIALS CHARACTERIZE THE REGULATIONS AS NORMAL, "WTO-CONSISTENT" FOOD SAFETY MEASURES, AND HAVE WARNED THAT A TOO VIGOROUS USG REACTION RISKS CASTING THE UNITED STATES AS CONCERNED ONLY WITH FORCING "UNSAFE" PRODUCTS ON OTHER COUNTRIES' MARKETS AT ANY COST. THEY ALSO RAISED THE PROSPECT THAT A CONTROVERSY OVER THE REGULATORY REGIME MIGHT UNDERMINE U.S.-AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION ON THE MULTILATERAL BIOSAFETY AGENDA WITHIN THE SO-CALLED MIAMI GROUP. FOR ITS PART, U.S. BUSINESS IN AUSTRALIA ASSERTS THAT AUSTRALIA'S (AND NEW ZEALAND'S) TREATMENT OF GENTECH FOODS IS UNCONTROVERTIBLY IN VIOLATION OF GATT PROVISIONS. END SUMMARY.

A DEFENSIVE DFAT CLAIMS INNOCENCE, PLAYS THE MIAMI CARD
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2. ~~(C)~~ OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE'S (DFAT) ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE BRANCHES MET WITH ESTOFF ON MARCH 5 TO DISCUSS NEW FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS RELATED TO GMOS. THE MEETING WAS REQUESTED IN THE WAKE OF CONCERNS RAISED BY U.S. BUSINESSES DURING A MARCH 3 AMCHAM BRIEFING FOR THE AMBASSADOR. OF MOST IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO BUSINESS IS AN AUGUST 1998 STANDARD THAT REQUIRES INDIVIDUAL RISK ASSESSMENTS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPONENTS AS A PRECONDITION TO THE SALE OF FOOD PRODUCTS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND AFTER MAY 13 (REF A). THE STANDARD ALSO REQUIRES THE LABELING OF FOODS CONTAINING GMO PRODUCTS DEEMED TO BE "NOT SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT IN ANY CHARACTERISTIC OR PROPERTY" TO THE UNALTERED ORGANISM FROM WHICH THE GMO WAS DERIVED.

3. ~~(C)~~ THE MEETING WAS MARKED BY AN UNTYPICALLY SUBDUED ATMOSPHERE, WITH THE DFAT OFFICIALS EMPHATICALLY DEFENDING THE NEW LABELING AND ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS AS BEING GATT-CONSISTENT AND NOT FUNDAMENTALLY AT ODDS WITH GOA BIOSAFETY POSITIONS. WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANYTHING ESTOFF HAD SAID, THE ENVIRONMENT BRANCH'S JANALINE OH, A VETERAN OF THE CARTAGENA BIOSAFETY TALKS, WARNED THAT AN OVERLY STRONG USG RESPONSE COULD RESULT IN THE UNITED STATES "CONTINUING" TO BE CHARACTERIZED BY ITS OPPONENTS AS "PURSUING ITS COMMERCIAL INTERESTS WITHOUT REGARD TO THE HEALTH CONCERNS OF OTHER COUNTRIES." SHE AND HER SUPERVISOR, ASSISTANT SECRETARY JAN LINEHAN, BOTH INTONED THEIR CONCERNS THAT THE BILATERAL COOPERATION NOT SUFFER AS A RESULT OF THE FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS. LINEHAN SAID THAT BOTH COUNTRIES MUST AIM TO DO "WHATEVER IS POSSIBLE TO MINIMIZE ANY DISRUPTION."

4. ~~(C)~~ OH SAID THAT IT HAD NEVER BEEN GOA POLICY TO OPPOSE GMO ASSESSMENTS ON THE BASIS OF HUMAN HEALTH. THE GOA SEES THIS AS A ROUTINE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE, SHE INSISTED, NOT ONE UNIQUE TO GENTECH PRODUCTS. AS FOR LABELING, SHE SAID THAT THE GOA HAD ALSO NEVER MADE OPPOSITION TO LABELING A KEY PART OF ITS BIOSAFETY STRATEGY, AND IN CARTAGENA HAD LEFT THAT ISSUE TO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. SHE NOTED THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT IN AUSTRALIA RESTS WITH THE STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENTS.

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AS A RESULT, ONCE A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL HAD VOTED TO SUPPORT THE NEW STANDARD, THE GOA WAS POWERLESS TO OPPOSE IT FURTHER.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 CANBERRA 000748

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
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GENEVA PASS USTR
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USDOC FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: GMO REGULATIONS BURDEN COOPERATION

BUSINESS SMELLS A GATT CONFLICT
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5. ~~(C)~~ IN ALERTING THE AMBASSADOR TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW REGULATIONS, PROCTOR AND GAMBLE MANAGING DIRECTOR "SKIP" TYLMAN IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE NEW STANDARD AND AUSTRALIA'S (AND PRESUMABLY NEW ZEALAND'S) COMMITMENTS UNDER THE GATT. THE NEW LABELING REQUIREMENT WOULD, HE SAID, "PLACE AUSTRALIA IN THE POSITION OF HAVING THE MOST RESTRICTIVE LABELING REGIME IN THE WORLD. (NOTE: IT IS NOT CLEAR IF TYLMAN WAS INCLUDING IN HIS THINKING THE STILL-TO-BE-FINALIZED LABELING AMENDMENT COVERING FOOD CONTAINING GMOS "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT," VOTED BY THE COUNCIL IN DECEMBER (REF C).

6. ~~(S)~~ IN ITS BRIEFING MEMO TO THE AMBASSADOR, THE AMCHAM NOTED THE FOLLOWING GATT PROVISIONS THAT THE NEW LABELING REGULATIONS MAY CONFLICT WITH: THE "NATIONAL TREATMENT RULE;" THE "NON-DISCRIMINATION RULE;" THE TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE AGREEMENT; AND A REQUIREMENT THAT WTO MEMBER STATES "ENSURE THAT THEIR REGIONAL OR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ARE BOUND BY THEIR COMMITMENTS AS SIGNATORIES TO THE WTO." IT ALSO NOTES THAT AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD COVERING GMOS IN FOOD IS BEING DRAFTED FOR THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS AND THAT THE TBT AGREEMENT OBLIGES STATES NOT TO INTRODUCE NEW NATIONAL STANDARDS THAT CONTRAVENE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS THAT ARE IMMINENT.

A GROCER SIDES WITH HIS CUSTOMERS
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7. ~~(C)~~ AN OFFICIAL OF COLES-MYER, OPERATORS OF A NATIONWIDE CHAIN OF SUPERMARKETS AND DEPARTMENT STORES, TOLD ESTOFF ON MARCH 9 THAT HIS COMPANY HAD COME DOWN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ARGUMENT FROM ITS SUPPLIERS, SUCH AS PROCTOR AND GAMBLE. TED MOORE SAID THAT COLES' POSITION, EXPRESSED IN A LETTER TO ANZFA, IS IN OPPOSITION TO THE POLICY OF THE AUSTRALIAN FOOD GROCERY COUNCIL, THE MAIN FOOD MANUFACTURER GROUP, WHOSE MEMBERS INCLUDE AUSTRALIAN AND

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MULTINATIONAL FIRMS, INCLUDING PROCTOR AND GAMBLE. HE SAID THAT COLES SUPPORTED WHAT HE SAID WAS THE OVERWHELMING DESIRE OF CONSUMERS FOR LABELING INFORMATION AT THE POINT OF SALE ON THE PRESENCE OF GMOS IN THEIR FOOD. HE SAID THAT COLES FAVORED THE POSITION ESPOUSED BY THE UK'S INSTITUTE OF GROCERY DISTRIBUTORS (IGD). ACCORDING TO MOORE, AT THE HEART OF THE IGD'S "VOLUNTARY STANDARD" IS THE LABELING OF GMO FOODS, EXCEPT WHERE PROCESSING HAD ELIMINATED DNA AND PROTEINS FROM THE GENTECH COMPONENT. (NOTE: MOORE SAID THAT THE IGD'S APPPROACH HAD SINCE BEEN CODIFIED WITHIN EU DIRECTIVE 7814/98. END NOTE.)

8. ~~(C)~~ MOORE SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT STATE HEALTH AUTHORITIES TO VIGOROUSLY ENFORCE THE NEW REGULATIONS, AT LEAST NOT IMMEDIATELY. THIS IN PART BECAUSE THE LACK OF AN ANZFA DEFINITION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A GMO (STILL BEING DRAFTED) FOR THE PURPOSES OF STANDARD A18 AND THE "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT" LABELING AMENDMENT MADE PROSECUTION ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT GROCERS SUCH AS COLES WOULD IN ANY CASE BE ABLE TO PASS THE LIABILITY "BUCK" BACK TO SUPPLIERS IF THEY SUFFERED LOSSES DUE TO FOODS BEING DECLARED ILLEGAL AFTER MAY 13. HE SAID THAT THE BEST COURSE OPEN TO FOOD MANUFACTURERS USING GMO COMPONENTS IS TO GET THEIR PRODUCTS ASSESSED AND LABELED AND TO THEN LET CONSUMERS THEMSELVES DECIDE IF THEY BELIEVED THE PRODUCTS WERE AS SAFE AND WHOLESOME AS CLAIMED. "THAT'S WHAT FREEDOM OF CHOICE IS ABOUT, ISN'T IT?"

COMMENT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 CANBERRA 000748

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
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9. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: AUSTRALIA'S NEW LABELING REQUIREMENTS CLEARLY PUT THE CAT AMONG THE PIGEONS. THE GOA WILL CONTINUE TO CITE ITS POWERLESSNESS TO ALTER THE REGULATIONS (TRUE) AND TO INSIST THAT THE LABELING AND SAFETY ASSESSMENTS DO NOT COMPROMISE ITS LARGER BIOSAFETY POSITION (LESS CLEAR). ITS PRESENCE AND PERFORMANCE WITHIN THE MIAMI GROUP HAS EARNED IT OUR GRATITUDE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DIFFICULT CARTAGENA TALKS. NONETHELESS, THE GOA HAS NEVER HIDDEN THE FACT THAT ITS BIOSAFETY AGENDA DIVERGES SIGNIFICANTLY AT POINTS FROM OUR OWN. ITS NEW STANDARDS WILL CERTAINLY NOT GO UNNOTICED NOR UNEXPLOITED BY THE EU AND THE G-77 COUNTRIES OPPOSED TO TRADE IN GMOS. ALSO, THE

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REGULATIONS' CONFORMITY WITH THE GATT AND URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENTS CERTAINLY LOOKS PROBLEMATIC, DESPITE ASSERTIONS FROM DFAT THAT ITS FEBRUARY 1998 NOTIFICATIONS WERE WTO CONSISTENT. ON BALANCE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AUSTRALIA'S STATE HEALTH AUTHORITIES, AT LEAST A MAJORITY OF THEM, MAY BE UNDERMINING THE MIAMI GROUP'S FUTURE PROSPECTS AS A COHESIVE NEGOTIATING FORCE. WHAT REMAINS TO BE DECIDED IS WHETHER WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE RIFT AND PROSECUTE BAD TRADE PRACTICES OR IF WE ENGAGE THE GOA IN DAMAGE CONTROL FOR THE SAKE OF A UNITED FRONT IN THE MIAMI GROUP. END COMMENT.

HOLMES

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 0748
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SIT: NSC

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PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 091509Z APR 99
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 091509Z APR 99
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
SUBJ: GMO LABELING DELAYED AGAIN

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 002352

FAS FOR ITP/SIMMONS/MACKE/SCHWARTZ, OFSTS/SLUTSKY,
CMP/DIVISON DIRECTORS
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY, CUMMINS
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTSPASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EN
SUBJECT: GMO LABELING DELAYED AGAIN

1. AN OFFICIAL DECISION ON LABELING OF GMO PRODUCTS WLL NOT APPEAR DURING THE "CARETAKER" COMMISSON, AGATT LEARNED YESTERDAY. A DIRECTOR IN G III (INDUSTRY) SAID THAT THE DG III CABINE YESTERDAY MADE A POLITICAL DECISION THAT A PROPSAL PROVIDING THE LONG-AWAITED IMPLEMENTATION DTAILS OF REGULATION 1139/98 DID NOT MEET THE CITERIA FOR ACTION BY THE CARETAKER COMMISSION AND THEREFORE MUST AWAIT INSTALLATION OF A NEW COMMISION, EXPECTED NO EARLIER THAN JUNE AND POSSIBL NOT UNTIL SEPTEMBER.

BACKGROUND:

2. LABELING OF FOOD PRODUCTS MADE FROM GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S) HAS BEEN A CONTNTIOUS AND

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TRADE-THREATENING ISSUE. IN MAY 1997, THE EU PASSED A NOVEL FOODS REGULATION THT ADDRESSED THE ISSUE, BUT FAILED TO COVER THE TWO IMPORTANT GMO VARIETIES THEN ALREADY APPROVEDFOR SALE IN THE EU: NOVARTIS' BT CORN AND MNSANTO'S ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN. MOST EU IMPORS OF CORN AND SOYBEANS ARE FROM THE UNITED STATE.

3. THE COMMISSION FIRST PROPOSED LEGISLATION COVERING LABELING OF PRODUCTS FROM THESE TWO VARIETIES IN SEPTEMBER OF 1997. REGULATION 1139/98 FINALLY WAS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL IN MAY OF 1998 AND HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE SEPTEMBER OF 1998. HOWEVER, THE REGULATION IS UNENFORCEABLE, AS IT DOES NOT DEFINE A THRESHOLD OR A TESTING METHOD. IT ALSO LACKS A "NEGATIVE LIST" OF PRODUCTS EXEMPT FROM TESTING --FOR EXAMPLE, PURIFIED OILS AND STARCHES WHICH COULD NOT CONTAIN ANY DETECTABLE MODIFIED DNA OR PROTEIN.

4. U.S. OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL WERE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE WTO'S TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE PROCESS. THE PRINCIPLE OBJECTION IS THAT THE REGULATION DEFINES ANY DETECTABLE MODIFIED PROTEIN OR DNA AS A JUSTIFICATION FOR LABELING, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE MODIFICATION CHANGES NUTRITIONAL OR OTHER TRAITS OF THE PRODUCT. THIS DIFFERS FROM OECD GUIDELINES WHICH REQUIRE LABELING ONLY WHEN PRODUCTS ARE NOT "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT."

5. IN THE MEANTIME, THE USE OF GMO'S IN FOODSTUFFS HAS REMAINED A FRONT-PAGE POLITICAL ISSUE IN MUCH OF EUROPE. A PRINCIPLE COMPLAINT OF GMO-PHOBIC EUROPEAN CONSUMERS HAS BEEN THE LACK OF A CONSISTENT LABELING LAW. FOR LACK OF DETAILS IN THE EU LEGISLATION, ENFORCEMENT AND INTERPRETATION HAS BEEN IN THE HANDS OF MEMBER STATE AUTHORITIES, CREATING UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION BOTH FOR EUROPEAN FOOD PROCESSORS AND U.S. EXPORTERS. ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, INCLUDING GREENPEACE, HAVE TESTED U.S. PRODUCTS FOR GMO'S AND SENT LETTERS TO U.S. SUPPLIERS THREATENING THEM WITH PUBLICITY THAT THEIR PRODUCTS CONTAIN GMO'S. SOME EUROPEAN COMPANIES HAVE SWITCHED SUPPLIERS OF BASIC COMMODITIES --FOR EXAMPLE, BUYING CANADIAN INSTEAD OF U.S. SOYBEANS-- FOR FEAR OF HAVING TO LABEL. END BACKGROUND

COMMISION WORKING PAPER

6. ON FEBRUARY 17 THE COMMISSION DISTRIBUTED AN INTERNAL WORKING PAPER (OBTAINED BY SEVERAL EU EMBASSIES AND FAXED TO USTR AND FAS/W MARCH 29) WHICH AIMED TO DEFINE THE MANDATE OF ESTABLISHING A VALIDATED TESTING METHOD, A NEGATIVE LIST OF PRODUCTS WHICH NEED NOT BE LABELED AND A "DE MINIMIS" THRESHOLD FOR ACCIDENTAL PRESENCE OF GMO PROTEIN OR DNA --ALSO CALLED "ADVENTITIOUS CONTAMINATION." IT MENTIONS, BUT EXCLUDES AS AN IMMEDIATE GOAL, CREATING A LEGAL DEFINITION OF "GMO-FREE."

7. THE INTERNAL WORKING PAPER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A "NON-PAPER" (ALSO FAXED TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES) WHICH PROPOSED AMENDING REGULATION 1139/98 TO CREATE A NGATIVE LIST FOR

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PRODUCTS WHERE MODIFIED DNA OR PROTEIN IS PRESENT, AND ESTABLISHING A THRESHOLD OF TWO PERCENT FOR "ADVENTITIOUS CONTAMINATION" PROVIDED PROCESSORS CAN PROVIDE EVIDENCE THAT THEY AD ATTEMPOTED TO AVOID USING GMO SOY OR CORN. UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 002352

FAS FOR ITP/SIMMONS/MACKE/SCHWARTZ, OFSTS/SLUTSKY, CMP/DIVISION DIRECTORS
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY, CUMMINGS
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: GMO LABELING DELAYED AGAIN

8. DG III SOURCES EARLIER HAD SAID THEIR PLAN WAS TO SUBMIT A COMMON POSITION TO THE COUNCIL BY THE BEGINNING OF APRIL. HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION'S RESIGNATION HAS THROWN A BIG WRENCH IN THE WORKS, AND IT IS NOW UNLIKELY THAT A FUNCTIONING LABELING POLICY CAN BE IN PLACE BEFORE THE SUMMER, AND POSSIBLY MUCH LATER.

9. DG III SOURCES SAY THEY WILL CONTINUE TO REFINE THE PROPOSAL THROUGH INTERNAL REVIEW AND MEETINGS WITH MEMBER STATE AUTHORITIES, PENDING EVENTUAL POLITICAL APPROVAL TO GO AHEAD.

10. COMMENT: THE COMMISSION'S DECISION TO POSTPONE YET AGAIN AN ENFORCEABLE POLICY PROVIDES AID AND COMFORT TO ANTI-GMO GROUPS, CONTINUES UNCERTAINTY FOR U.S. AND EUROPEAN FOOD PROCESSORS, AND UNDERSCORES THE MALIGNANT EFFECT OF POLITICS ON DECISIONS WHICH SHOULD RELY ON SCIENCE. END COMMENT. KURSCH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 2352
<^SSN>2352

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SIT: NSC

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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE3: R 161325Z APR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
OSRI: RUEHAK
DTG: 161325Z APR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0361
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHDA/AMCONSUL ADANA 3194
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4125
SUBJ: GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY CONSIDERS MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS ON GMO PRODUCTS

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 003457

FAS FOR FAA; ITP; CMP, G&F,COTS
GENEVA, BRUSSELS PASS FAS
STATE PASS USTR- M.SPIRNAK
USDOC FOR 4212/ITA/MAC/OEURA/CPD/DEFALCO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TU

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY CONSIDERS MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS ON GMO PRODUCTS

1. SUMMARY : THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (MARA) IS CONSIDERING IMPOSITION OF MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS ON THE PRODUCTION, HANDLING AND MARKETING OF GMO (GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISS/ BIOTECH) PRODUCTS. THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH HAS CIRCULATED A DRAFT REGULATION TO CONTROL THE DISTRIBUTION OF GMOS AND TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO ASSESS THEIR HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS. THE PAPER HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO OTHER MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SECTIONS, AND WILL BE CIRCULATED IN THE STATE PLANNING AGENCY, FOREIGN TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH MINISTRIES. IN A RELATED ISSUE, MARA OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED THE FEED INDUSTRY THAT THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN FEED AND MAY IMPOSE EU-TYPE RESTRICTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DRAFT MARA REGULATION ON GMOS INCLUDES A PROPOSAL TO CHARGE A FEE OF US$20,000 TO CONDUCT MANDATORY FIELD

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(ADAPTATION) TRIALS OF UP TO TWO YEARS ON NEW BIOTECH SEEDS. ONE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE GOT IS TRYING TO DUPLICATE THE CANADIAN MODEL FOR RISK ASSESSMENT OF BIOTECH PRODUCTS. SEED COMPANIES INFORM US THAT THE PROPOSED FEE AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS WOULD MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN TURKEY. THEY ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT, AT A LATER DATE, THE GOT MIGHT DECIDE TO ASSESS ADDITIONAL CHARGES FOR REGISTRATION TRIALS. THE GOT DOES NOT CURRENTLY ALLOW IN-HOUSE TRIALS BY PRIVATE COMPANIES BUT HAS BEEN CHARGING A MODEST $1,800 FOR FIELD TRIALS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS AND ABOUT $200 FOR REGULAR SEEDS.

3. THERE SEEM TO BE A NUMBER OF REASONS FOR THE RECENT ATTENTION TO THIS SUBJECT. GOT OFFICIALS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY AWARE OF AND CONCERNED ABOUT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPEAN APPROACHES TO THIS SUBJECT. THE PRESS HAS STARTED PUBLISHING MORE ARTICLES ON THIS TOPIC, AND THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO AVOID CRITICISM. TURKISH OFFICIALS AND SCIENTISTS, MANY OF WHOM ARE NOT VERY WELL-INFORMED ABOUT BIOTECH ISSUES, ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF GMOS BOTH ON PEOPLE AND ON CROPS GROWN IN NEIGHBORING FIELDS, AND WANT TO MOVE MORE CAREFULLY AND SLOWLY IN TESTING AND RELEASING PRODUCTS. THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH FEELS IT HAS BEEN "LOSING MONEY" IN CONDUCTING FIELD TRIALS FOR PRIVATE FIRMS. ALSO, LOCAL NON-BIOTECH SEED PRODUCERS MAY BE LOBBYING THE GOVERNMENT FOR SLOWER RELEASE OF COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS.

4. U.S. SEED COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES INFORM US THAT TRIALS FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED COTTON, CORN, AND POTATOES ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY OR ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGES BY NOVARTIS, PIONEER, MONSANTO AND DELTA PINE. THESE COMPANIES RECENTLY FORMED A SUB-COMMITTEE UNDER THE TURKISH SEED ASSOCIATION AND HAVE STARTED MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE PAPER, PROPOSED FEES, AND TO ARGUE THEIR CASE FOR LOWER CHARGES AND FASTER RESULTS.

5. THE DRAFT REGULATION, WHICH ADDRESSES DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, IS ALREADY DRAWING COMMENTS FROM GOT OFFICES WHICH ARE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SEED PRODUCTION. SEVERAL MARA OFFICIALS INFORMED US THAT THEY WILL BE SUGGESTING MODIFICATIONS WHICH INCORPORATE THE IMPORT AND MARKETING OF IMPORTED GMOS. AN INTERNAL DEBATE HAS STARTED IN THE MINISTRY REGARDING WHETHER TURKEY SHOULD MORE CLOSELY FOLLOW EU POLICIES, GIVEN TURKEY'S CUSTOMS UNION WITH THE EU AND IMPORTANT SALES OF PROCESSED TURKISH PRODUCTS IN EUROPEAN MARKETS. OTHER OFFICIALS ARE LOOKING AT CONSUMER PREFERENCES AND LABELING REQUIREMENTS.

6. COMMODITY TRADERS HAVE ALSO VOICED THEIR CONCERNS THAT THE GOT WILL DECIDE TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED GRAINS, OILSEEDS OR THEIR PRODUCTS. IN THE PAST, THE GOT HAS FOUND WAYS TO

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TEMPORARILY DELAY IMPORTS WHILE THEY DEBATE NEW POLICIES, HIGH DEMURRAGE COSTS OR DIVERT SHIPMENTS TO OTHER PORTS.

7. ON A BELATED ISSUE, EARLIER THIS WEEK REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FEED INDUSTRY MET WITH MARA OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS GOT CONCERNS ABOUT THE INCLUSION OF ANTIBTOTICS IN ANIMAL UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ANKARA 003457

FAS FOR FAA; ITP; CMP, G&F,COTS
GENEVA, BRUSSELS PASS FAS
STATE PASS USTR- M.SPIRNAK
USDOC FOR 4212/ITA/MAC/OEURA/CPD/DEFALCO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TU

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY CONSIDERS MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS ON GMO PRODUCTS

FEEDS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FEED COMPANIES OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTED CONTINUED USE OF THE ADDITIVES, ARGUING THAT IF THE UNITED STATES' FDA BELIEVED THAT THE ANTIBIOTICS WERE SAFE AND DID NOT POSE A HEALTH THREAT TO CONSUMERS, THE GOT SHOULD ACCEPT THE SAME SCIENTIFICALLY-BASED RATIONALE. GOT OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, ARE FAR FROM CONVINCED, AND ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR NEGATIVE ARTICLES TO APPEAR IN THE PRESS AND INFLUENCE CONSUMER OPINIONS.

8. AGCOUNSELOR AND STAFF HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED THESE ISSUES WITH A NUMBER OF MARA OFFICIALS AND ARE PLANNING ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WITH OTHER GOT OFFICIALS. POST IS ALSO LOOKING AT ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO PROMOTE ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. POSITIONS ON GMO/BIOTECH PRODUCTS BY THE GOT AND TO ENSURE THAT BOTH THE GOT AND TURKISH PUBLIC NOT FOLLOW THE EU'S EMOTIONAL RESPONSE.
PARRIS

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 3457
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TOR: 990416110628 M3805127
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SIT: NSC

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Visit of U.S. Secretary of Agriculture] (4 pages)	07/03/1999	P1/b(1)
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: GMOs and the EU's Revisions to 90/220 (5 pages)~~	~~07/06/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 4/3/2020
~~003. cable~~	~~Re: [Chirac Economic Advisor] (4 pages)~~	~~07/13/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 4/3/2020
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: [GMOs and Biotech] (5 pages)~~	~~07/16/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 4/3/2020
~~005. cable~~	~~Re: Request to Meeting with MAFF Officials to Express U.S.~~ Concerns (3 pages)	~~07/16/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 11/16/2015
006. cable	Re: [French Agriculture] (2 pages)	07/19/1999	P1/b(1)
~~007. cable~~	~~Re: GMOs: Further Thoughts on the Role of Science Institutions (2~~ pages)	~~07/21/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 4/3/2020
~~008. cable~~	~~Re: Demarche on GMO Labeling (3 pages)~~	~~07/21/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 11/16/2015
~~009. cable~~	~~Re: Biosafety: Labeling of Genetically Modified Food (3 pages)~~	~~07/28/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 4/3/2020
~~010. cable~~	~~Re: [Options for Labeling of Genetically Modified Foods] (3 pages)~~	~~07/30/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:
[07/03/1999 - 07/30/1999]

2013-0836-F
ke3014

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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PREC: IMMEDIATE
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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG: 061408Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7105
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
SUBJ: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

REF BRUSSELS 4157

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By YL NARA, Date 11/24/09
2016-0524-M (2.41)

TEXT:
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 005769

DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

REF BRUSSELS 4157

1. CLASSIFIED BY L. ALLEN NELSEN, EST COUNSELOR. REASON: 1.5 (D)

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: UK OFFICIALS (STRICTLY PROTECT) GAVE US AN UPBEAT ASSESSMENT OF THE JUNE 24-25 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL DECISION ON REVISIONS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220. HMG GOT MOST OF ITS OBJECTIVES AND BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL WELCOME THE REVISIONS. A NUMBER OF ONEROUS PROPOSALS WERE DEFEATED, AND THE PROPOSED NEW REGIME BRINGS SOMEWHAT MORE TRANSPARENCY, CERTAINTY, AND TIMELINESS TO THE PROCESS. HMG DISPUTES THE ARGUMENT THAT THE AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A DE FACTO MORATORIUM, SINCE COMPANIES WILL BE FREE TO CONTINUE SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS BOTH FOR PLANTING AND FOR MARKETING. WHILE APPROVAL OF SUCH APPLICATIONS WILL CLEARLY BE INIFLUENCED BY THE CURRENT POLITICAL DEBATE ABOUT GMOS IN MANY MEMBER STATES, THE EXISTING 90/220 PROCEDURES WILL APPLY TO NEW APPLICATIONS AND CAN GAIN TIMELY APPROVAL IF THE CURRENT POLITICAL UPROAR DIES DOWN. THE COUNCIL HAS ASKED THE COMMISSION TO FLESH OUT THE DETAILS ON LABELING, 'GUIDANCE NOTES' FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT, AND THRESHOLDS, BUT THE UK DOES NOT EXPECT ANY UNPLEASANT SURPRISES IN THAT PROCESS. HMG EXPECTS FINAL APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL OF THE

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DIRECTIVE IN THE LATE AUTUMN AND ENTRY INTO FORCE LATE IN 2000. END SUMMARY

3. ~~(C)~~ WE MET JULY 2 WITH HMG OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE JUNE 24-25 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL MEETING FOR THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE AGREEMENT. IN TALKING TO US, THEY AGREED TO WORK FROM THE 'GOING IN' TEXT (WORKING DOCUMENT ENV/99/84, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WASHINGTON HAS). WHILE FOCUSSING ON THE NATURE OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT IN LUXEMBOURG, WE ALSO SOUGHT TO UNDERSTAND THE DYNAMICS THAT LEAD TO CHANGES FROM THE WORKING DOCUMENT.

FOR THE USG, A GOOD OUTCOME

4. ~~(C)~~ THE UK'S OVERALL ASSESSMENT WAS POSITIVE, REFLECTING THEIR SUCCESS IN SEEING MINISTERS RESOLVE MANY DISPUTED ARTICLES IN THE HMG'S FAVOR. HMG BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL WELCOME THIS OUTCOME, SINCE ON MANY OCCASIONS THE RESULT IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVQ CURRENT PROCEDURES (AND THE ALTERNATIVE ON THE TABLE WAS SOMETHING WHICH THE UK EXPECTS WE WOULD HAVE FOUND MUCH MORE OBJECTIONABLE). THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE CASE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT (ERA - ANNEX II) WHERE A PROCESS IS EXPECTED THAT IS BASED UPON THE EXISTING UK SYSTEM AND IS LIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE UNIFORM FROM ONE MEMBER STATE TO THE NEXT. U.S. COMPANIES ARE THOUGHT TO BE FAMILIAR WITH, AND COMFORTABLE WITH, THE CURRENT UK SYSTEM. WE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRINCIPLES FOR THE ERA ONLY ADDRESS ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES; THERE IS NO MANDATE TO CONSIDER, OR TO WEIGH, POSSIBLE FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OR HEALTH IMPACTS). ATTEMPTS TO ADD ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO THE ERA WERE DEFEATED; WHILE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION ARE FREE TO INFORM AND CONSULT ADVISORY GROUPS WITH ETHICAL OR CONSUMER INTERESTS, THE VIEWS OF THESE ADVISORY GROUPS ARE NOT AN ELEMENT IN THE ERA ITSELF.

5. ~~(C)~~ SIMILARLY, THE NEW MONITORING PROVISIONS, IN THE UK VIEW, PROVIDE MORE CERTAINTY TO APPLICANTS, REDUCE DIVERGENCIES IN CURRENT MEMBER STATE PRACTICES, AND WILL BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO NEW INFORMATION. THE LATTER ADVANTAGE SHOULD ULTIMATELY INCREASE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN THE SYSTEM.

THE PROPOSED NEW SYSTEM -- STRICTER TIME LIMITS

6. ~~(C)~~ FOR PLANTING APPROVALS (PART B OF THE PROPOSED NEW DIRECTIVE), A SERIES OF TIME LIMITS ARE IMPOSED. COMPANIES REMAIN FREE TO APPLY FOR PLANTING APPROVAL IN ANY MEMBER STATE WHERE THEY BELIEVE THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY WILL GRANT APPROVAL. THAT AUTHORITY THEN HAS 90 DAYS TO TAKE A DECISION, ALTHOUGH THE CLOCK STOPS WHEN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED OR WHEN A PUBLIC INQUIRY IS CONSTITUTED. WE POINTED OUT THAT THE WORKING DOCUMENT DID NOT INDICATE RESOLUTION ON THE LENGTH OF TIME PERMITTED FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY, NOR DID IT ADDRESS POTENTIAL ABUSE BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES (CONSTANTLY ASKING FOR MORE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO DELAY A DECISION). HMG TOOK NOTE OF OUR POINTS; THEY ASKED TO DELAY RESPONSING TO US ON THE LENGTH OF TIME PERMITTED FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY, SINCE THEY WERE NOT SURE WHAT THE FINAL COMMISSION LANGUAGE WOULD SAY ON THIS POINT. (THIS

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IS ALSO RELEVANT TO PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS -- ART 7, PARA 1).

7. ~~(C)~~ COMPANIES SEEKING PLANTING APPROVAL ACROSS THE EU MAY ALSO APPLY UNDER THE "DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURES" (ART 6B) BY ASKING THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY WHERE INITIAL APPROVAL IS SOUGHT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE COMMISSION FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE OTHER MEMBER STATES. ART 6B, PARA 2, SPELLS OUT THE TIME LIMITS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 LONDON 005769

DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

BY THE OTHER MEMBER STATES. THESE TIME LIMITS RUN CONCURRENTLY, BUT THE CLOCK STOPS UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES NOTED ABOVE. IF A MEMBER STATE CONTINUES TO OBJECT TO THE DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURES AFTER A 45-DAY PERIOD DESIGNED TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES, THEN THE MATTER GOES TO THE "COMMITTEE" COMPOSED OF MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES (ART 21), WHERE A DECISION IS TAKEN EITHER BY CONSENSUS OR QUALIFIED MAJORITY. WE NOTED TO THE UK THAT THE WORKING DOCUMENT DID NOT SPECIFY A TIME LIMIT FOR A DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE.

8. ~~(C)~~ WE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT ART 6C, WHICH PERMITS THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND OR TERMINATE THE APPROVED DELIBERATE RELEASE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSE NEW INFORMATION. THE ARTICLE WOULD APPEAR TO BE OPEN TO OVERREACTION AND ABUSE AND DOES NOT OFFER A RIGHT OF APPEAL. HMG DID CONFIRM, HOWEVER, THAT ONE MEMBER STATE COULD NOT INVOKE THIS ARTICLE TO SUSPEND PLANTING IN ANOTHER MEMBER STATE.

MARKETING GMO PRODUCTS -- QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING THE KEY

9. PART C OF THE PROPOSED DIRECTIVE COVERS GMO'S 'AS OR IN PRODUCTS'. WHEREAS THE WORKING DOCUMENT ENVISIONED BOTH A STANDARD PROCEDURE AND A DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURE (ART 13B), THE LATTER HAS BEEN DROPPED AND WILL BE RECONSIDERED A FEW YEARS AFTER THE DIRECTIVE IS IN PLACE. THE UK WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE A DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURE IN PLACE (WHICH WOULD HAVE EXPEDITED COMMUNITY-WIDE APPROVAL FOR WELL-KNOWN GMOS, WHERE VERY SIMILAR PRODUCTS HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROVED), THEY DIDN'T SEE A SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH ADVANTAGE OVER THE STANDARD PROCEDURE IN TERMS OF TIMELINESS TO FIGHT HARD FOR THE OPTION. THE STANDARD PROCEDURE REQUIRES THE COMPANY TO NOTIFY THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THE PRODUCT IS EXPECTED TO BE PLACED ON THE MARKET FOR THE FIRST TIME. THAT COUNTRY PREPARES AN ASSESSMENT REPORT (ART 12) WITHIN 90 DAYS (BUT THE CLOCK MAY STOP AS NOTED EARLIER). THAT REPORT IS DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION, WHO HAVE 60 DAYS TO ASK FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, MAKE COMMENTS, OR OBJECT (SEE ART 13). THE CLOCK STOPS UNDER CONDITIONS NOTED EARLIER, OR IF THE COMMISSION DECIDES TO CONSULT THE RELEVANT

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EXISTING SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE). IF THERE ARE OBJECTIONS OR OUTSTANDING ISSUES, A FURTHER 45 DAYS IS PERMITTED TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES. IF, AT THAT POINT, DIFFERENCES REMAIN, THE ART 21 PROCEDURES, WITH QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING, ARE FOLLOWED IF MARKETING IS APPROVED, LABELING IS REQUIRED AT ALL MARKETING STAGES. WE NOTED THAT PROVISIONS FOR REQUESTING FURTHER INFORMATION DURING THE RESOLUTION PERIOD WERE NOT LIMITED EITHER IN TIME OR NUMBER, AND THAT ART 11 PARA 5 (REQUIRING A SEPARATE NOTIFICATION FOR "EACH USE DIFFERENT THAN THAT ALREADY SPECIFIED IN THE NOTIFICATION") WAS SUBJECT TO ABUSE. HMG DID CONFIRM, HOWEVER, THAT 'TREATY-SHOPPING' WAS POSSIBLE (IF THE COUNTRY WHERE YOU FIRST APPLY FOR MARKETING TURNS YOU DOWN, YOU CAN APPLY AGAIN SOMEWHERE ELSE). ONCE GRANTED, MARKETING APPROVAL IS VALID FOR UP TO 10 YEARS (THE UK PREFERRED 12 YEARS, BUT 10 BECAME THE COMPROMISE WHEN SOME MEMBER STATES ADVOCATED AS FEW AS 5 YEARS).

EXISTING NOTIFICATIONS -- THE OLD RULES APPLY; NO NEED TO START OVER

10. ~~(G)~~ WE PRESSED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE IMPACT OF THE AGREEMENT ON EXISTING APPLICATIONS (INCLUDING ONE IN THE UK FOR MONSANTO'S BT CORN). HMG OFFICIALS ASSURED US THAT THE CURRENT RULES APPLY, AND THAT ANY APPLICATIONS STILL PENDING WHEN THE NEW REGIME COMES INTO PLACE WOULD BE ADJUDICATED WITHIN A PRESCRIBED TIME PERIOD (THE WORKING DOCUMENT SAYS 360 DAYS (ART 13CA, PARA 2), BUT OUR CONTACTS WERE NOT SURE THAT IS THE FINAL AGREEMENT). HMG INDICATED THAT THERE WAS AGREEMENT NOT TO HAVE A 'GAP' BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW RULES. THE PROPOSED DIRECTIVE DOES NOT, ACCORDING TO HMG, RETROACTIVELY APPLY NEW RULES TO THE PENDING APPLICATIONS, OTHER THAN LIMITING THE LENGTH OF THE MARKETING APPROVAL TO A FIXED PERIOD (THE WORKING DOCUMENT HAD PROPOSED A MAXIMUM OF 6 YEARS) AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW DIRECTIVE. EXISTING APPLICATIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME ERA AGREED TO BY MINISTERS IN DECEMBER 1998.

SAFEGUARDS -- DO THEY ALSO APPLY TO MARKETING?

11. ~~(C)~~ THE WORKING DOCUMENT (ART 16) INDICATES THAT A MEMBER STATE MAY PROVISIONALLY RESTRICT OR PROHIBIT THE SALE OF GMO PRODUCTS ON ITS OWN TERRITORY WHEN ADVERSE NEW OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. HMG OFFICIALS TOLD US THAT THIS IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO CURRENT PROCEDURES AND IN ANY CASE ONLY APPLIES TO PART B (PLANTING APPROVAL). WE WILL ASK AGAIN ON THIS POINT (AND RECOMMEND WASHINGTON TO DO SO TOO), SINCE THE APPLICATION OF THE SAFEGUARD CLAUSE TO PART C COULD EASILY BE ABUSED BY MEMBER STATES LOOKING FOR EXCUSES TO KEEP GMO PRODUCTS OUT OF THE MARKET.
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 LONDON 005769

DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO

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SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

A DE JURE OR DE FACTO MORATORIUM -- THE UK DISAGREES

12. ~~(C)~~ HMG DISPUTES THE VIEW SOME HAVE TAKEN THAT THE COUNCIL DECISION REPRESENTS A MORATORIUM ON APPROVALS. THERE IS NO GAP BETWEEN THE CURRENT AND FUTURE REGULATIONS. IF THE CURRENT PUBLIC OUTCRY OVER GMO'S DIES DOWN IN SOME MEMBER STATES, APPROVALS WOULD PROBABLY RESUME (AND IN THEORY, THEY COULD ANYWAY), AND NEW APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED (AND ADJUDICATED NOT LATER THAN WITHIN A FIXED PERIOD AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW RULES). OUR CONTACTS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE CURRENT 90/220 REGULATION IS NOT BEING FOLLOWED (INCLUDING HERE IN THE UK), BUT SUCH AN OUTCOME WOULD ALSO BE POSSIBLE (ALTHOUGH PRESUMABLY MORE DIFFICULT) UNDER A NEW DIRECTIVE. HMG EMPHASIZES THAT THE NEW DIRECTIVE MAY MAKE APPROVALS EASIER (THE PROCESS WILL BE MORE TRANSPARENT, AND STAKEHOLDERS WILL FEEL THAT THEY ARE PART OF THE PROCESS), BUT ULTIMATELY PUBLIC OPINION WILL DETERMINE HOW MUCH THE MEMBER STATES CAN DO. THE UK IS ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO AVOID A TRADE DISPUTE WITH THE UNITED STATES AND HOPES THAT A PROCESS EMERGES WHICH IS SATISFACTORY TO THE USG AND PROVIDES U.S. COMPANIES WITH GREATER CERTAINTY. OUR INTERLOCUTERS BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE BRITISH PUBLIC AGAIN EMBRACES GMO PRODUCTS, BUT IF THAT DECISION IS MADE BY THE MARKET, RATHER THAN BUREAUCRATS AND POLITICIANS, THE USG WILL, IN HMG'S VIEW, HAVE NO BASIS FOR PURSUING TRADE ACTION.

LADER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
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SSN: 5769
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TOR: 990706103048 M3945332
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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By IC NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0574-M (2 of 2)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHFRA2473 1941718-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
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LINE3: R 131718Z JUL 99
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2546
RUEATRS/DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHFT/AMCONSUL FRANKFURT 0525
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
SUBJ: CHIRAC ECONOMIC ADVISOR ON COLOGNE SUMMIT, GMO'S

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 012473

C O R R E C T E D COPY (ADD DECLASS DATE)

TREASURY FOR GEITHNER, TRUMAN, ATKINSON, SCHUERCH
STATE FOR E, EB, EUR, S/P

PASS USTR

PASS USDA

USDOC FOR 4212/MAC/EUR/OEURA/PDACHER

FRANKFURT FOR MCCOWN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 13JUL04
TAGS: EFIN, PREL, ETRD, EAGR, FR
SUBJECT: CHIRAC ECONOMIC ADVISOR ON COLOGNE SUMMIT, GMO'S

1. CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC MINISTER JOEL SPIRO. REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. FRANCE WAS GENERALLY PLEASED BY THE COLOGNE SUMMIT OUTCOME, PARTICULARLY ON HIPC DEBT RELIEF -- AN ISSUE ON WHICH THE GOF IS FEELING UNACCUSTOMED DOMESTIC PRESSURE, ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S ECONOMIC ADVISOR JEAN-FRANCOIS CIRELLI. CIRELLI STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE WORLD BANK TO PROVIDE ITS SHARE OF HIPC FINANCING QUICKLY. ON FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE REFORM, CIRELLI SAID FRANCE'S MAIN GOAL WOULD BE THAT ANY NEW FORUM REMAIN WITHIN THE BRETTON WOODS FRAMEWORK. HE SAID FRANCE RECOGNIZED THAT THERE WAS NO SUPPORT FOR ITS INITIATIVE ON THE IMF INTERIM COMMITTEE AND WOULD SOFT-PEDAL THE IDEA. ON GMO'S, CIRELLI HIGHLIGHTED THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN FRANCE, BUT STRESSED THAT A WAY NEEDED

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TO BE FOUND AROUND THESE OBSTACLES, WORKING WITH THE U.S. AND U.S. COMPANIES. END SUMMARY.

3. ~~(C)~~ EMIN AND FINOFF MET JULY 2 WITH PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S ECONOMIC COUNSELOR JEAN-FRANCOIS CIRELLI FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ISSUES IN THE WAKE OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VISIT TO PARIS, THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FRENCH AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL (FAB-C), AND VISITS BY SECRETARIES GLICKMAN AND DALEY, AS WELL AS THE COLOGNE G-8 SUMMIT. CHIRAC, WE WERE TOLD, WAS ESPECIALLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND TIME.

PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND FAB-C
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4. ~~(C)~~ CIRELLI SAID CHIRAC HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VISIT, PARTICULARLY THE PRIVATE DINNER AND PRIVATE TIME THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO SPEND TOGETHER. CHIRAC APPRECIATED THAT THE PRESIDENT FOUND THE TIME TO COME TO PARIS. CIRELLI ALSO SAID THAT CHIRAC HAD ENJOYED HIS MEETING AND THE FRANK EXCHANGES WITH FRENCH AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL (FAB-C) PARTICIPANTS THE WEEK BEFORE.

GMO'S
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5. ~~(C)~~ CIRELLI THOUGHT CHIRAC'S FRANK EXCHANGE WITH MONSANTO CEO SHAPIRO DURING THE FAB-C MEETING HIGHLIGHTED THE FORUM'S USEFULNESS. HE HOPED THAT CHIRAC'S NEGATIVE REACTION WHEN SHAPIRO RAISED GMO'S HAD CONVEYED TO SHAPIRO THE DEPTH OF THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS GMO'S FACED IN FRANCE AND IN EUROPE. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE "A PITY FOR FRENCH AND EUROPEAN INTERESTS," CIRELLI SAID, IF THE POLITICS OF GMO'S LED TO THEIR REJECTION IN EUROPE. THIS WOULD PUT EUROPE EVEN FURTHER BEHIND THE UNITED STATES. BUT THIS WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN, CIRELLI THOUGHT, IF EUROPEAN LEADERS, AND U.S. COMPANIES, DID NOT FIND A POLITICAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH THE PUBLIC'S INSTINCTIVELY HOSTILE REACTION.

6. ~~(C)~~ CIRELLI TOLD EMIN HE WAS THUS PLEASED THAT SECRETARY GLICKMAN AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER GLAVANY HAD HAD PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS IN PARIS THE WEEK BEFORE. HE WAS ALSO GRATIFIED TO LEARN THAT AMBASSADOR ROHATYN WAS FULLY ENGAGED. CIRELLI AGREED WITH EMIN THAT THE GMO ISSUE WAS A POLITICAL ONE FULL OF DANGERS AND THAT IT NEEDED TO BE FOLLOWED AT HIGH LEVELS.

HIPC DEBT INITIATIVE
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7. ~~(C)~~ MOVING TO THE COLOGNE G-7/8 SUMMIT, CIRELLI SAID ALL PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING CHIRAC, WERE VERY PLEASED WITH THE AGREEMENT TO ENHANCE THE TERMS OF THE MULTILATERAL DEBT INITIATIVE FOR THE HIGHLY INDEBTED POOR COUNTRIES (HIPC). THE PRIORITY NOW, HE EMPHASIZED, WAS TO MOVE FORWARD QUICKLY

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TO PRODUCE RESULTS. AFTER BEING CRITICIZED FOR SLOWNESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE ORIGINAL HIPC INITIATIVE, THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY COULD NOT AFFORD TO BE SEEN FOR A SECOND TIME AS NOT HAVING FOLLOWED THROUGH.

8. ~~(C)~~ CIRELLI OBSERVED THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS UNDER MOUNTING PRESSURE FROM NGO'S ON DEBT ISSUES. THIS WAS

C O R R E C T E D COPY (ADD DECLASS DATE)

TREASURY FOR GEITHNER, TRUMAN, ATKINSON, SCHUERCH
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FRANKFURT FOR MCCOWN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 13JUL04
TAGS: EFIN, PREL, ETRD, EAGR, FR
SUBJECT: CHIRAC ECONOMIC ADVISOR ON COLOGNE SUMMIT, GMO'S

SOMETHING NEW IN FRANCE, WHERE OFFICIALS ARE USED TO DEVELOPING POLICIES IN RELATIVE ISOLATION FROM PUBLIC OPINION. COMING TO TERMS WITH THE CHANGE WAS TOUGH.

9. ~~(C)~~ THE RISK OF DELAY IN IMPLEMENTING IMPROVED HIPC TERMS, CIRELLI THOUGHT, CAME FROM THE MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS, PARTICULARLY THE WORLD BANK. THE WORLD BANK, HE SAID, WAS A "GREAT BUREAUCRACY THAT MUST DELIVER ITS SHARE," HOWEVER DIFFICULT THAT MIGHT BE. ITS SHAREHOLDERS, INCLUDING THE U.S. AND FRANCE, HAD TO KEEP PRESSURE ON THE BANK, CIRELLI THOUGHT.

10. ~~(C)~~ CIRELLI SAID BILATERAL CREDITORS WOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A DELAY IN IMPLEMENTING ENHANCED HIPC TERMS. THEY HAVE CLEAR PROCEDURES WITHIN THE PARIS CLUB. FRANCE, IN PARTICULAR WOULD DELIVER ITS SHARE, WHATEVER THE BUDGET BURDEN. HE SAID MATIGNON (PRIME MINISTER JOSPIN AND STAFF) HAD NOT BEEN VERY HAPPY WITH SOME PARTS OF THE ENHANCED HIPC INITIATIVE BECAUSE OF THEIR CONSIDERABLE BUDGETARY COST. MATIGNON BACKED OFF UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE PRESIDENCY AND AFTER ASSURANCES THAT THE COSTS COULD BE SPREAD OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS.

FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE REFORM
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11. ~~(C)~~ THE OUTCOME ON FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE REFORM HAD BEEN "NOT BAD," CIRELLI SAID. HE SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT FOLLOW-UP WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE NEW INFORMAL MECHANISM FOR DIALOGUE WITH SYSTEMICALLY IMPORTANT COUNTRIES AGREED IN COLOGNE (THE G-22/33 SUCCESSOR) REMAINED UNDER THE UMBRELLA

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OF THE BRETTON WOODS INSTITUTIONS. THE G-22/33 HAD PLAYED A USEFUL ROLE IN RESPONDING TO THE CRISIS, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO CREATE A NEW INSTITUTION.

12. ~~(C)~~ MEANWHILE, FRANCE HAD ACCEPTED THAT THE IMF'S INTERIM COMMITTEE WAS NOT GOING TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO A DECISION-MAKING BODY ANYTIME SOON. THE U.S. HAD COMPLETELY OPPOSED THE FRENCH INITIATIVE AND THERE WAS LITTLE TO NO SUPPORT ELSEWHERE, INCLUDING FROM EMERGING MARKET COUNTRIES, IN WHOSE INTEREST IT WOULD SEEM TO BE. FRANCE WOULD CONTINUE RAISING THE ISSUE, BUT SAW IT AS A LONG RANGE GOAL AND WOULD NOT MAKE A "FEDERAL CASE," CIRELLI SAID.

RUSSIA/DEBT
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13. ~~(C)~~ ON ONE LAST SUMMIT ISSUE, CIRELLI CONFIRMED THAT PRIME MINISTER STEPASHIN HAD MADE A GOOD IMPRESSION. CIRELLI WAS SURPRISED, HOWEVER, THAT GERMANY HAD ACCEPTED WHAT APPEARED TO BE VERY FORWARD LEANING G-8 LANGUAGE ON RUSSIA DEBT RELIEF. HOWEVER, FRANCE WAS LESS INVOLVED FINANCIALLY -- BOTH AS A SMALLER CREDITOR AND BECAUSE IT HAD ALREADY WRITTEN OFF THE BUDGETARY COST OF DEBT REDUCTION FOR RUSSIA DURING PARIS CLUB NEGOTIATING ROUNDS EARLIER IN THE 1990S.

COMMENT
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14. ~~(C)~~ THE MEETING WAS PREMATURELY INTERRUPTED BY A CALL FROM PRESIDENT CHIRAC. CIRELLI IS CLEARLY SOMEONE WITH A MODERATE, LIBERAL APPROACH WHO HAS THE EAR OF THE PRESIDENT. HIS BACKGROUND AT THE FRENCH TREASURY MAKES HIM PARTICULARLY STRONG ON FINANCIAL ISSUES. BUT HIS MANDATE EXTENDS TO ALL ECONOMIC AND TRADE ISSUES, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY INVOLVE THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVERSEEING FRANCE'S FOREIGN RELATIONS. WE WILL ENCOURAGE GREATER CONTACTS BETWEEN CIRELLI AND U.S. OFFICIALS, WHICH HE WOULD LIKE.

ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 2473
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TOR: 990715055454 M3960661
<^TOR>990715055539 M3960662

DIST:
SIT: BLINKEN DAVIDSON GORDON
SIT: NSC

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INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0038
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0505
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2298
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1969
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0708
SUBJ: GMO'S AND BIOTECH: THE G-8, OECD, AND SCIENTIST-TO-SCIENTIST FORA: READOUT ON LONDON MEETINGS

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VRL NARA, Date 11/20/09
2016-0529-M (2.43)

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 006138

WHITE HOUSE FOR OSTP - DR. NEAL LANE
PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD
STATE FOR E, OES, EB/TPP/ATP(MBRUNO)
DEPARTMENT PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO USDA FOR FAS ADMINISTRATOR GALVIN, U/S SCHUMACHER, AND FAS/ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/15/09
TAGS: ETRD SENV TBIO UK
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND BIOTECH: THE G-8, OECD, AND SCIENTIST-TO-SCIENTIST FORA: READOUT ON LONDON MEETINGS

A. STATE 132548 B. PARIS 12469 C. STATE 128346

1. CLASSIFIED BY EST COUNSELOR L. ALLEN NELSEN. REASON: 1.5 (D)

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: THE GMO/BIOTECH EVENT HOSTED BY THE UK'S ROYAL SOCIETY ON JULY 13 DID NOT QUITE PRODUCE A MULTINATIONAL, SCIENTIST-LED EFFORT TO EVALUATE AND CERTIFY THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY OF GMO FOODS AND CROPS. THE PRESENCE OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES FROM FIVE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RESULTED IN MUCH GREATER FOCUS ON THE `FEEDING THE WORLD' DIMENSION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY THAN FOOD SAFETY. THE SEVEN SOCIETIES PLAN TO ISSUE A REPORT IN THE AUTUMN WHICH WILL PRIMARILY ADDRESS THIS DIMENSION BUT WILL LIKELY INCLUDE SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. AT THAT POINT THE GROUP WILL PROBABLY DISBAND. EST COUNSELOR EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITY THAT A WIDER

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GROUP OF NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMIES MIGHT BE BROUGHT TOGETHER TO FOCUS MORE SPECIFICALLY ON THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION. U.S. PARTICIPANTS THOUGHT THIS COULD BE DONE, PERHAPS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE PLANNED INTER-ACADEMY CENTER. WIDE PARTICIPATION IN SUCH A GROUP (PRIMARILY OECD COUNTRIES BUT WITH A FEW KEY LDCS) WAS VIEWED AS MORE BENEFICIAL THAN A GROUP OF G-8 ACADEMIES. END SUMMARY

3. (U) THE UK'S ROYAL SOCIETY HOSTED A MEETING JULY 13 OF SEVEN SCIENCE ACADEMIES (THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF THE U.S., MEXICO, INDIA, BRAZIL, CHINA, AND THE "THIRD WORLD ACADEMY") TO DISCUSS GM CROPS AND WORLD AGRICULTURE. AT THE END OF THE DAY-LONG SESSION (TO WHICH GOVERNMENTS WERE NOT/NOT INVITED), THE GROUP ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE, WHICH FOLLOWS AT THE END OF THIS MESSAGE.

4. ~~(C)~~ EMBASSY WAS DEBRIEFED BY U.S. AND UK PARTICIPANTS. WITH FIVE DEVELOPING COUNTRY SOCIETIES PRESENT, MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION COVERED POSSIBLE THIRD-WORLD BENEFITS FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY. PARTICIPANTS ASKED THEMSELVES WHETHER BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR FOOD PRODUCTION WAS EVEN NEEDED, AND IF SO, WHAT FOOD CROPS/TECHNOLOGIES ARE THE MOST PROMISING. WHILE THERE WAS A GENERAL SENSE THAT THE `GREEN REVOLUTION' HAD PLATEAUED, SOME OF THE LDC PARTICIPANTS WERE NOT SURE THAT BIOTECHNOLOGY WAS NECESSARY, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE ALREADY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF IT.

5. (SBU) THERE WAS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE VIEW THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION/RESEARCH ON THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ASPECTS. COMPANIES, FOR PROPRIETARY REASONS, HAVE NOT MADE DATA AVAILABLE PUBLICLY, AND THEY DON'T WANT TO SPEND MORE MONEY THAN REQUIRED TO MEET EXISTING NATIONAL REGULATIONS. PARTICIPANTS POINTED OUT THAT EVEN GOVERNMENTS LIKE THE U.S. ARE GETTING OUT OF THE BUSINESS OF CONDUCTING RISK TESTING OR REPLICATING COMPANY RESEARCH IN ORDER TO VERIFY TEST RESULTS. RESEARCHERS SEE NO DIRECT PAYOFF FROM FOCUSSING ON POSSIBLE COLLATERAL DAMAGE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE MAY NOT BE ANY TO FIND. MUCH MORE EFFORT IS GOING INTO RESEARCH ON HOW TO IDENTIFY AND INTRODUCE NEW GENES INTO PLANT SPECIES.

6. (SBU) THE SEVEN SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS AGREED TO PREPARE A REPORT, WHICH THEY PLAN TO RELEASE BY OCTOBER. TOPICS WERE `AUCTIONED OFF' TO INDIVIDUAL AUTHORS, WHO WILL COORDINATE THEIR WORK DIRECTLY. THE COMPOSITE TEXT WILL BE PRESENTED TO EACH SOCIETY FOR APPROVAL. THE REPORT IS EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON THIRD-WORLD BENEFITS; IN THE AREA OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, THE REPORT IS ONLY EXPECTED TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE RESEARCH IS PARTICULARLY LACKING. WHILE THERE MAY BE A `MEETING' TO FINALIZE AND ENDORSE THE REPORT, A MAJOR EVENT, TO WHICH GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE INVITED, IS NOT ENVISIONED. NO FURTHER WORK IS PLANNED ONCE THE REPORT HAS BEEN RELEASED.

7. ~~(C)~~ WE PROBED AS TO THE WILLINGNESS OF THE SOCIETIES TO TAKE ON ADDITIONAL WORK RELATED TO HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. OUR INTERLOCUTORS THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH THE NAS OFFICIALS WERE MUCH MORE AMENABLE THAN OUR ROYAL SOCIETY CONTACT. THE INTERACADEMY PANEL,

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WHICH IS CO-CHAIRED BY INDIA AND THE U.S., COULD ASK ITS STEERING GROUP TO UNDERTAKE SUCH AN EFFORT. THE PLANNED INTERACADEMY CENTER MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE STAFFING AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT. GIVEN THE STRONG SUPPORT FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY ON THE PART OF BOTH THE U.S. AND INDIAN CO-CHAIRS, WE WERE TOLD THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO CONSTITUTE A SCIENCE

WHITE HOUSE FOR OSTP - DR. NEAL LANE
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/15/09
TAGS: ETRD SENV TBIO UK
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND BIOTECH: THE G-8, OECD, AND SCIENTIST-TO-SCIENTIST FORA: READOUT ON LONDON MEETINGS

INSTITUTION TO SCIENCE INSTITUTION BODY TO ADDRESS THE SAFETY ISSUE. THE U.S. PARTICIPANTS NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ROYAL SOCIETY IS NOT PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT TAKING ON ADDITIONAL WORK -- IT HAS ALREADY CONCLUDED THAT GM FOODS ARE SAFE, THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ARE MANAGEABLE, AND THEY DON'T SEE GREAT VALUE IN GOING FURTHER.

8. ~~(C)~~ WE WERE ALSO TOLD THAT THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT MULTILATERAL GMO-RELATED WORK IN OTHER FORA LIKE THE OECD. CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED THAT AN INITIATIVE BY SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS MIGHT MERELY DUPLICATE THE WORK OF OTHERS AND WOULD HAVE NO CLEAR IMPACT. EST COUNSELOR ARGUED THAT WE WOULD VERY MUCH WELCOME SUPPORT FROM THE SCIENCE COMMUNITY FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND THAT A MULTILATERAL EFFORT AMONG INDEPENDENT NATIONAL SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS WOULD HAVE GREATER CREDIBILITY AMONG SKEPTICS THAN WORK DONE IN A GOVERNMENTAL FRAMEWORK.

9. ~~(C)~~ WE ASKED WHETHER A GROUP LIKE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (BUT WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT ROLE) WOULD BE A USEFUL MODEL, AND WE NOTED THAT THE IPCC DRAWS EXPERTISE FROM BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH DEVELOPED COUNTRY SCIENTISTS PLAY A DOMINANT ROLE. IN THAT CONNECTION, WE ALSO ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS VALUE IN G-8 SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS PLAYING A DISTINCT ROLE (EITHER AS A SUBSET, OR ALTERNATIVE TO, THAT BODY), AND IF SO, WHICH INSTITUTION WOULD BE BEST TO TACKLE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES AND WOULD BE CREDIBLE TO BIOTECH CRITICS. OUR INTERLOCUTORS SAW THE VALUE OF A MULTILATERAL EFFORT WHICH WOULD ISOLATE THE OUTLYERS IN THE SCIENCE COMMUNITY, AND THEY SUGGESTED THAT THE GROUP BE AS INCLUSIVE AS POSSIBLE. ON HEALTH AND SAFETY, THEY ANTICIPATED THAT THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES THAT ARE MOST INTERESTED WOULD BE LOCATED IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, BUT HAVING SOME PARTICIPATION FROM PROMINENT SOCIETIES LIKE THE ONE IN INDIA WOULD BE HELPFUL. THEY DID NOT SEE A DISTINCT ROLE FOR SOCIETIES FROM THE G-8 COUNTRIES, POINTING OUT THAT THERE AREN'T INSTITUTIONS COMPARABLE TO THE NAS OR ROYAL SOCIETY IN SOME G-8 COUNTRIES, AND THAT THOSE THAT DID EXIST WERE NOT ALWAYS FREE OF

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GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE. IF IT WAS NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY A `LEAD' G-8 INSTITUTION TO CARRY THE PROCESS FORWARD WITHOUT INVITING SUSPICION, THERE WAS A GENERAL VIEW THAT JAPAN MIGHT BE IDEAL. FOR A WIDER GROUPING OF NATIONAL SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS, THERE WAS SUPPORT FOR SWEDEN TAKING THE LEAD.

10. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: IF WASHINGTON CONTINUES TO SEE VALUE IN THE INVOLVEMENT OF INDEPENDENT NATIONAL SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS IN ASSESSING AND CERTIFYING THE SAFETY OF GMO FOODS AND CROPS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO SIGNAL THIS TO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY AND OTHER SOCIETIES THAT HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES TO BE INTERESTED. OTHERWISE, THERE WILL BE NO FOLLOW-UP TO THE MEETING JUST HELD. WE AGREE THAT AN INCLUSIVE PROCESS, UNDER THE CAREFUL CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE U.S. CO-CHAIR OF THE INTERACADEMY PANEL, STANDS THE BEST CHANCE OF CREATING MOMENTUM TOWARDS ENGAGEMENT OF THE GLOBAL SCIENCE COMMUNITY IN THE BIOTECHNOLOGY DEBATE. BOTH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY AND THE ROYAL SOCIETY UNDERSTAND THAT THE USG (AND HMG) WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE THE PROCESS (BUT WITHOUT BEING SEEN AS THE PRIME MOVER), AND BASED UPON OUR READOUT HERE IN LONDON, WE ARE QUITE CONFIDENT THAT SUCH AN OUTCOME SHOULD BE POSSIBLE. END COMMENT

11. BEGIN TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE:

GM CROPS AND WORLD AGRICULTURE

GENETIC MODIFICATION RAISES GLOBALLY IMPORTANT ISSUES AND NEEDS A CORRESPONDINGLY GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE. IN A LANDMARK SESSION AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY THIS WEEK, SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVEN ACADEMIES OF SCIENCE FROM WIDELY DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE WORLD THEREFORE MET TO DISCUSS THE EXPERIENCES OF EACH REGION IN DEALING WITH GM TECHNOLOGY.

THE SESSION AGREED THAT GM CROPS ARE ONE IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE FUTURE OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURE WORLDWIDE. IT IDENTIFIED BOTH COMMON THEMES AND LOCAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REGIONS IN THEIR APPROACHES TO GM CROPS. THERE WAS A SHARED COMMITMENT BY ALL PARTICIPANTS TO:

- BASING GM POLICY ON THE BEST SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE ABOUT BENEFITS AND RISKS;

WHITE HOUSE FOR OSTP - DR. NEAL LANE
PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD
STATE FOR E, OES, EB/TPP/ATP(MBRUNO)
DEPARTMENT PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO USDA FOR FAS ADMINISTRATOR GALVIN, U/S SCHUMACHER, AND FAS/ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/15/09
TAGS: ETRD SENV TBIO UK
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND BIOTECH: THE G-8, OECD, AND SCIENTIST-TO-SCIENTIST FORA: READOUT ON LONDON MEETINGS

- ENSURING THAT THE BENEFITS OF GM TECHNOLOGY ACCRUE TO LOCAL ECONOMIES AND TO CONSUMERS;

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- ENCOURAGING AN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY REGIME THAT PROMOTES AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION AND IS EQUITABLE TO ALL CONCERNED.

THE SEVEN ACADEMIES AGREED TO DEVELOP AN AUTHORITATIVE JOINT STATEMENT DEALING WITH SUCH ISSUES AS: THE NEED FOR GM PLANTS IN LOCAL AGRICULTURE TO FEED THE WORLD'S POPULATION IN THE COMING DECADES; HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES; WAYS OF ENSURING THAT GM TECHNOLOGIES BENEFIT LOCAL POPULATIONS; AND RELATIONS BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATELY FUNDED GM RESEARCH.

SIR AARON KING, PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, WELCOMED THIS INITIATIVE: "THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PROJECT IN WHICH INDEPENDENT ACADEMIES OF NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, AND WEST ARE POOLING THEIR EXPERTISE TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE RESULTS OF THIS WORK."

END TEXT

LADER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 6138
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TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4853
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5734
INFO: ////
SUBJ: REQUEST TO MEET WITH MAFF OFFICIALS TO EXPRESS
- U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING POSSIBLE NEW MANDATORY
- GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN JAPAN

- U R G E N T -

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 005886

SENSITIVE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - CAPTION ADDED

USDA FOR FFAS/SCHUMACHER
USDA FOR OSEC/SIDDIQUI
USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, DEATON;
FAS/FSTSD/SLUTSKY
C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CAPTION ADDED)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, JA
SUBJECT: REQUEST TO MEET WITH MAFF OFFICIALS TO EXPRESS
- U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING POSSIBLE NEW MANDATORY
- GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN JAPAN

- U R G E N T -

REFTEL 5602

THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST.

1. SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST: MAFF IS MOVING RAPIDLY TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW MANDATORY GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN JAPAN. POST PROPOSES VISIT BY SENIOR-LEVEL USDA OFFICIAL TO RAISE U.S. GOVERMENT CONCERNS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE JULY 13 MAFF GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING, MAFF PROGRESSED TOWARD A MANDATORY LABELING DECISION BY ISSUING A LIST OF PRODUCTS MARKETED IN JAPAN

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THAT BOTH: (1) MAY CONTAIN GMOS AND; (2) CONTAIN DETECTABLE DNA OR PROTEIN. AT THE NEXT LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING, TO BE HELD IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST, POST BELIEVES MAFF WILL ISSUE A MANDATORY LABELING PROPOSAL FOR PRODUCTS ON THE POSITIVE LIST, WITH IMMEDIATE APPROVAL BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE EXPECTED. MAFF HAS INFORMED POST THAT A FINAL DECISION WILL BE MADE "BY AUGUST".

3. IN THIS VERY SHORT TIME FRAME, IT IS VITAL THAT MAFF PERCEIVE CORRECTLY THE HIGH LEVEL OF USG CONCERN OVER THIS ISSUE. AS A FIRST STEP, POST WILL SEEK APPROVAL TO PRESENT A FORMAL DEMARCHE OUTLINING U.S. GOVERNMENT CONCERNS TO WORKING-LEVEL MAFF OFFICIALS. DEPENDING ON THE REACTION, WE WOULD SEEK APPOINTMENTS FOR THE AMBASSADOR WITH THE MAFF MINISTER. WE WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND THAT SENIOR USDA OFFICIALS SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO ARTICULATE OUR CONCERNS TO JAPANESE MEDIA IN WASHINGTON. FINALLY, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT SENIOR-LEVEL REPRESENTATION, PREFERABLY AT THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OR UNDERSECRETARY LEVEL, VISIT TOKYO TO BRING HOME TO MAFF OFFICIALS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ISSUE.

4. FOR ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND, SEE REFTEL 5602 AND JULY 13 LABELING SUMCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY BELOW.

5. SUMMARY OF 15TH MEETING OF THE MAFF GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE JULY 13, 1999

6. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE MEETING FOCUSED ON A TECHNICAL REPORT THAT INCLUDED A LIST OF FOODS MARKETED IN JAPAN (I.E. "POSITIVE LIST") THAT BOTH: (1) MAY CONTAIN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED INGREDIENTS AND; (2) CONTAIN DETECTABLE DNA. WHILE MAFF DID NOT PRESENT A LABELING RECOMMENDATION AT THE MEETING, THE SUBCOMMITTEE FORMALLY AGREED TO ALLOW MAFF TO PRESENT A LABELING PROPOSAL BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE REPORT AT THE NEXT MEETING, TO BE HELD IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST. WHILE OFFICIALLY, MAFF COULD RECOMMEND EITHER VOLUNTARY OR MANDATORY LABELING, POST FULLY EXPECTS MAFF WILL RECOMMEND MANDATORY LABELING FOR PRODUCTS ON THE POSITIVE LIST. THE SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED THAT JAPAN CANNOT WAIT UNTIL A CODEX DECISION ON GMO LABELING SINCE IT IS AMONG THE SIX COUNTRIES LEADING THE DISCUSSION.

7. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP POSITIVE LIST (THE RETAIL/FOOD MANUFACTURING BREAKDOWN WAS MADE IN THE REPORT WITHOUT EXPLANATION):

FOODS FOR RETAIL SALE:

1. TOFU AND ITS PROCESSED FOOD.
2. FOODS USING PLANT PROTEIN.
3. FOODS USING SOYBEAN FLOUR.
4. CORN SNACKS.
5. FOODS USING CORN STARCH.
6. FOODS USING CORN FLOUR.

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INGREDIENTS FOR FOOD MANUFACTURING:

1. SOYBEAN FLOUR
2. PLANT PROTEIN
3. CORN GRITS
4. CORN STARCH
5. CORN FLOUR

9. SINCE MAFF HAS NOT YET INTRODUCED A MANDATORY LABELING PROPOSAL IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WORKING GROUP REPORT, NO DETAILS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED REGARDING POSSIBLE VERIFICATION METHODS, THRESHOLD LEVELS, OR COMPLIANCE

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 TOKYO 005886

SENSITIVE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - CAPTION ADDED

USDA FOR FFAS/SCHUMACHER
USDA FOR OSEC/SIDDIQUI
USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, DEATON;
FAS/FSTSD/SLUTSKY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, JA
SUBJECT: REQUEST TO MEET WITH MAFF OFFICIALS TO EXPRESS
- U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING POSSIBLE NEW MANDATORY
- GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN JAPAN

MEASURES.

10. GIVEN THE PRESENCE OF HIGHLY PROCESSED FOODS SUCH AS STARCH AND FLOUR ON THE LIST, IT APPEARS MAFF HAS DROPPED A PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED P
RE-REQUISITE OF
"UNALTERED (WHOLE) DNA" FOR INCLUSION IN THE POSITIVE LIST. WITH UNCERTAIN CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION, ANY PRODUCT THAT MAY CONTAIN DETECTABLE FOREIGN DNA FRAGMENTS COULD BE SUBJECT TO INCLUSION AT A LATER DATE, INCREASING THE POTENTIAL FOR NEGATIVE TRADE IMPACTS. END SUMMARY.
LAFLUER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 5886
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DTG: 211412Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
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RHEHWSR/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION RM WASHDC PRIORITY
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RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0509
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2324
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1989
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0712
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
SUBJ: GMO'S: FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE ROLE OF SCIENCE
TEXT:

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2014-0521-M (2.46)

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ LONDON 006306

WHITE HOUSE FOR OSTP - DR. NEAL LANE
PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD
STATE FOR E, OES, EB/TPP/ATP(MBRUNO)
DEPT PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO USDA FOR FAS ADMINISTRATOR GALVIN, U/S SCHUMACHER, AND FAS/ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/21/09
TAGS: TBIO ETRD SENV UK
SUBJECT: GMO'S: FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE ROLE OF SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS

LONDON 6138

1. CLASSIFIED BY EST COUNSELOR L. ALLEN NELSEN. REASON 1.5 (D)

2. ~~(C)~~ EST COUNSELOR WAS INVITED TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY (THE UK'S COUNTERPART TO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE) ON JULY 20 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE ROLE OF SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS IN THE CURRENT DEBATE OVER ACCEPTANCE OF GMO FOODS AND CROPS. CONFIRMING COMMENTS TO US (PARA 7 REFTEL) BY NAS OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED THE LONDON CONFERENCE, OUR THREE ROYAL SOCIETY INTERLOCUTORS SHOWED SOME RELUCTANCE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN ANY PERMANENT, OR SEMI-PERMANENT, SCIENCE INSTITUTION-TO-INSTITUTION EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WERE FULLY RESEARCHED AND THAT GOVERNMENTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE DECISIONS ON GMO'S ON THE BASIS OF SOUND SCIENCE. THE ROYAL SOCIETY HAS ISSUED POSITIVE STATEMENTS ON BOTH HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND IS NOT SURE WHAT VALUE EXISTS IN REVISITING EITHER ISSUE.

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3. ~~(C)~~ THAT SAID, THE ROYAL SOCIETY IS PREPARED TO COLLABORATE IN ANY MULTI-INSTITUTION EFFORT ORGANIZED BY THE INTERACADEMY PANEL. OUR INTERLOCUTORS RECOGNIZE THAT THE GMO ISSUE IS LIKELY TO BE WITH US FOR SOME TIME, AND THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NEW ELEMENTS OF THE GMO DEBATE WILL LIKELY ARISE IN THE FUTURE WHICH WOULD WARRANT CLOSE ATTENTION BY THE SCIENCE COMMUNITY. THEY ALSO ACCEPTED THE POINT MADE BY OSTP DIRECTOR NEAL LANE DURING HIS VISIT LAST MONTH THAT "CITIZEN SCIENTISTS" NEED TO GET OUT OF THE LABORATORY OCCASIONALLY TO TAKE ON A PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ROLE IN SUPPORT OF EVIDENCE-BASED DECISIONS BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND CONSUMERS. THEY INDICATED THAT THE SOCIETY HAS ALREADY ENCOURAGED ITS MEMBERS WITH EXPERTISE ON GENE TECHNOLOGY TO SPEAK OUT IN SUPPORT OF THE TECHNOLOGY.

4. ~~(C)~~ IN CONSIDERING THE MECHANICS OF AN INSTITUTION-TO-INSTITUTION ARRANGEMENT, THE ROYAL SOCIETY OFFICIALS AGREED THAT SOMETHING LIKE THE IPCC WOULD BE USEFUL IN DEVELOPING CONSENSUS ON GMO ISSUES. UNLIKE THE IPCC, HOWEVER, A GROUP FOCUSSED ON GMO'S SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING. IN THIS REGARD, THEY THOUGHT THAT RESPECTED FOUNDATIONS LIKE ROCKEFELLER, OR MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE FAO, UNESCO, OR CBD, MIGHT BE WILLING TO FUND AN ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS AND ONGOING RESEARCH PROGRAM. THEY ALSO THOUGHT THAT THE SWEDISH SCIENCE ACADEMY MIGHT BE THE BEST LOCALE FOR COORDINATING THE WORK, AND THE INTERACADEMY PANEL, THROUGH THE PLANNED INTERACADEMY CENTER, COULD FORMALLY CONVASS A NUMBER OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RESEARCH EFFORT. WE WERE ASSURED THAT THE ROYAL SOCIETY COULD BE COUNTED UPON TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY UNDER SUCH ARRANGEMENTS.

5. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: BY HOSTING THE CONFERENCE LAST MONTH, THE ROYAL SOCIETY BELIEVES THAT IT HAS DONE ITS FAIR SHARE FOR THE TIME BEING. IN ADDITION, WE DETECTED SOME RESIGNATION THAT BECAUSE THE SCIENCE COMMUNITY IN THE UK DOESN'T ENJOY PUBLIC CONFIDENCE ON THE GMO ISSUE (AS A RESULT OF BSE AND EARLIER FOOD SCARES), THE ROYAL SOCIETY WON'T GET ANY MILEAGE AT HOME FROM ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN A MULTILATERAL EFFORT. NONETHELESS, THEY ARE GUIDED BY THE DESIRE THAT POLICY MAKERS AND THE PUBLIC TAKE EVIDENCE-BASED DECISIONS, AND THEY WILL NOT STAND ON THE SIDELINES IF SOMEONE ELSE TAKES THE LEAD IN ORGANIZING A MULTILATERAL EFFORT AMONG SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS.

LADER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6306

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SIT: NSC

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INFO: ////
SUBJ: DEMARCHE ON GMO LABELING

TEXT:

UNCLAS STATE 136574

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, JA
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON GMO LABELING

REF: A) TOKYO 5602 B) TOKYO 5886

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED; PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. PLEASE SEE PARA 7.

2. (SBU) SUMMARY: IT APPEARS THAT JAPAN'S MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MAFF) WILL BE TAKING STEPS TO FINALIZE ITS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LABELING OF FOODS DERIVED THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY. THERE IS A REAL POSSIBILITY THAT MAFF MAY RECOMMEND MANDATORY LABELING FOR A LIST OF PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN UNALTERED DNA OR PROTEIN (REF A). SUCH A RECOMMENDATION WOULD RAISE A NUMBER OF SERIOUS CONCERNS FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS CONSISTENCY IN MAFF'S LABELING POLICY, THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR THE POLICY, AND CREATING A WORKABLE POLICY THAT IS NOT TRADE RESTRICTIVE. END SUMMARY.

3. (SBU) ON JULY 13, 1999, THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP REPORTED BACK TO THE MAFF GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE WITH A LIST OF FOODS THAT MAY CONTAIN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED INGREDIENTS WITH DETECTABLE DNA. THE SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED

TO ALLOW MAFF TO PRESENT A LABELING PROPOSAL IN LATE JULY

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OR EARLY AUGUST BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP. IT IS EXPECTED THAT MAFF WILL RECOMMEND MANDATORY LABELING FOR THIS GROUP OF PRODUCTS.

4. (SBU) MAFF HAS DECIDED THAT IT WILL NOT WAIT FOR THE CODEX LABELING COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE ITS WORK BEFORE JAPAN MAKES ITS FINAL POLICY DECISION. DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THEIR LABELING POLICY, MAFF HAS BEEN NEUTRAL IN THE CODEX DISCUSSIONS. MAFF MAY BE HOPING THAT A REQUIREMENT FOR LABELING OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF INGREDIENTS WILL ALLOW THEM TO BE AN ARBITRATOR BETWEEN THE POSITION TO LABEL ALL PRODUCTS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND THE POSITION TO ONLY REQUIRE LABELING IF A FOOD HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED.

5. (SBU) BASED ON THE REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP, THE LIST OF INGREDIENTS FOR WHICH MAFF IS CONSIDERING MANDATORY LABELING INCLUDE TOFU, SOYBEAN FLOUR PLANT PROTEIN, CORN GRITS, CORN STARCH AND CORN FLOUR. WE DO NOT KNOW THE SPECIFIC CRITERIA THAT THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP USED IN MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AND THEREFORE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MAFF COULD EXTEND THIS LIST IN THE FUTURE.

6. (SBU) IF MAFF DOES REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELING, THIS WILL BE A DEPARTURE FROM ITS OTHER POLICY DECISIONS ON LABELING BASED ON CONSUMER DEMAND. FOR EXAMPLE, JAPANESE CONSUMERS HAVE ALSO ASKED FOR LABELING OF MEAT FROM CLONED ANIMALS, PRODUCTS FROM LIVESTOCK TREATED WITH HORMONES OR VETERINARY DRUGS, AND FOODS PRODUCED USING PESTICIDES. IN ALL OF THESE CASES, MAFF DECIDED NOT TO REQUIRE SPECIAL LABELING. IN ALL OF THESE CASES, DOMESTIC PRODUCTS WOULD BE AFFECTED WHEREAS, FOR THE PRESENT AT LEAST, THE BIOTECH PRODUCTS AFFECTED BY LABELING WOULD ALL BE IMPORTED PRODUCTS.

7. (SBU) ACTION REQUEST: THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER COUNSELOR IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS TO MAFF; AS APPROPRIATE, EMBASSY MAY ALSO DELIVER THE SAME DEMARCHE TO MOFA:

-- THE UNITED STATES APPRECIATES THE EFFORT THE MAFF COMMITTEE HAS MADE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS ON LABELING OF FOODS DERIVED THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY.

-- THE UNITED STATES AGREES THAT LABELING IS NECESSARY WHEN THERE IS A HEALTH OR SAFETY REASON, SUCH AS A PRESENCE OF AN ALLERGEN, OR WHEN THERE ARE CHANGES IN THE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE FOOD, SUCH AS AN ALTERED NUTRITIONAL CONTENT. IN THESE CASES, THE SPECIFIC CHANGE IS THE SUBJECT OF A LABEL, RATHER THAN THE PROCESS BY WHICH IT IS PRODUCED.

-- MAFF HAS STATED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF EXTENDING A MANDATORY LABELING REQUIREMENT TO FOOD THAT HAS BEEN PRODUCED THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY IS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE CONSUMER. THE UNITED STATES AGREES THAT IT IS

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IMPORTANT FOR CONSUMERS TO HAVE INFORMATION ON FOODS THAT HAVE BEEN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MEANS OTHER THAN LABELING, SUCH AS EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND PUBLIC FORA, THAT CAN COLLECTIVELY PROVIDE MORE MEANINGFUL INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS ON GENETIC ENGINEERING.

-- THE UNITED STATES DOES SUPPORT VOLUNTARY LABELING OF BIOTECH FOODS AS LONG AS THAT LABELING IS TRUTHFUL AND NOT MISLEADING TO THE CONSUMER. AS EVIDENCED IN JAPAN, VOLUNTARY APPROACHES CAN MEET CONSUMER NEEDS, PARTICULARLY WHEN DONE IN CONJUNCTION WITH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES. IF THE OBJECTIVE OF MAFF IS TRULY TO INFORM THE CONSUMER IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR CONSUMER CHOICE, WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE JAPAN TO FULLY EXPLORE OPTIONS SUCH AS VOLUNTARY LABELING IN CONJUNCTION WITH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS.

-- LABELING BASED SOLELY ON CONSUMER DEMAND COULD OPEN THE DOOR TO A PROLIFERATION OF INFORMATION ON THE FOOD LABEL THAT COULD ULTIMATELY SERVE TO CONFUSE OR MISLEAD THE CONSUMER, BECAUSE IT WOULD IMPLY A NON-EXISTENT DIFFERENCE IN QUALITY OR SAFETY. MAFF APPEARED TO RECOGNIZE THIS PROBLEM WHEN IT DECIDED NOT TO REQUIRE LABELING, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR MEAT FROM CLONED ANIMALS. WE WOULD EXPECT MAFF TO BE CONSISTENT IN HOW IT APPROACHES CONSUMER LABELING.

-- OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE ATTEMPTED TO INSTITUTE MANDATORY LABELING OF FOODS DERIVED THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY HAVE HAD MANY PROBLEMS WITH IMPLEMENTATION. THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO HAVE PROFOUND CONCERNS ABOUT THE EU'S POLICY ON BIOTECHNOLOGY LABELING. PRODUCERS, INDUSTRY,

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, CONSUMERS DO NOT HAVE ANY IDEA HOW IT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

-- AS WTO MEMBERS, WE ARE OBLIGATED TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES IN A MANNER NO MORE TRADE RESTRICTIVE THAN NECESSARY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK TOWARD INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION OF OUR LABELING POLICIES IN CODEX ALIMENTARIUS SO THAT WE CAN PROVIDE CONSUMERS WITH USEFUL INFORMATION THAT IS TRUTHFUL AND NOT MISLEADING. ALBRIGHT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6574

TOR: 990720215535 M3969140

DIST:

SIT: HAMMONDS HOLTZAPPLE LEE LIEBERTHAL OSIUS PRITCHARD SCHAEFER SHAH
SIT: NSC

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/14/2014
2016-0524-M (2.47)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHBYA2490 2090717-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 280717Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
OSRI: RUEHBY
DTG: 280717Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4317
INFO: RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0805
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 3043
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0782
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0180
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0172
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0108
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0356
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 2575
RUEHBAD/AMCONSUL PERTH 0796
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 9141
RUEHWLB/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND 0132
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0551
SUBJ: BIOSAFETY: LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 CANBERRA 002490

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
DEPARTMENT PASS USDA
USDA ALSO FOR FAS
USDA FOR OFFICE OF SECRETARY (SIDDIQUI)
FAS FOR ADMINISTRATOR TGALVIN
FAS ALSO FOR ITP/PSHEIKH/BSIMMONS/BSLUTSKY
GENEVA PASS USTR
AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/EAP/OPB/GPAINE
USDOC FOR 3132/USFCS/OIO/EAP/TFALCO
USDOC FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

REF: (A) CANBERRA 748; (B) CANBERRA 718; (C) WELLINGTON
254 (NOTAL); (D
) 98
SYDNEY 2296 (NOTAL)

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(U) CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC OFFICER BRIAN SILER FOR REASON 1.5 (B).

1. ~~(C)~~ THE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL (ANZFSC) WILL MEET ON AUGUST 3 TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR LABELING OF FOODS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS). ANZFSC IS COMPOSED OF THE HEALTH MINISTERS OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE HEALTH MINISTERS FROM THE SIX STATES AND TWO TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA. ANZFSC WILL BE CONSIDERING FIVE PROPOSALS DURING THIS MEETING: THREE WOULD REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELING, ONE WOULD ALLOW VOLUNTARY LABELING UNDER A CODE OF PRACTICE, AND ONE WOULD REQUIRE MANDATORY DISCLOSURE OF GMO INFORMATION AT POINT OF SALE. END SUMMARY

2. (U) BACKGROUND: IN DECEMBER 1998, ANZFSC DIRECTED THE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY (ANZFA) TO PREPARE A DRAFT STANDARD REQUIRING LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD WHERE THE FOOD IS SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THE TRADITIONAL FORM OF THAT FOOD (REF B). ANZFSC HAD PREVIOUSLY APPROVED A STANDARD (A18) THAT REQUIRED FOODS PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY THAT WERE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE TRADITIONAL FORM OF THAT FOOD TO BE LABELED ACCORDINGLY.

3. ~~(C)~~ ANZFA STAFF HAVE NOW PREPARED FIVE ALTERNATIVES FOR THE HEALTH MINISTERS TO CONSIDER. THE FIRST THREE REQUIRE SOME FORM OF MANDATORY LABELING. ANZFA STAFF CONTACTS DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY OF THESE THREE OPTIONS ARE WORKABLE. THEY HAVE THUS PROPOSED TWO ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION THAT DO NOT REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELING, BUT DO PROVIDE GMO INFORMATION FOR CONSUMERS.

4. ~~(C)~~ ONE OPTION WOULD ENABLE THE INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR VOLUNTARY LABELING. THIS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AND MONITORED BY THE INDUSTRY. ANZFA STAFF INDICATED THAT ANZFSC IS UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT THIS OPTION, GIVEN ANZFSC'S EARLIER DECISION TO REQUIRE LABELING, AND INCREASING PRESS COVERAGE OF THE GMO DEBATE. ANZFA IS THUS PUSHING THE FIFTH OPTION OF MANDATORY PROVISION OF INFORMATION. UNDER THIS OPTION, MANUFACTURES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW A CODE OF PRACTICE THAT REQUIRED THEM TO PROVIDE GMO INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS AT THE POINT OF SALE. IT WOULD BE UP TO MANUFACTURES TO DETERMINE HOW TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION. THEY COULD FOR EXAMPLE, PROVIDE PAMPHLETS, HAVE A TOLL FREE CONSUMER INFORMATION NUMBER, OR LABEL THE PRODUCT. ANZFA AND THE INDUSTRY WOULD JOINTLY DEVELOP A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PROVISION OF THE INFORMATION. AS IN THE CASE FOR ALL FOOD STANDARDS, STATES AND TERRITORIES IN AUSTRALIA WOULD ENFORCE THE STANDARD.

5. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: IN DECEMBER, BY A MAJORITY VOTE, ANZFSC REJECTED AN ANZFA RECOMMENDATION THAT FOODS CONTAINING GMOS THAT WERE SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT DID NOT HAVE TO BE LABELED. ANZFSC THEN DIRECTED ANZFA TO PREPARE STANDARDS FOR MANDATORY LABELING. SINCE THE VOTE, THE MANUFACTURING AND GROCERY INDUSTRIES, STATE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE, AND FARM GROUPS HAVE EXPENDED CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO

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CONVINCE THE HEALTH MINISTERS THAT MANDATORY LABELING IS NOT PRACTICAL. THEY HAVE TOLD ANZFSC THAT MANDATORY LABELING HAS SIGNIFICANT COSTS, IT WILL NOT PROVIDE NEEDED INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS, AND COULD RUN COUNTER TO WTO RULES. HOWEVER, GIVEN ANZFSC'S INITIAL DECISION AND ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 CANBERRA 002490

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
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USDA ALSO FOR FAS
USDA FOR OFFICE OF SECRETARY (SIDDIQUI)
FAS FOR ADMINISTRATOR TGALVIN
FAS ALSO FOR ITP/PSHEIKH/BSIMMONS/BSLUTSKY
GENEVA PASS USTR
AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/EAP/OPB/GPAINE
USDOC FOR 3132/USFCS/OIO/EAP/TFALCO
USDOC FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

INCREASING PRESS ATTENTION GIVEN TO GMOS, IT IS LIKELY THAT ANZFSC WILL REQUIRE SOME FORM OF MANDATORY INFORMATION ON FOODS CONTAINING GMOS. THE VOTE MAY BE CLOSE ON HOW MUCH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NECESSARY AND HOW THAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED, BUT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT SOME MANDATORY INFORMATION ON GMOS WILL BE REQUIRED. AS THE FOOD STANDARDS DECISION MAKING BODY, ANZFSC HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT, CHANGE ANY ASPECT OR ADD NEW ELEMENTS, OR REJECT ANZFA RECOMMENDATIONS. ANZFA STAFF ARE CLEARLY AWARE OF THEIR WTO OBLIGATIONS AND ARE PUSHING THE OPTION THAT MINIMIZES TRADE IMPACTS. END COMMENT

BELLAMY

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 2490
<^SSN>2490

TOR: 990728032035 M3980369
<^TOR>990728031844 M3980364

DIST:
SIT: ARVIZU LIEBERTHAL
SIT: NSC

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VZ NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2014-0529-M (1.48)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHWLA0966 2110213-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 300213Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
OSRI: RUEHWL
DTG: 300213Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1652
INFO: RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0932
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0073
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0123
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
SUBJ: NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF ANZFSC OPTIONS FOR LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000966

DEPT PASS TO USDA
USDA FOR OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (SIDDIQUI)
FAS FOR ADMINISTRATOR GALVIN
FAS FOR ITP/PSHEIKH/BSIMMONS/BSLUTSKY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/30/09
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, NZ, AS
SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF ANZFSC OPTIONS FOR LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

REF: A) WELLINGTON 937; B) CANBERRA 2490

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE RTMILLER PER REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) AND OTHER MINISTRY OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR LABELING OF FOODS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE AUSTRALIAN NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL (ANZFSC) ON AUGUST 3 IN CANBERRA. THE MOH IS TRYING TO BALANCE CONSUMER DESIRE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON GMOS WITH THE COST AND PRACTICALITY OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE NEED TO MEET WTO OBLIGATIONS. THEY ADDED THAT THERE ARE NO LONGER FIVE OPTIONS FOR ANZFSC TO CONSIDER (REF B) SINCE TWO MANDATORY OPTIONS HAVE BEEN CONDENSED INTO ONE. OFFICIALS ALSO ADMIT THAT POLITICAL PRESSURES OF THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS WILL INFLUENCE THE GNZ DECISION. END SUMMARY.

3. ~~(C)~~ MOH OFFICIALS HAVE RECEIVED OVER 5,700 COMMENTS

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(INCLUDING USG COMMENTS PROVIDED JULY 12) ON THEIR QUESTIONNAIRE SOLICITING COMMENTS REGARDING LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS (GMFS). MOST PUBLIC COMMENTS SUPPORT LABELING, BUT THE MOH ADMITS THAT THE RESULTS REFLECT THE BIAS OF GREEN GROUP LOBBYING AND ANTI-GMF INTERNET USERS (SOME GREEN GROUPS PASSED OUT STANDARD ANSWERS TO THE SURVEY). MOH OFFICIALS ADMIT THAT THEY DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT THE MAJORITY OF THE NEW ZEALAND PUBLIC THINKS ON THIS ISSUE. THE MOH WILL RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC THE 90 PAGES OF COMMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THE AUGUST 3 ANZFSC MEETING.

4. ~~(C)~~ GREEN GROUPS IN ZEALAND, LED BY GREEN PARTY LEADER JEANETTE FITZSIMONS, CONTINUE TO PRESS THEIR VIEWS IN WEEKLY PUBLIC MEETINGS AND BY INTERNET THAT GMFS ARE NOT SAFE, THAT U.S. REGULATORY PROCESSES ARE NOT TRUSTWORTHY (NOTING THE CURRENT LAW SUIT AGAINST FDA), AND THAT GMOS SHOULD BE BANNED. MOH OFFICIALS ADMIT THAT THE GREEN GROUP POSITION IS SEEN AS EXTREME IN NEW ZEALAND AND THE MOH, BASED ON CURRENT KNOWLEDGE, DOES NOT SEE GMFS AS POSING A HEALTH THREAT (FOOD INDUSTRY LEADERS FAULT THE MOH, HOWEVER, FOR NOT SPEAKING OUT ON THIS ISSUE, LIKE U.S. REGULATORY OFFICIALS).

5. ~~(C)~~ MOH, CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRACTICALITIES AND COST OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY ANZFSC DECISION ON MANDATORY PROVISION OF INFORMATION (WHETHER REQUIRING MANDATORY LABELING OR NOT) HAS CONSULTED WITH THE GROCERY INDUSTRY COUNCIL (GIC) OF NEW ZEALAND AND ON JULY 29 RECEIVED ITS COMMENTS ON THE ANZFSC LABELING OPTIONS. THE GIC REPRESENTS MANUFACTURERS, RETAILERS AND WHOLESALERS.

6. ~~(C)~~ THE GIC, IN ITS LETTER TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND HEALTH MINISTER CREECH (WHO WILL REPRESENT NEW ZEALAND AT THE AUGUST ANZFSC MEETING), PROVIDES SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS: 1) THE CURRENT LABELING PROVISION IN STANDARD A18 IS THE BEST ALTERNATIVE; 2) IT DOES NOT SUPPORT MANDATORY LABELING FOR SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT FOODS AS THIS IS FULL OF DIFFICULTIES (INCLUDING HOW TO DETECT GMFS), COSTLY TO IMPLEMENT (ESTIMATED AT NZ$300 MILLION ANNUALLY BY ANZFA FOR ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OR PASSED ON TO COMPANIES), AND BREACHES THE WTO; 3) THE ADOPTION OF A CODE OF PRACTICE PRESCRIBING THE PARAMETERS OF A VOLUNTARY LABELING REGIME IS AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PROVIDING INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS (REF A); 4) ANY LABELING SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THE INGREDIENT LIST (INGREDIENTS WOULD COME FROM AN APPROVED GM SOURCE) AND GMF LABELS ARE THERE TO INFORM AND NOT WARN; 5) THEY HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT PROVIDING, MANAGING, AND FUNDING POINT OF SALE MATERIAL (REGULATORY OFFICIALS NEED TO PUBLISH EDUCATION MATERIALS SINCE GREEN GROUPS HAVE COMPLAINED THAT CURRENT INDUSTRY POINT OF SALE PAMPHLETS ARE BIASED); AND (6) OFFICIAL REGULATORY AGENCIES MUST BE MORE ACTIVE IN PROMOTING THE FACT THAT LEGISLATION IS IN PLACE TO ASSURE SAFETY OF GMFS (THROUGH ANZFA'S APPROVAL/SAFETY REVIEW).

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7. ~~(C)~~ BOTH MOH AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF THEIR WTO OBLIGATIONS AND DON'T WANT THE ANZFSC DECISION TO BECOME A TECHNICAL BARRIER TO TRADE. MOH OFFICIALS ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE U.S. RETALIATION IF THE DECISION GOES THE WRONG WAY.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000966

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/30/09
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, NZ, AS
SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF ANZFSC OPTIONS FOR LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

8. ~~(C)~~ MOH OFFICIALS ADD, HOWEVER, THAT APPROVAL AND LABELING OF GMFS IS AN ELECTION ISSUE AND POLITICS WILL PLAY A ROLE IN THE GNZ POSITION. A MINI-NEW ZEALAND CABINET MEETING WILL DECIDE THE GNZ POSITION IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. ALSO, SINCE NEW ZEALAND HAS ONLY ONE VOTE AT THE ANZFSC, AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS WILL DETERMINE THE DECISION. IF AUSTRALIA WERE TO DECIDE DIFFERENTLY THAN THE GNZ, THE GNZ COULD OPT OUT OF ANY ANZFSC DECISION, BUT THAT WOULD BE POLITICALLY DIFFICULT AND UNLIKELY. MOH OFFICIALS ALSO NOTED THAT IF A NEW GOVERNMENT IS ELECTED IN NOVEMBER, IT COULD REVIEW AND POSSIBLY CHANGE A DECISION MADE BY THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT.

MILLER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 0966
<^SSN>0966

TOR: 990729223012 M3983985
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SIT: NSC

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. cable~~	~~Re: Brazilian Science Minister on GMO Issue and International Space~~ Station (4 pages)	~~08/31/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 4/3/2020
002. cable	Re: [Genetically-Modified Organism Policy] (4 pages)	09/03/1999	P1/b(1)
~~003. cable~~	~~Re: Canada: Genetically Modified Foods - Greenpeace (5 pages)~~	~~09/16/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 4/3/2020
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Labeling Threshold] (2 pages)~~	~~10/04/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 11/24/2019
~~005. cable~~	~~Re: GMO Threshold Regulation Passes (3 pages)~~	~~10/22/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ V2 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:
[08/09/1999 - 10/29/1999]

2013-0836-F
ke3015

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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PREC: PRIORITY
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RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PULO 5890
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 4925
SUBJ: BRAZILIAN SCIENCE MINISTER ON GMO ISSUE AND INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

TEXT:

UNCLAS E F T O BRASILIA 003224

DEPT PASS TO USDA

DEPARTMENT FOR OES/ETC AND WHA/BSC
NASA FOR CODE IH
USDA FOR FAS/ITP (B. SLUTSKY)

SENSITIVE

NOFORN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, TSPA, SENV, EAGR, BR
SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN SCIENCE MINISTER ON GMO ISSUE AND INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

REF: BRASILIA 2396

UNCLASSIFIED BUT SENSITIVE. HANDLE ACCORDINGLY

1. (U) CHARGE, ACCOMPANIED BY EST COUNSELOR AND EMBASSY POLMIL OFFICER, PAID A COURTESY CALL AUGUST 30 ON AMB. RONALDO SARDENBERG, RECENTLY APPOINTED AS BRAZIL'S MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THIS CABLE COVERS SARDENBERG'S COMMENTS ON COMMERCE IN GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) AND ON BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION (ISS). ALSO PRESENT WERE BRAZILIAN SPACE AGENCY PRESIDENT GYLVAN MEIRA FILHO AND KATIA GILABERTE AND MANUEL MONTENEGRO, RESPECTIVELY HEAD AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE.

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INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION
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2. (SBU/NF) THE CHARGE ASKED SARDENBERG FOR A READ-OUT OF CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE FUNDING SHORTFALL DELAYING WORK ON BRAZIL'S PORTIONS OF THE ISS. SARDENBERG NOTED THAT BRAZIL RECENTLY HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM NASA REGARDING THE ISS (EMBASSY NOTE: WHICH WE UNDERSTAND REQUESTS BRAZILIAN CLARIFICATION OF THEIR PLANS FOR PURSUING THE PROJECT AND NOTES, IN EFFECT, THE NEED FOR THE ISS TO MOVE FORWARD, PREFERABLY WITH BRAZIL BUT IF NECESSARY WITHOUT.) SARDENBERG INDICATED UNDERSTANDING OF NASA'S POSITION AND SAID THERE WOULD BE A REPLY SHORTLY. HE ADDED THAT EFFORTS WOULD CONTINUE TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY FUNDING, THERE HAD BEEN SEVERAL ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT ALREADY ON THIS SUBJECT, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT BRAZIL WOULD PURSUE THE ISS, AND HE HAD BEEN ASSURED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL (I.E. PRESIDENT CARDOSO) OF ITS DESIRE TO DO SO. SARDENBERG SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE PERSONALLY DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH HIS "PEERS" (EMBASSY NOTE: A REFERENCE, INTER ALIA, TO THE MINISTER OF BUDGET AND PLANNING WITH WHOM HE HAS BEEN DEALING) TO FIND A PRACTICAL SOLUTION.

3. (SBU/NF) GYLVAN MEIRA SAID BRAZIL WAS AWARE THAT SOME ASPECTS OF ITS ISS CONTRIBUTION WERE NOW REACHING A TIME-CRITICAL STAGE IN TERMS OF THE ISS SCHEDULE. HE ADDED THAT IN ITS REPLY TO NASA, BRAZIL WOULD SUGGEST THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO SWAPPING SUCH ITEMS FOR BRAZILIAN ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR OTHER COMPONENTS WHICH FALL DUE LATER IN THE OVERALL PROGRAM. SARDENBERG IMMEDIATELY INTERJECTED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT A MAXIMUM EFFORT WOULD NOT BE MADE OR THAT THERE WAS LACK OF CERTAINTY OVER BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION AND THE DETERMINATION TO MEET THE EXISTING TIMETABLE. THE CHARGE THANKED SARDENBERG FOR THE ASSURANCE. AT THE SAME TIME, HE NOTED A RECENT LOCAL PRESS ARTICLE QUOTING A BOEING SPOKESMAN THAT THERE WAS NO SERIOUS PROBLEM WITH THE ISS PROJECT HERE; THE CHARGE SAID THAT, IN HIS EXPERIENCE, SUCH STATEMENTS TYPICALLY MEANT THERE WAS A PROBLEM. EST COUNSELOR ADDED THAT, IN FACT, BOEING WAS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH THE CONTINUED IMPASSE ON THE FUNDING ISSUE.

GMO'S
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4. (SBU) THE CHARGE RAISED GMO'S AND THE CURRENT DEBATE IN BRAZIL OVER THEIR INTRODUCTION, NOTING OUR CONCERN OVER THE ISSUE GIVEN THE i{W2o_EkY`ES ABJURING THE TECHNOLOGY WOULD FIND
THEMSELVES UNCOMPETITIVE. BRAZIL ITSELF HAD A MAJOR STAKE IN THE MATTER GIVEN ITS OWN AGRO-BUSINESS AND POTENTIAL. THE CHARGE ASKED FOR SARDENBERG'S PERSPECTIVE.

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5. (SBU) SARDENBERG NOTED THAT THE SCIENCE MINISTRY HAD A STRONG, WELL-QUALIFIED AND SCIENTIFICALLY BASED

COMMISSION, CTN-BIO, WHICH REVIEWED INTRODUCTION OF GMOS INTO BRAZIL; HE WAS CONFIDENT THEY WOULD SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT IN TECHNICAL TERMS AND HE HIMSELF RELIED ON THEM FOR ADVICE. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WERE NOW STRONG POPULAR FEELINGS IN BRAZIL AGAINST GMO PRODUCTS, ONLY RECENTLY AROUSED BY A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE TECHNOLOGY, AND HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN A TARGET FOR CRITICISM ON THE ISSUE. (SARDENBERG HELD UP A PORTUGUESE-LANGUAGE LEAFLET BEING DISTRIBUTED IN RIO DE JANEIRO BY GREENPEACE AND DISMISSED IT AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF "TERROR" CAMPAIGN BEING WAGED.) MOST PEOPLE, HE ADDED, ALSO CONFUSED GMOS WITH MAD COW DISEASE, DIOXINS, OR OTHER PHENOMENA WHICH HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH GMOS. SARDENBERG SAID "WE" WOULD BE WORKING THE ISSUE, BEGINNING WITH PUBLIC HEARINGS TO AIR OPINION, PERHAPS FOLLOWED BY OTHER MEASURES. IN THE MEANTIME, THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION, WHICH WAS TO CONSIDER GMOS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. MORE TRANSPARENCY IN THE PROCESS--OF WHICH THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WOULD BE A FIRST STEP--WOULD BE IMPORTANT IN BETTER MANAGING THE ISSUE. IN THE MEANTIME, HE ADDED, DEVELOPMENTS AND CLAIMS IN THE PUBLIC DEBATE OVER GMOS IN THE U.S. HAD IMMEDIATE REPERCUSSIONS ON THE DEBATE WITHIN BRAZIL.

6. (SBU/NF) EMBASSY COMMENT: ON ISS, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THAT THE BRAZILIANS HAVE RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF TRADING OFF SOME SHORT-LEAD TIME ITEMS FOR COMPONENTS WITH MORE DISTANT DUE DATES IN THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPACE STATION. GIVEN SARDENBERG'S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE MATTER AND HIS QUICK INTERJECTION FOLLOWING MEIRA'S PRESENTATION, WE SUSPECT THAT THE BRAZILIANS' FOCUS REMAINS ON GETTING THE EXISTING PROGRAM BACK ON TRACK, BUT THAT WITH TIME RUNNING OUT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR A CONTINGENCY FALLBACK OPTION (AND NASA REACTIONS THERETO) SHOULD SARDENBERG'S EFFORTS TO CATALYZE FUNDING IN THE NEAR FUTURE PROVE UNSUCCESSFUL.

7. (SBU/NF) EMBASSY COMMENT CONT.: ON GMOS, SARDENBERG'S COMMENTS POSITION HIM SQUARELY ON THE SIDE OF A DISPASSIONATE, SCIENTIFIC APPROACH SIMILAR TO THAT CHAMPIONED BY HIS PREDECESSOR. (IN HIS INITIAL STATEMENTS AFTER ASSUMING THE MINISTRY, HE HAD BEEN CAUTIOUSLY NON-COMMITTAL ON GMOS.) THE SCIENCE MINISTRY AND ITS TECHNICAL CADRE THUS WILL LIKELY REMAIN ESSENTIALLY SUPPORTIVE OF GMO INTRODUCTION INTO BRAZIL. HOWEVER, INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS AND DEBATE OF THE ISSUE THIS YEAR (REFTEL) HAVE BROUGHT OTHER PLAYERS INTO THE GAME--ESPECIALLY THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY--WHICH BY NATURE ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS TOWARDS GMO TECHNOLOGY AND WHICH

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ARE NOW JOCKEYING WITH THE SCIENCE MINISTRY FOR
PREEMINENCE IN THE REGULATORY STRUCTURE ADDRESSING
GMOS. END COMMENT.

GALLUCCI

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3224

TOR: 990831150914 M4026501

DIST:

SIT: ARMSTRONG AVERY ORFINI SANDALOW SHANNON VALENZUELA
SIT: NSC

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INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0656
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHHK/ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC COLLECTIVE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUCNCAN/ALCAN COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: CANADA: GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS - GREENPEACE
TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 OTTAWA 003353

DEPARTMENT FOR G, E, EB, OES, WHA/CAN

DEPARTMENT PASS USTR FOR DEPUTY USTR ESSERMAN AND MARY RYCKMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, EAGR, ETRD, GM
SUBJ: CANADA: GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS - GREENPEACE ENTERS FRAY, HIGHER PROFILE IN CABINET, GOC AGENCIES CONFIDENT

REF: (A) OTTAWA 2995 (B) BONN 3209

1. THIS IS A SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED CABLE. NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION, OR DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE USG CHANNELS OR TO PUBLIC MEDIA SOURCES, INCLUDING THE INTERNET.

SUMMARY
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2. (SBU) GREENPEACE AND ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS HAVE STEPPED UP THEIR PUBLIC-AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN ORDER TO ENGAGE CANADIAN CONSUMERS IN THE DEBATE OVER THE SAFETY OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODSTUFFS. CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEIR EXISTING ACTION PLANS REMAIN CAPABLE OF ANSWERING WHATEVER GREENPEACE HAS IN STORE. NEVERTHELESS THE GOC IS CONSIDERING A REFINEMENT TO THEIR LABELING POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR GM FOODSTUFFS. THIS EFFORT IS STILL IN ITS NASCENT STAGES AND WHAT FORM THIS REFINEMENT WILL EVENTUALLY TAKE WILL DEPEND ON STAKEHOLDER VIEWS. THE NEW POLICY AND GUIDELINES WILL, IN

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ANY CASE, STILL REFLECT THE PRINCIPLE OF VOLUNTARY LABELING FOR GM FOODS. ALTHOUGH SOME CABINET MINISTERS HAVE BEGUN TO SUGGEST THAT IN THE INTEREST OF CONSUMER PROTECTION LABELING FOR GM FOOD BE MANDATORY, THESE SENTIMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ATTENUATED AS THESE MINISTERS ARE EDUCATED ON THE GM ISSUE BY GOC AGENCIES AND THE DISCUSSION MOVES INTO FULL CABINET.

GREENPEACE JOINS THE FOOD FIGHT

3. (U) IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 1999 GREENPEACE COMMENCED A PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN CANADA THAT IS EXPECTED TO TARGET FOOD PROCESSORS AND GROCERY STORES, IN AN EFFORT TO INCREASE CONSUMER AWARENESS OF THE PUTATIVE DANGERS OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED FOODS. THE GOAL, ACCORDING TO GREENPEACE'S GENETIC-ENGINEERING CAMPAIGN MANAGER IN TORONTO, MICHEAL KHOO, IS TO FORCE GMO FOOD FROM THE STORE SHELVES - AN EFFORT AT WHICH GREENPEACE SUCCEEDED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

4. (U) HITHERTO, IN CANADA, THE ANTI-GMO TRENCHES HAVE BEEN MANNED LARGELY BY TROOPS FROM THE SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA AND THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS (A VOCIFEROUS ANTI-FREE TRADE ORGANIZATION) WITH THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (CBC) OCCASIONALLY BACKING THEM UP. INDEED A SERIES OF REPORTS BY CBC SCIENCE JOURNALIST (AND ONE-TIME GENETICS PROFESSOR) DAVID SUZUKI ON BIOTECHNOLOGY DURING THE EARLY SUMMER OF 1999 TOOK A TRANSPARENTLY ANTI-GMO STANCE.

5.(U) COMMENT: GIVEN GREENPEACE'S WORLD-WIDE EXPERIENCE IN THE GMO DEBATE, A)ARA 12). IN CONCERT WITH EXISTING EFFORTS, GREENPEACE WILL ACT AS A FORCE-MULTIPLIER WHICH WILL HEIGHTEN PUBLIC CONCERN AND INTENSIFY THE DEBATE BY TAKING DIRECT ACTION AT THE STOREFRONT AND CHECK-OUT COUNTER IN THE BATTLE FOR CONSUMER HEARTS AND MINDS. END COMMENT.

GOC DEPARTMENTS REMAIN CONFIDENT

6. (SBU) ACCORDING TO A CONTACT AT THE CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY (CFIA), THE GREENPEACE INITIATIVE HAS PRODUCED NO NEW CONCERNS AT THAT ORGANIZATION. THE CFIA, IN CONCERT WITH OTHER FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE "FOOD BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK", ALREADY PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF MATERIAL FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION ON THE CFIA WEBSITE (WWW.CFIA-ACIA.AGR.CA). OUR INTERLOCUTOR AT THE CFIA EXPECTS THAT HIS ORGANIZATION WILL SIMPLY BECOME BUSIER TAILORING THE MESSAGE (I.E., GM FOOD IS SAFE, AND VOLUNTARY LABELING IS ADEQUATE) TO A BROADER SET OF CONSUMERS.

7. (U) OUR CFIA INTERLOCTOR NOTED THAT AS PART OF THE COMMUNICATIONS EFFORT THE "FOOD BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK" WILL DISTRIBUTE PAMPHLETS WITHIN STORES WITH THE INTENTION OF PROVIDING A SOBER COUNTERPOINT TO THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY GREENPEACE.

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 OTTAWA 003353

DEPARTMENT FOR G, E, EB, OES, WHA/CAN

DEPARTMENT PASS USTR FOR DEPUTY USTR ESSERMAN AND MARY RYCKMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, EAGR, ETRD, GM
SUBJ: CANADA: GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS - GREENPEACE ENTERS FRAY, HIGHER PROFILE IN CABINET, GOC AGENCIES CONFIDENT

8. (U) HEALTH CANADA (WHICH IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CFIA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LABELING OF FOODSTUFFS) IS ALSO CONFIDENT THAT THEY CAN DEAL WITH THE HEIGHTENED PROFILE WHICH GREENPEACE WILL BRING TO THE GM FOOD DEBATE. HEALTH CANADA'S EFFORT WILL FOCUS ON EXPLAINING TO CONSUMERS THE PROCESS FOR ASSESSING FOOD SAFETY. THE PRINCIPAL MEDIUM FOR INFORMATION DISSEMINATION WILL BE THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

BUT, POLICY ON GM FOOD LABELING BEING REVIEWED
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9. (U) THE CFIA (ALONG WITH HEALTH CANADA AND THEIR FOOD INDUSTRY PARTNERS) IS CONSIDERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE REFINED POLICY WITH RESPECT TO LABELING OF GM FOODSTUFFS. THIS INITIATIVE HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS IN RESPONSE TO A QUALITATIVE SURVEY OF CANADIAN CONSUMERS ON THE QUESTION OF "CONSUMER INTERPRETATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF VOLUNTARY LABEL MESSAGES AS THEY COULD BE APPLIED TO FOODS DERIVED THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY." THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED IN APRIL 1999 FOR THE CFIA BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NUTRITION OF OTTAWA, IT IS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING URL:

WWW.CFIA-ACIA.AGR.CA/ENGLISH/PPC/BIOTECH/NINREPOR.HTM

10.(U) IN CANADA THE CURRENT GM FOOD LABELING POLICY, WHICH IS VOLUNTARY, ALLOWS A MANUFACTURER TO LABEL GM FOODSTUFFS AS THEY WISH PROVIDING THAT THE LABELING IS NOT MISLEADING OR FALSE.

11. (U) ACCORDING TO CFIA AND HC, THE REFINED POLICY AND GUIDELINES WILL STILL REFLECT THE GOC PRINCIPLE THAT MANDATORY LABELING OF FOOD WILL BE BASED ON HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS WHILE LABELING OF GM FOODS WILL REMAIN VOLUNTARY. OUR INTERLOCUTOR AT CFIA WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO TIMELINE ESTABLISHED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REFINED POLICY AND GUIDELINES, AND THAT BECAUSE ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS MUST AGREE ON THE MANNER OF THE REFINEMENT, THE FINAL FORM OF THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES IS HARD TO PREDICT. OUR INTERLOCUTOR DID SPECULATE, HOWEVER, THAT THE REVIEW MIGHT SIMPLY ESTABLISH SOME GUIDELINES FOR WHICH PHRASES MIGHT BE USED AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES. OUR CFIA INTERLOCUTOR NOTED THAT INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES MAY ANNOUNCE IN LATE SEPTEMBER

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THAT A "LABELING REVIEW" PROCESS IS BEING UNDERTAKEN.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND CABINET NOW INTERESTED

12. (SBU) OUR INTERLOCUTOR AT HC TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE GREENPEACE INITIATIVE HAS CAPTURED THE ATTENTION OF MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS AND AS A RESULT THEIR OFFICE HAS BECOME ENGAGED IN RESPONDING TO INFORMATION REQUESTS FROM THESE QUARTERS. ALSO, STAFF IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (THE POLITICAL EXECUTIVE WHICH SERVES PRIME MINISTER CHRETIEN) HAS SHOWN GREAT INTEREST ON THE SUBJECT OF GM FOODS AND HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL BRIEFINGS ON THE PROCESS OF FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENT.

13. (SBU) OUR INTERLOCUTOR AT HC ALSO NOTED THAT DURING A BRIEFING LAST WEEK ON FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENT PROVIDED TO A SUBGROUP OF CABINET MINISTERS, SOME OF THESE CABINET MINISTERS NOTED THEIR INTEREST IN MANDATORY LABELING OF GM FOODS "AS A FORM OF CONSUMER PROTECTION." OUR INTERLOCUTOR WOULD NOT ELABORATE ON WHOM PRECISELY WAS INVOLVED BUT HE CHARACTERIZED THE "PUSH FOR LABELING" AS COMING FROM "SOCIAL PORTFOLIO" MINISTERS. (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED UNDER THIS RUBRIC, AND WHEREAS THE MINISTER OF HEALTH MIGHT BE, EMBOFF DID NOT GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS MINISTER WAS ONE OF THOSE MAKING THE SUGGESTION. END COMMENT.) OUR INTERLOCUTOR ADDED THAT HE EXPECTS THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION IN FULL CABINET WILL ATTENUATE THIS SENTIMENT, AND THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE THERE WILL BE NO MOVE AWAY FROM A VOLUNTARY LABELING POLICY FOR GM FOODS.

COMMENT

14. (U) THE CONCERN FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN CABINET IS NOT UNEXPECTED AND
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 OTTAWA 003353

DEPARTMENT FOR G, E, EB, OES, WHA/CAN

DEPARTMENT PASS USTR FOR DEPUTY USTR ESSERMAN AND MARY RYCKMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, EAGR, ETRD, GM
SUBJ: CANADA: GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS - GREENPEACE ENTERS FRAY, HIGHER PROFILE IN CABINET, GOC AGENCIES CONFIDENT

INDEED IS SIMILAR TO CONCERNS OF THE USG. AGRICULTURE SECRETARY GLICKMAN, FOR EXAMPLE, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT OF GM FOOD SAFETY RECENTLY CALLED FOR A REVIEW OF THE WAY USDA APPROVES GM FOODS.

15. (U) THESE DEVELOPMENTS DO NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT THE GOC AND USG CONTINUE TO SHARE A COMMON VIEW OF THE UTILITY AND VALUE OF GMO TECHNOLOGY AND GM FOODS, AND THE TWO

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COUNTRIES POLICIES IN THIS RESPECT ARE IN HARMONY. THE GOC AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR REGULATING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS HAVE MAINTAINED (AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN) A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR USG ANALOGUES AND THERE REMAINS NO NEED TO INTERJECT A PUBLIC DIPLOMACY EFFORT INTO THE GMO DEBATE IN CANADA (REF A). END COMMENT.

GIFFIN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 3353
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INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
SUBJ: EU CONSIDERS ONE PERCENT GMO LABELING THRESHOLD

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 006104

PASS USDA ELECTRONICALLY FOR OSEC/SCHUMACHER & SIDDIQUI
FAS FOR OA/GALVIN; ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE/SLUTSKY
CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/COTS/BLUM

PASS USTR FOR MURPHY/IVES

EUROPEAN UNION POSTS PASS AGRICULTURE

GENEVA PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: EU CONSIDERS ONE PERCENT GMO LABELING THRESHOLD

1. COMMISSION SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE (DG III) IS ABOUT TO CIRCULATE TO MEMBER STATES A PROPOSAL FOR A ONE PERCENT THRESHOLD FOR LABELING OF GMO FOODS, THE LONG-EXPECTED "IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS" OF REGULATION 1138/97 ON LABELING OF FOODS CONTAINING GMO CORN AND SOYBEANS.

2. MEMBER STATES WILL VOTE ON THE PROPOSAL AT THE OCTOBER 21 MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD. IF PASSED BY QUALIFIED MAJORITY, IT WILL GO INTO EFFECT. IF NOT, IT WILL GO TO COUNCIL FOR REVIEW AND POSSIBLE MODIFICATION.

3. SOURCES CONFIRM THAT THE PROPOSAL DOES NOT DEFINE A TESTING METHOD NOR DOES IT INCLUDE A NEGATIVE LIST (I.E. PRODUCTS EXEMPT FROM TESTING).

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4. A COPY OF THE PROPOSAL WILL LIKELY BECOME AVAILABLE WITHIN A FEW DAYS AND WILL BE SENT TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES ON RECEIPT. MORNINGSTAR

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6104

TOR: 991004112532 M4079753

DIST:

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ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN
RUEHSF/AMEMBASSY SOFIA
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW
SUBJ: GMO THRESHOLD REGULATION PASSES

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 006518

USDA FOR OSEC/SIDDIQUI
FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE, OFSTS/SLUTSKY
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY/IVES, NOVELLI/SANFORD, TROJE
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN , WTRO, TBIO
SUBJECT: GMO THRESHOLD REGULATION PASSES

REF: BRUSSELS 6104

1. THE EU'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOODSTUFFS ON OCTOBER 21 APPROVED AN IMPLEMENTING REGULATION ESTABLISHING A ONE PERCENT THRESHOLD FOR GMO'S IN CERTAIN FOODS.

2. UNDER NEW COMITOLOGY PUBLISHED JUNE 1999, THE REGULATION MUST BE PROCEDURALLY REVIEWED BY THE PARLIAMENT BEFORE A ROUTINE ACCEPTANCE BY THE COMMISSION, THEN PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL. IT WILL GO INTO FORCE 90 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION, PROVIDED PARLIAMENT DOES NOT DECLARE THAT THE REGULATION EXCEEDS THE COMMISSION'S IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY. IN THAT CASE, THE PARLIAMENT COULD DEMAND THAT THE COMMISSION PREPARE NEW LEGISLATION THROUGH CO-DECISION.

3. ACCORDING TO A HIGHLY PLACED COMMISSION SOURCE, THE

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PROPOSAL WAS AMENDED SLIGHTLY FROM THE DRAFT TEXT THAT USEU FAXED TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES TWO WEEKS AGO (REF). THE PRINCIPLE CHANGE WAS EXTENSION OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE FROM 20 TO 90 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION, AND ADDITION OF AN EXPLICIT STATEMENT THAT PRODUCTS ALREADY ON THE MARKET NEED NOT BE WITHDRAWN. POST WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE DOCUMENT AS APPROVED.

4. THE PROPOSAL ADDS IMPLEMENTATION DETAIL BY AMENDING COMMISSION REGULATION 1139/98, IN FORCE SINCE SEPTEMBER 1998 BUT WITHOUT SPECIFICS, ON LABELING FOODS MADE FROM OR CONTAINING INGREDIENTS DERIVED FROM ROUND-UP READY SOYBEANS AND NOVARTIS BT-CORN. THE NEW REGULATION SETS A ONE PERCENT THRESHOLD FOR ADVENTITIOUS(UNINTENTIONAL) CONTAMINATION, BUT ONLY WHEN MANUFACTURERS CAN DEMONSTRATE BEST EFFORTS TO OBTAIN NON-GMO SOURCES. BOTH THE TOTAL PRODUCT AND EACH INGREDIENT MUST MEET THE THRESHOLD. FURTHER, THE THRESHOLD FOR ADVENTITIOUS CONTAMINATION APPLIES ONLY TO GMO VARIETIES APPROVED IN THE EU; UNAPPROVED VARIETIES STILL FACE A ZERO TOLERANCE. . IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS NOT/NOT A BLANKET MEASURE EXEMPTING ALL PRODUCTS WITH LESS THAN ONE PERCENT MODIFIED PROTEIN FROM LABELING, NOR DOES IT DEFINE "GMO-FREE."

5. NO TESTING OR ANALYTICAL METHODS ARE DEFINED. A COMMISSION SOURCE RECENTLY TOLD AGATT THAT THIS WAS A DELIBERATE DECISION BECAUSE TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING SO RAPIDLY THAT ANY DEFINITION WOULD QUICKLY BE OUTDATED. HE ALSO TOLD AGATT THAT MEMBER STATE EXPERTS WILL MEET IN A FEW WEEKS TO REVIEW A REPORT ON TESTING VALIDATION FROM THE COMMISSION'S JOINT RESEARCH COUNCIL.

6. COMMENT: MANY BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COMMISSION WERE SURPRISED THAT THE MEASURE PASSED, AS SOME MEMBER STATE REPS REPORTEDLY FOUND THE LEVEL TOO LOW AND OTHERS TOO HIGH. SOME MEMBER STATES ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE VOTE NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE WTO TBT 60-DAY COMMENT PERIOD EXPIRES. ALTHOUGH EXACT VOTES ARE NOT RELEASED ONE SOURCE SAID THAT AT THE END 14 MEMBER STATES VOTED IN FAVOR AND ONLY ONE (UNIDENTIFIED) ABSTAINED.

7. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT PROCEDURAL APPROVAL BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL BE A RUBBER STAMP. ANTI-GMO GROUPS ALREADY HAVE BEGUN ATTACKING THE THRESHOLD AS TOO HIGH, DEMANDING THAT LEVELS BE SET AT 0.1 PERCENT OR EVEN LOWER. SOME MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAVE ALSO CALLED FOR A THRESHOLD MUCH LOWER THAN ONE PERCENT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MAY USE ITS NEW COMITOLOGY POWER TO CLAIM THE COMMISSION IS MAKING NEW POLICY WITH THIS IMPLEMENTATION PROPOSAL AND TO DEMAND THAT THE COMMISSION INSTEAD DRAFT NEW CO-DECISIONAL LEGISLATION, WHERE THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WOULD HAVE A VOICE ON THE SUBSTANCE.

CLOUD

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6518

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Organisms] (2 pages)	11/04/1999	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: [Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms] (2 pages)	11/17/1999	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: [Attitude Toward Genetically Modified Organisms] (3 pages)	11/22/1999	P1/b(1)
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: Italy Considers the Ban of 7 GMO Varieties (4 pages)~~	~~12/22/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:
[11/04/1999 - 12/22/1999]

2013-0836-F
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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0827
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 4713
SUBJ: ITALY CONSIDERS THE BAN OF 7 GMO VARIETIES
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 008858

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN;
ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE; OFSTS/SLUTSKY;
STATE PASS USDA ALSO FOR
CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHENEIDER; CMP/COTS/BLUM;
FAA/GEERKEN
DEPT PASS USTR
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE
MILAN FOR ATO

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EU, IT
SUBJECT: ITALY CONSIDERS THE BAN OF 7 GMO VARIETIES

1. SUMMARY: IN A PRESS RELEASE DATED DECEMBER 17, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED THAT THE USE OF 7 GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS WILL BE SUSPENDED TEMPORARILY AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE BASED ON A PETITION MADE BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR A GREEN ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY. THE REASON FOR THE SUSPENSION IS BASED ON ARGUMENTS THAT THE VARIETIES SHOULD HAVE BEEN EVALUATED BY THE MEMBER STATES AS OPPOSED TO BEING ACCEPTED UNDER A PETITION OF SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE UNDER EU REGULATION 258/97. DR. ROMANO MARABELLI, HEAD OF THE NOVEL FOODS COMMITTEE ASSURED THE EMBASSY THAT THE PRESS RELEASE HAS "LITTLE CONNECTION TO REALITY" AND THAT NO DECISION ON WHAT ACTION TO TAKE HAS BEEN MADE. MARABELLI, SAID THAT THE MOH DOES BELIEVE THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH THESE

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PRODUCTS WERE APPROVED DOES NEED TO BE REVIEWED, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE MINISTRY MAY TURN THE ISSUE OVER TO THE EU COMMISSION TO MAKE A DETERMINATION. MARABELLI STRESSED THAT REACHING SUCH DECISION IS A TIME CONSUMING PROCESS, AND THAT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS WILL MAKE ARRIVING AT A DECISION EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. IF THE MOH DOES BAN THE IMPORT OF THE 7 PRODUCTS, IMPORTS OF U.S. PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS, PARTICULARLY IN PROCESSED FOOD, COULD BE SEVERELY RESTRICTED. HOWEVER, AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF ANY EFFECT WILL DEPEND ON THE ULTIMATE DECISION TAKEN BY THE MOH. POST WILL FOLLOW THIS ISSUE CLOSELY AND REPORT BACK AS INFORMATION IS OBTAINED. END SUMMARY.

2. ON DECEMBER 17, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH RELEASED THE FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT: "FOLLOWING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERIOR HEALTH INSTITUTE AND THE SUPERIOR HEALTH COUNCIL, BASED ON A PETITION BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR A GREEN ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY (VERDE), THAT THE PROCEDURES FOLLOWED FOR MARKETING SEVEN GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS WERE NOT APPROPRIATE, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE MINISTRIES OF ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, WILL ADOPT A PROVISION TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING THE USE OF THESE PRODUCTS AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MECHANISM PROVIDED UNDER EU REGULATIONS". THE SEVEN PRODUCTS IN QUESTION ARE 4 CORN (MAIS BT11, MAIS MON 810, MAIS MON809, AND MAIS T25) AND 3 RAPESEEDS (RAPESEED GT 73, RAPESEED OIL MS1 RS1, AND RAPESEED OIL RF2 MS1).

3. THIS PRESS RELEASE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN BASED ON AN OPINION PROVIDED BY THE SUPERIOR HEALTH COUNCIL, AN ADVISING BODY TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, ON DECEMBER 16. THE OPINION ITSELF IS IN RESPONSE TO A PETITION FROM VERDE, WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FROM THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION "FRIENDS OF THE EARTH", CLAIMING THAT THE SEVEN GMO PRODUCTS WERE NOT PROPERLY APPROVED FOR MARKETING AT THE EU LEVEL. ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT, THE SEVEN PRODUCTS WERE TESTED AND SUBMITTED FOR EU APPROVAL BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT UNDER THE SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE FOR "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT" PRODUCTS UNDER EU REGULATION 258/971. VERDE ARGUES THAT THE INSERTED GENE COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT (ALLERGIC REACTION, PRODUCTION OF TOXINS, OR ACTIVATION OF PREVIOUSLY DORMANT GENES, ETC.) AND ARE THEREFORE NOT SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT. AS A RESULT, THE PRODUCTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN EVALUATED BY EACH MEMBER STATE PRIOR TO

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APPROVAL. THE SUPERIOR HEALTH COUNCIL SUPPORTS THIS ARGUMENT AND RECOMMENDS THAT THE EU RULES REGARDING PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF NOVEL FOODS BE MODIFIED IN ACCORDANCE TO THE NEW SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 008858

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN;
ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE; OFSTS/SLUTSKY;
STATE PASS USDA ALSO FOR
CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHENEIDER; CMP/COTS/BLUM;
FAA/GEERKEN
DEPT PASS USTR
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AVAILABLE ON THE ISSUE OF SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE.

4. DR. ROMANO MARABELLI, OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NOVEL FOODS COMMITTEE, IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE AGATTACHE, STRESSED THAT THIS PRESS RELEASE "HAD LITTLE CONNECTION TO REALITY" AND THAT THE MOH WAS STILL STUDYING THE ISSUE. MARABELLI SAID THAT IT IS THE PRACTICE IN EUROPE TO INTRODUCE PRODUCTS THROUGH THE SIMPLIFIED NOTIFICATION SYSTEM THAT ARE CONSIDERED TO BE SIMILAR TO TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, SOME PRODUCTS THAT HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED MAY NOT BE EQUIVALENT OR MAY NOT HAVE HAD ADEQUATE RESEARCH DONE ON THEIR POSSIBLE HEALTH AFFECTS. MARABELLI ALSO SAID THAT THERE COULD BE A PUBLIC PERCEPTION THAT THE PRODUCTS WERE NOT PROPERLY EVALUATED. MARABELLI STRESSED THAT A BAN ON THE PRODUCTS WAS AN OPTION THAT SHOULD NOT EVEN BE DISCUSSED AT THIS TIME, AND THAT OTHER OPTIONS, INCLUDING HANDING THE ISSUE OVER TO THE EU COMMISSION TO RESOLVE, ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN. MARABELLI ADDED THAT REACHING ANY SUCH DECISION IS NORMALLY A TIME CONSUMING PROCESS, BUT THAT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS WILL MAKE ARRIVING AT A DECISION EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. (NOTE: THE ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER RESIGNED ON DECEMBER 18 AND IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO FORM A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT).

5. COMMENT: DR. MARABELLI HAD BEEN IN MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS SINCE LAST WEEK AND JUST

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RETURNED TO HIS OFFICE THE MORNING OF DEC. 21 WHEN HE TALKED WITH THE AGATTACHE. IT WAS APPARENT THAT HE WAS CAUGHT OFF GUARD, AND EMBARRASSED, BY THE PRESS RELEASE. MARABELLI GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE PROBABLY AGREES THAT THE SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES CURRENTLY FOLLOWED SHOULD BE REVIEWED, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF PUBLIC PERCEPTION THAT THERE MAY BE A PROBLEM. HOWEVER, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SUPPORTIVE, ALBEIT IN A CAUTIOUS WAY, OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND IT WOULD BE OUT OF CHARACTER FOR HIM TO GO ALONG WITH SUCH A KNEE-JERK PUBLIC ACTION. MARABELLI HAS OFTEN COAXED A MORE MODERATE LINE OUT OF HEALTH MINISTER ROSI BINDI, WHO LEANS TOWARD THE GREEN POINT OF VIEW. MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, EDO RONCHI, IS A MEMBER OF THE GREEN PARTY AND CAN BE ASSUMED TO BE FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF A BAN OF THE PRODUCTS. IF THE MOH DOES BAN THE IMPORT OF THE 7 PRODUCTS, IMPORTS OF U.S. PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS, PARTICULARLY IN PROCESSED FOOD, COULD BE SEVERELY RESTRICTED. HOWEVER, AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF ANY EFFECT WILL DEPEND ON THE ULTIMATE DECISION TAKEN BY THE MOH. POST WILL FOLLOW THIS ISSUE CLOSELY AND REPORT BACK AS INFORMATION IS OBTAINED. END COMMENT. FOGLIETTA

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Negotiations on International Trade in Genetically Modified Organisms] (2 pages)	01/19/2000	P1/b(1)
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: [Discussions] (7 pages)~~	~~01/20/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NR 4/3/2020
003. cable	Re: [Public Awareness on Genetically Modified Organisms] (2 pages)	01/21/2000	P1/b(1)
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: Brazil Refuses U.S. Corn Due to GMO Concerns (7 pages)~~	~~02/18/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NR 4/3/2020
005. cable	Re: [Biotechnology/EU] (3 pages)	03/01/2000	P1/b(1)
006. cable	Re: [Policy on Biotechnology Issues] (3 pages)	03/29/2000	P1/b(1)
~~007. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Labeling] (4 pages)~~	~~04/03/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NR 4/3/2020
008. cable	Re: [anti-GMO import barriers] (3 pages)	04/19/2000	P1/b(1)
~~009. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Labeling] (4 pages)~~	~~05/05/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NR 4/3/2020
~~010. cable~~	~~Re: Possible Action on GMO Seeds (2 pages)~~	~~06/06/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NR 11/26/2019

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:
[01/19/2000 - 06/29/2000]

2013-0836-F
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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
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b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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SUBJ: SENATOR BOND (R-MO) DISCUSSES WTO, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND GMO'S WITH SINGAPORE'S LEADERS

(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR STEVEN J. GREEN. REASON 1.5 (B).
TEXT: ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 SINGAPORE 000170

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/16/2014
2016-0572-M (1.40)

STATE FOR EAP/PIMBS, AND H

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/17/10
TAGS: PREL, EAGR, ATRD, TBIO, TSPA, ASEAN, WTRO, CH, ID, MY, SN
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(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR STEVEN J. GREEN. REASON 1.5 (B).

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. DURING SENATOR CHRISTOPHER BOND'S (R-MO) JANUARY 12-15 VISIT TO SINGAPORE HE MET WITH SENIOR MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW, DEPUTY PM LEE HSIEN LOONG, PRESIDENT S.R. NATHAN, MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY GEORGE YEO, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SECOND MINISTER FOR DEFENSE TEO CHEE HEAN, AND WITH LOCAL ACADEMICS AND SCIENTISTS. FOUR MAIN THEMES EMERGED FROM THIS SERIES OF MEETINGS. FIRST, SINGAPORE SHARED SENATOR BOND'S VIEW THAT POLICIES GOVERNING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S) SHOULD BE BASED UPON SOUND SCIENCE AND NOT DRIVEN BY UNFOUNDED PUBLIC CONCERNS. SECOND, SINGAPOREAN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE FAILURE TO LAUNCH A NEW WTO ROUND IN SEATTLE AND CHARACTERIZED CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF CHINA'S ENTRY TO THE WTO AS IMPORTANT TO THE ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF THE REGION. THIRD, SINGAPORE LEADERS OPINED THAT U.S. POLICY SHOULD BE AIMED AT CREATING A STABLE ENVIRONMENT IN INDONESIA THAT WILL RESULT IN

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THE RETURN OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT TO SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH, NOT SIMPLY ON THE MECHANICS OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. FINALLY, SINGAPORE PROVIDED A READOUT ON THE RECENT CRACKDOWN ON MALAYSIA'S OPPOSITION FIGURES.

2. (U) ALSO DURING HIS VISIT, SENATOR BOND AND MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION ANNOUNCED A PROGRAM OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION ON PROTEIN CRYSTAL RESEARCH BETWEEN A MISSOURI AND A SINGAPOREAN INSTITUTE TO CULMINATE IN A JOINT EXPERIMENT TO BE LAUNCHED ABOARD THE U.S. SPACE SHUTTLE IN JANUARY 2001. SENATOR BOND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SINGAPORE'S DECISIONS TO PURCHASE U.S. WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND TO ALLOW U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL TO USE SINGAPOREAN FACILITIES, INCLUDING THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER CAPABLE PIER UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT CHANGI NAVAL BASE. END SUMMARY.

SENATOR BOND (R-MO) VISITS SINGAPORE

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3. (U) SENATOR CHRISTOPHER ("KIT") BOND (R-MO) VISITED SINGAPORE JANUARY 12-15. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS CHIEF COUNSEL JACK BARTLING, AND MILITARY ESCORT LTC. JOHN ELLSWORTH. SENATOR BOND ALSO BROUGHT ALONG A BUSINESS DELEGATION THAT INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM: MONSANTO; SOLUTIA (AN ADVANCED LAMINATED GLASS PRODUCER); UNITED PARCEL SERVICE; SPACEHAB (A FIRM THAT PRODUCES SELF-CONTAINED RESEARCH MODULES FOR THE SPACE SHUTTLE); THE DONALD DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER (A ST. LOUIS CENTER SPECIALIZING IN PLANT AND GMO RESEARCH); AND THE U.S.-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL. SENATOR BOND, AND VARIOUS MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION, MET DURING HIS STAY WITH SENIOR MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW (NOTE. NO EMBASSY NOTETAKER WAS PRESENT AT THE SM LEE MEETING. END NOTE.), DEPUTY PM LEE HSIEN LOONG, PRESIDENT S.R. NATHAN, MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY GEORGE YEO, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SECOND MINISTER FOR DEFENSE TEO CHEE HEAN, MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR AGROBIOLOGY, THE PRIMARY PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT (AKIN TO THE USDA), AND THE GENETIC MODIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

WTO: DISAPPOINTMENT IN SEATTLE, NEED FOR CHINA'S ACCESSION

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4. ~~(C)~~ RESPONDING TO SENATOR BOND'S QUESTION ABOUT SINGAPORE'S PERCEPTION OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL, DEPUTY PM LEE VOICED HOPES THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION COULD TAKE A STRONGER TACK IN PURSUING "INTERNATIONALIST" POLICIES AND RISING ABOVE LOCAL POLITICS. DESCRIBING THE RECENT SEATTLE WTO MINISTERIAL AS A "SAD CHAPTER," LEE REMARKED FRANKLY THAT, IF WE HAD KNOWN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR THE UNITED STATES NOT TO HAVE HOSTED THE MINISTERIAL. THE EVENT WAS A MAJOR SETBACK FOR FREE TRADE, HE LAMENTED. LEE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EUROPEANS AND THE JAPANESE WERE "ALMOST WILLING" TO MAKE THE NECESSARY COMPROMISES TO ALLOW THE LAUNCHING OF A NEW ROUND, ALTHOUGH THE PROCESS WOULD STILL HAVE BEEN LONG AND DIFFICULT. THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO OFFEND DOMESTIC LABOR AND STEEL INTERESTS, HOWEVER, MEANT THAT "A DEAL WAS OFF." THE EU AND JAPAN WERE "PLEASANTLY SURPRISED" BY THE TURN OF EVENTS, LEE NOTED, AS THEY WERE LET OFF THE HOOK WITHOUT HAVING TO "TAKE

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THE RAP" FOR THE FAILURE IN SEATTLE.

5. ~~(C)~~ MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY GEORGE YEO DESCRIBED THE SEATTLE WTO MINISTERIAL AS "A DISAPPOINTMENT." RESPONDING TO SENATOR BOND'S COMPLAINTS ABOUT EU POSITIONS ON AGRICULTURE AT WTO, YEO REPLIED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE SO HARD ON THE EUROPEANS WHO HE FELT HAD BEEN REASONABLE ON AGRICULTURE ISSUES. (NOTE. MINISTER YEO SERVED AS CHAIR OF THE WTO AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 04 SINGAPORE 000170

STATE FOR EAP/PIMBS, AND H

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MEETINGS IN SEATTLE. END NOTE.) HE STATED THAT HE WAS SYMPATHETIC WITH THE EUROPEAN POINT OF VIEW THAT IF THEY MADE CONCESSIONS ON AGRICULTURE, THEY EXPECTED PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS. YEO COMMENTED THAT PROGRESS ON AGRICULTURE AND LAUNCHING A NEW WTO ROUND REQUIRED AN AGREEMENT BY THE "BIG PLAYERS:" THE U.S., EU, AND JAPAN. YEO EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT MUCH OF THE WTO PROCESS DEPENDED CRITICALLY ON WHAT HAPPENED IN U.S. DOMESTIC POLITICS. YEO CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY UNDERSCORING FOR SENATOR BOND HIS BELIEF THAT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF CHINA'S ENTRY TO THE WTO WAS CRITICAL TO ASIA'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND OUTWEIGHED IN IMPORTANCE THE FAILURE TO LAUNCH A NEW WTO ROUND IN SEATTLE.

INDONESIA -
SINGAPORE SEES STABILITY AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PROCESS

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6. ~~(C)~~ SENATOR BOND COMMENTED AT HIS MEETINGS THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE KEY ROLE THAT INDONESIA PLAYED IN THE REGION, ASSURED HIS HOSTS OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR A STABLE, PROSPEROUS, AND DEMOCRATIC INDONESIA, AND ASKED FOR THEIR VIEWS ON THE COUNTRY. DEPUTY PM LEE, IN A REPLY THAT PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF SINGAPORE'S VIEWS, NOTED THAT THE 30 YEARS OF SUHARTO'S RULE--THAT PROVIDED A BENIGN SETTING WITHIN WHICH SINGAPORE COULD GROW--HAD NOW BEEN SHATTERED. PRESIDENT WAHID'S PRIORITY AT THIS POINT SHOULD BE TO CONSOLIDATE POLITICAL CONTROL IN ORDER TO BUILD CONFIDENCE AND CREATE A COHESIVE TEAM TO ADDRESS THE COUNTRY'S MANY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. WAHID IS "BRIGHT" BUT HE MUST REALIZE THAT HE IS NO LONGER JUST THE LEADER OF A RELIGIOUS FACTION WITHIN THE COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH THEY MAY HAVE VOTED FOR WAHID, WIRANTO AND AMIEN RAIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE GANGING UP ON HIM. ALTHOUGH HABIBE HIMSELF CLEARLY HAS NO SUPPORT, LEE REMARKED, HE DOES HAVE MONEY. MEANWHILE, VICE PRESIDENT MEGAWATI DOES NOT SEEM TO BE PROVIDING MUCH HELP TO WAHID SO FAR.

7. ~~(C)~~ ASKED ABOUT A U.S. ROLE, LEE RESPONDED FRANKLY THAT THE STANDARD VIEW IS THAT U.S. POLICY IS SIMPLY ONE OF "GETTING PEOPLE TO VOTE" AND CREATING "CHECKS AND BALANCES." THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TO GO BEYOND THIS GOAL, HE SAID, TO HELP CREATE A

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STABLE ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL ALLOW FOREIGN INVESTMENT TO RETURN AND THE ECONOMY TO GROW. THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA CERTAINLY HAS INFLUENCE IN INDONESIA, HE SAID, AND THE UNITED STATES COULD ALSO WORK WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) AND AMERICAN COMPANIES TO HELP ADVANCE ITS POLICIES. FOR HIS PART, PRESIDENT NATHAN STRESSED THAT BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND ASEAN SHOULD NOT CONDONE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN INDONESIA, BUT AT THE SAME TIME BOTH NEED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE UNITY OF THE COUNTRY MUST BE PRESERVED.

8. ~~(C)~~ MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SECOND MINISTER FOR DEFENSE TEO CHEE HEAN HELD THAT MUCH OF THE CURRENT STRUGGLES IN INDONESIA WERE ABOUT WHETHER THE COUNTRY WOULD MAINTAIN A SECULAR POLITICAL IDEOLOGY, OR TURN TOWARD ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM AS A GUIDING PHILOSOPHY. INDONESIA HAD HISTORICALLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY BEEN A SECULAR STATE. AS THE ISLAMISTS HELPED VOTE PRESIDENT WAHID INTO POWER, THEY NOW EXPECTED TO HAVE SOME SAY IN THE AFFAIRS OF STATE. AS A SECULAR STATE, INDONESIA HAD BEEN OPEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREE MARKETS. IF IT TURNED TOWARD FUNDAMENTALIST ISLAM, THIS OPENNESS COULD CHANGE. SINGAPORE, TEO OBSERVED, HAD TO DEAL WITH INDONESIA WHATEVER COURSE IT TOOK, THOUGH IT WOULD PREFER THAT IT REMAIN A SECULAR STATE. TEO ASKED SENATOR BOND TO WORK WITH HIS FELLOW CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO ENCOURAGE SECULARISM IN INDONESIA AS THIS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR THE UNITED STATES AND SINGAPORE.

ASEAN - NOT YET A TRUE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

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9. ~~(C)~~ SENATOR BOND ASKED PRESIDENT NATHAN IF HE BELIEVED THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE DEALING MORE WITH ASEAN THAN FOCUSING ON BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EAST ASIA. NATHAN SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO DEAL WITH ASEAN AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REGION. ASEAN WILL NEVER ASK ITS MEMBERS TO GIVE UP SOVEREIGNTY. THEREFORE, THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT WILL REMAIN WEAK. THE RECENT ECONOMIC CRISIS RAISED PROBLEMS FOR ASEAN. HOWEVER, ASEAN CONTINUES TO MEET AND THE ASEAN PLUS 3 AND ARF ARE ALSO USEFUL FORUMS, NATHAN ADDED. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSS REGIONAL PROBLEMS, ALBEIT QUIETLY. NATHAN NOTED THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THAILAND, THE COUNTRIES IN ASEAN ARE ALL YOUNG, LESS THAN 50 YEARS OLD. POINTING TO THE DEMISE OF SEATO, HE CAUTIONED THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT TRY TO LEAD ASEAN,

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BUT RATHER ALLOW ASEAN TO GROW AND DEVELOP ON ITS OWN.

MALAYSIA - CRACKDOWN ON OPPOSITION: DOES IT SIGNAL PROBLEMS FOR

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MAHATHIR, OR IS IT A BID TO REBUILD UMNO AS A MALAY PARTY?

10. (C) ASKED BY SENATOR BOND TO COMMENT ON THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT'S LATEST ARREST OF OPPOSITION FIGURES, DEPUTY PM LEE SURMISED THAT THIS CRACKDOWN WILL NOT WORK IN THE LONG TERM. WHILE THE LAST ELECTION DID PRODUCE A WIN FOR MAHATHIR, IT ALSO SIGNALLED A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT OF POWER AWAY FROM HIM. ALTHOUGH THE INVIGORATED MUSLIM OPPOSITION IS NOT LIKELY TO WIN FUTURE ELECTIONS AS LONG AS IT HOLDS ON TO ITS FUNDAMENTALIST VIEWS, IT IS CLEARLY BECOMING A FORCE THAT COULD ARTICULATE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS. ITS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION APPEARS NOW TO BE MORE POPULAR THAN THAT OF THE RULING PARTY. AS FOR THE ETHNIC CHINESE POPULATION, LEE SAID, IT IS CAUGHT BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE FOR THE MOMENT, AND HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING MAHATHIR AS LONG AS THE OPPOSITION REMAINS FUNDAMENTALIST MUSLIM. LEE PREDICTED THAT THERE COULD BE AN INTERNAL CHANGE WITHIN THE RULING PARTY BEFORE THE NEXT ELECTION.

11. (C) MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SECOND MINISTER FOR DEFENSE TEO CHEE HEAN ECHOED DEPUTY PM LEE'S VIEWS, BUT HE ALSO CHARACTERIZED THE CRACKDOWN ON MALAYSIA'S OPPOSITION AS A PART OF PM MAHATHIR'S PLAN TO RECONSOLIDATE MALAY ELECTORAL POWER WITHIN THE RULING UMNO PARTY. TEO RECALLED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A MAJOR INTERNAL SPLIT AND POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN UMNO IN THE MID-1980'S, AND HE SPECULATED THAT, AS HAPPENED THEN, THE PARTY WOULD RECONSTITUTE ITSELF AND ITS HOLD ON POWER. TEO NOTED THAT UMNO WOULD BE HOLDING ITS INTERNAL PARTY ELECTION IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. TEO SAW NO SIGNIFICANT INTERNAL OPPOSITION TO THE RE-ELECTION OF MAHATHIR AND HIS CHOSEN SUCCESSOR AS DEPUTY PM.

PRESIDENT NATHAN SAYS BURMA REMAINS UNPREDICTABLE

12. (C) SENATOR BOND PREFACED HIS REQUEST FOR PRESIDENT NATHAN'S VIEW ON BURMA BY NOTING THAT HE HAD HEARD CONFLICTING STORIES ABOUT AUNG SAN SUU KYI BECOMING INCREASINGLY FEARFUL FOR HER SAFETY AND ADDED THAT HE HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT JUNIOR OFFICERS OF THE MILITARY MAY TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY. NATHAN OPINED THAT IT WAS HARD TO PREDICT WHAT THE BURMESE WERE UP TO. THEY HAVE JUST RE-OPENED THE POLYTECHNIC SCHOOLS AND ALSO RECENTLY BUILT HOTELS TO ATTRACT TOURISTS, BUT THEY THEN PLACED RESTRICTIONS ON TOURISM. HE POSITED THAT WITH THE CURRENT POOR STATE OF THE BURMESE ECONOMY, ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS WILL HAVE NO EFFECT. INSTEAD, HE HELD THAT A POLICY OF ENGAGEMENT SHOULD BE PURSUED TO COUNTER WHAT HE SAW AS THE GROWING INFLUENCE ON BURMA OF CHINA WHICH COULD USE BURMA TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE STRAITS OF MALACCA. NEVERTHELESS, NATHAN CONCLUDED, THERE WILL BE NO MAJOR CHANGES IN BURMA UNTIL KHIN NYUNT LEAVES THE SCENE.

SINGAPORE AGREES THAT GMO POLICY SHOULD BE SCIENCE BASED

13. (C) SENATOR BOND, ALONG WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM MONSANTO AND THE DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER, MADE THE CASE IN NUMEROUS MEETINGS WITH SINGAPOREAN LEADERS, ACADEMICS, SCIENTISTS, AND

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BUREAUCRATS, THAT POLICIES GOVERNING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S) SHOULD BE BASED UPON SOUND SCIENCE, AND NOT ON UNFOUNDED PUBLIC CONCERNS. MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY GEORGE YEO COMMENTED THAT THE GMO ISSUE WAS GOING TO BE A HUGE FIGHT. IN PARTICULAR, THE MOOD IN EUROPE IS AGAINST GMO'S, YEO SAID. PICKING UP ON A THEME ARTICULATED BY SENATOR BOND, YEO SPECULATED THAT SOME OF THE EUROPEAN OBJECTIONS TO GMO'S MAY INDEED BE FUELED BY PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENTS. ASKED TO CHARACTERIZE PERCEPTIONS OF GMO'S IN THE REGION, YEO THOUGHT THAT GMO'S WERE NOT A BIG ISSUE IN ASIA, THOUGH COVERAGE OF THE ISSUE FROM EUROPE AND THE U.S. WOULD DOUBTLESS INFLUENCE OPINIONS IN ASIA. YEO HELD THAT SINGAPORE GMO POLICIES WERE BASED ON GOOD SCIENCE. HE ADDED THAT DOCTORS, NUTRITIONISTS, AND HEALTH AUTHORITIES WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE SPOKESPEOPLE TO ATTEST TO THE SAFETY OF GMO FOOD.

14. (U) THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRIMARY PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT (PPD - AKIN TO USDA), DR. NGIAM, DESCRIBED FOR SENATOR BOND SINGAPORE'S GMO POLICY. THE PPD, ALONG WITH OTHER COMPONENTS OF ITS PARENT, THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT (MOE), IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING POLICIES RELATED TO RAW AND PROCESSED GMO FOODSTUFFS. THE MOE IS ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 04 OF 04 SINGAPORE 000170

STATE FOR EAP/PIMBS, AND H

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/17/10
TAGS: PREL, EAGR, ATRD, TBIO, TSPA, ASEAN, WTRO, CH, ID, MY, SN
SUBJECT: SENATOR BOND (R-MO) DISCUSSES WTO, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND GMO'S WITH SINGAPORE'S LEADERS

COMMITTED TO BASING ITS POLICY DECISIONS, INCLUDING ANY FUTURE GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS, ON HARD SCIENTIFIC DATA. TO ASSIST IT IN DEVELOPING SCIENCE BASED GMO POLICIES, MOE ESTABLISHED THE GENETIC MODIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GMAC). GMAC IS MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIA, AND SCIENCE.

15. (SBU) DR. NGIAM NOTED THAT THE PPD'S ASEAN SECTION WAS CURRENTLY FUNCTIONING AS THE "SECRETARIAT" FOR THE ASEAN AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEES AND IT WAS DEVELOPING AN ASEAN PROGRAM ON GMO'S. THERE WAS AN ASEAN AGRICULTURE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 2 AT WHICH SINGAPORE HOPED TO PRESENT ITS GMO PROGRAM TO ASEAN. IN THE MEANTIME, PPD RECOGNIZED THAT THE PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO BE ADAPTED TO FIT THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WITHIN ASEAN. DR. NGIAM NOTED THAT USDA HAD AGREED TO ASSIST WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASEAN GMO PROGRAM.

SENATOR BOND AND DELEGATION SIGN RESEARCH MOU WITH SINGAPORE

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16. (U) MEMBERS OF SENATOR BOND'S DELEGATION REPRESENTING MONSANTO, THE DONALD DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER IN ST. LOUIS, AND SPACEHAB, HELD AN MOU SIGNING AND PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR AGROBIOLOGY TO ANNOUNCE A JOINT VENTURE EXPERIMENT SCHEDULED TO BE LAUNCHED ABOARD THE U.S. SPACE SHUTTLE IN JANUARY 2001. THE EXPERIMENT INVOLVES GROWING SELECT PROTEIN

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CRYSTALS IN THE NEAR-ZERO GRAVITY OF EARTH ORBIT. NEAR-ZERO GRAVITY USUALLY ALLOWS FOR THE GROWTH OF MORE PURE PROTEIN CRYSTALS, FACILITATING A CLEARER MAPPING OF THEIR STRUCTURE. BETTER PROTEIN STRUCTURE MAPS HAVE NUMEROUS APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE EFFECTIVE MEDICINES.

17. (U) ADDITIONALLY, SPACEHAB, WHICH BUILDS EXPERIMENT MODULES FOR THE SPACE SHUTTLE, IS SETTING ASIDE A PORTION OF THE DONATED EXPERIMENT AREA FOR USE BY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN SINGAPORE. APPROXIMATELY TEN SINGAPOREAN SCHOOLS WILL BE SELECTED TO WORK WITH COUNTERPART SCHOOLS IN MISSOURI AND CHINA TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN EXPERIMENTS FOR LAUNCH INTO SPACE. THE STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE RESULTS OF THE EXPERIMENTS VIA INTERNET DOWNLOADS FROM THE SPACE SHUTTLE. THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAM IS TO FOSTER INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND TO GET STUDENTS EXCITED ABOUT A POSSIBLE CAREER IN THE SCIENCES.
GREEN

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RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0502
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 6190
SUBJ: BRAZIL RFUSES U.S. CORN DUE TO GMO CONCERNS - THE IEW FROM THE TRADE
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 BRASILIA 000600

SENSITIVE

USDA FOR FAS/OFFICE OF THE ADMIN.;ITP/BSIMMONS;CMP/GFD
STATE PASS USTR FOR PSCHER/KMEIMAN/SEARLY/DSHARK
STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATAT/ATP (ACETO/GARRO)
STATE FOR EB/ATT/ATP/MBRUNO
STATE FOR OES/ETC
GENEVA, BRUSSELS FOR USTR AND FAS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, KSCA, ETRD, BR, XT
SUBJECT: BRAZIL RFUSES U.S. CORN DUE TO GMO CONCERNS - THE IEW FROM THE TRADE

REF: A) BRASILIA 0239 (JULY 11, 1999)

1. SUMMARY. PERDIGAO, THE SECOND LARGEST BRZILIAN POULTRY PRODUCER AND EXPORTER, RECENTLYDECIDED TO NOT ACCEPT A SHIPMENT OF U.S. CORN DUE TO CONCERNS THAT THE EXPORTER WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATION THAT THE SHIPMENT DID NOT CONTAIN GMO CORN VARIETIES AND MIGHT NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER BRAZIL WITHOUT SUCH CERTIFICATION. PERDIGAO SAID THAT THEY TOOK THIS ACTION BECAUSE THE SHIPMENT DID NOT HAVE A CERTIFICATE STATING THAT THE CORN WAS "GMO-FREE". GREENPEACE

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WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN THE EPISODE AND WAS REPORTEDLY INTENDING TO BOARD THE VESSEL IF IT ARRIVED IN THE PORT. BRAZILIAN POULTRY AND PORK PRODUCERS STILL WANT TO IMPORT U.S. CORN IF ACCEPTABLE CERTIFICATION CAN BE PROVIDED AS THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT LOSS OF SALES IN IMPORTANT BUT GMO-SENSITIVE MARKETS LIKE THE EU AND JAPAN. POST RECOMMENDS THAT A U.S. TEAM TRAVEL TO BRAZIL TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES. END SUMMARY.

WHAT HAPPENED?

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2. AGATT CALLED TWO INDUSTRY CONTACTS FROM MAJOR TRADING COMPANIES ABOUT THE STORY IN THE PRESS THAT PERDIGAO, THE SECOND LARGEST BRAZILIAN POULTRY PRODUCER AND EXPORTER, HAD DECIDED TO NOT ACCEPT A SHIPMENT OF U.S. CORN DUE TO CONCERNS THAT THE EXPORTER WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATION THAT THE SHIPMENT DID NOT CONTAIN GMO CORN VARIETIES AND MIGHT NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER BRAZIL WITHOUT SUCH CERTIFICATION. ONE TRADING COMPANY CONTACT STATED THAT PERDIGAO HAD NOT ANTICIPATED THE POSSIBILITY THAT GREENPEACE WOULD MAKE A MEDIA EVENT OVER CORN SHIPMENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES. WHEN CONFRONTED WITH SUCH AN EVENT DECIDED TO DIVERT THE SHIPMENT ELSEWHERE BEFORE IT LANDED IN THE PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO DO SUL, SANTA CATARINA. BOTH TRADING CONTACTS STATED THAT THE SHIPMENT HAD BEEN DIVERTED TO SOUTH AFRICA.

3. FAS' AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST ALSO CONTACTED A HIGH RANKING CONTACT WITHIN PERDIGAO ABOUT THE INCIDENT (PLEASE PROTECT SOURCES AS THEY HAVE BEEN VERY OPEN WITH REGARD TO THIS INCIDENT). THE PERDIGAO OFFICIAL SAID THAT PERDIGAO HAD ORIGINALLY ASKED FOR CERTIFICATION THAT THE SHIPMENT WAS FREE OF GMO CORN IN THE CONTRACT AND THAT THAT HAD BEEN PROMISED. ACCORDING TO THIS OFFICIAL, AS THE ARRIVAL DATE APPROACHED, WHEN PRESSED ABOUT THE PROMISED CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS, THE EXPORTING COMPANY SAID THAT IT WAS HAVING TROUBLE GETTING SUCH CERTIFICATION AND THAT THE USG WAS NOT ABLE TO GIVE SUCH AN OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION. PERDI!DkxAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN SENT; JUST THAT THEY HAD ASKED FOR THE SHIPMENT TO BE RETURNED.

4. ACCORDING TO THE PERDIGAO OFFICIAL, PERDIGAO'S DECISION TO REFUSE DELIVERY OF THE CORN WAS BASED ON THE ABOVE EVENTS, NOT STRICTLY ON THE ACTIONS OF GREENPEACE, ALTHOUGH PERDIGAO HAD BEEN INFORMED OF GREENPEACE'S PLANNED ACTIONS AGAINST THE UNLOADING OF THE SHIPMENT. PERDIGAO HAD ALSO CONSIDERED ALLOWING THE SHIP TO ARRIVE AND FORCE THE GOB TO TEST THE CORN, UNTIL THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE TESTING WOULD TAKE 20 OR MORE DAYS AND THAT THE IMPORTER WOULD BEAR THE COST OF THE TESTING AS WELL AS DEMURRAGE AND PORT COSTS FOR THE TIME PERIOD. PERDIGAO WAS NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT THAT LEVEL OF DAMAGES SO TOOK THE ACTION THEY DID.

GREENPEACE'S ROLE

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5. WITH REGARD TO THE SHIP ITSELF, THE PERDIGAO OFFICIAL SAID THAT GREENPEACE WAS PLANNING A "CARNIVAL" AT THE PORT WHEN THE SHIP ARRIVED. HE SAID THAT GREENPEACE HAD HIRED BOATS, HELICOPTERS, PAID FOR JOURNALISTS TO COME TO SAN FRANCISCO DO

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SUL, AND PAID FOR HOTEL ROOMS. WHILE THE SHIPMENT DID NOT ENTER BRAZILIAN NATIONAL WATERS, NEITHER DID GREENPEACE GET THE MEDIA EVENT THEY WERE HOPING FOR. THE TRADING CONTACTS
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 BRASILIA 000600

SENSITIVE

USDA FOR FAS/OFFICE OF THE ADMIN.;ITP/BSIMMONS;CMP/GFD
STATE PASS USTR FOR PSCHER/KMEIMAN/SEARLY/DSHARK
STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATAT/ATP (ACETO/GARRO)
STATE FOR EB/ATT/ATP/MBRUNO
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, KSCA, ETRD, BR, XT
SUBJECT: BRAZIL REFUSES U.S. CORN DUE TO GMO CONCERNS - THE VIEW FROM THE TRADE

CONFIRMED THAT GREENPEACE WAS WAITING AT THE PORT FOR THE SHIP TO ARRIVE REPORTEDLY WITH PLANS TO BOARD THE VESSEL. WITH REGARD TO THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE EVENT, GREENPEACE MADE A REQUEST TO A FEDERAL PROSECUTOR/ATTORNEY GENERAL IN THE STATE OF SANTA CATARINA STATING THAT THE SHIPMENT WAS "SUSPECTED" TO CONTAIN GMO CORN AND THAT THAT WAS CONTRARY TO BRAZILIAN LEGISLATION. THIS INFORMATION WAS ALSO PRESENTED TO THE PORT AUTHORITY IN SAN FRANCISCO DO SUL; THE FEDERAL DELEGATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE BASED IN SANTA CATARINA; AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IN BRASILIA. THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR THEN REPORTEDLY ALSO CONTACTED MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS IN BRASILIA WHO CONFIRMED THAT THE ENTRY OF BIOTECH PRODUCTS WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL WAS ILLEGAL.

"GMO-FREE" POULTRYMEAT DRIVING THE ACTION?
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6. ONE TRADING CONTACT STATED THAT SEVERAL OF THE MAJOR BRAZILIAN POULTRY EXPORTERS HAVE VERBAL AGREEMENTS WITH EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AND JAPANESE CLIENTS THAT BRAZIL WOULD PROVIDE "GMO-FREE" POULTRYMEAT TO THOSE MARKETS AND WERE THEREFORE PUTTING PRESSURE ON THEIR FEED SUPPLIERS TO PROVIDE GMO-FREE INPUTS. HIS UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THE POULTRY COMPANIES WERE APPARENTLY FOCUSING MORE ON SOYBEANS SINCE THAT IS THE COMMODITY THAT IS GETTING ALL THE NEGATIVE GMO PRESS IN BRAZIL, AND THUS NEGLECTED TO THINK ABOUT THE CORN PORTION OF THE FEED RATION. THE OTHER TRADING CONTACT DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT TO MEET EU AND JAPANESE DEMAND FOR GMO-FREE POULTRYMEAT. HE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS MORE PERDIGAO'S FEAR OF A MEDIA CIRCUS, THE CONCERN THAT THE SHIPMENT MIGHT NOT BE CLEARED BY BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE ADDITIONAL COSTS THAT PERDIGAO WOULD INCUR THAT MADE THEM TAKE THE DECISION THEY DID. THE PERDIGAO OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT THE PUBLICITY DID IMPACT SALES TO THE EU AND THAT COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES HAD BEEN SENT TO THE EU TO REASSURE CLIENTS THERE.

BRAZILIAN LEGISLATION

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7. THIS CONTACT ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO PURCHASE U.S. CORN ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS BECAUSE WHILE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAD TOLD HIM THAT GMO CORN FOR ANY PURPOSE WAS NOT ALLOWED BY BRAZILIAN REGULATION THERE WAS IN HIS WORDS "NO CLEAR LEGAL PICTURE" ABOUT WHAT CERTIFICATION REGARDING GMO FREEDOM FOR THE SHIPMENT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOB. WITHOUT CONFIDENCE THAT THE SHIPMENT COULD BE OFFLOADED, AND GIVEN THIS LEVEL OF UNCERTAINTY HE HAD OPTED NOT TO TRADE ANY U.S. CORN.

8.BRAZIL'S LAW 8,974/95 OF JANUARY 6, 1995, (PUBLISHED ON JAN. 6, 1995)PROHIBITS THE ENTRY OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS IN BRAZIL WITHOUT PRIOR GOVERNMENT APPROVAL. ART. 7, POINT III STATES THAT "THE ISSUANCE OF REGISTRATIONS FOR PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS OR DERIVED FROM GMOS WHICH ARE TO BE MARKETED FOR HUMAN, ANIMAL OR PLANT USE OR FOR RELEASE INTO THE ENVIRONMENT" AND ART. 7, POINT V, STATES THAT "THE ISSUANCE OF AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ENTRY INTO THE COUNTRY OF ANY PRODUCT CONTAINING GMOS OR DERIVED FROM GMOS" IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INSPECTION AGENCIES OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT "WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS AND CONSIDERING THE FINAL TECHNICAL OPINION OF THE CTNBIO" (CTNBIO - THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMISSION ON BIOSAFETY WHICH IS PART OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY).

9. IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION DECREE 1,752/95 OF DECEMBER 20, 1995 (PUBLISHED DEC. 21, 1995) ALSO STATES IN ART.2, POINT V THAT THE CTNBIO HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY "TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS FOR ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS INVOLVING THE MAKING, CULTURE, HANDLING, USE, TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE, MARKETING, CONSUMPTION, RELEASE AND DISPOSAL OF GMOS". ART. 2, POINT XII GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE CTNBIO ALSO HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY "TO ISSUE A CONCLUSIVE PRIOR EXPERT TECHNICAL OPINION ON THE REGISTRATION, USE, TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE, UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 BRASILIA 000600

SENSITIVE

USDA FOR FAS/OFFICE OF THE ADMIN.;ITP/BSIMMONS;CMP/GFD
STATE PASS USTR FOR PSCHER/KMEIMAN/SEARLY/DSHARK
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SUBJECT: BRAZIL REFUSES U.S. CORN DUE TO GMO CONCERNS - THE VIEW FROM THE TRADE

MARKETING, CONSUMPTION, RELEASE, AND DISPOSAL OF PRODUCT CONTAINING A GMO OR DERIVATIVE, REFERRING IT TO THE COMPETENT INSPECTION AGENCY".

10. ON THE BASIS OF THESE POINTS POST UNDERSTANDS THAT THE LAW DOES NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN GMOS FOR PLANTING AND RELEASE

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INTO THE ENVIRONMENT AND GMOS FOR PROCESSING AND CONSUMPTION. AGCOUN WILL BE MEETING WITH BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS ON MONDAY FEB 21, TO CONFIRM THIS. POST DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO BRAZIL'S NOTIFICATIONS TO THE WTO REGARDING THIS REQUIREMENT BUT SUSPECTS THAT NOTIFICATION WAS PROBABLY NOT DONE. WE WILL ENQUIRE OF BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES. (COMMENT: IN 1997, THE BRAZILIAN VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (ABIOVE) REQUESTED AND RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM THE CTNBIO TO IMPORT SOYBEANS FROM THE UNITED STATES AS DESCRIBED IN THE ABOVE LEGISLATION. THIS OPTION MAY NOT BE PRACTICABLE FOR THE BRAZILIAN POULTRY INDUSTRY AS A LARGE PROPORTION OF ITS CLIENTS IN THE EU ARE APPARENTLY DEMANDING "GMO-FREE" PRODUCT. FOR THIS REASON THE POULTRY INDUSTRY IS INTERESTED IN CERTIFICATION AS TO THE GMO STATUS OF THE IMPORTED PRODUCT. END COMMENT.)

BUSINESS LOST

11. BOTH TRADING CONTACTS SHARED INFORMATION REGARDING OTHER CONTRACTS FOR U.S. CORN THAT HAVE BEEN CANCELED BEFORE THE CORN WAS LOADED ONTO SHIPS. ONE CONTACT MENTIONED ONE SPECIFIC SHIPMENT OF 25,000-30,000 MT THAT HAD BEEN CANCELED. THE OTHER CONTACT UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO AND POSSIBLY THREE OTHER SHIPMENTS THAT WERE CANCELED BEFORE SHIPMENT AND THAT THERE IS POSSIBLY ONE SHIPMENT OF 5,000-10,000 MT ON THE WATER TO BRAZIL.

BUT WHAT ABOUT ARGENTINA??

12. POST IS CURRENTLY ESTIMATING TOTAL BRAZILIAN IMPORTS OF CORN TO BE 2.5 MILLION MT, WITH ARGENTINA SUPPLYING THE BULK OF THE EXPORTS DUE TO ZERO-DUTY ACCESS TO THE BRAZILIAN MARKET AGAINST THE ELEVEN PERCENT DUTY FOR CORN FROM NON-MERCOSUL SUPPLIERS. (COMMENT. CONAB IS ESTIMATING 1.8 MILLION MT OF IMPORTS WHILE THE INDUSTRY IS SAYING THAT IMPORT COULD BE AS HIGH AS 3-4 MILLION. POST BELIEVES THAT CONAB'S PRODUCTION ESTIMATE IS NOT TAKING ENOUGH ACCOUNT OF THE DROUGHT IN THE SOUTH OF BRAZIL AND THAT IS WHY THEIR IMPORT FORECAST IS GENERALLY BELIEVED TO BE TOO LOW. END COMMENT.)

13. POST UNDERSTANDS THAT ARGENTINA HAS ASSURED BRAZILIAN BUYERS OF CORN, I.E., THE PORK AND POULTRY INDUSTRIES, THAT ARGENTINA CAN SUPPLY ALL THE CORN THAT BRAZIL NEEDS TO MAKE UP THE EXPECTED SHORTFALL IN BRAZIL'S DOMESTIC PRODUCTION THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, BOTH TRADING CONTACTS NOTED THAT ARGENTINA ALSO HAS PLANTED SOME GMO CORN VARIETIES BUT THEIR VIEWS OF WHETHER OR NOT THERE MIGHT BE PROBLEMS WITH ARGENTINE SHIPMENTS DIFFERED. ONE CONTACT STATED THAT ARGENTINA "HAD A KIND OF GMO VARIETY THAT WAS ALLOWED IN THE EU" AND THEREFORE SHOULD HAVE PRODUCT THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FOR BRAZIL. THE OTHER CONTACT THOUGHT PROBLEMS WITH ARGENTINE SHIPMENTS MIGHT ALSO ARISE, THOUGH BOTH BELIEVED THAT ARGENTINA WOULD BE MAKING SOME KIND OF CERTIFICATION STATEMENT AS TO THE ARGENTINE CORN. ONE TRADING CONTACT STATED THAT HIS INFORMATION WAS THAT ARGENTINE OLD CROP CORN WAS ABOUT ONE PERCENT GMO BUT THAT THE NEW CROP CORN IS ABOUT SEVEN-TEN PERCENT GMO CORN.

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13. POST WAS ALSO TOLD BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS THAT THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR HAD MET WITH AGRICULTURE MINISTER PRATINI AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT ARGENTINE CORN WOULD BE TREATED LIKE CORN FROM OTHER ORIGINS AND THAT IT WOULD BE SAMPLED. (COMMENT. THE AGMIN IS UNDER PRESSURE AS IT HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY EU ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND BEEN TOLD THAT THESE GROUPS WOULD BE MONITORING THE GMO CONTENT OF ALL COMMODITIES IMPORTED INTO THE EU FROM BRAZIL. END COMMENT.)

14. A TRADING CONTACT ALSO STATED THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT
UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 BRASILIA 000600

SENSITIVE

USDA FOR FAS/OFFICE OF THE ADMIN.;ITP/BSIMMONS;CMP/GFD
STATE PASS USTR FOR PSCHER/KMEIMAN/SEARLY/DSHARK
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STATE FOR OES/ETC
GENEVA, BRUSSELS FOR USTR AND FAS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, KSCA, ETRD, BR, XT
SUBJECT: BRAZIL REFUSES U.S. CORN DUE TO GMO CONCERNS - THE VIEW FROM THE TRADE

OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL AND THE BRAZILIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAVE PURCHASED TESTING KITS FROM A COMPANY CALLED GHKAUFMAN (OR GHK KAUFMAN) IN ORDER TO TEST FOR THE PRESENCE OF GMOS BUT THAT AS FAR AS HE KNOWS THERE IS NO TESTING BEING DONE AT THE PORTS AT THIS TIME. (COMMENT. RIO GRANDE DO SUL, SOUTHERNMOST STATE OF BRAZIL WHICH BORDERS ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY, HAS DECLARED ITSELF A "GMO-FREE ZONE" IN THE HOPES OF PREFERENTIAL ACCESS TO THE EU SOYBEAN MARKET. END COMMENT. SEE REF A.)

POST RECOMMENDATION
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15. AGCOUN RECOMMENDS THAT A GROUP OF U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POSSIBLY INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES TRAVEL TO BRAZIL TO DISCUSS WITH RELEVANT GOB OFFICIALS THE POSSIBILITY THAT BRAZIL WOULD ACCEPT CERTIFICATION FROM SOME USG ORGANIZATION, E.G., USDA, OR OTHER THAN THE U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IF FEDERAL CERTIFICATION IS NOT POSSIBLE. THE U.S. GROUP MIGHT WELL INCLUDE A USDA/GIPSA INSPECTION OR INDUSTRY GMO TESTING AUTHORITY WHO COULD TALK IN PRACTICAL TERMS TO GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY ABOUT IDNTIFICATION/TESTING, AND VISIT PORTS AND LAND TRANSIT POINTS FOR ARRIVAL OF ARGENTINE AND U.S. CORN TO ASSESS WHETHER LAND TRANSIT POINTS CAN REALLY CARRY OUT TESTING ON ARGENTINE CORN EQUALLY STRINGENT TO THAT WHICH MIGHT BE APPLIED TO ARRIVING VESSELS FROM THE UNITED STATES. POST ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT THIS GROUP MEET WITH POULTRY AND PORK INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES IN SAO PAULO. POST IS CONCERNED THAT A MEDIA COUNTER-ATTACK WOULD ONLY RAISE THE VISIBILITY OF THIS ISSUE, RESULTING IN MORE PUBLICITY IN THE EU AND JAPAN WHICH WOULD ONLY MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE BRAZILIAN POULTRY EXPORTERS TO SELL IN THESE MARKETS AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO BUY U.S. CORN THIS SEASON, WHICH THEY VERY CLEARLY STILL WANT TO DO.

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LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHSAA2554 0941520-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 031520Z APR 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
OSRI: RUEHSA
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1025
INFO: RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0397
SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN GMO LABELING PLANS
TEXT: ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 PRETORIA 002554

DEPT FOR AF/S (MKOPLOVSKY)
DEPT PASS USDA FAS
AGRICULTURE FOR FAS/ITP
DEPT FOR OES (BTOBIAS)
DEPT PASS USTR FOR RWHITAKER, BSCHWARTZ
USDOC FOR 4510/ITA/ANESA/OA/SMILLER
GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/10/2005
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, SF
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN GMO LABELING PLANS

REF: PRETORIA 948

(U) CLASSIFIED BY ECON M-C ROBERT GODEC FOR REASONS 1.5 (B,D).

SUMMARY
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1. (SBU) IN A MEETING ON MARCH 30 WITH ECONOFFS, DR. VAN DE VENTER, DIRECTOR OF FOOD CONTROL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, OUTLINED THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE SAG'S EFFORT TO INTRODUCE LABELING FOR FOOD CONTAINING GMOS. VAN DE VENTER EXPLAINED THAT HIS UNIT WILL BE PROPOSING A COMPROMISE LABELING PLAN WHEREBY LABELING WILL BE MANDATORY FOR FOODS CONTAINING CERTAIN GENES OR FOR FOODS THAT ARE NOT "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT." MANUFACTURERS WILL ALSO BE ALLOWED TO LABEL THEIR FOOD AS EITHER "ENHANCED BY BIOTECHNOLOGY" OR "GMO FREE", BUT WILL HAVE TO BE ABLE TO PROVE THEIR CLAIMS. HE EXPECTS THE LABELING REGULATIONS TO BE IN PLACE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

GMO ACT
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2. (SBU) IN A MEETING WITH ECONOFFS ON MARCH 30, VAN DE VENTER EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE NEW GMO ACT (SEE REFTEL), THE

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON WHICH HE SITS WILL SET THE GUIDELINES FOR REGULATING LGMOS. AS PART OF THE REGULATION OF THE TRADE OR PRODUCTION OF LGMOS, LABELING OF FOOD EXPORTS WILL BE CONTROLLED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WILL IMPLEMENTED CONSISTENT WITH THE BIODIVERSITY TREATY. THE COMMITTEE HAS MET TWICE SO FAR AND IS STILL IN THE EARLY STAGES OF REGULATING THE LGMOS.

FOOD LABELING

3. (SBU) FOOD IN GENERAL, VAN DE VENTER EXPLAINED, IS GOVERNED UNDER THE FOOD STUFFS AND COSMETICS ACT OF 1972. UNDER THAT ACT THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR REGISTRATION OF GMOS, BUT THE ACT DOES FORBID THE SELLING OF "HARMFUL FOODS" AND PROVIDES FOR LABELING OF FOODS WHENEVER THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT TO BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

4. (SBU) WORKING UNDER THE AUTHORITY IN THAT ACT, VAN DE VENTER SAID THAT HIS UNIT IS PLANNING TO PROPOSE A MIX OF MANDATORY AND VOLUNTARY LABELING FOR GMOS IN FOOD. AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH PUBLIC, HIS UNIT CONCLUDED THAT THE SAG SHOULD NOT REQUIRE ALL FOOD TO BE LABELED FOR GMOS BECAUSE IT IS NOT COST EFFECTIVE OR PRACTICAL. IF THE GOVERNMENT DID REQUIRE TOTAL LABELING, VAN DE VENTER ASKED RHETORICALLY WHO WOULD CHECK THAT THE LABELS ARE ACCURATE? THE SAG, HE ANSWERED, WOULD HAVE TO PAY A STANDARDS BODY SUCH AS THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OR THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUREAU OF STANDARDS TO CHECK ALL THE FOOD IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND THE SAG HAS NOT AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BUDGET FOR THIS.

5. (U) VAN DE VENTER NOTED THAT IN AUSTRALIA, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT ONLY 5 PERCENT OF PUBLIC READS LABELS ON FOOD. FURTHERMORE, AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS FOUND THAT IF ONLY PRODUCTS WITH CANOLA OIL OR SOYBEANS WERE REQUIRED TO BE LABELED FOR GMOS, IT WOULD RAISE THE COST OF FOOD IN AUSTRALIA 18 PERCENT OVERALL. WITH THESE KINDS OF FIGURES, SOUTH AFRICA IS IN NO POSITION TO REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELING FOR GMOS, HE CONCLUDED.

THE PLAN

6. (SBU) THEREFORE, HIS UNIT IS PROPOSING A COMPROMISE THAT WOULD MAKE IT MANDATORY TO LABEL A FOOD IF IT:
1) CONTAINED A GENE FROM A FOREIGN ANIMAL OR A HUMAN (A CIRCUMSTANCE VAN DE VENTER DOUBTS WOULD ARISE),
2) WAS NOT SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT, OR
3) CONTAINED A GENE LIKELY TO CAUSE ALLERGIC REACTIONS (THE LIST OF GENES IN THIS CATEGORY WOULD BE TAKEN FROM THE CODEX LIST).

7. (SBU) MANUFACTURERS COULD ALSO PROVIDE VOLUNTARY LABELS WHICH VAN DE VENTER ENVISIONS SAYING SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF "ENHANCED BY BIOTECHNOLOGY" FOR THOSE PRODUCTS WITH GMOS, AND "GMO FREE" FOR THOSE WITHOUT GMOS. HE NOTED THAT HIS UNIT WILL INSIST THAT ANY MANUFACTURER CLAIMING ITS FOOD IS "GMO FREE" WILL HAVE TO PROVE ITS CLAIM BY BEING ABLE TO TRACE ITS PRODUCT'S COMPONENTS.

TIMING

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8. (SBU) VAN DE VENTER EXPECTS HIS PROPOSAL TO GO FORWARD TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL UNIT IN A FEW MONTHS AND THEN START A THREE MONTH COMMENT PERIOD. HE PLANS FOR THE FINAL ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 PRETORIA 002554

DEPT FOR AF/S (MKOPLOVSKY)
DEPT PASS USDA FAS
AGRICULTURE FOR FAS/ITP
DEPT FOR OES (BTOBIAS)
DEPT PASS USTR FOR RWHITAKER, BSCHWARTZ
USDOC FOR 4510/ITA/ANESA/OA/SMILLER
GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/10/2005
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, SF
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN GMO LABELING PLANS

REGULATIONS TO BE IN PLACE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

9. ~~(C)~~ POLITICIANS, HE CAUTIONED, HAVE THE FINAL SAY ON THE REGULATIONS AND COULD CHANGE THE PROPOSAL IF THEY WERE UNDER ENOUGH PRESSURE TO DO SO. HE NOTED THAT THOSE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UP TO THE LEVEL OF DG WERE VERY POSITIVE ABOUT THE PROPOSAL AS ARE THE OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY. THERE ARE SOME POLITICIANS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WHO ARE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE PROPOSAL. HE BELIEVES THAT THE ANC POLITICIANS ARE SEEKING MORE INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT TO ENSURE THAT, WHEN THE PROPOSAL IS MADE PUBLIC, THEY ARE NOT TO BE EMBARRASSED ON ANY POINT.

ENFORCEMENT
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10. (SBU) ENFORCEMENT OF ANY NEW REGULATIONS ON GMO LABELING WOULD BE HANDLED BY HEALTH INSPECTORS IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES. THERE ARE ONLY 2,500 OF THESE INSPECTORS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF HEALTH INSPECTIONS, NOT JUST FOOD LABELING. THUS, IN REALITY, VAN DE VENTER COMMENTED FOOD INSPECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED MORE BY OPPOSITION FOOD COMPANIES THAN BY ANYONE ELSE. HE EXPECTS RIVAL FOOD PRODUCERS WILL BE THE MOST VIGILANT IN CHECKING OTHER COMPANIES' GMO CLAIMS.

THE REGION
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11. (SBU) TURNING TO SENTIMENT TOWARDS GMOS ON THE WORLD SCENE, VAN DE VENTER NOTED SOME OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE TAKING A HARD LINE, WITH FOR EXAMPLE BRAZIL LEANING TOWARD FULL GMO LABELING. FORMER BRITISH COLONIES ARE TAKING A STRICT LINE BECAUSE THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT MAINTAINING THEIR EXPORTS TO EU. HIS SADC COLLEAGUES ARE VERY WORRIED ABOUT THIS ISSUE, BUT VAN DE VENTER THINKS ONCE THE BENEFITS OF GMOS ARE SEEN, OTHER SADC COUNTRIES WILL FOLLOW SOUTH AFRICA'S LEAD. VAN DE VENTER URGED COMPANIES LIKE MONSANTO TO BRING OTHER AFRICAN FARMERS TO SOUTH AFRICA TO SEE THE PROMISE GMOS HOLD FOR AFRICA.

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COMMENT

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12. ~~(C)~~ VAN DE VENTER HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO US POSITIONS ON FOOD REGULATION IN CODEX AND ELSEWHERE. HIS SELECTION OF A WOMAN WHO IS MARRIED TO A KEY BIOTECHNOLOGY PROPONENT TO LEAD HIS EFFORT IN DEVELOPING THE GMO LABELING PROPOSAL INDICATES THAT FROM THE BEGINNING HE WAS SYMPATHETIC TO BIOTECHNOLOGY. HIS OBVIOUS BIAS MAY PROVE A PROBLEM AS HIS PROPOSAL GOES THROUGH THE APPROVAL PROCESS ALTHOUGH HE IS A SEASONED OFFICIAL WHO SEEMS WELL AWARE OF THE PITFALLS THE GMO ISSUE CAN CREATE.

LEWIS

TOR: 04/03/00 11:58:21

DIST: SIT: BABBITT BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY FELDMAN MCLEAN NAPLAN PATTEN SCHWARTZ SMITH VACCARO WILCOX
SIT: BABBITT BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY FELDMAN MCLEAN NAPLAN PATTEN SCHWARTZ SMITH VACCARO WILCOX

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ORIG: AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
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INFO: RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1464
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 0105
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 0019
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0201
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0204
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0077
SUBJ: GMO LABELING: DELAY OF ANZFSC MEETING GIVES FEDS TIME TO LOBBY AUSTRALIAN STATES

CLASSIFIED BY THE AMBASSADOR. REASONS: 1.5(B) AND (D).

TEXT: ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000547

USDA FOR ITP/SHEIKH, DEATON, HARBERT, SLUTSKY
USDA ALSO FOR FAA/HUETE
STATE PASS TO USTR STILLMAN AND MURPHY
STATE PASS TO FDA MARYANSKI
STATE PASS TO USDA FAS WASHDC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/05/10
TAGS: SENV, ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: GMO LABELING: DELAY OF ANZFSC MEETING GIVES FEDS TIME TO LOBBY AUSTRALIAN STATES

CLASSIFIED BY THE AMBASSADOR. REASONS: 1.5(B) AND (D).

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: NEW ZEALAND HEALTH OFFICIALS CONFIRMED MAY 4 THAT A DECISION ON LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS (GMFS) WILL BE DEFERRED TO THE JULY 28 MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL (ANZFSC) IN WELLINGTON. LLOYD FALCK, HEALTH MINISTER ANNETTE KING'S SENIOR ADVISER, TOLD US THAT THE NZ AND AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL HEALTH MINISTERS INTEND TO MEET IN LATE MAY IN BRISBANE TO ESTABLISH A COMBINED FEDERAL POSITION ON FOOD LABELING. THEY WOULD THEN LOBBY THE AUSTRALIAN STATE GOVERNMENTS TO MOVE TOWARD THIS POSITION. FALCK EXPRESSED SPECIAL CONCERN THAT ANZFSC AND THE AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY (ANZFA) OPERATE OUTSIDE NZ POLITICAL CONTROL. HE SAID THE AUSTRALIAN STATES ARE A STRONGER FORCE PUSHING ANZFSC TOWARD AGGRESSIVE LABELING STANDARDS THAN ANY

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2018-0057-M (7.68)

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ENVIRONMENTALIST PRESSURES IN NEW ZEALAND. END SUMMARY.

A MINIMUM TOLERANCE STANDARD?
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2. (C) HUGH BABER, THE NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVE TO ANZFA, CONFIRMED MAY 4 THAT ANZFSC'S MAY MEETING IN AUSTRALIA WILL BE CANCELLED AND A DECISION ON A FOOD LABELING REGIME WILL BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE JULY 28 MEETING IN WELLINGTON. IN A CONVERSATION WITH AG ATTACHE, BABER SAID THAT AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE IS CONSIDERING THE SCOPE OF THE GM LABELING REQUIREMENT, INCLUDING POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF ADDITIVES AND ENZYMES. THIS WOULD IMPLY A MINIMUM TOLERANCE LEVEL LIKE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION. BABER ADMITTED TO THE DIFFICULTIES AND COSTS INVOLVED IN SUCH A STANDARD, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FEW PRODUCTS ARE GM FREE. THE COMMITTEE IS ALSO LOOKING AT HOW PRODUCTS SHOULD BE TESTED TO DETERMINE THEIR GM STATUS. IMPORTERS AND LOCAL FOOD BUSINESSES ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE DILIGENT EFFORTS TO DEFINE THE GM STATUS OF A PRODUCT. FINALLY, ENFORCEMENT IS ALSO A CONCERN, BUT GIVEN LIMITED RESOURCES, BABER EXPECTS ENFORCEMENT TO BE BASED ON CONSUMER COMPLAINTS. BABER'S COMMENTS REFLECT SOME CONSIDERATION OF USG CONCERNS RAISED IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY DEMARCHES, BUT STILL SUGGEST A STANDARD FAR BELOW U.S. INTERESTS.

NZ POSITION: A BATTLE BETWEEN THE PRAGMATISTS AND GREENS
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3. (C) IN A MAY 4 MEETING WITH ESTOFF AND AG ATTACHE, LLOYD FALCK, SENIOR ADVISOR TO HEALTH MINISTER ANNETTE KING, TOLD US THAT SENIOR NZ CABINET MINISTERS AGREE WITH THE U.S. THAT GMF LABELING IS NOT A FOOD SAFETY ISSUE, BUT RATHER IS AN ISSUE OF CONSUMER INFORMATION. HIS BOSS, HEALTH MINISTER KING, IS WELL AWARE OF THE TRADE AND BUSINESS IMPLICATIONS OF A STRICT LABELING REGIME. WHILE FALCK WAS THIN ON DETAILS OF THE NZ POSITION, HE SAID KING HOPES TO WORK OUT A CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL POSITION WITH HER AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL COUNTERPART AT A MEETING IN LATE MAY IN BRISBANE ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY. HE AGREED TO MEET WITH US AFTER THIS SESSION TO PROVIDE A FURTHER UPDATE.

4. (C) FALCK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GREENS AND MINISTER FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION PHILLIDA BUNKLE OF THE LEFT-WING ALLIANCE PARTY ARE VERY INTERESTED IN A POSITION WHICH TIGHTLY RESTRICTS GMFS, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THIS INFLUENCE HAS BEEN BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION. CONTRARY TO SOME PREVIOUS REPORTING, HE EMPHASIZED THE ROLE OF THE RIGHT-LEANING MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR PARTY ON THIS ISSUE -- INCLUDING AGRICULTURE MINISTER SUTTON AND FOREIGN MINISTER GOFF, ALONG WITH HEALTH MINISTER KING. HE SAID THIS "PRAGMATIC BLOC" WILL ADVOCATE A NZ POSITION CONSISTENT WITH WTO RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH MINIMIZES COSTS FOR CONSUMERS AND MARKETERS. OF COURSE, PM CLARK WILL HAVE THE FINAL SAY.

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ANZFA AND ANZFSC SPINNING OUT OF NZ'S CONTROL

5. ~~(C)~~ FALCK WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ANZFSC'S STRUCTURE, POINTING OUT THAT IT TRAPS BOTH THE NZ AND AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS. (NOTE: IN ANZFSC, THE

USDA FOR ITP/SHEIKH, DEATON, HARBERT, SLUTSKY
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STATE PASS TO USDA FAS WASHDC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/05/10
TAGS: SENV, ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: GMO LABELING: DELAY OF ANZFSC MEETING GIVES FEDS TIME TO LOBBY AUSTRALIAN STATES

SEVEN AUSTRALIAN STATE HEALTH MINISTERS, THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL HEALTH MINISTER, AND THE NZ HEALTH MINISTER HAVE ONE VOTE EACH). FALCK NOTED THAT THE AUSTRALIAN STATES ARE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT WTO OBLIGATIONS OR COSTS OF LABELING. "THE AUSTRALIAN STATES HAVE NO WTO OBLIGATIONS, SO WHY SHOULD THEY CARE ABOUT THAT PART OF THE EQUATION," FALCK SAID. "WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO WORK OUT A RESPONSIBLE POSITION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL HEALTH MINISTER THAT CONSIDERS THESE VIEWS AND THEN PUSH THE AUSSIES TO LOBBY THEIR STATE PREMIERS. BUT EVEN IF WE HAVE THE BEST INTENTIONS ON WTO OBLIGATIONS WE COULD STILL BE OUTVOTED BY NON-SOVEREIGN REPRESENTATIVES."

6. ~~(C)~~ FALCK SAID COST WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR AFFECTING NZ'S DECISION ON LABELING. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SECOND CONSULTANTS' COST STUDY PREPARED FOR ANZFA IS VERY USEFUL -- BUT HE REFERRED GENERALLY TO A FIVE PERCENT COST FOR LABELING. HE ADDED THAT MINISTER KING IS CONCERNED THAT SHE CANNOT FEEL CONFIDENT THAT ANZFA CAN PROVIDE A SOUND ESTIMATE ON THE COSTS OF MANDATORY GM LABELING.

7. ~~(C)~~ FALCK WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF ANZFA OFFICIALS, WHOM HE POINTED OUT ARE AUSTRALIAN CIVIL SERVANTS WITH LITTLE RESPONSIVENESS TO NEW ZEALAND POLITICIANS. (NOTE: ANZFA OFFICIALS MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ANZFSC). FALCK EMPHASIZED THAT MINISTER KING IS RELUCTANT TO DELEGATE ANY FOOD STANDARDS' DECISIONS TO AUSTRALIA-NZ BODIES WITHOUT EITHER A NZ "OPT-OUT" CLAUSE OR A TYPE OF VETO THAT ALLOWS NZ TO FORCE ANY DECISION OUT OF THE PROFESSIONALS' HANDS AND BACK TO THE POLITICAL LEVEL.

COMMENT: CLARK MAY STRIKE THE BALANCE -- AGAIN

8. ~~(C)~~ FALCK'S TAKE ON THE GMF ISSUE IS ONE OF THE MORE PRO-U.S. VIEWS WE HAVE HEARD FROM A NZ HEALTH OFFICIAL. IT PROVIDES SOME BASIS FOR OPTIMISM -- HE CLEARLY HAS THE EAR OF THE OVERWORKED HEALTH MINISTER,

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NZ'S VOTING REPRESENTATIVE ON ANZFSC. LIKE WITH SO MANY ISSUES IN THIS GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, THIS ONE WILL LIKELY DEPEND ON PM CLARK'S VIEW OF HOW TO BALANCE THE PRAGMATISTS ON LABOUR'S RIGHT WING WITH HER NEED FOR SUPPORT FROM COLLEAGUES IN THE GREEN AND ALLIANCE PARTIES. ON ANOTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE THIS WEEK, CLARK SIDED WITH THE GREENS IN FAVOR OF BREAKING SIGNED CONTRACTS AND ENDING LOGGING OF NATIVE RIMU TREES -- OVERRULING THE RECOMMENDATION OF HER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FINANCE MINISTER, AND ACCUSING BOTH SIDES OF FIGHTING "LIKE BOYS ON A PLAYGROUND." WE WILL SEE IF MINISTER KING CAN PRODUCE A DIFFERENT OUTCOME ON GMF LABLEING, BUT THE GREENS RODE INTO PARLIAMENT BASED ON PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT GM FOODS, SO THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO BACK DOWN ON THIS ISSUE. MOSELEY BRAUN

TOR: 05/05/00 00:58:08

DIST: SIT: BRUNS NSC DUNCAN HUSO KEITH LEE LIEBERTHAL MCADEN OSIUS PRITCHARD SMITHH
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LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
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ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
SUBJ: POSSIBLE ACTION ON GMO SEEDS
TEXT: UNCLAS BRUSSELS 003280

STATE PASS USTR MURPHY, MOWREY, IVES, SLOAN
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
USDA/OS/SIDDIQUI
USDA/FAS FOR OA/GALVIN; ITP/GRUEFF/MACKE/SLUTSKY
POSTS PASS TO AGRICULTURE AND ECON
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE
STATE FOR OES, EUR/ERA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, EUN, OREP
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ACTION ON GMO SEEDS

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT ACCIDENTAL IMPORT AND PLANTING OF UNAPPROVED GMO SEEDS IN EUROPE, THE HEALTH AND CONSUMER DG (SANCO)HAS DRAFTED A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT (SENT 6/6 TO FAS/ITP AND USTR AND EUR/ERA) PROPOSING TOLERANCES AND IMPORT PROCEDURES FOR GMO SEEDS. IT IS UNCLEAR IF THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN SHARED WITH MEMBER STATES. ALSO DG SANCO HAS APPARENTLY NOT PROVIDED IT TO OTHER DIRECTORATE-GENERALS OF THE COMMISSION (AG, TRADE, ECT) FOR REVIEW. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO DG SANCO SOURCES THIS DISCUSSION DOCUMENT MAY BE TRANSPOSED INTO A PROPOSAL WHICH COULD BE VOTED ON AND PASSED AT THE NEXT STANDING COMMITTEE ON SEEDS, JUNE 19. (AT THE LEAST, IT MAY BE PRESENTED AS A "DISCUSSION DOCUMENT" AT THE JUNE 19 MEETING). THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SEEDS IS A MEMBER STATE REGULATORY COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSION THAT ADMINISTERS SEED POLICY.

2. THE DOCUMENT REQUIRES ALL IMPORTED SEED WHICH POTENTIALLY CONTAINS GMOS TO BE SUBJECT TO SAMPLING AND TESTING. LOTS CONTAINING UNAPPROVED VARIETIES WILL BE REJECTED. AN INTERIM TOLERANCE

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OF 0.5 PERCENT FOR APPROVED VARIETIES WILL BE ESTABLISHED. THIS INTERIM TOLERANCE WILL STAND UNTIL THE GMO SEED REGULATION IS COMPLETE (A DRAFT WAS EXPECTED BY THE END OF 2000).

3. THE DOCUMENT ALSO MAKES THE RECOMMENDATION THAT ACCIDENTAL PLANTINGS OF GMOS BE SUBJECT TO MEMBER STATE MONITORING AND DESTRUCTION OF THE CROP BE CONSIDERED. ANY UNAPPROVED PLANTS WHICH ARE HARVESTED ARE TO BE USED OUTSIDE THE FOOD AND FEED CHAIN AND SEEDS MAY NOT BE RECYCLED. THE DRAFT INDICATES THAT THE COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING RAPID LEGISLATIVE ACTION UNDER AN "EMERGENCY CLAUSE;" AND MIGHT TABLE A DRAFT VERY SOON.

4. COMMENT. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS DRAFT DOCUMENT WAS DRAFTED BY DG SANCO AND IT APPEARS ONLY SELECT OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF THIS DRAFT, THEREFORE, FURTHER AMENDMENTS MAY BE FORTHCOMING. END COMMENT. MORNINGSTAR

TOR: 06/06/00 19:46:50

DIST: SIT: BLINKEN NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON KASS MUNTER Naplan NORLAND VONLIPSEY YEE
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. cable~~	~~Re: Chancellor Schroeder's New GMO Initiative; Gemeran Gov't~~ Launches New Biotech Push (5 pages)	~~07/10/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2014
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: Italy to Ban Imports fo Four GMO Corn Varieties (2 pages)~~	~~08/04/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2014
~~003. cable~~	~~Re: Italian GMO Corn Ban: Commission Response (3 pages)~~	~~08/10/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: Saudi Arabia's New Certification Requirement for Imported~~ Genetically Modified Foodstuffs (3 pages)	~~08/11/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2014
~~005. cable~~	~~Re: [Genetically Modified Food Imports] (3 pages)~~	~~08/19/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
006. cable	Re: [Biotechnology Negotiations] (3 pages)	08/23/2000	P1/b(1)
007. cable	Re: [French Agriculture Minister] (2 pages)	09/08/2000	P1/b(1)
008. cable	Re: [International NGO] (3 pages)	09/08/2000	P1/b(1)
009. cable	Re: [GMO Policy] (2 pages)	09/13/2000	P1/b(1)
010. cable	Re: [GMO Agriculture] (2 pages)	09/14/2000	P1/b(1)
~~011. cable~~	~~Re: [Unapproved Genetically Modified Corn] (2 pages)~~	~~09/18/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
012. cable	Re: [Biotech Talks] (2 pages)	09/29/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:
[07/03/2000 - 09/29/2000]

2013-0836-F
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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHRLA2889 1921541-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 101541Z JUL 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
OSRI: RUEHRL
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6341
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUCNFRG/FRG COLLECTIVE
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0066
SUBJ: CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER'S NEW GMO INITIATIVE; GERMAN GOV'T LAUNCHES NEW BIOTECH PUSH
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BERLIN 002889

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EB-M.BRUNO
STATE PASS USTR
STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE - OSTP
ROME PASS USDA U/S SCHUMACHER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, TSPL, SENV, PGOV, GM
SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER'S NEW GMO INITIATIVE; GERMAN GOV'T LAUNCHES NEW BIOTECH PUSH

REF: A. BERLIN 2669
B. TRICK-BRUNO E-MAILS 6/21
C. 6/22
D. BERLIN 1439

SUMMARY
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1. (SBU) GREATER DETAIL ON CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER'S AGRICULTURAL BIOTECH INITIATIVE (REFS A-B) HAS EMERGED THROUGH A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES. NEGOTIATIONS ARE SET TO BEGIN SOON BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY THAT WILL LEAD TO A VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES THAT WILL MARK THE WAY FORWARD ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECH OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS. BOTH SIDES EXPECT THE AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE INDUSTRY ACQUIESCENCE TO A RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM FOR GREATER GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF GMOS SHOULD THE MONITORING INDICATE ACCEPTABLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH RISKS. THERE ARE STILL VISIBLE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION -- BOTH BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY AND WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF -- OVER THE EXACT

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NATURE OF THE VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT TO BE REACHED. INDUSTRY VIEWS THE INITIATIVE VERY POSITIVELY, AND HOPES IT CAN ACT AS A MODEL TO BE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE EU. THE HEALTH MINISTRY BELIEVES THE AGREEMENT WILL CLOSELY RESEMBLE THE BRITISH MORATORIUM. CONTROL OF THE INITIATIVE WILL REMAIN IN THE CHANCELLERY (NOT IN THE HEALTH MINISTRY, WHICH UNTIL NOW HAS HAD LEAD ON ALL BIOTECH ISSUES), HOWEVER, WHICH COULD MEAN THAT THE PRO-BIOTECH ECONOMICS, RESEARCH AND AGRICULTURE MINISTRIES HAVE FINALLY WON GREATER CONTROL OVER GERMANY'S OVERALL BIOTECH POLICY.

2. (U) SCHROEDER'S GMO INITIATIVE IS TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A STEPPED-UP GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN TO PUSH ALL ASPECTS OF BIOTECH RESEARCH AND APPLICATIONS. THE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH MINISTRY ANNOUNCED ON JULY 4 THAT IT IS PURSUING A POLICY DESIGNED TO MAKE GERMANY THE NUMBER TWO COUNTRY (BEHIND THE U.S.) IN BIOTECHNOLOGY. THE GOVERNMENT WILL INCREASE GENETIC RESEARCH FUNDING BY 70 PERCENT IN 2001, ADDING USD 72 MILLION TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET. CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER HAS ALSO TERMED BIOTECHNOLOGY TO BE A "KEY" TECHNOLOGY EQUAL TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND HE INCLUDED AGRICULTURAL BIOTECH IN THIS ASSESSMENT. END SUMMARY.

OUTLINES OF A PLAN EMERGE

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3. (U) SCHROEDER ANNOUNCED HIS INITIATIVE WITH A SPEECH TO THE FIRM KWS EINBECK, GERMANY'S LEADING GMO RESEARCHER AND PRODUCER, WHICH IS HOSTING AN EXHIBIT ON PLANT BREEDING AS PART OF THE WORLD FAIR 2000. THE SPEECH DIFFERED NOTICEABLY FROM THE VERSION LEAKED TO THE PRESS, WHICH HAD APPARENTLY SPOKEN OF A THREE-YEAR HALT TO ALL COMMERCIAL GMO PLANTINGS (REF. B). SCHROEDER SPOKE VERY POSITIVELY ABOUT AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY, STATING THAT THE RECENT GERMAN BIOTECH DYNAMIC (WHICH HAS SEEN RAPID INCREASES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FIRMS) MUST BE EXPANDED INTO AGRICULTURAL BIOTECH. IN ORDER FOR THIS TO HAPPEN, CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE OF GMOS NEEDS TO BE INCREASED. TO DO THIS, SCHROEDER SUGGESTED TO INDUSTRY THAT IT COME TO A VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT THAT ALL CURRENT OR FUTURE GMO VARIETAL APPROVALS WOULD ONLY BE USED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM (WHICH WOULD LAST FOR AN UNSPECIFIED -- AND LIKELY TO BE NEGOTIATED -- PERIOD OF TIME). THE MONITORING PROGRAM WOULD CALM THE PUBLIC CONCERNS WHILE GIVING INDUSTRY BETTER PLANNING ABILITY.

4. (SBU) COMMENT: THE KEY POINT OF SCHROEDER'S SPEECH IS NOT WHAT HE SAID, BUT WHAT HE DID NOT. UNLIKE PREVIOUS GERMAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS (REF. C), HE NEVER GAVE ANY INDICATION THAT CONSUMER CONCERNS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH SAFETY ARE JUSTIFIED. RATHER, HE SIMPLY NOTED THAT THEY EXIST, AND THAT IT MUST BE THE GOAL OF ALL INVOLVED (SCIENCE, INDUSTRY, APPROVAL BODIES, CONSUMERS) TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY OF SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND PUBLIC INFORMATION TO PROVIDE A SOLID BASIS FOR USING GENETIC TECHNOLOGY. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT DEPARTURE, FOR IT INDICATES THAT THE DOMINANT GERMAN GOVERNMENT VIEWPOINT IS THAT GMOS ARE SAFE, AND THAT THE MESSAGE JUST NEEDS TO GET ACROSS TO THE PUBLIC.

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UNFORTUNATELY, IT DOES NOT INDICATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL GET OUT IN FRONT OF PUBLIC OPINION IN ORDER TO HELP RESOLVE OUR TRADE AND "PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE" DISPUTES, BUT WILL RATHER WAIT FOR ACCEPTANCE TO COME. BUT AT LEAST THERE NOW SEEMS TO BE A DRIVE TO PUSH SUCH ACCEPTANCE. END COMMENT.
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 BERLIN 002889

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EB-M.BRUNO
STATE PASS USTR
STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE - OSTP
ROME PASS USDA U/S SCHUMACHER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, TSPL, SENV, PGOV, GM
SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER'S NEW GMO INITIATIVE; GERMAN GOV'T LAUNCHES NEW BIOTECH PUSH

STILL DISSENT WITHIN GOVERNMENT
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5. (SBU) THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL NOT QUITE CLEAR, HOWEVER, ON EXACTLY WHAT IT WANTS FROM THE AGREEMENT. THE GREENS PARTY-LED HEALTH MINISTRY, WHICH IS THE LEAD AGENCY ON BIOTECH POLICY, SEEMS TO EXPECT AN ARRANGEMENT MIRRORING THE BRITISH THREE-YEAR MORATORIUM. ASSISTANT SECRETARY-EQUIVALENT ULRIKE RIEDEL TOLD US THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD OBLIGATE INDUSTRY TO FORSAKE COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION OF GMO CROPS FOR THREE YEARS, EVEN VARIETIES THAT ALREADY HAVE EU APPROVAL. THE THREE YEAR MONITORING PROGRAM WOULD END WITH A "RISK ASSESSMENT" LIKE THAT FORESEEN BY THE REVISED EU 90/220 DIRECTIVE. FUTURE POLICY COULD THEN BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF THIS RISK ASSESSMENT.

6. (SBU) A CONTACT AT THE ROBERT KOCH INSTITUTE (ROUGHLY THE GERMAN EQUIVALENT OF THE FDA AND CDC) WHO WAS PRIVY TO THE PREPARATIONS OF THE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH, TOLD US THAT THE CHANCELLOR WOULD ALLOW GERMANY'S LIMITED COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION TO CONTINUE DURING THE PROGRAM, JUST THAT SUCH CULTIVATION SHOULD BE MONITORED. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SCHROEDER HAD DECIDED TO KEEP THE LEAD ON THE INITIATIVE WITHIN THE CHANCELLERY AGAINST THE EXPLICIT REQUEST OF THE HEALTH MINISTRY. AN ECONOMICS MINISTRY CONTACT NOTED THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE JUST BEGINNING WITH INDUSTRY, AND IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHERE THEY WOULD END. SHE SPECULATED THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S INITIATIVE MAY IN PART HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY RECENT OECD EVENTS SUCH AS THE EDINBURGH BIOTECH CONFERENCE THAT HIGHLIGHTED THE SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS ABOUT GMO SAFETY (COMMENT: THIS ALLOWS THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO SEEK SHELTER FROM DOMESTIC GREEN OPPOSITION IN A MULTILATERAL TENT).

INDUSTRY IS PLEASED

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7. (SBU) REPRESENTATIVES FROM MONSANTO GERMANY, ALFRED TOEPFER INTERNATIONAL, AND OTHER FIRMS INVOLVED IN THE "BIOTECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP" (AN INDUSTRY FORUM) WERE VERY UPBEAT ABOUT THE SCHROEDER PROPOSAL. THEY WERE ADAMANT THAT IT DID NOT RESEMBLE THE BRITISH SITUATION FOR TWO REASONS: UNDER THE SCHROEDER PLAN COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION COULD CONTINUE, AND SCHROEDER WAS CLEAR THAT GMO CROPS GROWN FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES WOULD NOT BE DESTROYED, IN ORDER TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THEM DANGEROUS. THE MONSANTO REPRESENTATIVE WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ENOUGH TO VIEW THE CHANCELLOR'S INITIATIVE AS A POSSIBLE MODEL FOR OTHER EU MEMBERS TO EMULATE.

NO RESPONSE FROM ENVIRONMENTALISTS. YET.
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8. (U) SO FAR, SCHROEDER'S PROPOSAL HAS NOT MOTIVATED PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTALIST AND CONSUMER-ADVOCACY GROUPS. THE OPPOSITION OF GERMAN ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS TO AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY IS AN ARTICLE OF FAITH, HOWEVER, AND NOT AMENABLE TO RATIONAL ARGUMENT -- OR FASTIDIOUS MONITORING.

GOVERNMENT PUSHING BIOTECH IN GENERAL
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9. (U) THE CHANCELLOR'S INITIATIVE IS PART OF AN OVERALL GOVERNMENT STRATEGY TO SUPPORT AND INTENSIFY THE BIOTECH SECTOR HERE. AS OUR ECONOMICS MINISTRY CONTACT PUT IT, "BIOTECH HAS BEEN IN THE AIR" OF LATE. CLOSE ON THE HEELS OF SCHROEDER'S SPEECH, THE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH MINISTRY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD INCREASE SUPPORT OF GENETIC RESEARCH BY 70 PERCENT -- USD 72 MILLION -- IN THE 2001 BUDGET. THIS FOLLOWS TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF BIOTECH R&D BUDGET INCREASES AND A FLOWERING OF BIOTECH CORPORATIONS. WHILE MOST OF THE BIOTECH DRIVE HAS BEEN IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL AREA, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO HEAVILY SUPPORTED A PLANT GENOME PROJECT AKIN TO THE HUMAN GENOME PROJECT. THE GOVERNMENT HOPES WITH THESE PROGRAMS TO PLACE GERMANY IN THE NUMBER TWO POSITION WORLDWIDE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

COMMENT

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 BERLIN 002889

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EB-M.BRUNO
STATE PASS USTR
STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE - OSTP
ROME PASS USDA U/S SCHUMACHER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, TSPL, SENV, PGOV, GM
SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER'S NEW GMO INITIATIVE; GERMAN

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

GOV'T LAUNCHES NEW BIOTECH PUSH

10. (SBU) SCHROEDER'S PROPOSAL APPEARS -- OVERALL -- TO BE A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. THE CHANCELLOR EXPLICITLY PRAISED AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY AND STATED HIS INTENT TO PUSH ITS DEVELOPMENT IN GERMANY. THE APPARENT DECISION TO RUN THE INITIATIVE FROM THE CHANCELLERY RATHER THAN HAND IT TO THE OPENLY ANTI-GMO HEALTH MINISTRY IS A MINOR VICTORY FOR U.S. INTERESTS IN ITSELF. THE REASONS FOR REMAINING SKEPTICAL ABOUT ITS CHANCES FOR ACTUALLY INCREASING PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF GMOS AND THUS ASSISTING IN RESOLVING OUR TRADE CONCERNS , HOWEVER, ARE STILL VALID (REF. C). PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO GMOS IS PROBABLY SHALLOW ENOUGH TO BE OVERCOME BY A WIDE-SCALE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH MONITORING PROGRAM SUCH AS PROPOSED BY THE CHANCELLOR. BUT THE MONITORING PROGRAM WILL FACE AN UPHILL BATTLE IN GETTING ITS MESSAGE ACROSS FOR TWO REASONS: (1) THE GERMAN PUBLIC WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO VIEW THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AS BEING THE MOST LEGITIMATE "ANALYSTS" OF THE RISKS OF GMOS; (2) THE MEDIA IS USUALLY BIASED IN THIS ISSUE TOWARD THE GREENS (AN EXAMPLE: WHEN GM-RAPESEED WAS INADVERTENTLY RELEASED IN SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES RECENTLY, THE LEADING TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAM WENT FOR COMMENT NOT TO THE ROBERT KOCH INSTITUTE OR THE MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE, BUT RATHER TO THE ANTI-GMO "OEKO-INSTITUTE," CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE GREENS PARTY.)
KORNBLUM

TOR: 07/10/00 13:41:06

DIST: SIT: Bernard BLINKEN BRUNS NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON DUNCAN KASS MUNTER NORLAND SPENCE YEE
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA4856 2171319-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH (CCY PARA MARKINGS)
LINE3: R 041319Z AUG 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2161
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 1104
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2602
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 5977
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 4256
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 2469
RUEHSS/OECD POSTS COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: ITALY TO BAN IMPORTS OF FOUR GMO
CORN VARIETIES
TEXT: UNCLAS ROME 004856
C O R R E C T E D COPY (PARA MARKINGS)

STATE EB/TPP/ATT/ATP/MARILYN BRUNO
FOR U/S LOY; OES FOR BRILL
WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER, OA/GALVIN,
FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE/SLUTSKY
FAS/ITP/EAMED AND USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU
PLEASE PASS TO CONSULAR POSTS
PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, KSCA
SUBJECT: ITALY TO BAN IMPORTS OF FOUR GMO
CORN VARIETIES

REF: (A) ROME 04683 (B) ROME 04791

1. (SBU) ITALY VOTED TO SUSPEND THE IMPORTATION OF FOUR GMO CORN VARIETIES ACCORDING TO A PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE FOUR PRODUCTS (BTLL, MON 810, MON809, AND T25) HAD BEEN APPROVED ON THE BASIS OF SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE (REF A & B), A PROCESS THAT THE ITALIAN GREEN PARTY HAS ARGUED IS NOT VALID. AN ORIGINAL DRAFT OF THE

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DECREE INCLUDED THREE GMO CANOLA PRODUCTS, (GT 73, CANOLA OIL MSL RSL, AND CANOLA OIL RF2 MSL) BUT THESE WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT BAN. POST WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS ISSUE BUT, DUE TO AUGUST VACATIONS, NO MEANINGFUL CLARIFICATION OF THE LIKELY IMPACT OF THE DECREE MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

2. (SBU) INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF COUNCIL OF MINISTER'S PRESS RELEASE: "THE COUNCIL OF MINSTERS HAS APPROVED A PROPOSAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL TO SUSPEND THE COMMERCIALIZATION AND USE OF TRANSGENIC PRODUCTS WITH A BASE OF CORN WHILE WAITING FOR THE NECESSARY EU COMMISSION VERIFICATION. THIS INFORMATION WAS IMMEDIATELY PASSED TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND OTHER MEMBER STATES."

3. (SBU) INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF PRESS STATEMENTS OF PRIME MINISTER AMATO: "WE ARE TIED TO THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE WHICH IMPLIES THAT ONLY IN ABSENCE OF ANY DOUBT CAN WE PROCEED WITH A TRANQUIL AND SERENE COMMERCIALIZATION"...."IT IS A DECISION WHICH I HAVE ASSUMED IN THE PRESENCE OF DIVERGENT OPINIONS AMONG THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTERS. I TOOK NOTE OF THE EXISTENCE OF A VARIETY OF BODIES IN FAVOR OF THE PRODUCTS IN QUESTION. HOWEVER, I DEEMED THAT ON THE QUESTION OF RISK OF HEALTH, I HAVE NOT HAD A SUITABLE RESPONSE TO EACH DOUBT."

4. (SBU) COMMENT: GIVEN THE FRAGILITY OF AMATO'S RULING COALITION HIS DECISION WAS LIKELY BASED MORE ON HIS NEED TO MAINTAIN GREEN PARTY SUPPORT THAN ON CONCERNS ABOUT HEALTH RISKS. END COMMENT. FOGLIETTA

TOR: 08/14/00 16:20:28

DIST: SIT: BLINKEN BRUNS NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON DUNCAN GREENWOOD KASS LIN MUNTER NORLAND YEE
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHBSA4521 2231519-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 101519Z AUG 00
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG:
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
SUBJ: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: COMMISSION RESPONSE
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 004521

SENSITIVE

STATE PASS USTR FOR FRASER, MURPHY
USDA/OSEC/SIDDIQUI
FAS FOR OA/GALVIN; ITP/SIMMONS/MACKE/RICHEY/SCHWARTZ
FAS FOR OFSTS/HARBERT/SLUTSKY
FAS FOR CMP/LEE/RIEMENSCHNEIDER
STATE FOR EUR/ERA EB/TPP, OES/ETC
USDOC FOR DAS/LUDOLPH

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
POSTS PASS AGRICULTURE AND ECON
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, WTRD, WTRO, TBIO, PGOV, SENV
SUBJECT: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: COMMISSION RESPONSE

REF: ROME 4856

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.

1. (SBU) ON WEDNESDAY AGATT ASKED COMMISSIONER BYRNE'S STAFF(STRICTLY PROTECT) WHAT STEPS THE COMMISSION WAS TAKING IN RESPONSE TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON FOUR GMO CORN PRODUCTS UNDER THE SAFEGUARD PROVISIONS OF THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION, CLAIMING THEY REJECT THEIR

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(2,69)

"SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE." (REF). (NOTE: THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH A LINK ON THE USEU WEBSITE, WWW.USEU.BE, UNDER THE AGRICULTURE HEADING. SAFEGUARDS ARE DISCUSSED IN ARTICLES 11-13. END NOTE.)

2. (SBU) AS REPORTED IN THE MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON FOODS (SEE TEXT PARA 6) ITALY'S EUROPE MINISTER MATTIOLI IN JUNE GAVE SANCO COMMISSIONER BYRNE "EVIDENCE" ON WHICH THEY BASED THEIR BAN OF THE CORNS. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, (STRICTLY PROTECT) "IT LOOKS LIKE THREE OR FOUR PAGES OF RUBBISH WITHOUT ANY REAL SCIENCE."

3. UNDER THE PROCEDURES OF THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION, SANCO HAS FORWARDED THIS "EVIDENCE" TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON FOODSTUFFS FOR REVIEW AT ITS SEPTEMBER 6 MEETING. ASSUMING THE SCIENTISTS DELIVER A TIMELY OPINION, IT WOULD GO TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOODS, WHICH MEETS IN OCTOBER. THE STANDING COMMITTEE WOULD MAKE A DETERMINATION BY QUALIFIED MAJORITY IF THE ITALIAN DECISION IS JUSTIFIED. IF IT IS NOT JUSTIFIED, THE ITALIANS WOULD EITHER HAVE TO REVOKE THE BAN OR THE COMMISSION WOULD TAKE INFRINGEMENT PROCEEDINGS IN TH EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE.

4. (SBU) THE SOURCE'S OPINION IS THAT THERE IS POLITICAL RISK IF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FAILS TO PRODUCE AN OPINION. THAT COULD ALLOW THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO DEFER A DECISION, AND INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF STRONG POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER MEMBER STATES. COMMENT: ALL "SAFEGUARD" ISSUES ARE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AS THEY REVOLVE AROUND MEMBER STATE SOVEREIGNTY VS. EU LAW. MEMBER STATES THAT MAY HAVE NO OPINION ON THE CORN ITSELF CONCEIVABLY COULD SUPPORT ITALY'S ACTION AS A MATTER OF SUPPORTING SOVEREIGNTY.

5. COMMENT: MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THIS ITEM BE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA OF THE SEPTEMBER 21 SENIOR-LEVEL GROUP BILATERAL ON BIOTECHNOLOGY. END COMMENT.

6. BEGIN TEXT OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON FOODS, JUNE 2000 FROM HTTP://EUROPA.EU.INT/COMM/FOOD/FS/RC/SCFS/RAP01-EN.HTML:

"THE ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED THE COMMITTEE THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WERE CONSIDERING SUSPENDING THE MARKETING IN ITALY OF 7 PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS WHICH HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED UNDER ARTICLE 3, PARAGRAPH 4, OF REGULATION (EC) NO 258/97 ON NOVEL FOODS AND NOVEL FOOD INGREDIENTS. IT IS THE VIEW OF THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES THAT THESE PRODUCTS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT" TO EXISTING FOODS OR FOOD INGREDIENTS AND THEY SHOULD THEREFORE UNDERGO A FULL AUTHORIZATION PROCESS. THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES HAD INFORMED THE COMMISSION OF THIS VIEW AND HAD SUBMITTED EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF IT."

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

"THE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE CONFIRMED THAT ON 22 JUNE
2000 COMMISSIONER BYRNE HAD MET THE ITALIAN MINISTER FOR
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 004521

SENSITIVE

STATE PASS USTR FOR FRASER, MURPHY
USDA/OSEC/SIDDIQUI
FAS FOR OA/GALVIN; ITP/SIMMONS/MACKE/RICHEY/SCHWARTZ
FAS FOR OFSTS/HARBERT/SLUTSKY
FAS FOR CMP/LEE/RIEMENSCHNEIDER
STATE FOR EUR/ERA EB/TPP, OES/ETC
USDOC FOR DAS/LUDOLPH
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
POSTS PASS AGRICULTURE AND ECONCONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, WTRD, WTRO, TBIO, PGOV, SENV
SUBJECT: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: COMMISSION RESPONSE

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS MATTIOLI, AND THAT THE LATTER HAD
RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT SEVE GM-DERIVED PRODUCTS NOTIFIED
UDER THE NOVEL FOOD REGULATION. COMMISSIONER BYRNE HAD
ASSURED THE ITALIAN MINISTER THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY
BRING THE EVIDENCE BROUGHT FORWARD BY ITALY TO THE
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR FOOD." END TEXT. CLOUD

TOR: 08/10/00 11:19:15

DIST: SIT: BLINKEN BRUNS NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON DUNCAN GREENWOOD KASS LIN
MUNTER NORLAND YEE
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHRHA2274 2261130-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 131130Z AUG 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
OSRI: RUEHRH
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2072
INFO: RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC 1590
RUCLRFA/USDA WASHINGTON DC
SUBJ: SAUDI ARABIA'S NEW CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT
FOR IMPORTED GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODSTUFFS:
AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE
TEXT: UNCLAS RIYADH 002274

DEPT FOR NEA/ARP, EB/IFD
DEPT PASS TO USTR WASHDC
USTR FOR DWOSKIN
USDOC 4520/ITA/IEP/ONE
USDOC 3131/CS/OIO/ANESA
USDOC 1000/COUNSELOR/KALICKI

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: BBSR, ETRD, EAGR, ECON, SA
SUBJECT: SAUDI ARABIA'S NEW CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT
FOR IMPORTED GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODSTUFFS:
AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE

REF: STATE 154527

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: LAST WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT WILL REQUIRE CERTIFICATION FOR ALL GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODSTUFFS SURPRISED SAUDI IMPORTERS AND U.S. EXPORTERS. WE ARE INFORMED THAT AT LEAST TWO SHIPMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN STOPPED BY SAUDI CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A DIRECTIVE, DATED AUGUST 1, 2000, FROM THE SAUDI MINISTER OF COMMERCE, USAMA JA'FAR FAQIH, TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF SAUDI CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE INDUSTRY AND THE CHAIRMEN OF THE CHAMBERS OF RIYADH, JEDDAH, AND THE EASTERN PROVINCE CONCERNING GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODSTUFFS. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) BEGIN TEXT:

REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE ONGOING DEBATE BETWEEN SEVERAL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REGARDING THE EXPORT AND IMPORT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODSTUFFS, GMF, AND ITS PLACEMENT

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ON THE MARKET FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. THIS ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN SOLVED YET, AND NO AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CONTROLS OR THE REGULATIONS AND LAWS WHICH GOVERN GLOBAL TRADE IN GMF. AT PRESENT, GMF IS NOT ENTIRELY FREE OF ELEMENTS WHICH ARE HAZARDOUS TO HUMAN HEALTH.

IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE SAUDI CONSUMER'S SAFETY AND WITH DUE CONSIDERATION TO GENERAL INTEREST AND PUBLIC HEALTH, WE ASK THAT YOU TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

I. CIRCULATE INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE DIRECTING ALL CONCERNED PARTIES INCLUDING COMPANIES, MERCHANTS AND IMPORTERS TO AVOID IMPORTING GMF, OR ANY FOODSTUFFS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS, GMI, SUCH AS SOYA BEAN OIL, CORN OIL, ETC.

II. ADVISE ALL CONCERNED PARTIES OF THE NECESSITY OF SECURING DOMESTIC MARKET NEEDS FROM NATURAL PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED USING BASIC AND SAFE RESOURCES. ALL IMPORTED COMMODITIES WILL HAVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CERTIFIED HEALTH CERTIFICATE CONFIRMING THAT THEY ARE VOID OF GMI AND THAT THEY ARE SAFE AND FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

III. LETTERS OF CREDIT SHOULD CONTAIN PARAGRAPHS CLEARLY PROTECTING THE FULL RIGHTS OF SAUDI IMPORTERS SHOULD THE IMPORTED COMMODITY PROVE TO BE UNSAFE OR CONTAIN GMI OR SHOULD THE ACCOMPANYING HEALTH CERTIFICATE PROVES TO BE INACCURATE. IMPORTERS WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACTIONS WHICH VIOLATE THESE REGULATIONS.

IV. ADVERTISE THESE REGULATIONS IN ALL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NOTICE BOARDS AND PERIODICALS IMMEDIATELY.

V. NOTIFY THE MINISTRY, ANY OF ITS BRANCHES, OR LABORATORIES IN THE EVENT OF THE DISCOVERY OF SUSPICIOUS IMPORTS OR COMMODITIES SUSPECTED OF BEING UNHEALTHY, OR UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, OR CONTAINING GMI. END TEXT.

END TEXT

3. (SBU) COMMENT: SCO AND A/ECONCOUNS HAVE CONFERRED WITH SENIOR MINSTRY OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS, PRIVATE SECTOR CONTACTS, AND OTHER DIPLOMATS FROM FOOD EXPORTING COUNTRIES AND CONFIRMED THAT THE BAN IS IN EFFECT. A SHIPMENT OF PRINGLES POTATO CHIPS HAS ALREADY BEEN BLOCKED BY CUSTOMS INSPECTORS AT JEDDAH PORT DEMANDING CERTIFICATION REGARDING GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS. THE U.K. EMBASSY ALSO REPORTS THAT A KRAFTS FOODS SHIPMENT HAS BEEN STOPPED FOR THE SAME REASON. THE AMBASSADOR TALKED WITH MINISTER OF COMMERCE FAQIH ON AUGUST 12 AND REGISTERED OUR CONCERN OVER THE LACK OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION WARNING HIM THAT

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UNILATERAL ACTIONS OF THIS TYPE COULD VIOLATE WTO RULES
ANDTHUS IMPEDE SAUDI ARABIA'S CHANCES OF ACCESSION.
SCO AND A/ECONCOUNS WILL MEET WITH SENIOR MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE OFFICIALS TO FORMALLY MAKE REFTEL POINTS AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.
FOWLER

TOR: 08/13/00 07:51:30

DIST: SIT: BOLAN BRUNS NSC CAMP DUNCAN LIN MALLEY POLLACK POPAL RIEDEL
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Cable

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/16
2016-0529-M (2:20)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHRHA2339 2320405-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 190405Z AUG 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
OSRI: RUEHRH
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2135
INFO: RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC 1593
RUCLRFA/USDA WASHINGTON DC
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: SAUDI BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD IMPORTS: U.S. DEMARCHE DELIVERED: SIX MONTH GRACE PERIOD GRANTED
TEXT: ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ RIYADH 002339

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP, EB/IFD
DEPT PASS TO USTR; USTR FOR DWOSKIN
USDOC 4520/ITA/IEP/ONE
USDOC 3131/CS/OIO/ANESA
USDOC 1000/COUNSELOR/KALICKI
USDA FOR RICHARD PETGES

E.O. 12958: DECL: 8/15/10
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, ECON, SENV, TBIO, SA
SUBJECT: SAUDI BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD IMPORTS: U.S. DEMARCHE DELIVERED: SIX MONTH GRACE PERIOD GRANTED

REFS: A) RIYADH 2274, B) STATE 154527

CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL BY AMBASSADOR WYCHE FOWLER, JR., FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D). THIS CABLE CONTAINS BUSINESS PROPRIETY INFORMATION - PLEASE PROTECT.

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: FOLLOWING UP ON THE AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF COMMERCE FAQIH (REF A) REGARDING GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD (GMF), SENIOR COMMERCIAL OFFICER (SCO) DELIVERED REF B DEMARCHE TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE FAWAZ ALAMY. DESPITE THE INITIAL UPROAR CAUSED BY THE SURPRISE GMF DIRECTIVE, IMPORTS LACKING THE CERTIFICATION ARE NOT CURRENTLY BEING BLOCKED. ON AUGUST 16, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INSPECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL HAMAD AL-AWFI REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY THAT THE SAG HAS GRANTED A SIX-MONTH GRACE PERIOD BEFORE THE GMF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT COMES INTO EFFECT. THIS GIVES US TIME TO TRY TO CONVINCE THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES THAT GMF IS SAFE. THE UPCOMING WTO

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NEGOTIATIONS WILL GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS GMF RESTRICTIONS AND THE NEED FOR PRIOR CONSULTATION ON STANDARDS ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

DEMARCHE DELIVERED

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2. ~~(C)~~ ON AUGUST 13, SCO CALLED DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE FAWAZ ALAMY AND EXPRESSED OUR DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE UNEXPECTED SAUDI REQUIREMENT THAT A GMF CERTIFICATION ACCOMPANY ALL IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS. ALAMY INDICATED THAT HE HAS BEEN IN DIRECT TOUCH WITH USTR CONCERNING THIS ISSUE, BUT ADMITTED HE WAS NOT YET FAMILIAR WITH HOW THE NEW CERTIFICATION PROCESS WILL WORK. SCO MADE THE POINTS OUTLINED IN REF B TO ALAMY AND FOLLOWED UP WITH A NON-PAPER TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE.

3. ~~(C)~~ TO DATE, TWO FOOD SHIPMENTS WERE REPORTEDLY DELAYED BY SAUDI AUTHORITIES FOR NOT HAVING ADEQUATE GMF DOCUMENTATION. THE FIRST WAS A PROCTOR & GAMBLE SHIPMENT OF PRINGLE'S POTATO CHIPS HELD AT JEDDAH PORT. THE SECOND WAS A KRAFT'S FOODS SHIPMENT FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM. HOWEVER, BOTH SHIPMENTS HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND WE ARE AWARE OF NO OTHER IMPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS OR OTHER PRODUCTS BEING BLOCKED DUE TO THE NEW GMF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

SAUDI RESPONSE: SIX-MONTH GRACE PERIOD

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4. (U) ON AUGUST 16, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE COMMERCE MINISTRY FOR INSPECTIONS AND QUALITY CONTROL INFORMED THE EMBASSY'S AGRICULTURAL TRADE OFFICE THAT FOOD IMPORTERS WILL HAVE A SIX-MONTH GRACE PERIOD BEFORE THE GMF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT GOES INTO EFFECT.

COMMENT

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5. ~~(C)~~ ALTHOUGH FAWAZ ALAMY IS THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR TECHNICAL AFFAIRS (AND RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPORT STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS) BY ALL ACCOUNTS HE WAS INITIALLY OUT OF THE DECISION-MAKING LOOP ON THIS ISSUE. IT APPEARS THAT THE IMPETUS FOR THE GMF BAN CAME DIRECTLY FROM MINISTER FAQIH'S OFFICE - PERHAPS UNDER PRESSURE FROM RELIGIOUS CONSERVATIVES. FOLLOWING THE AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF COMMERCE FAQIH AND THEN THE INVOLVEMENT OF DEPUTY MINISTER ALAMY, THE SAUDIS STEPPED BACK FROM THEIR INITIAL POSITION ENACTING AN IMMEDIATE BAN. HOWEVER, SAUDI ARABIA HAS LONG MAINTAINED FOOD IMPORT BANS ON SUCH ITEMS AS BRITISH DAIRY PRODUCTS AND AUSTRALIAN VETCHES, DESPITE COGENT SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE THAT THESE

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PRODUCTS ARE NOT HARMFUL. DURING THE UPCOMING WTO NEGOTIATION PROCESS, WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE BOTH THE NEED FOR PRIOR CONSULTATION ON STANDARDS ISSUES AND THE APPROPRIATE MEANS TO EVALUATE THE MERITS OF GMF PRODUCTS.
FOWLER

TOR: 08/19/00 00:23:44

DIST: SIT: BOLAN BRUNS NSC CAMP DUNCAN LIN MALLEY POLLACK POPAL RIEDEL
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHKOA6736 2622352-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 182352Z SEP 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
OSRI: RUEHKO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8293
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 6357
INFO: ////
SUBJ: UNAPPROVED GENETICALLY MODIFIED U.S. CORN DETECTED IN JAPAN

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED
TEXT: UNCLAS TOKYO 006736

USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN;
FAS/CMP/RIEMENSCHNEIDER;
FAS/FSTSD/SLUTSKY, DUNAHAY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD,JA

SUBJECT: UNAPPROVED GENETICALLY MODIFIED U.S. CORN DETECTED IN JAPAN

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

1. (U) SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE THE USG OR ON THE INTERNET.

2. (SBU) SUMMARY. A GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN (GOJ) OFFICIAL, SPEAKING ON CONDITION OF ANONYMITY, REPORTED THAT GOJ SCIENTISTS HAVE DETECTED AVENTIS CROP SCIENCE CBH-351, A VARIETY OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) CORN WHICH IS NOT APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN, IN A SAMPLE OF IMPORTED U.S. FEED. THE OFFICIAL SAID THE TEST RESULTS ARE "VERY CONCLUSIVE". IF TRUE, THIS REPRESENTS THE FIRST CONFIRMED DETECTION OF AN UNAPPROVED GM U.S. PLANT VARIETY IN JAPAN. RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC IS PENDING INTRA-MINISTRY CLEARANCE. POSSIBLE REGULATORY ACTIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IN RESPONSE TO THE FINDING INCLUDE REQUIRING A FEED SAFETY ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING IMPORTS FOR THE PRESENCE OF CBH-351. END SUMMARY.

3. (SBU) IN RESPONSE TO A MAY 27, 2000 PRESS RELEASE FROM THE JAPAN "NO GM FOOD CAMPAIGN" ANNOUNCING THAT IT HAD DETECTED AVENTIS CROP SCIENCE CBH-351 CORN (TRADE

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NAME "STAR LINK") IN TWO SAMPLES OF IMPORTED U.S. ANIMAL FEED, GOJ RESEARCHERS BEGAN TESTING FOR THE PRESENCE OF CBH-351 IN IMPORTED U.S. CORN. PCR TESTING WAS CONDUCTED AFTER COLLECTING GENETIC INFORMATION FOR CBH-351 FROM AVENTIS.

4. (SBU) A GOJ OFFICIAL, SPEAKING ON CONDITION OF ANONYMITY, SAID AT LEAST ONE CONFIRMATION TEST WAS "POSITIVE" FOR THE PRESENCE OF CBH-351 AND "VERY CONCLUSIVE". HE SAID THE TEST RESULT WILL NOT BE RELEASED BY THE GOJ UNTIL THE INTRA-MINISTRY CLEARANCE PROCESS IS COMPLETED. POSSIBLE NEGATIVE JAPANESE CONSUMER REACTION AGAINST MEATS FROM DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK IS A PARTICULAR CONCERN.

5. (SBU) WHILE THE ORIGIN OF THE SAMPLE MATERIAL THAT GENERATED THE POSITIVE RESULT IS UNKNOWN, THE "NO GM FOOD CAMPAIGN" PRESS RELEASE CLAIMED THAT TWO ANIMAL FEEDS OBTAINED FROM THE JAPANESE MARKET CONTAINED THE UNAPPROVED VARIETY (A CHICKEN FEED (TRADE NAME "LM18" KAJIMA FEED CO.) AND A COW FEED (TRADE NAME "DAIRY 18", CHUBU FEED CO.)).

6. (SBU) POSSIBLE GOJ ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE TEST RESULT REPORTEDLY UNDER REVIEW INCLUDE CONTINUED RANDOM SAMPLING TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF CONTAMINATION OF IMPORTED U.S. CORN BY CBH-351 AND, POTENTIALLY, REQUIRING A SAFETY ASSESSMENT FOR ANIMAL FEEDS (MAFF'S VOLUNTARY FEED SAFETY ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE 1996 WITH 23 GM FEEDS APPROVED TO-DATE)

7. (SBU) IN ADDITION, THE GOJ OFFICIAL EXPECTS THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (MHW) WILL LIKELY MONITOR IMPORTS FOR THE PRESENCE OF CBH-351 WHEN ITS MANDATORY SAFETY ASSESSMENT FOR GM PLANT VARIETIES TAKES EFFECT ON APRIL 1, 2001. PRIOR TO THE RECENT FINDING, MHW WAS ALREADY PLANNING TO MONITOR IMPORTS FOR UNAPPROVED VARIETIES IN 2001, DESPITE CONTINUED U.S. OPPOSITION, AS A COMPLIANCE MEASURE IN SUPPORT OF ITS MANDATORY SAFETY ASSESSMENT UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE FOOD SANITATION LAW. ARTICLE 7 PROHIBITS SALE OR IMPORTATION OF SUBSTANCES WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO MANDATORY SAFETY ASSESSMENT AND NOT YET APPROVED BY MHW.
FOLEY

TOR: 09/18/00 20:02:05

DIST: SIT: BOWLES BRUNS NSC CHRISTY DUNCAN JARRETT LIEBERTHAL LIN ORFINI OSIUS PRITCHARD SMITHH

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Accidental Introduction of Genetically Modified Corn Variety into Human Food Supply] (3 pages)	10/17/2000	P1/b(1)
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: Italian GMO Corn Ban: Scant Enforcement (5 pages)~~	~~10/18/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
~~003. cable~~	~~[duplicate of 002] (5 pages)~~	~~10/18/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
004. cable	Re: [Food Supply] (2 pages)	10/18/2000	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Re: [Future for Genetically-Modified Products] (2 pages)	10/18/2000	P1/b(1)
006. cable	[duplicate of 005] (2 pages)	10/19/2000	P1/b(1)
007. cable	Re: [Starlink Genetically Modified Corn] (3 pages)	10/20/2000	P1/b(1)
~~008. cable~~	~~Re: [Italian GMO Corn Ban] (2 pages)~~	~~10/23/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
009. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Corn Affair] (3 pages)	10/23/2000	P1/b(1)
010. cable	Re: [Italian GMO Corn Prohibition] (3 pages)	10/26/2000	P1/b(1)
011. cable	Re: [GMO Directive] (2 pages)	10/30/2000	P1/b(1)
~~012. cable~~	~~Re: Italian GMO Corn Ban: What Next? (5 pages)~~	~~11/08/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:
[10/12/2000 - 11/27/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3019

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~013. cable~~	~~Re: Update on the Saudi GMO Labeling Requirements (4 pages)~~	~~11/27/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ N 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:
[10/12/2000 - 11/27/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3019

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHROA6365 2920614-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 180614Z OCT 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3677
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 1222
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2848
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 6341
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 4491
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 2850
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: SCANT ENFORCEMENT
TEXT: UNCLAS ROME 006365

EB/TPP/ATT/ATP - APEREZ
EB FOR SHAUN DONNELLY
FOR U/S LOY; OES FOR BRILL
STATE FOR PA
STATE PASS USTR
WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER,
OA/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE/SLUTSKY
FAS/ITP/EAMED AND USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU
PLEASE PASS TO CONSULAR POSTS
PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, KSCA, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: SCANT ENFORCEMENT

REF: (A) ROME 5038 (E) BRUSSELS 5000
(B) ROME 6048 (F) MCBRIDE-PEREZ 10/4 E-MAILS (NOTAL)
(C) ROME 5627
(D) BRUSSELS 5451 (G) ROME 5553

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: THE GOI BAN ON FOUR GMO CORN

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VARIETIES REMAINS TECHNICALLY ON THE BOOKS, BUT ITS OSTENSIBLE ENFORCERS HAVE NO INTENTION OF ACTIVELY IMPLEMENTING IT ON A NATIONAL LEVEL, GOI SOURCES ASSURE US. THE SINGLE EPISODE WHERE A CORN PRODUCT WAS SEIZED (AND LATER RELEASED) INVOLVED A MAVERICK REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE HEALTH MINISTRY. THE PM EXPECTS THAT THE EU WILL THIS WEEK ASK ITALY TO RESCIND THE BAN. FINALLY, WE OFFER SOME THOUGHTS ON NEXT STEPS. END SUMMARY.

THE BAN IS A NUISANCE...

2. (U) THE ITALIAN DECREE (TEXT REF A) BANNING FOUR GMO CORN VARIETIES HAS BEEN THEORETICALLY IN FORCE SINCE AUGUST 23. THE COALITION POLITICS THAT GAVE RISE TO THE BAN (REF B) ARE LARGELY MOOT IN THE AFTERMATH OF PM AMATO'S ANNOUNCED ABDICATION. (THE GREENS CAN'T CREDIBLY THREATEN TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT WHEN THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION LIKELY WOULD BE HEADED BY A DECIDEDLY NONGREEN CENTER-RIGHT COALITION.) ALTHOUGH THE DECREE LACKS STRONG GOI SUPPORT, NEITHER HAS THERE BEEN SUFFICIENT OPPOSITION TO IT TO ATTEMPT A REVOCATION.

BUT LITTLE MORE, SO FAR...

3. (SBU) THE RESULT OF THESE POLITICAL DYNAMICS IS A GMO CORN BAN THAT WAS ESSENTIALLY STILL-BORN; IT REMAINS ON THE BOOKS BUT WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT EFFECT. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH CONTINUES TO DECLINE TO ISSUE IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES (REF C), AND THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT SEEMS CONTENT TO WAIT FOR THEM INDEFINITELY (REF D).

4. (U) WE ARE AWARE OF ONLY A SINGLE INSTANCE WHERE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES INTERCEPTED A CORN SHIPMENT. PER REF E, MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS FROM THE EMILIA ROMAGNA REGIONAL OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 28 HELD UP A SHIPMENT OF 5,000 TONS OF U.S. CORN GLUTEN IN THE PORT OF RAVENNA. SOME 100 SAMPLES WERE TAKEN FOR GMO TESTING USING THE (FREQUENTLY INACCURATE) PCR METHOD. WHEN THE TESTS PROVED NEGATIVE FOR THREE OF THE FOUR GMO CORN VARIETIES AND INCONCLUSIVE FOR THE FOURTH, THE SHIPMENT WAS RELEASED ON OCTOBER 3.

5. (SBU) MOH DIRECTOR GENERAL ROMANO MARABELLI ASSURED AGMINCOUNS THAT THE ORDER TO TEST THE RAVENNA SHIPMENT CAME FROM THE EMILIA ROMANGA REGIONAL OFFICE WITHOUT GUIDANCE FROM THE ROME HEADQUARTERS. EMPHASIZING THAT HIS MINISTRY HAD OPPOSED THE BAN, MARABELLI ADDED THAT HE,

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NEVERTHELESS, COULD NOT HAVE THE REGIONAL ORDER RESCINDED SINCE THE BAN REMAINS OFFICIALLY IN FORCE.

6. (SBU) THE IMPORTER (TOEPFER) WHOSE CORN GLUTEN WAS SEIZED IN RAVENNA SEEMED RELATIVELY PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT THE EPISODE. HE IMPLIED TO FAS THAT HE MAY SIMPLY START USING A DIFFERENT PORT TO AVOID THE JURISDICTION OF MOH'S REGIONAL OFFICE IN EMILIA ROMANGA. COMMENT. WE HAVE SEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY INTENT TO SEIZE OTHER CORN SHIPMENTS NOR HAVE WE SEEN ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, THE ONLY REAL SUPPORTER OF THE BAN WITHIN THE GOI, PUT THE REGIONAL MOH OFFICE UP TO THIS. WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE EMILIA ROMANGA MOH OFFICE DIRECTOR (DOCTOR GANDINI) WILL REALIZE THERE IS NO UP SIDE IN CONTINUING HIS SOLITARY ENFORCEMENT EFFORT AND A SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL DOWNSIDE (EXPENSE OF TESTING, DIVERSION OF TRADE FROM HIS JURISDICTION, CHILLY SILENCE FROM THE HOME OFFICE). END COMMENT.

AND IT MAY BE SHORT-LIVED
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8. (U) THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, UMBERTO VERONESI, WHO OPPOSED THE BAN, HAS TAKEN TO PUBLICLY BRINGING THE DEBATE ON GMOS TO A MORE SCIENTIFIC LEVEL. IN A WIDELY-PUBLICIZED RECENT STATEMENT, VERONESI, A HIGHLY-REGARDED ONCOLOGIST, ASSERTED THAT FOOD PRODUCTS COULD BE GENETICALLY MODIFIED TO ENHANCE THEIR CANCER-COMBATING ATTRIBUTES. HE ALSO RECENTLY FORMED A BIOTECH WORKING GROUP, COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF SCIENTISTS, INCLUDING TWO NOBEL LAUREATES, WHICH DG MARABELLI WILL CHAIR. WHILE THE GROUP'S FUNCTION IS NOT YET FULLY DEFINED, MARABELLI RECENTLY INTIMATED TO AGMINCOUNS THAT THE MINISTER COULD USE THE ADVICE OF THE GROUP TO COMBAT UNSCIENTIFICALLY-BASED ATTACKS ON BIOTECH.

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NEXT STEPS
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10. (SBU) COMMENT. IN THE IMMEDIATE TERM, WE AGREE WITH THE EMERGING CONSENSUS (REF F) THAT THE RAVENNA INCIDENT SHOULD BE SEEN AS AN ABERRATION AND RECOMMEND NO INTERVENTION

REGARDING IT. WE REMAIN READY, OF COURSE, TO RESPOND TO IMPORTER OR U.S. SHIPPER COMPLAINTS SHOULD TRADE BECOME IMPEDED OR CHILLED AS A RESULT OF THE BAN. WE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY MINDFUL OF ANY DISCRIMINATORY ENFORCEMENT PREJUDICING CORN PRODUCTS ARRIVING BY SEA (THE ROUTE OF MOST U.S. SHIPMENTS) VERSUS OVERLAND FROM THE BORDERLESS EU. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, OUR PRIVATE SECTOR CONTACTS BELIEVE THAT AS LONG AS TRADE CAN PROCEED, IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR THE USG TO ENGAGE IN A "TABLE-POUNDING" APPROACH. SIMILARLY, PRIVATE SECTOR BIOTECH ENTERPRISES ARE AWAITING THE RESULTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING BEFORE SEEKING LEGAL RECOURSE AT THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE OR ITALIAN COURT (REF G).

11. (SBU) COMMENT CONTINUED. IF, AS EXPECTED, THE EU CENSURES ITALY THIS WEEK IN SOME FASHION FOR THE BAN, WE WOULD ADVISE TWO USG REACTIONS. A TRUSTED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE CONTACT, RECOGNIZING THE PROBABLE VIOLATION OF ITALY'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE OBLIGATIONS INHERENT IN THE BAN, RECENTLY COUNSELED US THAT "PRESSURE FROM THE U.S. WOULD BE USEFUL" IN THE AFTERMATH OF ANY EU ACTION. WE SUGGEST A POLICY LEVEL DEMARCHE WOULD BE IN ORDER, EXPRESSLY BUILDING ON THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT COMMENTS TO PM AMATO. WE ALSO SUGGEST ISSUANCE OF A PUBLIC STATEMENT SECONDING THE EU ACTION AND URGING ITALY TO COMPLY.

12. (SBU) COMMENT CONTINUED. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THE EU DOES NOT REPROVE ITALY FOR THE GMO CORN BAN, THE POINT OF INTERVENTION OBVIOUSLY SHIFTS TO BRUSSELS.

FOGLIETTA

TOR: 10/18/00 02:31:54

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PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,06} lane
SIT: Bowles BRUNS DUNCAN SAMANS

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Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHROA6366 2920615-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 180615Z OCT 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3680
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 1225
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2851
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 6344
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 4494
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 2853
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: SCANT
ENFORCEMENT
TEXT: UNCLAS ROME 006366

EB/TPP/ATT/ATP - APEREZ
EB FOR SHAUN DONNELLY
FOR U/S LOY; OES FOR BRILL
STATE FOR PA
STATE PASS USTR
WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER,
OA/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE/SLUTSKY
FAS/ITP/EAMED AND USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU
PLEASE PASS TO CONSULAR POSTS
PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, KSCA, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: SCANT
ENFORCEMENT
REF: (A) ROME 5038 (E) BRUSSELS 5000
(B) ROME 6048 (F) MCBRIDE-PEREZ 10/4
(C) ROME 5627 E-MAILS (NOTAL)
(D) BRUSSELS 5451 (G) ROME 5553

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

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1. (SBU) SUMMARY: THE GOI BAN ON FOUR GMO CORN VARIETIES REMAINS TECHNICALLY ON THE BOOKS, BUT ITS OSTENSIBLE ENFORCERS HAVE NO INTENTION OF ACTIVELY IMPLEMENTING IT ON A NATIONAL LEVEL, GOI SOURCES ASSURE US. THE SINGLE EPISODE WHERE A CORN PRODUCT WAS SEIZED (AND LATER RELEASED) INVOLVED A MAVERICK REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE HEALTH MINISTRY. THE PM EXPECTS THAT THE EU WILL THIS WEEK ASK ITALY TO RESCIND THE BAN. FINALLY, WE OFFER SOME THOUGHTS ON NEXT STEPS. END SUMMARY.

THE BAN IS A NUISANCE...
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2. (U) THE ITALIAN DECREE (TEXT REF A) BANNING FOUR GMO CORN VARIETIES HAS BEEN THEORETICALLY IN FORCE SINCE AUGUST 23. THE COALITION POLITICS THAT GAVE RISE TO THE BAN (REF B) ARE LARGELY MOOT IN THE AFTERMATH OF PM AMATO'S ANNOUNCED ABDICATION. (THE GREENS CAN'T CREDIBLY THREATEN TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT WHEN THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION LIKELY WOULD BE HEADED BY A DECIDEDLY NONGREEN CENTER-RIGHT COALITION.) ALTHOUGH THE DECREE LACKS STRONG GOI SUPPORT, NEITHER HAS THERE BEEN SUFFICIENT OPPOSITION TO IT TO ATTEMPT A REVOCATION.

BUT LITTLE MORE, SO FAR...
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3. (SBU) THE RESULT OF THESE POLITICAL DYNAMICS IS A GMO CORN BAN THAT WAS ESSENTIALLY STILL-BORN; IT REMAINS IN THE BOOKS BUT WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT EFFECT. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH CONTINUES TO DECLINE TO ISSUE IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES (REF C) AND THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT SEEMS CONTENT TO WAIT FOR THEM INDEFINITELY (REF D).

4. (U) WE ARE AWARE OF ONLY A SINGLE INSTANCE WHERE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES INTERCEPTED A CORN SHIPMENT. PER REF E, MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS FROM THE EMILIA ROMAGNA REGIONAL OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 28 HELD UP A SHIPMENT OF 5,000 TONS OF U.S. CORN GLUTEN IN THE PORT OF RAVENNA. SOME 100 SAMPLES WERE TAKEN FOR GMO TESTING USING THE (FREQUENTLY INACCURATE) PCR METHOD. WHEN THE TESTS PROVED NEGATIVE FOR THREE OF THE FOUR GMO CORN VARIETIES AND INCONCLUSIVE FOR THE FOURTH, THE SHIPMENT WAS RELEASED ON OCTOBER 3.

5. (SBU) MOH DIRECTOR GENERAL ROMANO MARABELLI ASSURED AGMINCOUNS THAT THE ORDER TO TEST THE RAVENNA SHIPMENT CAME FROM THE EMILIA ROMANGA REGIONAL OFFICE WITHOUT GUIDANCE FROM THE ROME HEADQUARTERS. EMPHASIZING THAT HIS MINISTRY

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HAD OPPOSED THE BAN, MARABELLI ADDED THAT HE, NEVERTHELESS, COULD NOT HAVE THE REGIONAL ORDER RESCINDED SINCE THE BAN REMAINS OFFICIALLY IN FORCE.

6. (SBU) THE IMPORTER (TOEPFER) WHOSE CORN GLUTEN WAS SEIZED IN RAVENNA SEEMED RELATIVELY PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT THE EPISODE. HE IMPLIED TO FAS THAT HE MAY SIMPLY START USING A DIFFERENT PORT TO AVOID THE JURISDICTION OF MOH'S REGIONAL OFFICE IN EMILIA ROMANGA. COMMENT. WE HAVE SEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY INTENT TO SEIZE OTHER CORN SHIPMENTS NOR HAVE WE SEEN ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, THE ONLY REAL SUPPORTER OF THE BAN WITHIN THE GOI, PUT THE REGIONAL MOH OFFICE UP TO THIS. WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE EMILIA ROMANGA MOH OFFICE DIRECTOR (DOCTOR GANDINI) WILL REALIZE THERE IS NO UP SIDE IN CONTINUING HIS SOLITARY ENFORCEMENT EFFORT AND A SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL DOWNSIDE (EXPENSE OF TESTING, DIVERSION OF TRADE FROM HIS JURISDICTION, CHILLY SILENCE FROM THE HOME OFFICE). END COMMENT.

AND IT MAY BE SHORT-LIVED
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FOGLIETTA

TOR: 10/18/00 07:49:45

DIST: SIT: Bernard BLINKEN BOWLES BRUNS NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON DUNCAN GREENWOOD KASS MUNTER NORLAND ORFINI SAMANS YEE
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,06}

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PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHBSA5887 2971152-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 231152Z OCT 00
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG:
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
SUBJ: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: NO VOTE TAKEN
TEXT: UNCLAS BRUSSELS 005887

SENSITIVE

STATE PASS USTR FOR FRAZIER, MURPHY
USDA/OSEC/SIDDIQUI
FAS FOR OA/GALVIN; ITP/SIMMONS/MACKE/RICHEY/SCHWARTZ
FAS FOR OFSTS/HARBERT/SLUTSKY
FAS FOR CMP/LEE/RIEMENSCHNEIDER
STATE FOR E - PENCE, EUR/ERA, EB/TPP, OES/ETC
USDOC FOR DAS/LUDOLPH

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
POSTS PASS AGRICULTURE AND ECON
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, WTRD, WTRO, TBIO, PGOV, SENV
SUBJECT: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: NO VOTE TAKEN

REF:

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.

1. SUMMARY: THE EU'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOODSTUFFS MADE NO DECISION ON ITALY'S BAN OF GMO CORN BECAUSE THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH VOTES TO OVERTURN THE BAN. ONCE GERMANY JOINED ITALY, GREECE AND DENMARK, THE QUALIFIED MAJORITY NEEDED TO REJECT THE BAN WAS NOT THERE.

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COMMISSION SOURCES SAY THEY HOPE TO TRY AGAIN AFTER THE REVISED DIRECTIVE 90/220 IS IN PLACE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EU'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOODSTUFFS MET OCTOBER 18 AND 19. ON THE AGENDA WAS THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL TO OVERTURN ITALY'S BAN ON FOUR GMO CORNS (REF). WHEN AN INFORMAL POLL SHOWED NOT ENOUGH VOTES TO PASS THE PROPOSAL BY QUALIFIED (I.E. WEIGHTED) MAJORITY, IT WAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA. IF AN INCONCLUSIVE VOTE HAD BEEN TAKEN -WITH NO QUALIFIED MAJORITY FOR OR AGAINST- THE PROPOSAL WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE TAKEN DIRECTLY TO THE COUNCIL WITH PROSPECTS OF AN EQUALLY NEGATIVE OUTCOME.

3. A COMMISSION SOURCE TOLD AGATT THAT SEVERAL MEMBER STATES HAD SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT AGREE WITH THE ITALIAN BAN, THEY DID NOT SUPPORT THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL EITHER. APPARENTLY WHEN GERMANY ANNOUNCED IT WOULD VOTE AGAINST THE PROPOSAL IT BECAME CLEAR THAT A QUALIFIED MAJORITY WAS IMPOSSIBLE, SEVERAL MEMBER STATES WHO MIGHT HAVE SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL CHANGED THEIR POSITION TO "ABSTAIN."

4. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE COMMISSION HOPED TO PUT THE PROPOSAL BACK ON THE AGENDA SOMETIME AFTER THE REVISION OF DIRECTIVE 90/220 IS COMPLETE AND OTHER ASPECTS OF NEW REGULATIONS ARE IN PLACE. WHEN PRESSED BY AGATT WHETHER THIS MIGHT MAKE A DIFFERENCE, THE SOURCE OPINED THAT IT WOULD FAVORABLY INFLUENCE THE VOTES OF SEVERAL MEMBER STATES.

5. APPARENTLY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT MADE A STRONG LOBBYING EFFORT, INCLUDING A PARTY FOR THE COMMITTEE AND SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT PRODI. AN INDUSTRY SOURCE SAID THAT THE COMMISSION HAD FAILED TO DO ANY LOBBYING OF MEMBER STATES BEFORE THE MEETING. HE OFFERED NO COMMENT ON WHETHER THE USG DEMARCHE (REF B) HAD HAD ANY EFFECT.

6. ALTHOUGH SOME MEMBER STATES CHANGED THEIR VOTES, A COMMISSION SOURCE INDICATED THAT HAD A VOTE TAKEN PLACE THE OUTCOME WOULD HAVE RESEMBLED THE FOLLOWING TABLE. 62 VOTES WOULD HAVE BEEN NECESSARY TO PASS THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO OVERTURN THE BAN.

7. FOR THE PROPOSAL TO OVERTURN THE BAN: FINLAND, IRELAND, NETHERLANDS, SPAIN, UK (31 VOTES)

8. AGAINST THE PROPOSAL TO OVERTURN THE BAN: DENMARK, GERMANY, GREECE, ITALY (28 VOTES).

9. ABSTAIN.: AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, PORTUGAL, SPAIN (30 VOTES).

TOR: 10/23/00 08:20:15

DIST: SIT: BLINKEN BRUNS NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON DUNCAN GREENWOOD KASS MUNTER NORLAND SAMANS YEE
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (3.02)

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: PAACZYUW RUEHROA6752 3131037-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: P 081037Z NOV 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4076
INFO: RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 6416
RUEHRON/AMCONSUL NAPLES 4537
RUEHROF/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 2952
SUBJ: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: WHAT NEXT?
TEXT: ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 006752

STATE PASS USTR
WHITE HOUSE FOR NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER
OA/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACHE/SLUTSKY
FAS/ITP/EAMED
FAS FOR CMP/G&FD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/6/05
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: WHAT NEXT?

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 5887 (B) ROME 6365
(C) BRUSSELS 6087

CLASSIFIED BY ECMIN MARGARET DEAN; REASON 1.5 B/D.

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. POST OFFERS SOME THOUGHTS FOR NEXT STEPS FOR DEALING WITH THE ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN AND THE EU'S RECENT FAILURE TO CENSURE ITALY FOR ENACTING THE BAN. IN THE SHORT TERM, POST RECOMMENDS TARGETED, HIGH-LEVEL MESSAGES TO BIOTECH FRIENDLY GOI MINISTRIES, PERHAPS FOLLOWED BY A POTUS PHONE CALL TO THE PRIME MINISTER. WE RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY PRESS CAMPAIGN AS LONG AS THE GOI REFRAINS FROM SERIOUSLY IMPLEMENTING THE DECREE. FINALLY, WE OFFER SOME BRIEF THOUGHTS ON A LONGER-TERM STRATEGY. END SUMMARY

ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS
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2. ~~(C)~~ IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE EU NON-VOTE (REF A) ON THE ITALIAN GMO BAN, THE SITUATION ON THE

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GROUND HERE REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FROM THAT DESCRIBED REF B. ITALY STILL HAS A LAME DUCK GOVERNMENT WITH LITTLE CAPACITY FOR DEALING WITH TOUGH ECONOMIC ISSUES. RELEVANT MINISTRIES REMAIN DEEPLY DIVIDED OVER THE BAN WITH THE RESULT THAT IT REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNENFORCED. THE PRESS HERE, NOT TO MENTION THE GREEN PARTY, HAS SPUN THE EU NON-VOTE AS A GOI VICTORY. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE GOI CAN HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO REVERSE ITSELF ON THE BAN. THE BEST WE CAN REALISTICALLY HOPE FOR IN THE SHORT-TERM IS CONTINUED NON-ENFORCEMENT. TO THAT END WE HAVE A FEW CARDS TO PLAY.

OUR SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

3. ~~(C)~~ WE RECOMMEND A SHORT-TERM STRATEGY FOCUSED ON SHORING-UP OUR ALLIES WITHIN THE GOI AND ELSEWHERE WITHIN ITALY. WE SUGGEST, IN PARTICULAR, SUPPLEMENTING POST'S ONGOING CONTACTS WITH THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH AND FOREIGN TRADE WITH HIGH-LEVEL WASHINGTON COMMUNICATIONS. MFA HAS BEEN A NONFACTOR ON THIS ISSUE, BUT WE WOULD INCLUDE A STOP THERE IN KEEPING WITH OUR EFFORTS TO ENGAGE THEM AS MUCH OF THE BAN ACTION HAS SHIFTED TO BRUSSELS.

4. ~~(C)~~ OUR CONTACTS AT THE FOREIGN TRADE AND HEALTH MINISTRIES READILY CONCEDE THAT THE BAN LIKELY VIOLATES ITALY'S WTO OBLIGATIONS. IN ADDITION TO CONFIRMING THAT THE USG SHARES THAT ANALYSIS, WASHINGTON SHOULD LET OUR ALLIES IN THE GOI KNOW THAT WE APPRECIATE THE POLITICAL DELICACY OF THEIR SITUATION AND, ACCORDINGLY, WE DO NOT SEE LITIGATION OR OTHER DIRECT CONFRONTATION AS THE SOLUTION IN THE SHORT-TERM. AT THE SAME TIME, WASHINGTON SHOULD ASSURE THE GOI THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO ACT IF U.S. EXPORTS ARE INTERRUPTED OR CHILLED AND THAT WE WOULD BE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT ANY NATIONAL-LEVEL ENFORCEMENT OF THE BAN, ESPECIALLY, BUT NOT ONLY, IF THAT ENFORCEMENT DISPROPORTIONATELY TARGETED U.S. PRODUCTS.

5. ~~(C)~~ HAVING STARED DOWN THE EU, THE GOI IS NOT ABOUT TO CAPITULATE TO THE USG BILATERALLY. A PUBLIC CONFRONTATION OR AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGN, WE BELIEVE, WOULD ONLY STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THE GREEN PARTY, WHICH WOULD LOVE TO PLAY DAVID TO OUR GOLIATH. THUS WE ADVISE AGAINST PRESS COMMENTARY BEYOND ANY STRAIGHTFORWARD EXPRESSION OF CONCERN WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY CARE TO ISSUE ABOUT EU NON-

ACTION ON THE BAN.

6. ~~(C)~~ ALTHOUGH WE SEE NO TRUMP CARD IN OUR HAND, WE DO HAVE AN ACE IN THE HOLE. PM AMATO ADMITS PRIVATELY THAT HE SIGNED THE BAN AS A CONCESSION TO THE GREEN PARTY IN ORDER TO AVOID DISTURBANCE WITHIN HIS FRAGILE COALITION. HE TOLD THE POTUS LAST

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AUGUST THAT HE FULLY EXPECTED THE EU WOULD EFFECTIVELY REVERSE THE BAN. CLEARLY THAT STRATEGY HAS FAILED. WE RECOMMEND HIGH-LEVEL FOLLOW-UP TO AMATO'S OFFICE (1) TO EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE GOI (REF B) ACTIVELY LOBBIED THE EU TO BACK OFF,
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 006752

STATE PASS USTR
WHITE HOUSE FOR NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER
OA/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACHE/SLUTSKY
FAS/ITP/EAMED
FAS FOR CMP/G&FD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/6/05
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: WHAT NEXT?

NOTWITHSTANDING AMATO'S COMMITMENT TO POTUS, (2) TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE EXPECT CONTINUED NON-ENFORCEMENT OF THE BAN GIVEN ITS EVIDENT INCONSISTENCY WITH ITALY'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, AND (3) TO OFFER TO WORK TOGETHER QUIETLY ON NEXT STEPS.

7. ~~(C)~~ AS TO THE VEHICLES OF COMMUNICATION, WE CAN OF COURSE DELIVER THE BASIC MESSAGES BUT INVITE VISITS FROM HIGH-LEVEL USG OFFICIALS TO REINFORCE THEM. WE WOULD ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGE A VISIT BY U/S LARSON AS WELL AS VISITS BY HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS FROM OTHER INVOLVED USG AGENCIES SUCH AS USDA AND EPA.

8. ~~(C)~~ GUIDED BY THE RESULTS OF A PM DEMARCHE, WE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER POTUS INTERVENTION BUILDING ON THE POTUS-AMATO CONVERSATION PRIOR TO THE EU CONSIDERATION OF THE BAN. RECALLING THAT OUR GOAL IS NON-ENFORCEMENT OF THE BAN -- I.E., A STATUS QUO CHARACTERIZED BY NON-ACTION BY THE GOI -- WE RECOMMEND POTUS INTERVENTION SHOULD THE EARLIER DEMARCHES YIELD ANYTHING OTHER THAN CLEAR GOI ASSURANCES THAT THE BAN WILL REMAIN A DEAD LETTER ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL. IN PARTICULAR, A DELAY IN POTUS INTERVENTION UNTIL ENFORCEMENT OF THE BAN IS UNDERWAY WOULD SEVERELY LIMIT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS. AMATO, URGED ON BY POTUS, COULD FAR MORE EASILY PREEMPT ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS WITHIN HIS CABINET THAN HE COULD REVERSE A COURSE ON WHICH THE GOI OR ONE OF HIS MINISTERS IS ALREADY PUBLICLY EMBARKED.

9. ~~(C)~~ WE RECOMMEND THAT ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE GOI ON THIS ISSUE BE ORAL. A PAPER TRAIL WOULD BE PERILOUS. INASMUCH AS AMATO CAN HARDLY ACKNOWLEDGE PUBLICLY THAT HE HAD HOPED THE EU WOULD SAVE ITALY FROM ITSELF, THIS POINT CLEARLY CANNOT BE REDUCED TO WRITING AND POSSIBLE LEAK. SIMILARLY, WE ADVISE AGAINST A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR NON-ENFORCEMENT AS POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING TO THE GOI AND DAMAGING TO OUR PROSPECTS IF PUT IN THE WRONG HANDS EVEN WITHIN

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THE CABINET.

TIMING OF USG INTERVENTIONS
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10. ~~(C)~~ THE GREENS ARE FEELING THEIR OATS IN THE AFTERMATH OF PASSAGE OF THE BAN, THE EU NON-VOTE, AND THE STARLINK SITUATION. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WHOSE MINISTER, ALFONSO PECORARO-SCANNIO, IS OF COURSE A GREEN PARTY MEMBER, HAS A NATIONAL NETWORK OF PEST INSPECTION OFFICES CO-LOCATED WITH CUSTOMS OFFICES. SHOULD PECORARO-SCANNIO GROW FRUSTRATED WITH MOH AND CUSTOMS NONENFORCEMENT OF THE BAN, HE COULD ATTEMPT TO IMPLEMENT IT THROUGH THESE RESOURCES AT HIS DISPOSAL. SHORT OF SYSTEMATIC ENFORCEMENT, HE COULD TAKE A PAGE FROM THE STARLINK BOOK AND SIMPLY TARGET A CORN SHIPMENT LIKELY CONTAINING GMO CORN (I.E., A U.S. SHIPMENT) AND, SHOULD GMOS IN FACT BE UNCOVERED, ORCHESTRATE PRESS COVERAGE THAT WOULD FORCE THE GOI'S HAND. IN ORDER TO FORESTALL THAT OR OTHER IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

LONGER TERM
---

11. (SBU) THE ITALIAN BAN, IF ENFORCED, COULD WREAK HAVOC WITHIN THE EU UNIFIED MARKET. IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE ITALIAN BAN, CORN PROCESSORS IN EUROPE WOULD LIKELY HAVE TO BEGIN TO SEGREGATE BY SOURCE THE CORN THEY PURCHASE, AT LEAST REGARDING CORN WITH ANY POTENTIAL FOR FINDING ITS WAY TO ITALY. THESE EU PROCESSORS MAY WELL BE UNAWARE OF THE BAN. THEY ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY UNAWARE THAT THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS DETERMINED THAT ANY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAN WOULD BE LEFT TO PRIVATE SECTOR SELF-CERTIFICATION, AN EXPENSIVE PROPOSITION FOR THE PROCESSORS AT BEST AND LOGISTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE AT WORST. UNDER A SELF-CERTIFICATION SCHEME, THE PROCESSORS WOULD HAVE TO TEST THEIR CORN FOR GMOS BEFORE EXPORT TO ITALY. AVAILABLE TESTING METHODS ARE PRONE TO FALSE POSITIVES. EVEN PROCESSORS USING NO GMO CORN IN

STATE PASS USTR
WHITE HOUSE FOR NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER
OA/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACHE/SLUTSKY
FAS/ITP/EAMED
FAS FOR CMP/G&FD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/6/05
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: WHAT NEXT?

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THEIR OPERATIONS, THEREFORE, WOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO GENERATE THE TEST RESULTS NEEDED TO SUPPORT A CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE. FURTHER COMPLICATING PROSPECTS FOR COMPLIANCE, THE BAN DOES NOT ESTABLISH A TRACE THRESHOLD LEVEL OF PERMISSIBLE GMO CONTENT, LEAVING CORN IMPORTS POTENTIALLY FACING A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY.

12. (SBU) EU CORN PROCESSORS WOULD THEN SEEM TO BE OUR NATURAL ALLIES. THEIR INTERESTS CLEARLY WERE OVERLOOKED BY THEIR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AS THE EU MEMBER STATES CONSIDERED THE ITALIAN BAN. IN REACHING OUT TO EDUCATE THESE PROCESSORS, PERHAPS THE BEST VEHICLES WOULD BE PRIVATE SECTOR FORA SUCH AS THE TABD.

13. (SBU) IN THE SOMEWHAT LONGER TERM, WE HAVE STARTED WORK ON A FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE SLATED FOR PARMA NEXT YEAR THAT COULD PLAY AN EDUCATIONAL ROLE IN DEVELOPING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SAFETY OF U.S. FOOD AND ULTIMATELY OF THE PROCESSES WE USE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR FOOD SUPPLY. WASHINGTON SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT IN MAKING THIS CONFERENCE A SUCCESS, ONE THAT MIGHT BE REPEATED ELSEWHERE.

POPE

TOR: 11/08/00 05:14:03

DIST: SIT: BRUNS NSC Davidson DUNCAN SAMANS Yee
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

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Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHRHA3303 3321459-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 271459Z NOV 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
OSRI: RUEHRH
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO: RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY 1693
RUCLRFA/USDA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3080
INFO: RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: UPDATE ON THE SAUDI GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS:
TEXT: UNCLAS RIYADH 003303

DUBAI FOR ATO
USDA/FAS/EAMED/GALVIN
DEPT FOR EB/TPP/ATT
USDOC 3131/CS/OIO/ANESA
USDOC LOOO/OC/KALICKI
USDOC ITA/MAC/OMA
STATE PASS TO USTR FOR BUNTIN/WHITE

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, BEXP, USTR, WTRD, SA
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE SAUDI GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS:

REFS: (A) DHAHRAN 558; (B) RIYADH 2734; (C) STATE 183238; (D) RIYADH 2601

CLEARED: ECON

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. NOT FOR INTERNET DISTRIBUTION.

1. (SBU) THE SAUDI MINISTRY OF COMMERCE CONTINUES TO REJECT REPEATED CALLS FROM THE SAUDI PRIVATE SECTOR, FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS BASED IN RIYADH, AND FOREIGN EXPORTERS TO DELAY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS AND TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON HOW THE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED. THE NEW LABELING REQUIREMENTS ARE SET TO GO INTO EFFECT FEBRUARY 1, 2001.

JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF

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THE JEDDAH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MET WITH THC MINISTER OF COMMERCE TO ASK FOR A DELAY. THE MEETING WAS REPORTEDLY HEATED AND LASTED FOR ONE HOUR AND A HALF. THE MINISTER IS SAID TO HAVE FLATLY REJECTED THE PROPOSED DELAY. A FEW DAYS AFTER THIS MEETING, THE EU EMBASSIES IN RIYADH SENT A LETTER TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE REQUESTING THAT THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS BE DELAYED UNTIL YEAR 2002 AND THAT ONLY POSITIVE LABELING BE REQUIRED. TO DATE, THE EU EMBASSIES HAVE NOT RECEIVED A RESPONSE. SIMILARLY, MANY TRADERS AND IMPORTERS HAVE EITHER SENT LETTERS TO THE MINISTRY AND/OR HAVE REQUESTED MEETINGS WITH MOC OFFICIALS. IN EVERY CASE, THE MOC REPORTEDLY HAS REFUSED THOSE MEETINGS AND HAS GIVEN NO NEW INFORMATION ON THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS.

2. (SBU) U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES: IN AN EFFORT TO EDUCATE THE SAUDI PRIVATE SECTOR ON GMO ISSUES, THE U.S. GRAINS COUNCIL, THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION, AND THE ATO/RIYADH OFFICE SPONSORED GMO INFORMATION FORUMS IN JEDDAH (NOVEMBER 13) AND IN RIYADH (NOVEMBER 14). THE FORUMS FEATURED TWO U.S. GMO EXPERTS: MICHAEL J. PHILLIPS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION, AND DAVID JOHANSON, ATTORNEY AT LAW, STEWART AND STEWART LAW FIRM. MR. PHILLIPS DISCUSSED HOW GMO TECHNOLOGY EVOLVED, THE PREVALENCE OF GMO PRODUCTS IN THE WORLD, AND TALKED ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES OF LABELING GMO PRODUCTS. MR. JOHANSON TALKED ABOUT THE LEGAL ISSUES IMPACTING LABELING OF GMO PRODUCTS AND THE DIFFICULTIES THEY PRESENT.

THE TWO FORUMS WERE WELL ATTENDED IN BOTH CITIES WITH ABOUT 30 REPS OF THE MAJOR IMPORTING COMPANIES ATTENDING IN JEDDAH AND ABOUT 25 IN RIYADH. BOTH SESSIONS WERE ACTIVE WITH THE BUSINESSMEN ASKING THE SPEAKERS MANY QUESTIONS. THE CONSENSUS VIEW FROM THE MEETINGS WAS THAT THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE MISREAD THE RESULTS OF THE CODEX LABELING MEETING IN OTTAWA CANADA AND FALSELY GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT MANY COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED TO GMO LABELING. ALSO, THE COMPANIES ALL PLANNED TO PUSH BOTH THE JEDDAH AND RIYADH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN TRYING TO GCT THE MOC TO CHANGE ITS POSITION. IN BOTH MEETINGS, SEVERAL COMPANIES VOWED TO TAKE SEPARATE INITIATIVES ON THIS ISSUE AND TO FOLLOW UP WITH THE CHAMBERS.

3. (SBU) APPREHENSION IN THE SAUDI FOOD SECTOR: THE SAUDI FOOD SECTOR IS IN A STATE OF HIGH

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ANXIETY OVER THE GMO ISSUE. SAUDI IMPORTERS HAVE INFORMED ATO/RIYADH THAT U.S. EXPORTERS ARE SAYING THAT IN ORDER TO MEET THE FEBRUARY 1, 2001 COMPLIANCE DATE, THEY NEED MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS FROM THE MOC WITHIN THE NEXT 5 - 10 DAYS. UNFORTUNATELY, MOC OFFICIALS ARE REFUSING TO TALK TO ANYONE ON THE ISSUE. SAUDI IMPORTERS FEAR THAT IF THE MOC DOESN'T CHANGE ITS POSITION, MANY STORE SHELVES MAY GO EMPTY IN FEBRUARY AS EXPORTERS BEGIN REFUSING

TO SHIP TO SAUDI ARABIA WITHOUT CLEAR GUIDELINES ON THE LABELING ISSUE. EARLIER TODAY, THE REP OF A MAJOR U.S. COMPANY EXPORTING FOOD PRODUCTS TO SAUDI ARABIA SAID THAT AT THIS TIME, HIS COMPANY REFUSES TO LABEL ITS PRODUCTS AND WILL WAIT UNTIL JANUARY BEFORE MAKING ANY CHANGES TO ITS NORMAL OPERATING PROCEDURES.

4. (SBU) THE RUMOR MILL: THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE JEDDAH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND ATO/RIYADH BUSINESS CONTACTS BELIEVE THAT IN A FEW DAYS THE MINISTER WILL ISSUE NEW GMO LABELING GUIDELINES. THE NEW GUIDELINES WILL REPORTEDLY REQUIRE POSITIVE LABELING ONLY AND WILL GRANT AN EXTENSION FOR AN UNSPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME. SINCE MOC OFFICIALS ARE UNWILLING TO TALK PUBLICLY ON THIS ISSUE, ATO/RIYADH CANNOT CONFIRM THIS RUMOR.

5. (SBU) THE U.S. EMBASSY'S NEXT MOVE: SINCE RAMADAN HAS STARTED, LITTLE ACTION IS EXPECTED FROM THE MOC OVER THE COMING MONTH. HOWEVER, BASED ON ATO/RIYADH'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR FOWLER EARLIER TODAY, THE AMBASSADOR FAVORS THE IDEA PROPOSED BY ATO/RIYADH A FEW WEEKS AGO OF THE U.S. EMBASSY DELIVERING AN OFFICIAL PROPOSAL TO THE MOC STATING THE U.S. POSITION ON THIS ISSUE AND SUGGESTING A COMPROMISE POSITION FOR THE SAUDIS. IN SHORT, THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THAT THE US SHOULD PRESENT VARIOUS OPTIONS TO THE SAUDIS AND SHOULD CLEARLY SHOW AS BEST POSSIBLE THE CONSEQUENCES OF GOING THROUGH WITH THIS LABELING REQUIREMENT. THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTS THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE SAUDI CONCERNS ABOUT THE CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO KNOW WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PRESENTING VARIOUS OPTIONS SHORT OF LABELING THAT THE SAUDI'S MIGHT CONSIDER. IN SUM, THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THAT THE SAUDI'S ARE MORE LIKELY TO RESPOND TO AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT RATHER THAN TO FURTHER MEETINGS ON THE GMO ISSUE. THE AMBASSADOR HAS AGREED TO DELIVER SUCH A PROPOSAL DIRECTLY TO THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AFTER RAMADAN DURING

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THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY IF WASHINGTON
AGENCIES AGREE TO THIS APPROACH AND DRAFT SUCH
A PROPOSAL.
FOWLER

TOR: 11/27/00 21:38:38

DIST: SIT: Bolan BRUNS NSC DUNCAN Pollack Riedel SAMANS
SIT: Bowles

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Greenpeace] (2 pages)	12/04/2000	P1/b(1)
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Corn Ban Issues] (4 pages)~~	~~12/04/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ IZ 4/3/2020
003. cable	[duplicate of 001] (2 pages)	12/05/2000	P1/b(1)
004. cable	Re: [Blocking Approval of Genetically-Modified Organisms] (3 pages)	12/06/2000	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Re: [Animal Meal] (2 pages)	12/07/2000	P1/b(1)
006. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Corn Issue] (2 pages)	12/22/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:
[12/01/2000 - 12/22/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3020

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: PAACZYUW RUEHROA7180 3392336-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: P 042336Z DEC 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4487
INFO: RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 6505
RUEHRON/AMCONSUL NAPLES 4584
RUEHROF/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 3047
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GOI DISTRACTED FROM GMO CORN BAN ISSUES
TEXT: ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 007180

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/14/2014
2016-0529-M (3.05)

STATE PASS USTR
WHITE HOUSE FOR NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER
OA/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACHE/SLUTSKY

FAS/ITPEAMED
FAS FOR CMP/G&FD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/1/05
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, IT
SUBJECT: GOI DISTRACTED FROM GMO CORN BAN ISSUES

REF: (A) STATE 221031 (B) ROME 6752

1. (U) ACTION REQUEST -- SEE PARA 5.

2. (SBU) SUMMARY. OUR RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI ELEMENTS ON THE ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN REINFORCE OUR SENSE THAT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WILL STRATEGIZE QUIETLY WITH US TO REVERSE THE BAN BUT THAT THE OTHER MINISTRIES HAVE LITTLE TO OFFER. WE WERE PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTED TO FIND THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE LARGELY UNINTERESTED IN THE ISSUE AND CONTENT TO OFFER FUZZY-HEADED REFERENCES TO MAD COW DISEASE AND THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE IN WARDING OFF OUR DEMARCHE. WE SUGGEST THE TIME FOR POTUS INTERVENTION IS FAST APPROACHING. END SUMMARY.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH: HELP US TO HELP YOU

3. ~~(C)~~ WE PRESENTED REF A DEMARCHE TO SEVERAL STOPS

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AROUND THE GOI, USING THE VISIT OF USDA UNDERSECRETARY AUGUST SCHUMACHER TO ENSURE DELIVERY AT APPROPRIATE POLICY LEVELS. IN A NOVEMBER 23 MEETING WITH HEALTH MINISTER UMBERTO VERONESI TOLD SCHUMACHER, DCM, AGMINCOUNS, AND ECONOFF "AS A SCIENTIST, I AM EMBARRASSED" ABOUT ITALY'S BAN ON FOUR GMO CORN VARIETIES. HE SAID HE HAS BEEN "FIGHTING WITHIN MY GOVERNMENT FOR THREE OR FOUR MONTHS" AGAINST THE BAN AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO DURING A SCHEDULED MEETING WITH PM AMATO LATER THAT EVENING.

4. ~~(C)~~ VERONESI'S COMMENTS WERE INVARIABLY STRAIGHTFORWARD. HE CALLED "NONSENSE OF COURSE" THE VIEW THAT SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE SHOULD BE PRONOUNCED ONLY WHEN TWO PRODUCTS ARE ESSENTIALLY IDENTICAL IN STRUCTURE RATHER THAN "COMPARABLE IN EFFECT." ROMANO MARABELLI, MOH'S DG OF THE FOOD AND NUTRITION DIVISION, SAID THAT THE EU HAS TO FIND ULTIMATELY A SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR ITS DECLARATIONS OF SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE. APOLOGIZING THAT HIS COMMENTS WERE A "BIT BUREAUCRATIC," MARABELLI ADDED THAT ITALY "NEEDS TO SUPPORT SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE UNTIL THE EU CAN UNIFY ITS TWO DIFFERENT GMO PRODUCT APPROVAL PROCEDURES." (NOTE. MARABELLI HAS CONSISTENTLY EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE SIMPLIFIED APPROVAL PROCESS SHOULD BE ELIMINATED AND THAT ALL PRODUCTS SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE FULL APPROVAL PROCESS UNDER WHICH, HE CONCEDES, NO PRODUCTS HAVE EVER BEEN APPROVED. END NOTE.)

5. ~~(C)~~ VERONESI'S CANDOR APPLIED EQUALLY WHEN STRATEGIZING WITH US ABOUT THE BAN. HE ASKED SCHUMACHER "TO INSIST TO (DAVID) BRYNE THAT THE EU MAKE A DECISION AGAINST ITALY; THIS IS ESSENTIAL TO US, BUT I CANNOT DO IT MYSELF." SCHUMACHER READILY AGREED TO CARRY THE MESSAGE. NOTING THAT THE ITALIAN BAN IS PROVISIONAL, VERONESI SUGGESTED THAT HE COULD GO BACK TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WITH ANY EVIDENCE THE U.S. HAD GENERATED IN CONNECTION WITH ITS APPROVAL OF THESE SAME PRODUCTS. ACTION REQUEST. POST WOULD WELCOME ANY SUCH DATA AND WOULD PASS TO VERONESI. END ACTION REQUEST.

6. ~~(C)~~ AGMINCOUNS ASKED ABOUT ANY MOH PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE BAN. IN AN INDIRECT THOUGH CLEAR RESPONSE, MARABELLI EXPLAINED HOW SCARCE MOH RESOURCES ARE ALLOCATED. HE SAID THE BSE EMERGENCY WILL DEMAND SERIOUS RESOURCES AS ITALY IMPLEMENTS A BEEF BAN AND TESTING PROGRAM, AND THESE RESOURCES ARE BEING FOUND. "JUST YESTERDAY," HE SAID, "100 BILLION LIRE WAS DEDICATED TO UPGRADING MOH'S MEAT INSPECTION CAPACITY." ANOTHER COMMON METHOD OF RESOURCE ALLOCATION, HE ADDED, WAS TO UPGRADE REGIONAL INSPECTION FACILITIES IN PREPARATION FOR A VISIT BY U.S. INSPECTORS. COMMENT. BY CONTRAST, MARABELLI SAID NOTHING ABOUT RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE GMO CORN BAN, CLEARLY IMPLYING THAT

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MOH HAS TO DEAL WITH REAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS OVER IMAGINED ONES. END COMMENT.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE: LITTLE RESPONSE

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 007180

STATE PASS USTR
WHITE HOUSE FOR NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER
OA/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACHE/SLUTSKY

FAS/ITPEAMED
FAS FOR CMP/G&FD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/1/05
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, IT
SUBJECT: GOI DISTRACTED FROM GMO CORN BAN ISSUES

7. ~~(C)~~ FAR FROM CONFIRMING THAT PM AMATO WAS DISAPPOINTED THE EU HAD NOT CHASTISED ITALY FOR THE BAN (REFS), PM DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR FRANCESCO OLIVIERI ALLOWED ONLY THAT, "IF THE EU FEELS ITALY'S DECREE IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH EU RULES, THEY WILL TELL US SO, AND WE WILL HAVE TO ADAPT." HE WENT ON TO DRAW AN UNFORTUNATE COMPARISON BETWEEN BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BSE, SAYING THAT "BSE COMES OUT OF NON-TRADITIONAL CATTLE FEED AND IS THEREFORE A DEPARTURE FROM TRADITIONAL PRACTICE." U/S SCHUMACHER POINTED OUT THAT THESE CORN VARIETIES HAD BEEN APPROVED AFTER RIGOROUS REVIEWS IN BRUSSELS TO WHICH OLIVIERI REPLIED THAT SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE WAS CONFLICTING, BOTH BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE AND AMONG THE GOI MINISTRIES. HE SAID AMATO, FACED WITH THIS CONFLICT, TOOK A CAUTIOUS APPROACH.

8. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT. IN REF B POST RECOMMENDED CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO POTUS INTERVENTION SHOULD THIS ROUND AND THE DONNELLY ROUND (DECEMBER 7) OF DEMARCHES FAIL TO YIELD GOI ASSURANCES THAT THE BAN WILL NOT BE ENFORCED. WE FOUND ONLY THE PM'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR WILLING TO TAKE OUR DEMARCHE RATHER THAN THE OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE ORIGINAL DECISION TO ADOPT THE BAN. FURTHER, OLIVIERI DEFENDED THE BAN RATHER THAN EXPRESSING SURPRISE THE EU DECLINED TO CRITICIZE IT. WE THEREFORE ADVISE THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO POTUS INTERVENTION WITH THE PM IN FOLLOW-UP TO THEIR CONVERSATION OF LAST AUGUST BEFORE THE EU "NONVOTE" ON THE BAN.

9. (SBU) WE HAVE ALSO PRESENTED REF A POINTS AT THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AGRICULTURE, AND FOREIGN TRADE WITH LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE. NONE OF OUR CONTACTS, IT IS SAFE TO SAY, SEE THIS FILE AS HOLDING PARTICULAR PROSPECTS FOR CAREER ENHANCEMENT. WE INTEND TO FOCUS THE FORTHCOMING

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VISIT OF SPECIAL NEGOTIATOR SHAUN DONNELLY ON UPPER
LEVEL CONTACTS AT MFA AND FOREIGN TRADE WHO,
ALTHOUGH NOT OVERLY ACTIVE ON THIS FILE TO DATE,
NEVERTHELESS HAVE AN APPRECIATION FOR ITS POTENTIAL
TO DISRUPT THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM.

FOGLIETTA

TOR: 12/04/00 17:53:57

DIST: SIT: BLINKEN BRUNS NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON DUNCAN GREENWOOD KASS MUNTER
NORLAND SAMANS YEE
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Biotechnology] (2 pages)	01/05/2001	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: [U.S. Secretary of Agriculture-designate] (2 pages)	01/09/2001	P1/b(1)
~~003. cable~~	~~Re: Greek AG Ministry Establishes Zero Percent Threshold for GMO~~ Presence in Cottonseed (5 pages)	~~01/10/2001~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NLN 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 2001 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 5400000

FOLDER TITLE:
[01/05/2001 - 01/19/2001]

2013-0836-F
ke3021

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA0173 0101710-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 101710Z JAN 01
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5120
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 1340
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3087
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHSS/OECD POSTS COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GREEK AGMINISTRY ESTABLISHES ZERO PERCENT THRESHOLD FOR GMO PRESENCE IN COTTONSEED.
TEXT: UNCLAS ROME 000173

STATE EB/TPP/ATT/ATP/MARILYN BRUNO
FOR U/S LOY; OES FOR BRILL
WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. NEAL LANE
STATE FOR PA
STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER, OA/GALVIN,
FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE/SLUTSKY, COTS/PJOSEPH
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU
POST COLLECTIVE PLEASE PASS TO CONSULAR POSTS
PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, KSCA, EU, IT
SUBJECT: GREEK AGMINISTRY ESTABLISHES ZERO PERCENT THRESHOLD FOR GMO PRESENCE IN COTTONSEED.

1. (U) THE GREEK MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ISSUED A NOTICE ON DECEMBER 28 THAT APPEARS TO ESTABLISH A ZERO TOLERANCE FOR GMO PRESENCE IN IMPORTED COTTON SEED. THIS ACTION CAME ABOUT DESPITE INTENSIVE EFFORTS BY THE EMBASSY AND GREEK SEED TRADE INDUSTRY TO CONVINCE THE MINISTRY THAT ANY LEVEL BELOW

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

1 PERCENT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE

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SEED INDUSTRY TO MEET. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE DECREE IS PROVIDED IN PARA 6.

2. (SBU) THIS DECREE CAME IN THE FORM OF A RESPONSE TO THE ROUTINE REQUEST BY THE IMPORTERS TO IMPORT SEED, AS OPPOSED TO A MINISTERIAL DECISION THAT HAD BEEN EXPECTED. IN THE PAST 6 WEEKS, AGMINISTER ANOMERITIS HAD GIVEN VERBAL ASSURANCES TO BOTH THE EMBASSY AND U.S. EXPORTERS THAT HE WOULD SIGN A DECREE PROVIDING A 1% TOLERANCE. HOWEVER, IT IS SURMISED THAT HE RENEGED ON THESE ASSURANCES AND OPTED FOR THIS AMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE DUE TO PRESSURE FROM LOWER LEVEL FUNCTIONARIES CONCERNED ABOUT AN ADVERSE REACTION FROM THE EU COMMISSION AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, AND FROM PRODUCERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF DOMESTIC SEED. COMMENT: GREEK DOMESTIC SEED, WHILE CHEAPER, GENERALLY HAS A GERMINATION RATE OF APPROXIMATELY 50% AND HAS DIFFICULTY COMPETING AGAINST HIGH QUALITY IMPORTED SEED. EMBASSY ESTIMATES ARE THAT THERE ARE ONLY 4,000 MTS OF SEED (BOTH DOMESTIC AND UNSOLD SEED FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR) AVAILABLE TO MEET AN ANNUAL DEMAND FOR 12,000 MTS. END COMMENT.

3. (SBU) AS WRITTEN, THE DECREE SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZES EXPORTS OF U.S. COTTONSEED FOR THIS PLANTING SEASON. HOWEVER, THE GREEK IMPORTERS ARE CURRENTLY EVALUATING THEIR OPTIONS AND ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING TAKING THE ISSUE TO COURT. COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THIS NOTICE WAS SIGNED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL ECONOMOPOULOS, (PLEASE PROTECT) THE SAME PERSON WHO SIGNED THE DECREE REQUIRING TESTING OF ALL COTTONSEED IMPORTS LAST SPRING. A SUBSEQUENT COURT RULING ON THAT DECREE FOUND THAT ECONOMOPOULOS DID NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE THE DECREE. END COMMENT.

4. (U) BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SEED TRADE INDUSTRY AND AGMINISTRY CONTACTS, WE NOTE SEVERAL CONCERNS THAT ARE RAISED BY THIS NOTICE: 1) THE DECISION IS BASED ON EU DIRECTIVE 90/220. CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN THE AGMINISTRY HAVE STRESSED TO THE MINISTER THAT, WHILE THIS DIRECTIVE COVERS THE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR NEW GE PRODUCTS, INCLUDING SEED, IT DOES NOT MANDATE THRESHOLDS FOR EITHER APPROVED OR UNAPPROVED VARIETIES, MEMBER STATES ARE EMPOWERED TO ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE THRESHOLD LEVELS; 2) THE DECISION IS VAGUELY WRITTEN, REFERRING ONLY TO "COMMINGLING" WITHOUT ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN INTENTIONAL OR ACCIDENTLY MIXING OF

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SEED VARIETIES OR THE ADVENTITIOUS PRESENCE OF GM POLLEN OR SEED FRAGMENTS, BRINGING INTO QUESTION WHAT KIND OF CERTIFICATION LANGUAGE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE; AND 3) THIS DECISION TARGETS ONLY IMPORTED SEED AND APPEARS TO ALLOW THE SALE OF DOMESTIC AND PREVIOUSLY IMPORTED SEED, SOME OF WHICH WAS FOUND TO CONTAIN ADVENTITIOUS LEVELS OF GM MATERIAL UP TO 1%.

5. (U) ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED A MEETING TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH MINISTER ANOMERITIS THE WEEK OF JANUARY 15. WASHINGTON GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED ON AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THE DECREE AND THE CONCERNS RAISED IN PARA 3, THAT CAN BE DELIVERED AT THIS MEETING.

6. (U) INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE MINISTERIAL DECISION FOLLOWS (NOTE: EACH IMPORTER RECEIVED AN INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE FROM THE MINISTRY BASED ON THEIR IMPORT APPLICATION):

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR CROP PRODUCTION
DIRECTORATES OF: (1) PROPAGATION & AG. INPUTS
- (2) PLANT PROTECTION
MAILED TO ALL SEED IMPORTERS AND TRADERS

CC: HELLENIC COTTON BOARD
- MIN. AG. SEED CONTROL STATIONS

SUBJECT: IMPORT LICENSE OF PLANTING SEEDS FOR COMMERCIALIZATION
TO BE EFFECTIVE FOR THREE MONTHS

IN RESPONSE TO YOUR APPLICATION DATED ....., WE ARE INFORMING YOU THAT WE APPROVE IMPORTS FOR TRADE FROM USA AND ... (DEPENDING ON APPLICATION), OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIES AND AMOUNTS, FROM THE USA.

TABLE:
(A TABLE IS PROVIDED BASED ON THE LICENSE APPLICATION LISTING THE COTTON SEED SPECIES, VARIETY, CATEGORY OF PROPAGATION MATERIAL, QUANTITY, AND COUNTRY OF ORIGIN).

NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR IMPORT:

(1). IMPORT MUST COMPLY WITH TECHNICAL REGULATIONS FOR INTRA-COMMUNITY SUPPLY AND IMPORTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES CONCERNING PROPAGATION MATERIAL OF CULTIVATED CROP SPECIES (MINISTERIAL DECREE NO 366884, 16/5/94, GAZETTE NO 409 VOL.B', 3/6/94) AND

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FROM THE COUNTRY'S POINTS OF ENTRY ACCORDING TO PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO.332/GAZETTE 178/A'/29.8.1995, ANNEX IX.

(2). WITHIN ONE MONTH'S TIME FROM THE IMPORT YOU SHOULD PAY A DUTY BY WAY OF FEES EQUAL TO THE 3% OF THE VALUE OF THE SEEDS, SPECIFIED ACCORDING TO REFERENCE VALUES DETERMINED BY MINISTERIAL DECREES 608/14.1.86, AS AMENDED BY MINISTERIAL DECREE 10465/18.3.88, GAZETTE 213/B'/21.4.98.

(3). A COMPLIANCE IS NECESSARY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF PART II OF THE ANNEX DECREE NO. 85/356/EEC (L. 195/26.7.05) OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, CONCERNING THE EQUIVALENCE OF SEEDS FOR FIELD CROP VARIETIES PRODUCED IN THIRD COUNTRIES, AS AMENDED AND ACTUALLY IN FORCE. IT IS STRESSED THAT THE SEED LOTS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SEED ANALYSIS CERTIFICATE ACCORDING TO ISTA OR AOSA, AS THE CASE MAY BE.

(4). THE ABOVE COTTON SEEDS SHOULD NOT PRESENT MINGLING WITH GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS, AS ISSUED BY:

G. THE ACTION PLAN OF THE EU COMMISSION FOR UNIFORM ACTIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES IN THE CASES OF COMMINGLING CONVENTIONAL SEEDS WITH GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS.

H. THE FACT THAT, FOR THE TIME BEING, NO GENETIC MODIFICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR INTENTIONAL RELEASE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EU COUNCIL DIRECTIVE NO 90/220/EEC, AS THIS WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE NATIONAL LEGISLATION BY THE JOINT MINISTERIAL DECREE 88740/1883/16.11.95 (GAZETTE 1008B') "DETERMINATION OF MEASURES FOR THE INTENTIONAL RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS TO THE ENVIRONMENT", THE ABOVE COTTON SEEDS FOR PLANTING SHOULD NOT PRESENT MINGLING WITH GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS.

(5). THE ABSENCE OF SUCH COMMINGLING SHOULD BE CERTIFIED BY AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT ACCOMPANYING THESE SHIPMENTS AND FOR EACH SEED LOT SEPARATELY, WHICH WILL BE ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITIES COMPETENT TO ISSUE THE CERTIFICATES OF PARAGRAPH 3 HEREOF.

NOTE: ANOTHER 3 PARAGRAPHS FOLLOW PERTAINING TO ROUTINE PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS. END NOTE.

SIGNED

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

E.ECONOMOPOULOS

FOGLIETTA.

TOR: 01/12/01 16:42:56

DIST: SIT: BERNARD Blinken BOWLES BRUNS NSC Davidson DUNCAN EFROS Kass ORFINI ROSEN
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~001. email~~	~~Donald Bandler to Glyn Davies, et al., re: EU decision on GMO cor~~ nand rapesee (aka canola) (3 pages)	~~03/19/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/16/2019
002. email	Penelope O'Brien to Geoffrey Odlum, et al., re: GMO wherabouts [partial] (1 page)	05/01/1998	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
003. email	Geoffrey Odlum to William Antholis, et al., re: GMO whereabouts [partial] (1 page)	05/01/1998	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
~~004. email~~	~~Nancy McEldowney to Nancy Maxfield, re: Bowles Letter on GMO~~ Corn (2 pages)	~~07/28/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 11/26/2019
~~005. email~~	~~D. Holly Hammonds to David Sandalow, re: [GMOs] (7 pages)~~	~~06/14/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~006. email~~	~~D. Holly Hammonds to Bruce McNamer, re: [GMOs] [duplicate of~~ 004] (7 pages)	~~06/14/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~007. email~~	~~Bruce McNamer to Richard Holtzapple, re: GMO Backgrounder (4~~ pages)	~~06/17/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020
~~008. email~~	~~Lawrence Butler to Bruce McNamer, re: [GMO strategy] (14 pages)~~	~~06/18/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Emails
Exchange - Record (Sept 97 - Jan 01) ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 620000

FOLDER TITLE:
[03/19/1998 - 06/23/1999]

2013-0836-F
ke3022

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	3/19/98 8:52:05 AM
FROM	Bandler, Donald K.
CLASSIFICATION	UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT	FW: EU decision on GMO corn and rapeseed (aka canola) [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO	Davies, Glyn T. Dejban, Donna D. Friedrich, Mary K. Helweg, M. Diana Kale, Dora A. Kerrick, Donald L. Malley, Robert Millison, Cathy L. Scott-Perez, Marilyn L. Storey, Sharon V.
CARBON_COPY	Crowley, Philip J. Dehqanzada, Yahya A. Luzzatto, Anne R. Rubin, Eric S. Wozniak, Natalie S. Bandler, Donald K. Bendick, Gordon L. Braden, Susan R. Brown, Keirn C. Butler, Lawrence E. Covey, James P. Dowling, John N. (Nick) Flanagan, Stephen J. Marshall, Betty A. Maxfield, Nancy H. McEldowney, Nancy E. Quinn, Mary E. Sapiro, Miriam E.

TEXT_BODY

Please pass to Sandy and Jim -- we are coordinating actively with USTR, USEU and State on text of statement and to be certain a statement wouldn't create a backlash. Don

-----Original Message-----
From: Butler,
Lawrence E.
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 1998 8:45 AM

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To: @EUROPE
- European Affairs; @INTECON - Economic Affairs
Cc: @PLANNING -
Strat Plan & Comm
Subject: EU decision on GMO corn and rapeseed
(aka canola) [UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

UNCLAS BRUSSELS
001717

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: EU COMMITTEE
APPROVES GMO'S

1. THE EU COMMISSION'S ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE TODAY VOTED
TO APPROVE ALL THREE VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN,
AS WELL AS GENETICALLY-MODIFIED RAPESEED.

2. DETAILS OF THE VOTE
ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE, ALTHOUGH
THE RESULTS SUGGEST THAT A NUMBER
OF MEMBER STATES WHO
HAD BEEN LEANING TOWARDS ABSTENTION WERE PERSUADED TO
VOTE IN FAVOR. SOURCES SAY IRELAND, GREECE, DENMARK AND SWEDEN
MIXED THEIR VOTES ON DIFFERENT VARIETIES, AND THAT FRANCE ABSTAINED
ON ALL THREE CORNS.

3. NORMALLY, FROM AN ARTICLE 21 VOTE TO A
FINAL OFFICIAL
APPROVAL TAKES TWO TO THREE WEEKS; HOWEVER, WE MUST CAUTION
THAT THIS HAS NOT BEEN A "NORMAL" CASE.

4. AFFECTED COMPANIES
HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DELIGHT WITH
THE OUTCOME.

5. ADDITIONAL
DETAILS AND A VOTE BREAKDOWN WILL BE
PROVIDED SEPTEL. THE OFFICIAL
PRESS RELEASE WILL BE
FAXED TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES (NOTE FROM LARRY
-- I HAVE COPIES IN MY OFFICE)

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AS SOON AS IT IS OBTAINED.
(DRAFTED:RGIFFORD)
WEAVER

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	7/28/98 10:34:01 AM
FROM	McEldowney, Nancy E.
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(d)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/27/1998
DECLASSIFYON	07/27/2008
SUBJECT	FW: Bowles Letter on GMO Corn ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	Maxfield, Nancy H.
CARBON_COPY	

TEXT_BODY

Nancy: could you please give Malcolm a few more hours and then start
bugging him? I have to send this forward as early as possible today (it is now overdue.) thanks very much.

-----Original Message-----
From: McEldowney,
Nancy E.
Sent: Monday, July 27, 1998 6:58 PM
To: Lee, Malcolm
R.; Maxfield, Nancy H.; Butler, Lawrence E.
Subject: Bowles Letter
on GMO Corn ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Malcom: could I please get you chop
on attached? It responds to a shameless attempt by the French Ambo to link our GMO corn case to some French dispute with EPA over herbicides.
Need to send forward tomorrow. Thanks very much.

Larry: memo
will go through you but if you want to fiddle now, pls have at it.

Nancy: could you please format and get ready to go forward?
I put original folder in your in-box. Thanks a lot.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT	Doc3.doc Draft Letter from Bowles

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By VL NARA, Date 11/2/2019

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Dear Ambassador Bujon:

Thank you for your recent letter conveying a copy of the French parliamentary report on Genetically Modified Organisms. This is an issue of importance to both our governments and I appreciate your efforts to provide additional information. We look forward to receiving the French decision on the two varieties of American-produced GMO corn currently pending approval within the EU.

I also appreciate you bringing to my attention the deliberations of the French company Rhone-Poulenc with the Environmental Protection Agency. I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to our EPA Administrator, Ms. Carol Browner, to ensure that all appropriate information is available as the deliberations proceed.

Sincerely,

Erskine Bowles

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	6/14/99 2:23:11 PM
FROM	Hammonds, D. Holly
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(e)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	06/14/1999
DECLASSIFYON	06/14/2009
SUBJECT	GMO'S: RAISING THE ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	Sandalow, David B.
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By Ve NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0524-M (3.19)

FYI.

-----Original Message-----
From: WHSR
Sent: Monday, June
14, 1999 1:18 PM
To: Blinken, Antony J.; Davidson, Leslie K.; Gordon,
Philip H.;
Hammonds, D. Holly; Holtzapple, Richard A.; Lee, Malcolm
R.; Moyn,
Samuel A.; Schaefer, Matthew P.; Wechsler, William F.
Subject:
GMO'S: RAISING THE ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND

~~C O N F I~~
~~D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 011314

FOR THE PRESIDENT,
VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF
AGRICULTURE AND U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
FROM THE
AMBASSADOR

STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR SECRETARY GLICKMAN
AND
FAS/OA/GALVIN
STATE PASS USTR FOR BARSHEFSKY, SCHER AND MURPHY

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STATE
PASS FDA FOR COMMISSIONER
STATE FOR UNDER SECRETARY EIZENSTAT AND
A/S LARSON
RIGA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY GROSSMAN

E.O. 12958:
6/14/04
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PREL, FR, EUN
SUBJECT: GMO'S: RAISING
THE ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND
PRIME MINISTER

CLASSIFIED BY
AMBASSADOR FELIX ROHATYN FOR REASONS 1.5 B
AND D.

REF: (A) PARIS
10706; (B) PARIS 8090; (C) PARIS 6984;
(D) PARIS 6774

1. ~~(C)~~
SUMMARY AND COMMENT. SENIOR FRENCH LEADERS ARE
TAKING AN INCREASINGLY
HOSTILE PUBLIC LINE ON GMO'S. BOTH
PRESIDENT CHIRAC AND PRIME MINISTER
JOSPIN SEE DOMESTIC
POLITICAL ADVANTAGE IN AN ANTI-GMO APPROACH.
WE SHOULD DO
OUR BEST TO ENGAGE THEM ON THIS ISSUE IN A RATIONAL,
COOPERATIVE
MANNER -- AND DO IT QUICKLY, BEFORE THEY ARE
COMPLETELY LOCKED INTO
POSITIONS THAT WILL FORCE US INTO A
MAJOR TRADE DISPUTE. RE-ENGAGING
WITH JOSPIN ON HIS
SUGGESTION LAST YEAR FOR A BILATERAL DIALOGUE
COULD BE ONE
MEANS OF MOVING THE ISSUE FORWARD IN A POSITIVE WAY.

END
SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

2. (U) THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT
CHIRAC AND PRIME
MINISTER JOSPIN ON GMO'S HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY
HARD
LINE IN RECENT WEEKS. IN A DISCUSSION WITH THE FRENCH
AMERICAN
BUSINESS COUNCIL OF PROMINENT CEO'S ON JUNE 11,

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PRESIDENT CHIRAC
SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE "ABSOLUTE
PROTECTION" ON MATTERS OF FOOD
SAFETY AND THAT FRANCE AND
EUROPE WOULD ACCEPT NO GMO'S OR BEEF
RAISED WITH HORMONES.
CHIRAC STATED THAT THE WTO HAS NO JURISDICTION
ON MATTERS
OF HEALTH. IN HIS SPEECH TO THE BUSINESS COUNCIL,
PRIME
MINISTER
JOSPIN STATED THAT EUROPEANS ARE DEMANDING STRICT
CRITERIA FOR SCIENTIFIC
ANALYSIS OF HEALTH RISKS. HE SAID
"WE MUST REFRAIN FROM FORCING
THE ISSUES AND RESIST THE
TEMPTATION TO ACT UNILATERALLY WITH INCONSIDERATE
RUTHLESSNESS
THAT WILL PROVE HARMFUL IN BOTH THE SHORT AND
LONG TERM. IT IS
UP TO GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESS TO ENGAGE
IN DIALOGUE WITH CITIZENS
AND CONSUMERS TO FIND A
CONSENSUS THAT RECONCILES BUSINESS INTERESTS
WITH THE
DEMANDS OF OUR CONSUMERS AND CITIZENS."

3. (U) DANIEL
COHN-BENDIT, HAVING HELPED JOSPIN'S
COALITION-PARTNER GREENS WIN
A STRONG 9 PERCENT OF THE
FRENCH VOTE IN THE JUST-COMPLETED EUROPEAN
ELECTIONS,
STATED THAT THE GREENS WOULD PUSH FOR A
MORATORIUM ON
ALL
GMO'S. (SEE REF A FOR FRENCH ENVIRONMENT MINISTER
VOYNET'S
SIMILAR STATEMENT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.)

4. ~~(C)~~ SENATOR PAT ROBERTS
OF KANSAS REPORTED TO ME THAT A
GROUP OF FRENCH FARM LEADERS TOLD
HIM THEY WERE VERY MUCH
OPPOSED TO ACCEPTING GMO'S. I MET THE SAME
STRONG
ANTIPATHY ON THIS ISSUE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO FROM
SIMILAR
FARM
LEADERS. FRENCH POLITICIANS, FOOD DISTRIBUTORS AND

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CONSUMER GROUPS
HAVE BEEN TELLING US THAT NON-ACCEPTANCE
OF GMO'S IS A MATTER OF
CULTURE NOT SCIENCE. SECRETARY
DALEY, WHO ATTENDED THE BUSINESS
COUNCIL MEETINGS AND
HEARD THE LEVEL OF FRENCH OPPOSITION TOLD ME
HE HAS SENT A
MEMO ON GMO'S TO SANDY BERGER AND GENE SPERLING.
SENATOR
ROBERTS TOLD ME HE WILL TALK TO SECRETARY GLICKMAN
ABOUT
BRINGING
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO FRANCE WHEN HE VISITS AT
THE END OF THE
MONTH. HE SAID THAT THIS IS AN ISSUE
CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO ENGAGE
ON WITH THE FRENCH.

5. ~~(C)~~ WE ARE HEARING THAT CHIRAC WILL RAISE
THE ISSUE OF
GMO'S AT THE G8 SUMMIT. HE THINKS THE ISSUE IS A
POLITICAL
WINNER FOR HIM. HIS PARTY AND THE CENTER-RIGHT
GENERALLY DID POORLY
IN THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS. HE WILL
THEREFORE DO WHATEVER HE CAN
TO TRY TO SOLIDIFY HIS
TRADITIONAL SUPPORT FROM RURAL FRANCE. HE
WILL VIEW
OPPOSING GMO'S AS A TACTIC FOR HIM TO REACH OUT TO
DISAFFECTED
VOTERS, SUCH AS THOSE WHO GAVE THE FISHING AND
HUNTING PARTY A SURPRISING
6.5 PER CENT OF THE VOTE. WE
ARE ALSO TOLD THAT CHIRAC PERSONALLY
IS VERY MUCH OPPOSED
TO GMO'S.

6. ~~(C)~~ THE FRENCH PUBLIC'S CONFIDENCE
IN SCIENCE AND
FRENCH AND EUROPEAN FOOD AND HEALTH SAFETY
MECHANISMS
HAS
BEEN BATTERED BADLY BY THE BELGIAN DIOXIN SCARE,
THE
TAINTED
BLOOD SCANDAL TRIALS HERE AND THE MAD COW CRISIS.
I AM CONCERNED
THAT THE FRENCH LEADERSHIP APPEARS MORE

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THAN WILLING TO ADOPT A
LUDDITE APPROACH TO BIO-TECHNOLOGY
IN AGRICULTURE IF THAT IS THE
POLITICALLY POPULAR OR SAFE
THING TO DO. WE URGENTLY NEED TO ENGAGE
WITH THE FRENCH
AT THE HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVEL IN ORDER TO DEVELOP
A
COOPERATIVE, RATIONAL, SCIENCE-BASED APPROACH TO
~~CONFID~~
~~ENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 011314

FOR THE PRESIDENT, VICE
PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF
AGRICULTURE AND U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
FROM THE
AMBASSADOR

STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR SECRETARY GLICKMAN
AND
FAS/OA/GALVIN
STATE PASS USTR FOR BARSHEFSKY, SCHER AND MURPHY
STATE
PASS FDA FOR COMMISSIONER
STATE FOR UNDER SECRETARY EIZENSTAT AND
A/S LARSON
RIGA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY GROSSMAN

E.O. 12958:
6/14/04
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PREL, FR, EUN
SUBJECT: GMO'S: RAISING
THE ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND
PRIME MINISTER

BIOTECHNOLOGY.

7.
~~(C)~~ FRANCE REMAINS POTENTIALLY OUR STRONGEST ALLY
IN
EUROPE IN THE
BIOTECHNOLOGY AREA. FRANCE IS EUROPE'S
BIGGEST AND MOST EFFICIENT
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER. IT HAS
ALWAYS BEEN A LEADER IN USING SCIENTIFIC
ADVANCES. BUT ON
GMO'S WE RUN THE RISK OF LOSING FRENCH POLITICAL
WILL IN
THE FACE OF DETERMINED INTEREST GROUPS AND A
WORRIED

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PUBLIC.
IF WE LOSE FRANCE, WE WILL LOSE EUROPE. THE
BRITISH AMBASSADOR,
AFTER HAVING HEARD CHIRAC, TOLD ME
BLUNTLY THAT "WE'LL BE AGAINST
YOU TOO."

8. ~~(C)~~ ON YOUR VISIT HERE THIS WEEK, I WOULD ENCOURAGE
YOU
TO LAY DOWN STRONG MARKERS WITH BOTH CHIRAC AND
JOSPIN ON
GMO'S.
THE PROBLEM OF PUBLIC INSECURITY ABOUT
AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SAFETY
HAS BEEN IN LARGE PART
CREATED BY EUROPE'S INADEQUATE AND POLITICALLY
CONTROLLED
SAFETY MECHANISMS. THERE IS NO EUROPEAN FDA AND
THERE
IS
UNLIKELY TO BE ONE ANYTIME SOON. WE HAVE TO WORK
WITH
WHAT
EXISTS HERE NOW.

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WITH THEM. OUR GOAL IS A COOPERATIVE DIALOGUE TO
ENCOURAGE
PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF SAFE NEW TECHNOLOGIES. IT
WAS JOSPIN WHO SUGGESTED
TO YOU LAST YEAR THAT WE PURSUE A
BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE.
WHEN WE RESPONDED
POSITIVELY THE FRENCH LET THE MATTER DROP. USTR
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RECENTLY RAISED THE SUGGESTION AGAIN WITH THE
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TOGETHER.

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SAFETY ISSUES. THAT STATEMENT WOULD CERTAINLY
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ODDS WITH OUR MUTUALLY AGREED-UPON SPS AGREEMENT AND THE
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TO IRRATIONAL POPULAR OPINION ANOTHER. IN
THE LONGER TERM, EUROPEAN
CONSUMERS WILL BE BETTER SERVED
BY GOVERNMENTS THAT INSIST ON USING
SCIENCE-BASED RISK
ANALYSIS.

ROHATYN

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Exchange Mail

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/16/09
2011-0529-M (3.20)

DATE-TIME	6/14/99 2:23:40 PM
FROM	Hammonds, D. Holly
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(e)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	06/14/1999
DECLASSIFYON	06/14/2009
SUBJECT	GMO'S: RAISING THE ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	McNamer, Bruce
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	

FYI.

-----Original Message-----
From: WHSR
Sent: Monday, June
14, 1999 1:18 PM
To: Blinken, Antony J.; Davidson, Leslie K.; Gordon,
Philip H.;
Hammonds, D. Holly; Holtzapple, Richard A.; Lee, Malcolm
R.; Moyn,
Samuel A.; Schaefer, Matthew P.; Wechsler, William F.
Subject:
GMO'S: RAISING THE ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND

~~C O N F I~~
~~D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 011314

FOR THE PRESIDENT,
VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF
AGRICULTURE AND U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
FROM THE
AMBASSADOR

STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR SECRETARY GLICKMAN
AND
FAS/OA/GALVIN
STATE PASS USTR FOR BARSHEFSKY, SCHER AND MURPHY

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

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E.O. 12958:
6/14/04
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PREL, FR, EUN
SUBJECT: GMO'S: RAISING
THE ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND
PRIME MINISTER

CLASSIFIED BY
AMBASSADOR FELIX ROHATYN FOR REASONS 1.5 B
AND D.

REF: (A) PARIS
10706; (B) PARIS 8090; (C) PARIS 6984;
(D) PARIS 6774

1. ~~(C)~~
SUMMARY AND COMMENT. SENIOR FRENCH LEADERS ARE
TAKING AN INCREASINGLY
HOSTILE PUBLIC LINE ON GMO'S. BOTH
PRESIDENT CHIRAC AND PRIME MINISTER
JOSPIN SEE DOMESTIC
POLITICAL ADVANTAGE IN AN ANTI-GMO APPROACH.
WE SHOULD DO
OUR BEST TO ENGAGE THEM ON THIS ISSUE IN A RATIONAL,
COOPERATIVE
MANNER -- AND DO IT QUICKLY, BEFORE THEY ARE
COMPLETELY LOCKED INTO
POSITIONS THAT WILL FORCE US INTO A
MAJOR TRADE DISPUTE. RE-ENGAGING
WITH JOSPIN ON HIS
SUGGESTION LAST YEAR FOR A BILATERAL DIALOGUE
COULD BE ONE
MEANS OF MOVING THE ISSUE FORWARD IN A POSITIVE WAY.

END
SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

2. (U) THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT
CHIRAC AND PRIME
MINISTER JOSPIN ON GMO'S HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY
HARD
LINE IN RECENT WEEKS. IN A DISCUSSION WITH THE FRENCH
AMERICAN
BUSINESS COUNCIL OF PROMINENT CEO'S ON JUNE 11,

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PRESIDENT CHIRAC
SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE "ABSOLUTE
PROTECTION" ON MATTERS OF FOOD
SAFETY AND THAT FRANCE AND
EUROPE WOULD ACCEPT NO GMO'S OR BEEF
RAISED WITH HORMONES.
CHIRAC STATED THAT THE WTO HAS NO JURISDICTION
ON MATTERS
OF HEALTH. IN HIS SPEECH TO THE BUSINESS COUNCIL,
PRIME
MINISTER
JOSPIN STATED THAT EUROPEANS ARE DEMANDING STRICT
CRITERIA FOR SCIENTIFIC
ANALYSIS OF HEALTH RISKS. HE SAID
"WE MUST REFRAIN FROM FORCING
THE ISSUES AND RESIST THE
TEMPTATION TO ACT UNILATERALLY WITH INCONSIDERATE
RUTHLESSNESS
THAT WILL PROVE HARMFUL IN BOTH THE SHORT AND
LONG TERM. IT IS
UP TO GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESS TO ENGAGE
IN DIALOGUE WITH CITIZENS
AND CONSUMERS TO FIND A
CONSENSUS THAT RECONCILES BUSINESS INTERESTS
WITH THE
DEMANDS OF OUR CONSUMERS AND CITIZENS."

3. (U) DANIEL
COHN-BENDIT, HAVING HELPED JOSPIN'S
COALITION-PARTNER GREENS WIN
A STRONG 9 PERCENT OF THE
FRENCH VOTE IN THE JUST-COMPLETED EUROPEAN
ELECTIONS,
STATED THAT THE GREENS WOULD PUSH FOR A
MORATORIUM ON
ALL
GMO'S. (SEE REF A FOR FRENCH ENVIRONMENT MINISTER
VOYNET'S
SIMILAR STATEMENT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.)

4. ~~(C)~~ SENATOR PAT ROBERTS
OF KANSAS REPORTED TO ME THAT A
GROUP OF FRENCH FARM LEADERS TOLD
HIM THEY WERE VERY MUCH
OPPOSED TO ACCEPTING GMO'S. I MET THE SAME
STRONG
ANTIPATHY ON THIS ISSUE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO FROM
SIMILAR
FARM
LEADERS. FRENCH POLITICIANS, FOOD DISTRIBUTORS AND

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CONSUMER GROUPS
HAVE BEEN TELLING US THAT NON-ACCEPTANCE
OF GMO'S IS A MATTER OF
CULTURE NOT SCIENCE. SECRETARY
DALEY, WHO ATTENDED THE BUSINESS
COUNCIL MEETINGS AND
HEARD THE LEVEL OF FRENCH OPPOSITION TOLD ME
HE HAS SENT A
MEMO ON GMO'S TO SANDY BERGER AND GENE SPERLING.
SENATOR
ROBERTS TOLD ME HE WILL TALK TO SECRETARY GLICKMAN
ABOUT
BRINGING
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO FRANCE WHEN HE VISITS AT
THE END OF THE
MONTH. HE SAID THAT THIS IS AN ISSUE
CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO ENGAGE
ON WITH THE FRENCH.

5. ~~(C)~~ WE ARE HEARING THAT CHIRAC WILL RAISE
THE ISSUE OF
GMO'S AT THE G8 SUMMIT. HE THINKS THE ISSUE IS A
POLITICAL
WINNER FOR HIM. HIS PARTY AND THE CENTER-RIGHT
GENERALLY DID POORLY
IN THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS. HE WILL
THEREFORE DO WHATEVER HE CAN
TO TRY TO SOLIDIFY HIS
TRADITIONAL SUPPORT FROM RURAL FRANCE. HE
WILL VIEW
OPPOSING GMO'S AS A TACTIC FOR HIM TO REACH OUT TO
DISAFFECTED
VOTERS, SUCH AS THOSE WHO GAVE THE FISHING AND
HUNTING PARTY A SURPRISING
6.5 PER CENT OF THE VOTE. WE
ARE ALSO TOLD THAT CHIRAC PERSONALLY
IS VERY MUCH OPPOSED
TO GMO'S.

6. ~~(C)~~ THE FRENCH PUBLIC'S CONFIDENCE
IN SCIENCE AND
FRENCH AND EUROPEAN FOOD AND HEALTH SAFETY
MECHANISMS
HAS
BEEN BATTERED BADLY BY THE BELGIAN DIOXIN SCARE,
THE
TAINTED
BLOOD SCANDAL TRIALS HERE AND THE MAD COW CRISIS.
I AM CONCERNED
THAT THE FRENCH LEADERSHIP APPEARS MORE

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THAN WILLING TO ADOPT A
LUDDITE APPROACH TO BIO-TECHNOLOGY
IN AGRICULTURE IF THAT IS THE
POLITICALLY POPULAR OR SAFE
THING TO DO. WE URGENTLY NEED TO ENGAGE
WITH THE FRENCH
AT THE HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVEL IN ORDER TO DEVELOP
A
COOPERATIVE, RATIONAL, SCIENCE-BASED APPROACH TO
~~CONFID~~
~~ENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 011314

FOR THE PRESIDENT, VICE
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STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR SECRETARY GLICKMAN
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ROHATYN

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	6/17/99 2:44:40 PM
FROM	McNamer, Bruce
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(e)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	06/17/1999
DECLASSIFYON	06/17/2009
SUBJECT	GMO Backgrounder ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	Holtzapple, Richard A.
CARBON_COPY	Hammonds, D. Holly

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/09
2016-0574-M (3.21)

TEXT_BODY

Rick
Attached is for Lael (who is not on the system). It is two pages of general background on GMOs, which she may want to include
in paper for G8. Could you please pass to her. Any of your edits would be welcome as well

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

GMO.bg.doc
BACKGROUND ON GMOs

Current controversy - Public concerns in Europe over the safety of GMOs and food
safety more generally have reached close to fever pitch in the past several
months, and will only exacerbate problems of market access for US exporters of
biotech agricultural and food products. The EU regulatory scheme at present is
slow, non-transparent and subject to political pressure, and no new GMO products
have been approved there since mid-1998. US exports have been further hampered
by uncertainty regarding compliance with broad new mandatory labeling
requirements for foods manufactured with GMOs. The public outcry over so-called
"Frankenstein foods" has, moreover, had market effects (particularly in the U.K.)

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as an increasing number of prominent European food retailers have pledged to stop selling foods containing GMOs. These perceptions and problems have most recently been exacerbated by May release of a Cornell University study that found that nearly half of monarch butterflies died when fed on milkweed dusted with GMO Bt corn pollen. While the study results were characterized by Cornell as "preliminary" and the studies themselves have been criticized within the scientific community, the EU placed a moratorium on the import of one US Bt corn variety, and public concern was further heightened over the environmental impact of GMOs.

"Negotiating positions" - US position continues to advocate rigorous, transparent and science-based approach to GMO regulation. US supports mandatory labeling for foods whose composition has been altered or which contain allergens. Otherwise, the US supports voluntary labeling of foods so long as such labeling is "truthful and not misleading." The Europeans, and the French in particular, have pressed for a "precautionary approach" (or "precautionary principle") to regulation of GMOs, but have not defined what that approach is, or have defined it differently in different contexts. However, the "precautionary approach" is often invoked in essence to permit countries to limit or ban the importation of products based on no more than a suspicion of a threat to health or the environment, but with no scientific basis for such concern. The Europeans have pressed in a number of different fora for mandatory labeling of GMO products.

US Regulations - the US regulation of GMO seeds requires that all new seed varieties are submitted to the USDA and EPA for review, which includes extensive field tests. The US has no special food safety or labeling requirements for GMO foods. Rather, all foods (GMOs and other) are regulated on a scientific basis according to their properties and use, not according to the process that

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creates
them. Ten years of experience with commercialization of GMO products have shown
no unique food safety risks associated with GMO foods. The US does require
mandatory labeling of any foods, including GMOs, whose composition has been
significantly altered or when it contains unexpected allergens.

Fora for GMO discussions - GMOs are on the agenda in over 15 international fora,
including the Codex Alimentarius, the Biosafety Protocol, the OECD, and the TEP.
Codex - Codex is the forum for international dialogue on food safety. While EU
has attempted to promulgate its own GMO agenda (precautionary principle,
mandatory labeling), we have generally been successful in the Codex promoting a
science-based approach to risk-assessments. At meetings of Codex Committee on
Food Labeling in April, we were similarly successful in deflecting EU calls for
mandatory labeling into further work on defining standards for voluntary labeling
Biosafety Protocol - the mandate of the Biosafety Protocol to the Convention on
Biodiversity (CBD) was to regulate the transboundary movement of GMOs intended
for deliberate release into the environment (e.g. seeds, fish for propagation,
microbes for bioremediation). However, negotiations evolved (we are not a direct
party to the negotiations), issues of food safety were added to agenda, and in
ways extremely inimical to our interests. We were able to build a coalition (the
"Miami Group") to block approval of proposed Protocol in Cartagena in February.
We believe that an effective Protocol can still be implemented in a reasonable
time frame if limited to its original intended purpose.
OECD - Working groups focused on harmonization of regulatory oversight in
biotechnology and GMO seed labeling
TEP - Biotechnology Working Group currently putting in place pilot projects for
assessments of environmental impacts of GMOs. TEP also has number of other
technical dialogues and working groups focused in part on GMOs

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Industry position - Administration officials have met with industry officials with increasing frequency over the past year to discuss the topic of GMOs. Industry was extremely appreciative of Administration "win" in blocking implementation of Biosafety Protocol as proposed in Cartagena, and of continued efforts by USG to "fight the good fight" in the Codex, OECD and other fora where GMOs are discussed. But the growing problems of market access in Europe have been increasingly frustrating, and have increased industry calls to find some way to break the current impasse. This was manifest most recently in industry/Congressional calls for inclusion of GMOs on G8 agenda. Administration officials met with Monsanto and then with a diverse group of industry participants in the run-up to the G8 to explain that we felt the G8 was not a particularly sympathetic, and perhaps even hostile, forum for discussion of the issues, and we believe that industry representatives understood this in the end.

While industry has to date been adamant in insisting (with the USG) on science-based approach to regulation and in resisting any type of labeling (with the exception of the seed manufacturers, who label their GMO products already), there may be some industry movement on the labeling issue towards more voluntary labeling (and for standards related thereto) in the future as one means of achieving greater market access.

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	6/18/99 6:35:10 PM
FROM	Butler, Lawrence E.
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(d)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	06/18/1999
DECLASSIFYON	06/18/2009
SUBJECT	RE: European GMO strategy ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	McNamer, Bruce
CARBON_COPY	

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/15
2016-0579-M (1.12)

TEXT_BODY

USIS will soon cease to exist. Suggest we get State EUR/ERA and PPA to coordinate; this would help plug in diverse efforts in Netherlands, London and other places, achieve synergies. See ya when you get back.

-----Original Message-----
From: McNamer, Bruce
Sent: Friday,
June 18, 1999 6:33 PM
To: Butler, Lawrence E.
Subject: RE: European
GMO strategy ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Thanks Larry
Agree that we should
get message out to posts soliciting comments and suggestions for coordinated approach to outreach/education on GMOs. We are tentatively planning Deps Mtg on GMOs for week after next with most of that agenda
around GMOs in context of WTO Ministerial. However, we did plan brief discussion on process for coordinating outreach efforts (perhaps under USIS? thoughts on that?). Might make sense to convene at sub-DC level in advance to give Deps some concrete proposals on topic. But... I am out next week. Will follow up with you and State when I return

-----Original Message-----
From: Butler, Lawrence E.

Sent: Friday, June 18, 1999 9:43 AM

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To: @INTECON - Economic Affairs
Cc: @EUROPE
- European Affairs
Subject: European GMO strategy ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
Importance: High

Bruce
-- this is a pretty good set of ideas from London on how to begin addressing European public perceptions of GMO issues. I think we ought to reconvene at sub-DC level an interagency group to discuss --- goal should be a message from State, cleared interagency, commending

London, and The Hague, for their initiatives, and ask for comments and submissions in order to have a coordinated plan, instead of treating Europe purely piecemeal.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01
OF 04 LONDON 005258

STATE PLS PASS USDA FAS

ALSO FOR USTR
STATE
FOR EB/TPP/ATT:MBRUNO

DEPT PASS EPA
USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER;
FAS/OA/GALVIN;
USDA ALSO FOR
FAS/ITP/SIMMONS/GRUEFF/SHEIKH/MACKE/SCHWARTZ;
ALSO
FOR FAS/CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON;
FAS/CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER;
FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT;
ERS/WEST/MADELL; FAA/AO/NE
GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: DECL:
06/18/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD TBIO UK
SUBJECT: GMOS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY
- EMBASSY LONDON'S STRATEGY

REF: A) NELSEN/BRUNO EMAIL B) STATE
113313

1. CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC MINISTER CHARLES RIES.

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REASON
1.5(B)

2.
~~(C)~~ SUMMMARY

WE FACE AN UPHILL BATTLE IN THE UK TO KEEP THE MARKET
FOR
U.S.-APPROVED GMO PRODUCTS OPEN. THE GOVERNMENT (HMG) IS ON
OUR
SIDE, BUT CONSUMERS ARE SCARED, AND OUR OPPONENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL
NGOS AND MUCH OF THE MEDIA ARE RELENTLESS IN OPPOSITION TO TRADE
IN, OR CIRCULATION OF, GMOS. WE ARE
PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN AN ACTIVE
PUBLIC DIPLOMACY CAMPAIGN,
BUT CARE IS NEEDED IN DEVELOPING OUR
MESSAGE. THIS TELEGRAM
OUTLINES ACTIONS THAT EMBASSY LONDON PLANS
TO TAKE AND
IDENTIFIES AREAS WHERE WASHINGTON SUPPORT/GUIDANCE

IS
NEEDED. THESE INCLUDE:

-- ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY VISITOR
GROUPS TO THE U.S. (TO MEET
WITH U.S. REGULATORS, INDUSTRY, AND
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS) :
-- GETTING MORE HIGH-LEVEL, CREDIBLE SPEAKERS
FROM THE U.S.
(INCLUDING SCIENTISTS AND USG REGULATORS); WHERE POSSIBLE,
COMBINING THEIR PROGRAMS WITH PRESENTATIONS BY
BRITISH
SCIENTISTS
AND GMO ADVOCATES
-- LAUNCHING A HIGHER PROFILE SPEAKING PROGRAM
BY EMBASSY
REPRESENTATIVES, ARMED WITH UP-TO-DATE,
COMPREHENSIVE
MATERIAL
FROM WASHINGTON, INCLUDING POINTS OF CONTACT IN THE U.S. FOR TECHNICAL
QUESTIONS
-- INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON ON 'BEST PRACTICES' IN

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

OTHER
COUNTRIES WHERE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS HAVE
BEEN
SUCCESSFUL
--
WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION OF CREATION OF A US/EU
BIOTECH
SCIENTISTS'
GROUP UNDER TEP AUSPICES TO ADVISE ON GMO
APPROVALS
-- GUIDANCE
FROM WASHINGTON ON POLICY ISSUES LIKE LABELING,
AND TO FRAME OUR
LOBBYING EFFORTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE
90/220 DIRECTIVE, INCLUDING
POSSIBLE PROVISIONS FOR PARALLEL
APPROVALS.
-- GUIDANCE ON HOW
THE U.S. INTENDS TO USE MULTILATERAL
INSTITUTIONS TO PROMOTE CONFIDENCE
IN GMO VARIETIES THAT ARE
APPROVED FOR MARKETING.
END SUMMARY

3.
~~(C)~~ IN THE UK WE FACE A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT
CHALLENGE IN REGAINING
A MARKET FOR GMO FOODS AND KEEPING
OPEN THE MARKET FOR GMO FEEDS.
HMG REMAINS STRONGLY
SUPPORTIVE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, THE SAFETY OF
GMO FOODS, AND
ARGUES THAT THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE OF
ADVERSE
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSEQUENCES FROM PLANTING GMO CROPS. BUT THE
HEARTS AND MINDS
OF MOST BRITISH CONSUMERS HAVE CLEARLY BEEN
LOST DUE TO A RELENTLESS
CAMPAIGN BY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AND
GREENPEACE, SUPPORTED BY THE
TABLOID PRESS (COMPETING TO SELL
NEWSPAPERS) AND BY A GROWING NUMBER
OF CONSUMER GROUPS.
FACED WITH CONSUMER OPPOSITION OR CONCERN OVER
SAFETY,
NEITHER BRITISH RETAILERS NOR FOOD MANUFACTURERS
WANT TO
CARRY
GMO PRODUCTS OR USE GMO INGREDIENTS. THE MARKET IS

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VIRTUALLY GONE.

4.
~~(C)~~ HMG HAS TRIED TO BRING SOME SENSE TO THE DEBATE, AND
RESPECTED
SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTIVE, BUT GOVERNMENT IS
NOT TRUSTED, AND THE 'GOOD NEWS' REPORTS BY SCIENTIFIC GROUPS DON'T
MAKE THE FRONT PAGES. MOST RETAILERS
AND MANUFACTURERS DO NOT QUESTION
THE SAFETY OF GMO PRODUCTS,
BUT THEY ARE ALSO UNDER PRESSURE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS
AND TELL US THAT THEY MUST RESPOND TO CONSUMER CONCERNS AND
BUYING INTENTIONS.

WHAT CAN AN EMBASSY DO?

5.
~~(C)~~ WE UNDERSTAND THAT CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT IS GOING
INTO THIS
ISSUE IN WASHINGTON, AND WE BENEFITTED FROM READING REF B AND THE
EXCELLENT PAPERS PREPARED BY EB FOR INTERAGENCY CONSIDERATION.
WE CONCUR IN THE NEED FOR A PRO-ACTIVE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY EFFORT.
THE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS STRUCTURING SUCH
AN EFFORT IN AN ENVIRONMENT
WHERE GOVERNMENT (PROBABLY THE
USG AS MUCH AS HMG) IS NOT TRUSTED
BY THOSE WE ARE SEEKING TO
INFLUENCE. FURTHERMORE, WE WILL HAVE
GREAT DIFFICULTY
ARGUING SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST LABELING, WHICH PITS US AGAINST
EU 'LAW' AND CONSUMERS' 'RIGHT-TO-KNOW'.

6. ~~(C)~~
NONETHELESS, WE CAN, AND ALREADY ARE, ENGAGING
~~CONFIDENT~~
~~IAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 04 LONDON 005258

STATE PLS PASS USDA FAS

ALSO

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DEPT PASS EPA
USDA FOR
U/S SCHUMACHER; FAS/OA/GALVIN;
USDA ALSO FOR
FAS/ITP/SIMMONS/GRUEFF/SHEIKH/MACKE/SCHWARTZ;
ALSO
FOR FAS/CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON;
FAS/CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER;
FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT;
ERS/WEST/MADELL; FAA/AO/NE
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E.O. 12958: DECL:
06/18/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD TBIO UK
SUBJECT: GMOS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY
- EMBASSY LONDON'S STRATEGY

ACTIVELY ON THE ISSUE. LAST MONTH
WE SENT A 10-PERSON
VOLUNTARY VISITOR GROUP ON A ONE-WEEK PROGRAM
TO WASHINGTON
AND ST. LOUIS, AND WE HAVE JUST EXTENDED INVITATIONS
FOR A
SECOND GROUP IN SEPTEMBER, POTENTIALLY FOLLOWED BY
A THIRD
GROUP
EARLY IN THE NEW FISCAL YEAR (SUBJECT TO USIS
FUNDING).
WE ARE INCLUDING
OPEN-MINDED JOURNALISTS, SCIENTISTS,
REPRESENTATIVES OF FARMER ORGANIZATIONS,
AND GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS IN THESE TRIPS. WE HAVE INVITED LEADERS
OF
CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, BUT IN EVERY
CASE OUR
INVITATION
WAS DECLINED.

7. ~~(C)~~ WE ALSO WELCOME EXPERT SPEAKERS FROM THE
U.S. WE
AGREE COMPLETELY WITH THE SUGGESTION IN THE EB
PAPER TO
"SEIZE
EVERY HIGH-LEVEL OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS SQUARELY

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CONCERNS OF CONSUMERS,"
AND WE WELCOME EFFORTS IN WASHINGTON
TO MOBILIZE SPEAKERS WITH "CREDIBILITY
ON THE SCIENTIFICALLY
PROVEN ENVIRONMENTAL, HUMAN HEALTH, AND FOOD
SAFETY BENEFITS
OF MANY GMOS." U/S LOY ADDRESSED THE GMO ISSUE
DURING HIS
JUNE 14-16 VISIT TO LONDON; SENIOR USDA OFFICIALS,
INCLUDING
DEPUTY
SECRETARY ROMINGER AND TIM GALVIN, HAVE ALSO DONE
SO;
WE HAVE APPROACHED
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT NEAL LANE TO DO
SO DURING HIS JUNE 28-30
VISIT; A SENIOR NSF OFFICIAL AGREED
DURING A RECENT VISIT TO LONDON
TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE SPEAKERS
FROM THE UNITED STATES, AND WE ARE
WORKING WITH USIS AND FAS
ON A SPEAKING PROGRAM FOR APHIS/USDA SCIENTISTS.
BUT WE
CAN DO EVEN MORE IN THIS REGARD AND WELCOME
WASHINGTON'S
HELP
IN MAKING AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS. WE COULD
USEFULLY
PROGRAM
THE SAME USDA/FAS SPEAKERS WHO RECENTLY
PARTICIPATED
IN ROUND-TABLE
DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS (PARIS 11313).

8. ~~(C)~~ WE SHOULD CONSIDER
WHETHER U.S. SPEAKERS WOULD BE
MOST EFFECTIVE IN TANDEM WITH SCIENTISTS
FROM THE UK. FAS
HAS ALREADY HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH
UMBRELLA
GROUP
REPRESENTING PRO-GMO FARMER, PLANT BREEDER, AND
FEED
ASSOCIATIONS.
THEY WOULD WELCOME JOINT PUBLIC APPEARANCES
WITH U.S. AND USG EXPERTS.

9.
~~(C)~~ WE HAVE NOT YET CONSIDERED WHETHER THERE WOULD
BE

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VALUE IN
EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA AND PUBLIC GROUPS
ON THE SUBJECT. IN A SENSE, IT MAY BE
UNAVOIDABLE HOWEVER -- PUBLIC
SPEAKING INVITATIONS THAT FOCUS
ON TRADE POLICY, WTO, AND AGRICULTURE
INVARIABLY DEMAND THAT
THE BIOTECHNOLOGY ISSUE BE ADDRESSED. WHILE
WE ARE
CERTAINLY PREPARED TO SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS GMO
ACCEPTANCE
HEAD-ON, WE MAY NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT EXPERTISE TO ADDRESS ALL POSSIBLE
QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY POINTED ONES
PLANTED BY GMO FOES. IF WASHINGTON
CAN PREPARE A SIZEABLE
INFORMATION PACKET, WHICH IS REGULARLY UPDATED AS NEW STUDIES
AND INFORMATION BECOME AVAILABLE, WE WOULD BE MORE
COMFORTABLE
ABOUT AN ACTIVE EMBASSY-LED SPEAKING CAMPAIGN. WE AGREE THAT WE
HAVE A GOOD STORY TO TELL, BUT IT NEEDS TO
BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH
UP-TO-THE-DATE INFORMATION, TALKING
POINTS WHEN CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES
ARISE, AND POINTS OF CONTACT
WHEN WE GET TOUGH QUESTIONS. TO CITE
BUT TWO EXAMPLES:
OPPONENTS OF GMO CROPS HAVE ALREADY POINTED OUT THAT CLAIMS
BY BIOTECH COMPANIES REGARDING LOWER PESTICIDE/HERBICIDE
USE
ARE NOT INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED BY THE USG; CAN WASHINGTON
FIND
SCIENTIFIC GROUPS THAT HAVE CONDUCTED SUCH INDEPENDENT
VERIFICATIONS?
SECOND, THE ADEQUACY OF FDA PROCEDURES IS ALSO QUESTIONED, SINCE
OPPONENTS CLAIM THAT THE FDA DOES NOT
INDEPENDENTLY VERIFY COMPANY
DATA AND DOES NO SAFETY TESTS
ONCE EQUIVALENCY HAS BEEN DETERMINED.

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10
~~(C)~~ WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME WASHINGTON EFFORTS TO DISSEMINATE 'BEST
PRACTICE' INFORMATION ON PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS. EB'S PAPER
MENTIONED THE RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL EFFORT IN THE NETHERLANDS.
CAN WE DEVELOP A RELIABLE MECHANISM IN WASHINGTON TO SHARE THIS
INFORMATION WITH OTHER
POSTS?

11. ~~(C)~~ WE COULD ALSO USE HELP
FROM THE INDUSTRY. GMO SOY
AND CORN, WHICH BECOME INGREDIENTS IN
ALL SORTS OF PROCESSED
FOODS, DO NOT HAVE OBVIOUS BENEFITS TO CONSUMERS. GETTING
'SEXIER' PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET SOONER RATHER THAN LATER
(FRESH
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, FOR EXAMPLE) MIGHT CATCH THE PUBLIC IMAGINATION
AND AT LEAST LEAD TO A WILLINGNESS TO GIVE
THE PRODUCT A TRY (ON
THE PART OF BOTH CONSUMERS AND
RETAILERS). WE APPRECIATE THAT SUCH
PRODUCTS WILL IN MOST
CASES HAVE TO BE GROWN IN THE EU OR UK, AND
THAT APPROVALS
FOR SUCH PRODUCTS ARE SOME TIME OFF.

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~~DENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 04 LONDON 005258

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FAS/ITP/SIMMONS/GRUEFF/SHEIKH/MACKE/SCHWARTZ;
ALSO
FOR FAS/CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON;
FAS/CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER;

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- EMBASSY LONDON'S STRATEGY

OUR GMO POLICY - PITFALLS AND NUANCES

12
~~(C)~~ IN ANY PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAMPAIGN, WE RECOMMEND DOWN-
PLAYING
THE LABELING ISSUE. OUR PRIMARY PROBLEM HERE IS CONCERN ABOUT FOOD
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY. IF, IN THE
MEDIUM TERM, WE CAN REESTABLISH
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN THE
SAFETY OF THESE PRODUCTS, LABELING WILL
BECOME LESS IMPORTANT
(AT THE MOMENT, SUPERMARKETS IN THE UK ARE REFUSING TO CARRY
GMO PRODUCTS).
13. ~~(C)~~ THERE MAY ALSO BE VALUE
IN DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN
FOOD SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.
HERE, OUR OPPONENTS
HAVE SUCCESSFULLY EMPLOYED BOTH, INTERCHANGEABLY.

WHILE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS CLEARLY INFLUENCE DECISIONS
ABOUT
THE PLANTING OF GMO CROPS (AND THE MARKET FOR U.S.-ORIGIN SEEDS),
THEY ARE LARGELY IRRELEVANT TO THE FOOD SAFETY
DEBATE. AND IT IS
POSSIBLE, GIVEN THE HIGH-INTENSITY, CLOSE-QUARTER NATURE OF EUROPEAN
AGRICULTURE, THAT WE CANNOT MAKE
AS EFFECTIVE A CASE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL
SAFETY OF GMO CROPS
AS WE CAN ON FOOD SAFETY. SHOULD WE FOCUS
ON THE LATTER, ON
THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO OUR EXPORT
INTERESTS IN ANY CASE?

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MAINTAINING OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE
GOVERNMENT

14. ~~(C)~~ WHILE OUR PRIMARY BATTLEGROUND IS THE
CONSUMER
MARKETPLACE,
WE NEED TO GET ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM THE
GOVERNMENT ON SOME ELEMENTS
OF THE GMO DEBATE. FIRST, WE MAY
WANT TO CREATE A TRANSATLANTIC
SCIENTISTS' GROUP PERHAPS
WITHIN THE TEP, SUCH AS IN THE TRANSATLANTIC
ENVIRONMENTAL
DIALOGUE) TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY
ISSUES.
WE HAD
THOUGHT IT MADE SENSE TO ORGANIZE SUCH A SCIENTIFIC
GROUP
WITHIN
THE TEP, YET WE SHOULD RECORD THAT THE UNIFORM
ADVICE
OF WHITEHALL
OFFICIALS TO U/S LOY WAS THAT TO PUT THE
SCIENTIFIC GROUP WITHIN
THE TEP WOULD BE SEEN TO PLACE IN
"UNDER" THE GOVERNMENT TRADE TYPES,
THEREBY VITIATING ITS
VALUE.

15. ~~(C)~~ A SCIENTIFIC GROUP, WHEREVER
LOCATED, COULD BE
HELPFUL IN ISOLATING OUTLYING SCIENTISTS IN THE
GMO DEBATE,
DEPOLITICIZING THE DISCUSSION, AND UNDERPINNING EU
GOVERNMENTS
THAT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SOME OF THE NEW GMO
PRODUCTS IN THE PIPELINE.
FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE IN LONDON,
SUCH AN INITIATIVE WOULD BE WORTHWHILE,
AND WE ENCOURAGE
WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO CONSIDER SOME TYPE OF
FORMAL
PROPOSAL
TO THIS END. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF OUR
BRITISH
GOVERNMENT
COLLEAGUES ARGUE THAT EVEN SUCH A GROUP WILL BE
VIEWED WITH SUSPICION
IF IT IS CREATED AND FUNDED BY

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GOVERNMENT.

16. ~~(C)~~ WE MAY ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER, IN THE MEDIUM TERM, GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ON GMO SAFETY. ANY SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND TESTS ON GMO SAFETY WHICH ARE FUNDED BY THE INDUSTRY ARE IMMEDIATELY VIEWED WITH SUSPICION ON THIS SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC. A USG CONTRIBUTION TO A NEW FUND, MATCHED BY THE EU (THEY COULDN'T RESIST, IF ONLY TO MAINTAIN A SAY) WOULD PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR A LOT OF INDEPENDENT ECOLOGICAL STUDIES AND SAFETY TESTING. THIS WORK (AND EVEN THE ALLOCATION OF THE MONEY) COULD BE MANAGED UNDER A PEER REVIEW PROCESS BY THE TRANSATLANTIC SCIENCISTS' GROUP MENTIONED ABOVE.

17. ~~(C)~~ SECOND, WE NEED TO CONTINUE LOBBYING FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN EU DIRECTIVE 90/220. OUR POINTS ON THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY AND UNCERTAINTIES IN THE CURRENT PROCESS HAVE GENERATED CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY IN HMG , AND WE SHOULD BUILD UPON THAT IN AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN BRITISH SUPPORT FOR INFLUENCING THE DIRECTION OF THE NEW REGULATIONS. SOME SORT OF SIMULTANEOUS APPROVAL PROCEDURE ALSO PROBABLY MAKES SENSE, AND WE HOPE WASHINGTON WILL HAVE AN INITIATIVE IN THAT REGARD IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMENTS OF THE PROPOSED NEW REGULATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FOR U.S. INDUSTRY, TIMELINESS IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS IS ALSO IMPORTANT, BUT WE URGE CAUTION IN PRESSING TOO HARD FOR A PERIOD THAT SOME GOVERNMENTS MAY VIEW AS INADEQUATE. THE PUBLIC SENSE THAT

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GMO PRODUCTS ARE BEING "RUSHED'
THROUGH REGULATORY PROCESSES
(AS LUDICROUS AS IT SEEMS IN VIEW OF
THE SLOW PACE) IS
WIDESPREAD, AND WE SHOULD AVOID STANCES THAT FEED
THIS
PRECONCEPTION. AT THE END OF THE DAY, A NEW EU
PROCESS THAT
GUARANTEES
CERTAINTY WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME,
COMBINED WITH SOME
PARALLEL ACTION ON APPROVALS, IS PROBABLY
~~CONFIDENTIA~~
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PREFERABLE TO A VERY TIGHT TIME SCHEDULE
THAT GENERATES
RENEWED POLITICAL OPPOSTION IN SOME MEMBER STATES.

18.
~~(C)~~ WHILE DOMESTIC ACCEPTANCE OF GMO PRODUCTS IS THE
EMBASSY'S
MAIN GOAL, WE ALSO WANT TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF USG
EFFORTS ON MULTILATERAL
ISSUES LIKE THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL.

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HERE, HMG IS NOT/NOT ON OUR
SIDE, AND THERE SEEMS TO BE
LITTLE WE CAN DO IN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT
DISCUSSIONS TO
BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN UK VIEWS. DURING U/S LOY'S
JUNE 14-
16 VISIT WE MADE VERY LITTLE PROGRESS ON THIS SUBJECT,
AND WE
MAY SIMPLY HAVE TO HOLD FIRM IN OUR EFFORTS TO
BLOCK ACTIONS
INIMICAL
TO OUR INTERESTS AT THE MULTILATERAL LEVEL. WHILE
THE BIOSAFETY
PROTOCOL IS GENERALLY THE FOCUS POINT ON THE
ENVIRONMENTAL ANGLE,
THE FOOD SAFETY ANGLE ALSO ARISES
MULTILATERALLY - IN CODEX AND
THE WTO'S SPS. HERE WE HAVE
MORE SUPPORT WITHIN HMG, AND WE SHOULD
ENSURE THAT THE UK
DOES NOT LEAD OR SUPPORT AN EU EFFORT TO UNDERCUT
THESE TWO
ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NAME OF FOOD SAFETY.

LADER

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	Bruce McNamer to Antony Blinken, re: GMO Update (6 pages)	07/15/1999	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
002. email	John Duncan to Stephen Sargeant, re: Prodi GMO/WTO (3 pages)	07/28/1999	P1/b(1) VL 11/26/2019
003. email	Stephen Sargeant to L. June Bartlett, et al., re: Prodi GMO/WTO (3 pages)	07/28/1999	P1/b(1) VL 11/26/2019
004. email	John Duncan to D. Holly Hammonds, re: Prodi GMO/WTO (3 pages)	07/28/1999	P1/b(1) VL 11/26/2019
005. email	John Duncan to D. Holly Hammonds, re: Prodi GMO/WTO (3 pages)	07/28/1999	P1/b(1) VL 11/26/2019
006. email	Gayle Smith to Bruce McNamer, re: NEC Deputies GMO mtg - readout (3 pages)	07/30/1999	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
007. email	Richard Holtzapple to Edward Fendley, re: Biosafety: Compulsory Labeling of Genetically Modified Foods [duplicate of 008] (10 pages)	08/05/1999	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
008. email	Ian Bowles to Richard Holtzapple, re: Biosafety: Compulsory Labeling of Genetically Modified Foods (10 pages)	08/05/1999	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
009. email	Ian Bowles to Douglas Bayley, et al., re: Biosafety: Compulsory Labeling of Genetically Modified Foods [duplicate of 008] (11 pages)	08/05/1999	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
010. email	Ian Bowles to Elaine Mitsler, re: Biosafety: Compulsory Labeling of Genetically Modified Foods [duplicate of 008] (10 pages)	08/11/1999	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
011. email	Bathsheba Crocker to Matthew Schaefer, re: Read-Out of This Morning's Deputies on GMOs (2 pages)	09/30/1999	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/20

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Emails
Exchange - Record (Sept 97 - Jan 01) ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 620000

FOLDER TITLE:
[07/01/1999 - 12/15/1999]

2013-0836-F
ke3023

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	7/15/99 9:54:23 AM
FROM	McNamer, Bruce
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(d)(e)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/15/1999
DECLASSIFYON	07/15/2009
SUBJECT	GMO update [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]
TO	Blinken, Antony J. (EUR)
CARBON_COPY	Hammonds, D. Holly (INTECON) Schaefer, Matthew P. (INTECON)

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/20/2009
2016-0524-M (3.23)

TEXT_BODY

Tony
Wanted to give you an update on where we are on GMOs. The attached memo may be more information than you need. However, if you do need more background, let me know.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

tb.update.doc
UPDATE ON EVOLVING USG STRATEGY/APPROACH ON GMOS

Engaging the EU
Much of our challenge in gaining access to EU markets stems from the lack of any
clear leverage points. While the regulatory regime is muddled, it does not
clearly represent a non-tariff barrier to trade, and a WTO case claiming as much
risks dragging on for years with an uncertain outcome. A WTO action, moreover,
risks raising the temperature around what is for the Europeans a very sensitive
issue in ways unlikely to advance our aims. At the same time, we want to insist
with the Europeans that this issue is of utmost importance to us. With that in
mind, we will for the time being attempt to engage the Europeans on the subject

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at high levels in all appropriate fora, bilateral and multilateral, continuing to
press consistently for transparent, science-based approach to GMO regulation.
Other specific initiatives include:
* USTR will approach EU with request to renegotiate compensation arrangements for
corn sales to Spain and Portugal. Our claim essentially insists that EU compensate US corn producers for sales foregone to those countries (sales
negotiated as part of EU accession agreements for Spain and Portugal) by ban on
GMO imports. This could be worth $400-$500 million.
* We are working with USTR and State on draft of POTUS letter and more general
strategy for approach to Romano Prodi on GMOs as he assumes Presidency of the EU.
POTUS will ask Prodi to designate a high level representative to meet with
appropriate USG officials to consult on the point above. We will also seek
Prodi's commitment to defining an overall Commission approach to biotechnology
and, in particular, to removing the political blocks to products sown in the
United States but currently stuck in the 90/220 pipeline
* USDA will meet with the French officials in several weeks to follow up on
Secretary Glickman's June visit there. Our strategy with the French is to
continue our dialogue on tactical issues - harmonization of approval processes,
identifying steps to restore consumer confidence - on which we can continue to
make progress in the hopes of building a more constructive relationship to tackle
larger issues (e.g., precautionary principle).
* We are working at present with the OECD to define the terms of reference for
the work by that body on biotechnology and food safety as mandated by the G8
Leaders in June. The approach we are recommending would not have the existing
OECD working groups undertake serious new work on the subject. Rather, it would
have the OECD report back to the G8 with a short paper (a "roadmap") outlining
the ongoing work in food safety (and food biotechnology) in OECD and how it
supports and complements work in other fora (OECD, UN bodies,

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Academies, etc.).
* We will continue work in the TEP Pilot Process as agreed at the US-EU Summit on
harmonizing regulatory processes
* We will continue to press for and offer technical assistance to the EU for
establishing an EU-wide regulatory agency for food safety that can become the
EU's FDA-equivalent body. This may ultimately be driven by negotiations that
would include some concessions on the U.S. side on the subject of labeling (see
below)

Public Outreach/Education
State is taking lead in coordinating public outreach and education efforts on
biotechnology in Europe. We have already made a start on this program,
with visits by US regulators to some EU member states, invitations to EU
journalists under the International Visitors Program, and speeches and editorials
by US officials in Europe. Ambassador Schneider in the Netherlands will host an
international conference on biotechnology in January. State expects to outline a
broader communications agenda within the next month.

Independent of these coordinated efforts, but as important to public awareness,
we are also working with the NAS and the Royal Academy as they convene an
independent "blue ribbon" panel of scientists from the US, the UK and developing
countries to review food safety issues as they relate to GMOs. This group will
meet for the first time this month and will issue a final report within the next
eight months.

New Approaches to Labeling - U.S. industry has largely opposed any kind of
labeling, based inter alia on increased costs (particularly those associated with
segregating biotech products) and the risk of heightened confusion/fear by
consumers. However, new EU regulations, while painfully short on details, now
require that all GMOs be labeled as such. Moreover, there are

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increasing calls in international and other fora for a labeling regime, either voluntary or mandatory, which gives consumers the option of an informed choice. While the ultimate decision to label or not, at least on a voluntary basis, will be that of food providers, the Administration can play a role in different fora in defining standards for labels that are used. Indeed, our willingness to engage in such a standard-setting process (such standards can ultimately be used in either mandatory or voluntary schemes) may be one negotiating lever with the Europeans as we press for regulatory reform and market access. The Administration's public support for more widespread use of voluntary labeling would, moreover, signal a greater sensitivity to consumers' concerns, and thus might improve the overall environment around the topic. Such support would undoubtedly meet with initial industry resistance, but there are already signs that many in industry are much more amenable to some labeling of GMOs than had previously been the case.

The subject of labeling of GMOs will in all likelihood receive increased attention in this country in the near future. As noted above, Consumers Union is expected to advocate for mandatory labeling of GMOs later this month. Moreover, fallout from the current European controversy is likely to reach our shores sooner rather than later. This too would argue for consultation between industry and the Administration on appropriate standards for voluntary GMO labeling, which might take as a model USDAs work to develop standards for organic food labeling.

The Deputies have not yet committed to a standards-setting role for the USG on voluntary labeling, nor to a more public advocacy role for the use of voluntary labels. Secretary Glickman's remarks this week on the subject, while considerably toned down from his initial drafts, were his own (and in

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the end
amounted to public musings about the need for industry to educate consumers,
labeling being one means of doing so), and the Administration's official policy
continues to be only that we support voluntary labeling so long as it is truthful
and not misleading, without in any way advocating such labeling.

Other markets/fora
While we do have an evolving strategy for engaging with the Europeans on GMOs,
there is a sense in which much of that battle has already been lost, at least in
the short term. This is not true in other markets like, for example, Latin
America or Asia; markets where a far greater percentage of our food exports might
be put at risk. We are helped in many of these countries (e.g. Argentina, China)
by their own growing use of biotechnology in agriculture. Nevertheless, we have
seen growing efforts in Australia, New Zealand, Japan and other countries to
address more directly concerns about GMOs, with labeling schemes being the first
suggested line of defense.

The real immediate threat to our exports in these markets, however, lies in
ongoing discussions in the multilateral fora in which these countries participate
and in which the EU particularly continues to press for its own GMO agenda (e.g.,
precautionary principle, mandatory labeling). This has been most obviously
manifest in the Biosafety Protocol negotiations, but has also been evident at the
Codex, the OECD and elsewhere. Our strategy in these contexts continues to rely
on a steadfast insistence on sound science and transparent processes as a basis
for regulation of GMOs, and on building alliances - pragmatically in the
Biosafety negotiations with other large commodity exporters, and more
ideologically in other fora like the Codex and OECD whose staff and representatives are more typically from scientific or regulatory backgrounds. We
have also resisted labeling in those fora, although recently we have

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indicated
greater support for standards in voluntary labeling schemes.

GMOs are likely to inform contentious parts of the agenda at APEC and at the WTO
Ministerial. The Deputies plan to take up the question as to appropriate
strategy for those fora within the next month.

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	7/28/99 11:40:41 AM
FROM	Duncan, John D. (INTECON/DOS)
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(e)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/26/1999
DECLASSIFYON	07/26/2009
SUBJECT	RE: Prodi GMO/WTO ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	Sargeant, Stephen T. (EXSEC)
CARBON_COPY	Hammonds, D. Holly (INTECON)

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By \12 NARA, Date 11/26/19
2016-0524-M

TEXT_BODY

you bet, will keep you informed

-----Original Message-----
From: Sargeant,
Stephen T. (EXSEC)
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 1999 11:40 AM
To: Duncan,
John D. (INTECON/DOS)
Cc: Hammonds, D. Holly (INTECON)
Subject: RE:
Prodi GMO/WTO ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Thanks John

-----Original Message-----
From: Duncan,
John D. (INTECON/DOS)
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 1999 11:38 AM
To: Sargeant,
Stephen T. (EXSEC)
Cc: Hammonds, D. Holly (INTECON)
Subject: FW:
Prodi GMO/WTO ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Steve,
I think this is one of those
times you need to be kept in the loop. We are on hook to do a reply to Prodi (#5222)(due date 21 July). Interim response very difficult since it simply suggests a meeting. Probably will be folded into

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

a POTUS letter to Prodi being drafted by NEC on GMOs. Can't respond until we know what to say about meeting w/POTUS. I will forward you one other set of e-mails on issue. John

-----Original Message-----
From: Duncan, John D. (INTECON/DOS)
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 1999 11:32 AM
To: McNamer, Bruce
Subject: FW: Prodi GMO/WTO ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Bruce,
Any forward progress? If not, any suggestions? John

-----Original Message-----
From: Hammonds, D. Holly (INTECON)
Sent: Monday, July 26, 1999 3:22 PM
To: Duncan, John D. (INTECON/DOS)
Subject: RE: Prodi GMO/WTO ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Thanks very much John..

-----Original Message-----
From: Duncan, John D. (INTECON/DOS)
Sent: Monday, July 26, 1999 3:18 PM
To: Hammonds, D. Holly (INTECON)
Subject: FW: Prodi GMO/WTO ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Holly,
Bruce says Lael has responded on the unclass system and has asked if we could find out Prodi's schedule and whether it is likely he would come here to meet with POTUS. She also wanted to find out if POTUS is going to Europe for anything in near future. I told Bruce I would call Larry Butler's replacement in Europe to try to get answers. John

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To: Duncan, John D. (INTECON/DOS)

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Subject: Prodi GMO/WTO
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* NSC is not seized with the importance
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forward... difficult to do so without acknowledging Prodi's own request to POTUS for WTO engagement.

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Exchange Mail

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-M

DATE-TIME	7/28/99 11:40:43 AM
FROM	Sargeant, Stephen T. (EXSEC)
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(e)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/26/1999
DECLASSIFYON	07/26/2009
SUBJECT	FW: Prodi GMO/WTO [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]
TO	Bartlett, L. June (EXSEC) Dejban, Donna D. (NSA) Hilliard, Brenda I. (EXSEC) Joshi, M. Kay (EXSEC) Millison, Cathy L. (EXSEC) Snip, Sarah E. (EXSEC/INTERN) Wasserman, Elaine P. (EXSEC)
CARBON_COPY	Snip, Sarah E. (EXSEC/INTERN)

TEXT_BODY

For our tracking. Thanks
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CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

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CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	7/28/99 11:41:46 AM
FROM	Duncan, John D. (INTECON/DOS)
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(e)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/26/1999
DECLASSIFYON	07/26/2009
SUBJECT	FW: Prodi GMO/WTO ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	Hammonds, D. Holly (INTECON)
CARBON_COPY	

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By NARA, Date 11/16/2017
2014-0574-M

TEXT_BODY

fyi

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D. (INTECON/DOS)
Sent: Monday, July 26, 1999 3:18 PM
To: Hammonds,

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

D. Holly (INTECON)
Subject: FW: Prodi GMO/WTO ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	7/28/99 3:50:05 PM
FROM	Duncan, John D. (INTECON/DOS)
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(e)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/26/1999
DECLASSIFYON	07/26/2009
SUBJECT	FW: Prodi GMO/WTO [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]
TO	Hammonds, D. Holly (INTECON)
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By VL NARA, Date 11/24/2019
2016-0529-M

fyi

-----Original Message-----
From: McNamer, Bruce
Sent: Wednesday,
July 28, 1999 3:46 PM
To: Duncan, John D. (INTECON/DOS)
Subject: RE:
Prodi GMO/WTO [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]

Nope
I will see Lael at 5:00. Will
ask then

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CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

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CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	8/5/99 1:40:09 PM
FROM	Holtzapple, Richard A.
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(b)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	08/05/1999
DECLASSIFYON	08/05/2009
SUBJECT	BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]
TO	Fendley, Edward J. (ADMIN)
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VZ NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-M (3.25)

-----Original Message-----
From: WHSR
Sent: Wednesday, August
04, 1999 5:55 AM
To: Hammonds, D. Holly (INTECON); Hill, John J. (ASIA/INTERN);
Holtzapple, Richard A.; Huso, Ravic R. (ASIA); Keith, James R. (ASIA);
Lee, Malcolm R.; Lieberthal, Kenneth G. (ASIA);
Osius, Theodore G. (VP);
Pritchard, Charles (Jack) L. (ASIA); Schaefer, Matthew P. (INTECON);
Shah, Sonal R.
Subject: BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

~~CONFIDENT~~
I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 CANBERRA 002584

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP,
OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
DEPARTMENT PASS USDA
USDA ALSO FOR
FAS

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

USDA FOR OFFICE OF SECRETARY (SIDDIQUI)
FAS FOR ADMINISTRATOR
TGALVIN
FAS ALSO FOR ITP/PSHEIKH/BSIMMONS/BSLUTSKY
GENEVA PASS
USTR
AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
USDOC FOR
4530/IEP/EAP/OPB/GPAINE/AMAYEDA
USDOC FOR 3132/USFCS/OIO/EAP/TFALCO
USDOC
FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/04/09
TAGS: SENV,
EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING
OF GENETICALLY
MODIFIED FOODS

REF: (A) CANBERRA 2490 (B) CANBERRA
718 (C) WELLINGTON 254
(NOTAL); (D) 98 SYDNEY 2296 (NOTAL)

(U)
CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC OFFICER BRIAN SILER FOR
REASON
1.5 (B).

1.
(U) SUMMARY FOODS SOLD IN AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND
AFTER
OCTOBER
2000 MUST CARRY A MANDATORY LABEL IF THEY CONTAIN
GENETICALLY MODIFIED
(GM) INGREDIENTS. THE AUSTRALIA NEW
ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL
(ANZFSC) VOTED TO REQUIRE
LABELING AT AN AUGUST 3 MEETING IN CANBERRA.
COUNCIL
MEMBERS REJECTED AN INDUSTRY-FAVORED OPTION OF
VOLUNTARY
LABELING
UNDER A CODE OF PRACTICE. ANZFSC ORDERED ITS
REGULATORY BODY, THE
AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY
(ANZFA), TO DRAFT THE REQUIRED
FOOD SAFETY STANDARD IN TIME
FOR CONSIDERATION AT AN OCTOBER ANZFSC
MEETING. THE

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STANDARD WOULD LIKELY TAKE EFFECT ONE YEAR LATER. THE
COUNCIL SIGNALED ITS INTENTION TO ASK ANZFA TO ESTABLISH
THRESHOLDS
FOR THE PRESENCE OF GM MATERIAL IN FOODS BELOW WHICH LABELING WOULD
NOT BE REQUIRED. THE THRESHOLD
PROPOSAL IMMEDIATELY DREW CRITICISM
FROM CONSUMER AND OTHER
GROUPS THAT HAD SOUGHT LABELING OF ALL GM FOODS. END
SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE HEALTH MINISTERS OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND
THE SIX STATES AND TWO TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA, WHO
TOGETHER COMPRISE ANZFSC, DEBATED MORE THAN SEVEN HOURS
AUGUST
3 BEFORE REACHING A CONSENSUS DECISION TO REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELING
OF ALL FOODS EITHER PRODUCED USING
RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNOLOGY OR
CONTAINING GM INGREDIENTS.
THE DECISION EFFECTIVELY EXTENDED A BLANKET LABELING
REQUIREMENT TO ALL GM FOOD TO BE SOLD IN THE TWO COUNTRIES,
REGARDLESS
OF HOW OR WHETHER THE PRODUCT DIFFERED FROM ITS NON-GM EQUIVALENT.

3.
(U) THE COUNCIL HAD PREVIOUSLY APPROVED A FOOD STANDARD
(A18) IN
AUGUST 1998 THAT REQUIRED GM FOODS THAT WERE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT
FROM THE TRADITIONAL FORM OF THAT
FOOD TO BE LABELED. THEN IN DECEMBER
1998, UNDER PRESSURE
FROM ANTI-GM TECHNOLOGY ACTIVISTS AND CONSUMER GROUPS, THE
COUNCIL CALLED FOR A FURTHER STANDARD TO ALSO REQUIRE
THE
LABELING OF GM FOOD SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THE

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TRADITIONAL
FORM (REF B). ANZFA PRESENTED THE COUNCIL WITH
SEVERAL OPTIONS
(REF A), INCLUDING COMPULSORY LABELING,
WHICH WAS ADOPTED TUESDAY.
UNDER THE PROPOSED STANDARD,
LABELS WOULD STATE THAT FOODS DO,
MAY, OR DO NOT CONTAIN GM
INGREDIENTS. THE COUNCIL SPECIFICALLY
NOTED THAT LABELS MAY
ALSO STATE THAT FOODS "CONTAIN GENETICALLY
MODIFIED
INGREDIENTS APPROVED BY HEALTH AUTHORITIES."

4. (U)
ANZFA MUST STILL ADDRESS AN EXTENSIVE LIST OF THORNY
IMPLEMENTATION
ISSUES IN PREPARING ITS AMENDED STANDARD, TO
BE CONSIDERED BY THE
COUNCIL IN OCTOBER. THESE INCLUDE:
METHODS OF LABELING, INCLUDING
AUTHORIZED SYMBOLS;
SUPPLEMENTARY MEANS OF PROVIDING RELEVANT
INFORMATION
TO
CONSUMERS; IMPLEMENTATION COSTS TO INDUSTRY AND
GOVERNMENT;
A
POSSIBLE INDUSTRY CODE OF PRACTICE; COMPLIANCE WITH
WORLD
TRADE
ORGANIZATION (WTO) AND CODEX ALIMENTARIUS RULES;
COMPLIANCE TESTING
OF FOOD; COMPLIANCE STANDARDS FOR
MANUFACTURERS RELATED TO FOOD
ORIGINS; TREATMENT OF FOODS
CONTAINING NO GM INGREDIENTS; THRESHOLD
LEVELS FOR REQUIRING
LABELING; AND THE TIMING OF IMPLEMENTATION.

5.
(U) IN ITS MEDIA RELEASE FOLLOWING THE DECISION (FAXED
TO
OES/ETC/CENRIGHT),
THE COUNCIL NOTED THAT SAFETY ASSESSMENTS
~~CONFIDENTIA~~
~~L~~SECTION 02 OF 03 CANBERRA 002584

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

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E.O.
12958: DECL: 08/04/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT:
BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING OF GENETICALLY
MODIFIED FOODS

OF
GM PRODUCTS (MANDATED UNDER STANDARD A18) WOULD
CONTINUE
AND THAT
"NO SAFETY CONCERNS HAVE BEEN SHOWN TOWARDS ANY
OF
THE FOODS ASSESSED
AT THIS STAGE." THE MESSAGE THAT THE
COUNCIL WAS NOT ADDRESSING
SAFETY CONCERNS PER SE WAS ECHOED
BY THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARY FOR HEALTH,
SENATOR GRANT TAMBLING, WHO CHAIRED THE COUNCIL
MEETING.
"IN DEALING WITH THE ISSUE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED
FOODS,"
HE
SAID, "THE COUNCIL WAS VERY MINDFUL THAT IT IS
ESSENTIALLY, AND
PRIMARILY, A PUBLIC INFORMATION AND RIGHT-
TO-KNOW ISSUE THAT IS
THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR."

6. ~~(C)~~ IN A CHANGE OF VIEW, INDUSTRY
TOO SAW THE ISSUE
BEFORE THE COUNCIL AS PRIMARILY THAT OF ADDRESSING
CONSUMER

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

ANXIETY OVER THE NEW TECHNOLOGY. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CROP PRODUCTION AND ANIMAL
HEALTH,
AN OPPONENT OF MANDATORY LABELING JUST MONTHS AGO,
TOLD ESTOFF THAT
THE ASSOCIATION SUPPORTED THE COUNCIL
DECISION. IN THE PAST MONTHS,
HE SAID, THERE HAD BEEN A
"CHANGE IN TIDES," AND THE COUNCIL HAD
TO RESPECT CONSUMER
DEMANDS THAT THEY HAD A RIGHT TO KNOW. HE INDICATED
THAT
THE DECISION TO REQUIRE LABELING WOULD HELP PLACATE CRITICS
OF
GM TECHNOLOGY AND HELP CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE
EXISTING PRODUCTS,
CURRENTLY EFFECTIVELY BARRED FROM RELEASE
INTO THE MARKET, COULD
BE INTRODUCED. THE REAL AND BIGGER
GAME, HE SAID, WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S
NASCENT REGULATORY
SYSTEM FOR THE ENTIRE BIOTECHNOLOGY SECTOR, WHICH IS CRUCIAL
TO ITS FUTURE. THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK COULD NOW BE
ADVANCED
WITHOUT THE DISTRACTION OF CONSUMER ANGST AND FRUSTRATION ABOUT
GM FOOD, HE SAID.

7. (U) THERE WAS LESS ENTHUSIASM FOR THE COUNCIL DECISION
ELSEWHERE IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR. MITCH HOOKE, THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF THE AUSTRALIAN FOOD AND GROCERY COUNCIL (AFGC) AND AN
OUTSPOKEN OPPONENT OF MANDATORY
LABELING, ARGUED THAT THE LABELING
REQUIREMENT AS PROPOSED
BY THE COUNCIL WAS UNWORKABLE. IT WOULD,
HE SAID IN A MEDIA
RELEASE, "MISLEAD AND CONFUSE CONSUMERS, AND ADD

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CONSIDERABLE RECURRENT COSTS ON INDUSTRY AND ULTIMATELY
CONSUMERS,
WITH LITTLE TANGIBLE BENEFIT." THE AFGC'S SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
DIRECTOR TOLD ESTOFF THAT THE
COUNCIL'S DECISION HAD PLACED A STILL GREATER RESPONSIBILITY
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CLAIMS BASED ON THRESHOLD EXEMPTIONS.

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THE AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL
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HOWEVER, THEY WERE QUICK TO RAISE OBJECTIONS TO ANZFSC'S CALL FOR
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WHEN YOU DO AND DON'T NEED TO HAVE TO SAY A FOOD CONTAINS
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9. ~~(C)~~ AN EMBASSY CONTACT IN ANZFA SAID THAT ALTHOUGH
NORMALLY
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BY ANZFSC (I.E. OCTOBER 2000), THE
COUNCIL HAD SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED

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ANZFA TO ADDRESS THIS
ISSUE IN ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PLANNED
ANZFSC MEETING
IN OCTOBER. NONETHELESS, SHE SAID THAT DESPITE LIKELY
CALLS
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 CANBERRA 002584

DEPARTMENT
FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
DEPARTMENT PASS USDA
USDA
ALSO FOR FAS
USDA FOR OFFICE OF SECRETARY (SIDDIQUI)
FAS FOR ADMINISTRATOR
TGALVIN
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USDOC FOR 3132/USFCS/OIO/EAP/TFALCO
USDOC
FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/04/09
TAGS: SENV,
EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING
OF GENETICALLY
MODIFIED FOODS

FROM GM OPPONENTS FOR A QUICK IMPLEMENTATION
OF LABELING,
ANZFA WOULD PROBABLY RECOMMEND THE OCTOBER 2000
DATE.
WITH
MANY DIFFICULT ISSUES SURROUNDING THE LABELING
REQUIREMENTS
STILL
TO BE ADDRESSED IN DETAIL, TIME WOULD BE NEEDED BY
BOTH GOVERNMENT,
REGULATORS AND BUSINESS.

10. ~~(C)~~ PROVIDING THE COUNCIL WITH RECOMMENDATIONS
ON WHERE
TO SET THRESHOLD LEVELS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY
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SHE

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

SAID. IN THE RUN-UP TO TUESDAY'S MEETING, SHE SAID, MINISTERS
HAD REJECTED ANZFA RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXCLUDE ALTOGETHER FROM THE
LABELING REQUIREMENT THOSE HIGHLY
REFINED GM FOOD INGREDIENTS SUCH
AS SUGARS, OILS AND
STARCHES WHOSE MINUTE, RESIDUAL TRACES OF DNA WERE DEEMED BY
ANZFA AS MEANINGLESS. SHE OBSERVED THAT THE COUNCIL

OPTED
INSTEAD FOR A DECISION THAT FOCUSED ON BEING SEEN TO ADDRESS
CONSUMER
CONCERNS FIRST AND FOREMOST. ANZFA WILL NOW REVISIT BOTH THIS THRESHOLD
QUESTION AND THAT OF WHAT
PERCENTAGE OF GM INGREDIENT IN A FOOD
WOULD TRIGGER THE NEED
FOR LABELING. COMPLICATING THINGS, SHE ADDED, WAS THAT FACT
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AND
EASY TO ENFORCE."

11. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: THE PAGE-LONG LIST OF STILL-TO-BE-RESOLVED
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HOLMES

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Exchange Mail

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2015
2016-0529-M (3.26)

DATE-TIME	8/5/99 7:02:01 PM
FROM	Bowles, Ian A. (ENV)
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(b)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	08/05/1999
DECLASSIFYON	08/05/2009
SUBJECT	BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]
TO	Holtzapple, Richard A.
CARBON_COPY	

TEXT_BODY

Thanks. Will get on distro list. Just got on this system 2 weeks ago. Think this would be of interest to Lael and to Rick Samans from our recent conversations on the subject if you know a way to get it to them in Bruce's absense Thanks, Ian

-----Original Message-----
From:
Holtzapple, Richard A.
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 1999 1:43 PM
To:
Bowles, Ian A. (ENV); McNamer, Bruce; Sandalow, David B. (ENV)
Subject:
BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS
[~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]

Shouldn't
WHSR be including you on distro of this stuff?

-----Original Message-----
From:
WHSR
Sent: Wednesday, August 04, 1999 5:55 AM
To: Hammonds, D.
Holly (INTECON); Hill, John J. (ASIA/INTERN);
Holtzapple, Richard
A.; Huso, Ravic R. (ASIA); Keith, James R. (ASIA);
Lee, Malcolm

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R.; Lieberthal, Kenneth G. (ASIA); Osius, Theodore G. (VP);
Pritchard,
Charles (Jack) L. (ASIA); Schaefer, Matthew P. (INTECON);
Shah,
Sonal R.
Subject: BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING OF
GENETICALLY
MODIFIED FOODS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 CANBERRA
002584

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/04/09
TAGS: SENV,
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SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING
OF GENETICALLY
MODIFIED FOODS

REF: (A) CANBERRA 2490 (B) CANBERRA
718 (C) WELLINGTON 254
(NOTAL); (D) 98 SYDNEY 2296 (NOTAL)

(U)
CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC OFFICER BRIAN SILER FOR
REASON
1.5 (B).

1.
(U) SUMMARY FOODS SOLD IN AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND

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AFTER
OCTOBER
2000 MUST CARRY A MANDATORY LABEL IF THEY CONTAIN
GENETICALLY MODIFIED
(GM) INGREDIENTS. THE AUSTRALIA NEW
ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL
(ANZFSC) VOTED TO REQUIRE
LABELING AT AN AUGUST 3 MEETING IN CANBERRA.
COUNCIL
MEMBERS REJECTED AN INDUSTRY-FAVORED OPTION OF
VOLUNTARY
LABELING
UNDER A CODE OF PRACTICE. ANZFSC ORDERED ITS
REGULATORY BODY, THE
AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY
(ANZFA), TO DRAFT THE REQUIRED
FOOD SAFETY STANDARD IN TIME
FOR CONSIDERATION AT AN OCTOBER ANZFSC
MEETING. THE
STANDARD WOULD LIKELY TAKE EFFECT ONE YEAR LATER.
THE
COUNCIL SIGNALED ITS INTENTION TO ASK ANZFA TO
ESTABLISH
THRESHOLDS
FOR THE PRESENCE OF GM MATERIAL IN FOODS BELOW
WHICH LABELING WOULD
NOT BE REQUIRED. THE THRESHOLD
PROPOSAL IMMEDIATELY DREW CRITICISM
FROM CONSUMER AND OTHER
GROUPS THAT HAD SOUGHT LABELING OF ALL GM
FOODS. END
SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE HEALTH MINISTERS OF AUSTRALIA,
NEW ZEALAND, AND
THE SIX STATES AND TWO TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA,
WHO
TOGETHER COMPRISE ANZFSC, DEBATED MORE THAN SEVEN
HOURS
AUGUST
3 BEFORE REACHING A CONSENSUS DECISION TO REQUIRE
MANDATORY LABELING
OF ALL FOODS EITHER PRODUCED USING
RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNOLOGY OR
CONTAINING GM INGREDIENTS.
THE DECISION EFFECTIVELY EXTENDED A BLANKET
LABELING
REQUIREMENT TO ALL GM FOOD TO BE SOLD IN THE TWO
COUNTRIES,
REGARDLESS

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OF HOW OR WHETHER THE PRODUCT DIFFERED FROM ITS NON-GM EQUIVALENT.

3.
(U) THE COUNCIL HAD PREVIOUSLY APPROVED A FOOD STANDARD
(A18) IN
AUGUST 1998 THAT REQUIRED GM FOODS THAT WERE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT
FROM THE TRADITIONAL FORM OF THAT
FOOD TO BE LABELED. THEN IN DECEMBER
1998, UNDER PRESSURE
FROM ANTI-GM TECHNOLOGY ACTIVISTS AND CONSUMER GROUPS, THE
COUNCIL CALLED FOR A FURTHER STANDARD TO ALSO REQUIRE
THE
LABELING OF GM FOOD SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THE
TRADITIONAL
FORM (REF B). ANZFA PRESENTED THE COUNCIL WITH SEVERAL OPTIONS
(REF A), INCLUDING COMPULSORY LABELING,
WHICH WAS ADOPTED TUESDAY.
UNDER THE PROPOSED STANDARD,
LABELS WOULD STATE THAT FOODS DO,
MAY, OR DO NOT CONTAIN GM
INGREDIENTS. THE COUNCIL SPECIFICALLY
NOTED THAT LABELS MAY
ALSO STATE THAT FOODS "CONTAIN GENETICALLY MODIFIED
INGREDIENTS APPROVED BY HEALTH AUTHORITIES."

4. (U)
ANZFA MUST STILL ADDRESS AN EXTENSIVE LIST OF THORNY IMPLEMENTATION
ISSUES IN PREPARING ITS AMENDED STANDARD, TO
BE CONSIDERED BY THE
COUNCIL IN OCTOBER. THESE INCLUDE:
METHODS OF LABELING, INCLUDING
AUTHORIZED SYMBOLS;
SUPPLEMENTARY MEANS OF PROVIDING RELEVANT INFORMATION
TO
CONSUMERS; IMPLEMENTATION COSTS TO INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT;
A
POSSIBLE INDUSTRY CODE OF PRACTICE; COMPLIANCE WITH WORLD
TRADE

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ORGANIZATION (WTO) AND CODEX ALIMENTARIUS RULES;
COMPLIANCE TESTING
OF FOOD; COMPLIANCE STANDARDS FOR
MANUFACTURERS RELATED TO FOOD
ORIGINS; TREATMENT OF FOODS
CONTAINING NO GM INGREDIENTS; THRESHOLD
LEVELS FOR REQUIRING
LABELING; AND THE TIMING OF IMPLEMENTATION.

5.
(U) IN ITS MEDIA RELEASE FOLLOWING THE DECISION (FAXED
TO
OES/ETC/CENRIGHT),
THE COUNCIL NOTED THAT SAFETY ASSESSMENTS
~~CONFIDENTIA~~
~~L~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 CANBERRA 002584

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E.O.
12958: DECL: 08/04/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT:
BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING OF GENETICALLY
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OF
GM PRODUCTS (MANDATED UNDER STANDARD A18) WOULD
CONTINUE
AND THAT
"NO SAFETY CONCERNS HAVE BEEN SHOWN TOWARDS ANY
OF
THE FOODS ASSESSED
AT THIS STAGE." THE MESSAGE THAT THE

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COUNCIL WAS NOT ADDRESSING
SAFETY CONCERNS PER SE WAS ECHOED
BY THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARY FOR HEALTH,
SENATOR GRANT TAMBLING, WHO CHAIRED THE COUNCIL
MEETING.
"IN DEALING WITH THE ISSUE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED
FOODS,"
HE
SAID, "THE COUNCIL WAS VERY MINDFUL THAT IT IS
ESSENTIALLY, AND
PRIMARILY, A PUBLIC INFORMATION AND RIGHT-
TO-KNOW ISSUE THAT IS
THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR."

6. ~~(C)~~ IN A CHANGE OF VIEW, INDUSTRY
TOO SAW THE ISSUE
BEFORE THE COUNCIL AS PRIMARILY THAT OF ADDRESSING
CONSUMER
ANXIETY OVER THE NEW TECHNOLOGY. THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CROP PRODUCTION AND
ANIMAL
HEALTH,
AN OPPONENT OF MANDATORY LABELING JUST MONTHS
AGO,
TOLD ESTOFF THAT
THE ASSOCIATION SUPPORTED THE COUNCIL
DECISION. IN THE PAST MONTHS,
HE SAID, THERE HAD BEEN A
"CHANGE IN TIDES," AND THE COUNCIL HAD
TO RESPECT CONSUMER
DEMANDS THAT THEY HAD A RIGHT TO KNOW. HE
INDICATED
THAT
THE DECISION TO REQUIRE LABELING WOULD HELP PLACATE
CRITICS
OF
GM TECHNOLOGY AND HELP CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE
WHERE
EXISTING PRODUCTS,
CURRENTLY EFFECTIVELY BARRED FROM RELEASE
INTO THE MARKET, COULD
BE INTRODUCED. THE REAL AND BIGGER
GAME, HE SAID, WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S
NASCENT REGULATORY
SYSTEM FOR THE ENTIRE BIOTECHNOLOGY SECTOR, WHICH
IS CRUCIAL
TO ITS FUTURE. THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK COULD NOW

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CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

MODIFIED FOODS

FROM GM OPPONENTS FOR A QUICK IMPLEMENTATION OF LABELING, ANZFA WOULD PROBABLY RECOMMEND THE OCTOBER 2000 DATE. WITH MANY DIFFICULT ISSUES SURROUNDING THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS STILL TO BE ADDRESSED IN DETAIL, TIME WOULD BE NEEDED BY BOTH GOVERNMENT, REGULATORS AND BUSINESS.

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HOLMES

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	8/5/99 7:05:25 PM
FROM	Bowles, Ian A. (ENV)
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(b)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	08/05/1999
DECLASSIFYON	08/05/2009
SUBJECT	BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]
TO	Bayley, Douglas C. (WHSR) Blackburn, John (WHSR) Bresnahan, Gary E. (WHSR/STP) Broadwick, Bonnie . (WHSR) Cheramie, Don E. (WHSR) Crowder, Stevan D. (WHSR) Ehrendreich, Joel (WHSR) Erdahl, Douglas M. (WHSR) Ford, Robert G. (WHSR) Fuchs, Joachim D. (WHSR) Jansen, Christian P. (WHSR) Jarosinski, Frank J. (WHSR) Laskowski, Gregory J. (WHSR) Manning, Michael T. (WHSR) McGee, Jenny A. (WHSR) Merletti, Roger D. (WHSR) Payne, Raymond H. (WHSR/STP) Porterfield Patrick C. (WHSR) Powell, Elliott (WHSR/EXSEC) Rickard, Robin S. (WHSR) Rogers, Elizabeth B. (WHSR) Schrader, Joel M. (WHSR) Sibley, Matthew W. (WHSR) Sigler, Ralph H. (WHSR) Smith, James A. (WHSR) Sutliff, Deana R. (WHSR) Swarm, Amy L. (WHSR) Tarver, J. Sean (WHSR) Williams, Robert S. (WHSR)
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	Pls slug me with traffic on biosafety and genetically modified organisms

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0574-M (3.27)

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

(GMOs) as well as trade/environment and WTO/environment. Thx. Ian

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Sent: Thursday, August
05, 1999 1:43 PM
To: Bowles, Ian A. (ENV); McNamer, Bruce; Sandalow,
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FOR 4530/IEP/EAP/OPB/GPAINE/AMAYEDA
USDOC FOR 3132/USFCS/OIO/EAP/TFALCO
USDOC
FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/04/09
TAGS: SENV,
EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING
OF GENETICALLY
MODIFIED FOODS

REF: (A) CANBERRA 2490 (B) CANBERRA
718 (C) WELLINGTON 254
(NOTAL); (D) 98 SYDNEY 2296 (NOTAL)

(U)
CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC OFFICER BRIAN SILER FOR
REASON
1.5 (B).

1.
(U) SUMMARY FOODS SOLD IN AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND
AFTER
OCTOBER
2000 MUST CARRY A MANDATORY LABEL IF THEY CONTAIN
GENETICALLY MODIFIED
(GM) INGREDIENTS. THE AUSTRALIA NEW
ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL
(ANZFSC) VOTED TO REQUIRE
LABELING AT AN AUGUST 3 MEETING IN CANBERRA.
COUNCIL
MEMBERS REJECTED AN INDUSTRY-FAVORED OPTION OF
VOLUNTARY
LABELING
UNDER A CODE OF PRACTICE. ANZFSC ORDERED ITS
REGULATORY BODY, THE
AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY
(ANZFA), TO DRAFT THE REQUIRED
FOOD SAFETY STANDARD IN TIME
FOR CONSIDERATION AT AN OCTOBER ANZFSC
MEETING. THE
STANDARD WOULD LIKELY TAKE EFFECT ONE YEAR LATER.
THE
COUNCIL SIGNALED ITS INTENTION TO ASK ANZFA TO
ESTABLISH

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THRESHOLDS
FOR THE PRESENCE OF GM MATERIAL IN FOODS BELOW WHICH LABELING WOULD
NOT BE REQUIRED. THE THRESHOLD
PROPOSAL IMMEDIATELY DREW CRITICISM
FROM CONSUMER AND OTHER
GROUPS THAT HAD SOUGHT LABELING OF ALL GM FOODS. END
SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE HEALTH MINISTERS OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND
THE SIX STATES AND TWO TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA, WHO
TOGETHER COMPRISE ANZFSC, DEBATED MORE THAN SEVEN HOURS
AUGUST
3 BEFORE REACHING A CONSENSUS DECISION TO REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELING
OF ALL FOODS EITHER PRODUCED USING
RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNOLOGY OR
CONTAINING GM INGREDIENTS.
THE DECISION EFFECTIVELY EXTENDED A BLANKET LABELING
REQUIREMENT TO ALL GM FOOD TO BE SOLD IN THE TWO COUNTRIES,
REGARDLESS
OF HOW OR WHETHER THE PRODUCT DIFFERED FROM ITS NON-GM EQUIVALENT.

3.
(U) THE COUNCIL HAD PREVIOUSLY APPROVED A FOOD STANDARD
(A18) IN
AUGUST 1998 THAT REQUIRED GM FOODS THAT WERE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT
FROM THE TRADITIONAL FORM OF THAT
FOOD TO BE LABELED. THEN IN DECEMBER
1998, UNDER PRESSURE
FROM ANTI-GM TECHNOLOGY ACTIVISTS AND CONSUMER GROUPS, THE
COUNCIL CALLED FOR A FURTHER STANDARD TO ALSO REQUIRE
THE
LABELING OF GM FOOD SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THE
TRADITIONAL
FORM (REF B). ANZFA PRESENTED THE COUNCIL WITH SEVERAL OPTIONS
(REF A), INCLUDING COMPULSORY LABELING,

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WHICH WAS ADOPTED TUESDAY.
UNDER THE PROPOSED STANDARD,
LABELS WOULD STATE THAT FOODS DO,
MAY, OR DO NOT CONTAIN GM
INGREDIENTS. THE COUNCIL SPECIFICALLY
NOTED THAT LABELS MAY
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MODIFIED
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4. (U)
ANZFA MUST STILL ADDRESS AN EXTENSIVE LIST OF THORNY
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ISSUES IN PREPARING ITS AMENDED STANDARD, TO
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METHODS OF LABELING, INCLUDING
AUTHORIZED SYMBOLS;
SUPPLEMENTARY MEANS OF PROVIDING RELEVANT
INFORMATION
TO
CONSUMERS; IMPLEMENTATION COSTS TO INDUSTRY AND
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A
POSSIBLE INDUSTRY CODE OF PRACTICE; COMPLIANCE WITH
WORLD
TRADE
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COMPLIANCE TESTING
OF FOOD; COMPLIANCE STANDARDS FOR
MANUFACTURERS RELATED TO FOOD
ORIGINS; TREATMENT OF FOODS
CONTAINING NO GM INGREDIENTS; THRESHOLD
LEVELS FOR REQUIRING
LABELING; AND THE TIMING OF IMPLEMENTATION.

5.
(U) IN ITS MEDIA RELEASE FOLLOWING THE DECISION (FAXED
TO
OES/ETC/CENRIGHT),
THE COUNCIL NOTED THAT SAFETY ASSESSMENTS
~~CONFIDENTIA~~
~~L~~SECTION 02 OF 03 CANBERRA 002584

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT
PASS USTR
DEPARTMENT PASS USDA
USDA ALSO FOR FAS
USDA FOR OFFICE

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OF SECRETARY (SIDDIQUI)
FAS FOR ADMINISTRATOR TGALVIN
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CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

ANIMAL
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CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

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LABELS
REALLY MEANT, ESPECIALLY, HE NOTED, IN THE CASE OF
"NON-GMO"
FOOD
CLAIMS BASED ON THRESHOLD EXEMPTIONS.

8. (U) CONSUMER GROUPS AND
THE AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION, WHICH BACKED A LABELING REQUIREMENT,
WELCOMED
THE COUNCIL'S DECISION AS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD FOR
THEIR
CAUSE.
HOWEVER, THEY WERE QUICK TO RAISE OBJECTIONS TO
ANZFSC'S CALL FOR
ESTABLISHING THRESHOLD LEVELS THAT WOULD
PROVIDE A LABELING EXEMPTION
TO PRODUCTS WITH MINIMAL
AMOUNTS OF GM MATERIAL. A SPOKESMAN FOR
THE AUSTRALIAN
CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION TOLD MELBOURNE'S NEWSPAPER
THE AGE
THAT "IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO CONTINUE TO
DEBATE
ON
WHEN YOU DO AND DON'T NEED TO HAVE TO SAY A FOOD
CONTAINS
GENETICALLY
MODIFIED INGREDIENTS. IT EITHER DOES OR IT DOES
NOT IN THE EYES
OF CONSUMERS."

9. ~~(C)~~ AN EMBASSY CONTACT IN ANZFA SAID THAT
ALTHOUGH
NORMALLY
SUCH A STANDARD WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE 12 MONTHS
AFTER ITS APPROVAL
BY ANZFSC (I.E. OCTOBER 2000), THE
COUNCIL HAD SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED
ANZFA TO ADDRESS THIS
ISSUE IN ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PLANNED
ANZFSC MEETING
IN OCTOBER. NONETHELESS, SHE SAID THAT DESPITE LIKELY

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CALLS
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 CANBERRA 002584

DEPARTMENT
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DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
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SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING
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FROM GM OPPONENTS FOR A QUICK IMPLEMENTATION
OF LABELING,
ANZFA WOULD PROBABLY RECOMMEND THE OCTOBER 2000
DATE.
WITH
MANY DIFFICULT ISSUES SURROUNDING THE LABELING
REQUIREMENTS
STILL
TO BE ADDRESSED IN DETAIL, TIME WOULD BE NEEDED BY
BOTH GOVERNMENT,
REGULATORS AND BUSINESS.

10. ~~(C)~~ PROVIDING THE COUNCIL WITH RECOMMENDATIONS
ON WHERE
TO SET THRESHOLD LEVELS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY
DIFFICULT,
SHE
SAID. IN THE RUN-UP TO TUESDAY'S MEETING, SHE SAID,
MINISTERS
HAD REJECTED ANZFA RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXCLUDE
ALTOGETHER FROM THE

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

LABELING REQUIREMENT THOSE HIGHLY
REFINED GM FOOD INGREDIENTS SUCH
AS SUGARS, OILS AND
STARCHES WHOSE MINUTE, RESIDUAL TRACES OF DNA
WERE DEEMED BY
ANZFA AS MEANINGLESS. SHE OBSERVED THAT THE COUNCIL

OPTED
INSTEAD FOR A DECISION THAT FOCUSED ON BEING SEEN TO
ADDRESS
CONSUMER
CONCERNS FIRST AND FOREMOST. ANZFA WILL NOW
REVISIT BOTH THIS THRESHOLD
QUESTION AND THAT OF WHAT
PERCENTAGE OF GM INGREDIENT IN A FOOD
WOULD TRIGGER THE NEED
FOR LABELING. COMPLICATING THINGS, SHE ADDED,
WAS THAT FACT
THAT "THE MINISTERS WANT LABELING THAT'S CHEAP,
PRACTICAL
AND
EASY TO ENFORCE."

11. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: THE PAGE-LONG LIST OF STILL-TO-BE-
RESOLVED
ISSUES
HANDED TO ANZFA BY THE COUNCIL IS A STRONG
INDICATOR
THAT THERE
IS STILL MUCH TO BE RESOLVED ON THE LABELING
FRONT. FOR ALL ITS
COMPELLING EMPIRICAL LOGIC, THE
THRESHOLD APPROACH IS CERTAIN TO
BE ATTACKED BY DOCTRINAIRE
GM OPPONENTS. STILL, THE COUNCIL'S VERY
PUBLIC CONCESSION
TO CONSUMER CONCERNS MAY WELL TAKE SOME OF THE
STEAM OUT OF
ANTI-GM CRUSADERS' ALL OR NOTHING CHAMPAIGN FOR
THE
HEARTS
AND MINDS OF THOSE SAME CONSUMERS. THIS WILL BE
HELPED IF
THE
SEA CHANGE IN INDUSTRY'S VIEWS ON LABELING CAN BE
FOLLOWED BY SOME
EFFECTIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS BY
GOVERNMENT AND PRO-GM BUSINESS.
SHORT OF RUNNING AFOUL OF
THE WTO OR CODEX, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT

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MANDATORY LABELING,
AND ALL IT ENTAILS, HAS NOW MADE A BRIDGEHEAD
DOWN UNDER.
END COMMENT.

HOLMES

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Exchange Mail

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By LR NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (3.28)

DATE-TIME	8/11/99 7:27:18 PM
FROM	Bowles, Ian A. (ENV)
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(b)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	08/11/1999
DECLASSIFYON	08/11/2009
SUBJECT	BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	Mitsler, Elaine M. (INTECON)
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	

please pass to Rick Samans. Many thanks, Ian

-----Original Message-----
From:
Holtzapple, Richard A.
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 1999 1:43 PM
To:
Bowles, Ian A. (ENV); McNamer, Bruce; Sandalow, David B. (ENV)
Subject:
BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS
~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Shouldn't
WHSR be including you on distro of this stuff?

-----Original Message-----
From:
WHSR
Sent: Wednesday, August 04, 1999 5:55 AM
To: Hammonds, D.
Holly (INTECON); Hill, John J. (ASIA/INTERN);
Holtzapple, Richard
A.; Huso, Ravic R. (ASIA); Keith, James R. (ASIA);
Lee, Malcolm
R.; Lieberthal, Kenneth G. (ASIA); Osius, Theodore G. (VP);
Pritchard,
Charles (Jack) L. (ASIA); Schaefer, Matthew P. (INTECON);

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Shah,
Sonal R.
Subject: BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING OF
GENETICALLY
MODIFIED FOODS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 CANBERRA
002584

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
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THE AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION, WHICH BACKED A LABELING REQUIREMENT, WELCOMED
THE COUNCIL'S DECISION AS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD FOR THEIR
CAUSE.
HOWEVER, THEY WERE QUICK TO RAISE OBJECTIONS TO ANZFSC'S CALL FOR
ESTABLISHING THRESHOLD LEVELS THAT WOULD
PROVIDE A LABELING EXEMPTION
TO PRODUCTS WITH MINIMAL
AMOUNTS OF GM MATERIAL. A SPOKESMAN FOR
THE AUSTRALIAN
CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION TOLD MELBOURNE'S NEWSPAPER THE AGE
THAT "IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO CONTINUE TO

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DEBATE
ON
WHEN YOU DO AND DON'T NEED TO HAVE TO SAY A FOOD
CONTAINS
GENETICALLY
MODIFIED INGREDIENTS. IT EITHER DOES OR IT DOES
NOT IN THE EYES
OF CONSUMERS."

9. ~~(C)~~ AN EMBASSY CONTACT IN ANZFA SAID THAT
ALTHOUGH
NORMALLY
SUCH A STANDARD WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE 12 MONTHS
AFTER ITS APPROVAL
BY ANZFSC (I.E. OCTOBER 2000), THE
COUNCIL HAD SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED
ANZFA TO ADDRESS THIS
ISSUE IN ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PLANNED
ANZFSC MEETING
IN OCTOBER. NONETHELESS, SHE SAID THAT DESPITE LIKELY
CALLS
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 CANBERRA 002584

DEPARTMENT
FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
DEPARTMENT PASS USDA
USDA
ALSO FOR FAS
USDA FOR OFFICE OF SECRETARY (SIDDIQUI)
FAS FOR ADMINISTRATOR
TGALVIN
FAS ALSO FOR ITP/PSHEIKH/BSIMMONS/BSLUTSKY
GENEVA PASS
USTR
AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
USDOC FOR
4530/IEP/EAP/OPB/GPAINE/AMAYEDA
USDOC FOR 3132/USFCS/OIO/EAP/TFALCO
USDOC
FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/04/09
TAGS: SENV,
EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: COMPULSORY LABELING
OF GENETICALLY
MODIFIED FOODS

FROM GM OPPONENTS FOR A QUICK IMPLEMENTATION

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OF LABELING,
ANZFA WOULD PROBABLY RECOMMEND THE OCTOBER 2000 DATE.
WITH
MANY DIFFICULT ISSUES SURROUNDING THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS
STILL
TO BE ADDRESSED IN DETAIL, TIME WOULD BE NEEDED BY BOTH GOVERNMENT,
REGULATORS AND BUSINESS.

10. ~~(C)~~ PROVIDING THE COUNCIL WITH RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHERE
TO SET THRESHOLD LEVELS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT,
SHE
SAID. IN THE RUN-UP TO TUESDAY'S MEETING, SHE SAID, MINISTERS
HAD REJECTED ANZFA RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXCLUDE ALTOGETHER FROM THE
LABELING REQUIREMENT THOSE HIGHLY
REFINED GM FOOD INGREDIENTS SUCH
AS SUGARS, OILS AND
STARCHES WHOSE MINUTE, RESIDUAL TRACES OF DNA WERE DEEMED BY
ANZFA AS MEANINGLESS. SHE OBSERVED THAT THE COUNCIL

OPTED
INSTEAD FOR A DECISION THAT FOCUSED ON BEING SEEN TO ADDRESS
CONSUMER
CONCERNS FIRST AND FOREMOST. ANZFA WILL NOW
REVISIT BOTH THIS THRESHOLD
QUESTION AND THAT OF WHAT
PERCENTAGE OF GM INGREDIENT IN A FOOD
WOULD TRIGGER THE NEED
FOR LABELING. COMPLICATING THINGS, SHE ADDED, WAS THAT FACT
THAT "THE MINISTERS WANT LABELING THAT'S CHEAP, PRACTICAL
AND
EASY TO ENFORCE."

11. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: THE PAGE-LONG LIST OF STILL-TO-BE-RESOLVED
ISSUES
HANDED TO ANZFA BY THE COUNCIL IS A STRONG INDICATOR
THAT THERE
IS STILL MUCH TO BE RESOLVED ON THE LABELING

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FRONT. FOR ALL ITS
COMPELLING EMPIRICAL LOGIC, THE
THRESHOLD APPROACH IS CERTAIN TO
BE ATTACKED BY DOCTRINAIRE
GM OPPONENTS. STILL, THE COUNCIL'S VERY
PUBLIC CONCESSION
TO CONSUMER CONCERNS MAY WELL TAKE SOME OF THE
STEAM OUT OF
ANTI-GM CRUSADERS' ALL OR NOTHING CHAMPAIGN FOR
THE
HEARTS
AND MINDS OF THOSE SAME CONSUMERS. THIS WILL BE
HELPED IF
THE
SEA CHANGE IN INDUSTRY'S VIEWS ON LABELING CAN BE
FOLLOWED BY SOME
EFFECTIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS BY
GOVERNMENT AND PRO-GM BUSINESS.
SHORT OF RUNNING AFOUL OF
THE WTO OR CODEX, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT
MANDATORY LABELING,
AND ALL IT ENTAILS, HAS NOW MADE A BRIDGEHEAD
DOWN UNDER.
END COMMENT.

HOLMES

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	Nancy McEldowney to Donald Bandler, et al., re: [GMOs] (5 pages)	06/29/1998	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
002. email	Nancy McEldowney to Donald Bandler, re: [GMO Corn Update] (1 page)	07/17/1998	P1/b(1) VL 11/26/2019
003. email	Nancy McEldowney to Malcolm Lee and Deanna Behring, re: Jospin Letter on GMOs (3 pages)	07/20/1998	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
004. email	Lawrence Butler to Nancy McEldowney, re: [GMO Corn] (5 pages)	07/20/1998	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
005. email	Deanna Behring to Kerri-Ann Jones, re: Jospin Letter on GMOs (4 pages)	07/21/1998	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
006. email	Deanna Behring to Kerri-Ann Jones, re: Jospin Letter on GMOs (3 pages)	07/21/1998	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
007. email	Lawrence Butler to Deanna Behring, re: Jospin Letter on GMOs (3 pages)	07/21/1998	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
008. email	Lawrence Butler to Nancy McEldowney, re: Bowles Letter on GMO Corn (2 pages)	07/27/1998	P1/b(1) VL 11/26/2019
009. email	Nancy McEldowney to Nancy Maxfield, re: Bowles Letter on GMO Corn [duplicate of 008] (2 pages)	07/28/1998	P1/b(1) VL 11/26/2019
010. email	Malcolm Lee to Nancy McEldowney, re: Bowles Letter on GMO Corn [duplicate of 008] (2 pages)	08/03/1998	P1/b(1) VL 11/26/2019
011. email	Leslie Davidson to Theodore Osius, re: [GMOs] (7 pages)	06/14/1999	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Emails
Exchange - Non-Record (Mar 97 - Jan 01) ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 630000

FOLDER TITLE:
[03/18/1998 - 12/22/1999]

2013-0836-F
ke3025

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
012. email	Leslie Davidson to Theodore Osius, re: [Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms] (3 pages)	11/17/1999	P1/b(1)
~~013. email~~	~~Leslie Davidson to Theodore Osius, re: Italy Considers the Ban of 7~~ GMO Varieties (7 pages)	~~12/22/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VL 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Emails
Exchange - Non-Record (Mar 97 - Jan 01) ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 630000

FOLDER TITLE:
[03/18/1998 - 12/22/1999]

Kara Ellis
2013-0836-F
ke3025

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	6/29/98 11:30:39 AM
FROM	McEldowney, Nancy E.
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(d)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	06/29/1998
DECLASSIFYON	06/29/2008
SUBJECT	GMO'S: WHERE DOES FRANCE STAND? ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	Bandler, Donald K. Braden, Susan R. Brown, Keirn C. Butler, Lawrence E. Covey, James P. Dowling, John N. (Nick) Flanagan, Stephen J. Marshall, Betty A. Maxfield, Nancy H. McEldowney, Nancy E. Quinn, Mary E. Sapiro, Miriam E. Antholis, William J. Boone, Sherman G. Brainard, S. Lael Hendricks, Lori A. Lee, Malcolm R. Marchick, David M Mitsler, Elaine M.
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/16/2016
2016-0524-M (3.31)

-----Original Message-----
From: WHSR
Sent: Friday, June 26,
1998 1:32 PM
To: Haines, Mary A.; Lee, Malcolm R.; McEldowney, Nancy
E.
Subject: GMO'S: WHERE DOES FRANCE STAND?

~~C O N F I D E N~~
T I A L PARIS 014579

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STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MU@PHY
STATE
PASS USDA FOR GLICKMAN, SCHUMACHER, DRAZEK AND GALVIN
STATE PASS
FDA FOR COMMISSIONER
GENEVA FOR USTR, AGRICULTURE AND RESSLER

E.O.
12958: DECL: 06/24/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, EUN, FR, KSCA
SUBJECT:
GMO'S: WHERE DOES FRANCE STAND?

REF: PARIS 14245

CLASSIFIED
BY DCM W. ROBERT PEARSON FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

1. ~~(C)~~ INITIAL
CONTACTS WITH THE GOF AFTER THE JUNE 21-22
CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS
ON GMO'S SUGGEST THAT IT WILL TAKE MORE
THAN A FEW DAYS FOR THE
GOVERNMENT TO SORT OUT ITS PLAN OF ACTION
WITH REGARD TO THE PENDING
APPROVAL OF THE TWO GMO CORN VARIETIES
AND A LONGER TIME TO DETERMINE
A MORE GENERAL GMO POLICY. WE
ANTICIPATE THAT DECISIONS ON THE
CORN APPROVALS WILL ONLY OCCUR
AFTER HIGH LEVEL INTER-MINISTERIAL
DISCUSSIONS, PROBABLY INVOLVING
THE PRIME MINISTER. THE KEY INTER-MINISTERIAL
PLAYERS ARE FINANCE
(TRADE), AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT.
(ACCORDING TO A
DREE CONTACT, THE FIRSTF THESE DISCUSSIONS TOOK
PLACE JUNE 24.)
THE PM WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT HIS DISCUSSION WITH
PRESIDENT
CLINTON, THE MIXED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
CONFERENCE OF
CONSENSUS
(REFTEL), FRENCH ECONOMIC INTERESTS (INCLUDING THE

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DESIRE
OF MANY
FARMERS TO USE GMO'S), AND THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF
THE
COALITION,
ESPECIALLY THE POSITION OF THE "GREEN" ENVIRONMENT
MINISTER
AND HER
PARTY.

2. ~~(C)~~ BOTH TRADE AND AGRICULTURE CONTACTS HINT
THAT A DECISION ON
THE TWO CORNS MAY HAPPEN IN JULY, BUT FOR NOW
NO ONE IS PREDICTING
ANY SPECIFIC DATES. HOWEVER, THE AGRICULTURAL
ADVISER TO THE PRIME
MINISTER IS HOPEFUL THAT THE ISSUE CAN BE RESOLVED
BY MID-JULY. HE
ALSO OPINED, PERSONALLY, THAT THE MATTER WILL LIKELY

BE RESOLVED
FOR IMPORTS BEFORE A FULL DECISION ON DOMESTIC
COMMERCIALIZATION,
SUCH
AS WAS DONE FOR NOVARTIS' BT CORN. HE BELIEVES THAT
IT WILL
BE
EASIER TO RESOLVE THE CORN APPROVALS THIS WAY THAN
BY WAITING TO
RESOLVE
ALL THE DOMESTIC ASPECTS. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE
U.S.
WOULD
THEN BE ABLE TO EXPORT CORN TO THE EUROPEAN UNION
FOR AT
LEAST TWO
MONTHS OF THIS YEAR'S MARKETING SEASON. HOWEVER,
THE GOF
WILL NOT/NOT
MOVE ON ANYTHING BEFORE RECEIVIQE INQ
(INTERIM) GMO REPORT ON JUNQVES
LQ
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S OFFICE OF EVALUATION OF
SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL
CHOICES.

TRANSATLANTIC DISCUSSION: TEP OR BILATERAL OR BOTH

3.

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~~(C)~~ A MINAG CONTACT HAS TOLD EMBASSY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER
INTENDS
TO TRY TO ESTABLISH A U.S.-FRENCH GROUP OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO
STUDY THE GMO ISSUE. THE PRIME MINISTER'S AGRICULTURAL
ADVISER
CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY AGMINCOUNS 6/26 THAT THE PRIME
MINISTER IS
INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING A GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT
EXPERTS GROUP
TO DISCUSS THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF GMO'S AS WELL AS LABELLING
ISSUES. THE PM'S ADVISER STATED THAT SUCH A DIALOGUE WOULD NOT
INVOLVE TRADE ASPECTS OF GMO'S AND WOULD COMPLEMENT, NOT
INTERFERE
WITH, U.S.-EU POLICY DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT. TRADE POLICY OFFICER
RAISED THIS MATTER WITH A SENIOR DREE OFFICIAL, NOTING THAT WHAT
THE U.S. HAS IN MIND IS THE PROPOSED U.S.-EU TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIC
PARTNERSHIP (TEP) DISCUSSION OF
BIOTECHNOLOGY (INCLUDING GMO) APPROVAL PROCESSES, NOT A BILATERAL
U.S.-FRENCH DIALOGUE. DREE ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PRIME
MINISTER IS INTERESTED IN A SEPARATE, COMPLEMENTARY (TO TEP)
BILATERAL APPROACH.

4. ~~(C)~~ THE DREE OFFICIAL REITERATED
THE GOF AND FRENCH PUBLIC'S
CONCERNS ABOUT FOOD AND HEALTH SAFETY
IN THE AFTERMATH OF VRIOUS
SCANDALS OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, ESPECIALLY
THOSE INVOLVING TAINTED
BLOOD AND BSE. HE CITED THESE SCANDALS
AND DIMINISHED PLIC TRUST
IN EUROPEAN REGULATORS AND GOVERNMENTS
AS REASONS FOR THE GOF'S
CURRENT COURSE OF ACTION.

5. ~~(C)~~ WE
TOLD THE DREE OFFICIAL THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE

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TO
INSIST ON
A SCIENCE-BASED APPROVAL PROCESS. NOTING THAT THE CONFERENCE OF
CONSENSU$PANELISTS (ALL NON-SCIENTISTS) HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE
GOF NOT APPROVE GMO'S WITH ANTIBIOTIC GENE MARKERS OR THOSE THAT
CAN SPREAD THEIR GENE CHARACTERISTICS TO OTHER PLANT VARIETIES,
WE REMINDED HIM THAT CERTAIN GMO'S WHICH HAVE MET THE SCIENTIFIC
CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL IN THE U.S. HAVE THESE CHARACTERISTICS. WE
SUGGESTED THAT THE GOF BEAR OUR CONCERNS ON SCIENCE-BASED APPROVAL
IN MIND AS IT MAKES DECISIONS.

ROHATYN

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	7/17/98 8:10:13 PM
FROM	McEldowney, Nancy E.
CLASSIFICATION	~~TOP SECRET~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(c)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/17/1998
DECLASSIFYON	07/17/2008
SUBJECT	GMO Corn Update -- For your discussion with Pearson and STR ~~[TOP SECRET~~]
TO	Bandler, Donald K.
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	

This message contained an attachment that could not be written to a file

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
7316-0529-M

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Exchange Mail

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/16/2016
2016-0529-M (3.32)

DATE-TIME	7/20/98 9:55:13 AM
FROM	McEldowney, Nancy E.
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(d)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/20/1998
DECLASSIFYON	07/20/2008
SUBJECT	Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	Lee, Malcolm R. Behring, Deanna M.
CARBON_COPY	Bandler, Donald K. Braden, Susan R. Brown, Keirn C. Butler, Lawrence E. Covey, James P. Dowling, John N. (Nick) Flanagan, Stephen J. Marshall, Betty A. Maxfield, Nancy H. McEldowney, Nancy E. Quinn, Mary E. Sapiro, Miriam E. Schulte, Gregory L.
TEXT_BODY	Malcom/Deanna: could I please get your chop on attached? If at all possible, would like to send forward tonight. Larry: please let me know if there are folks in NEC or USTR that should see this. Thanks very much. Nancy
TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT	jospin letter.doc

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Dear Lionel:

Thank you for your kind letter. I too appreciated the opportunity to discuss with you some of the critical challenges that our two societies face as they enter the 21st century.

The accelerated pace of technological changes has created exciting new opportunities for increasing employment, raising incomes and addressing environmental and health problems. Advances in biotechnology are particularly impressive.

I know from our discussion that many in France remain concerned about products containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs). I was pleased, therefore, to learn that the preliminary report from the French Parliament's Conference of Consensus gave a positive assessment of the safety of the two GMO varieties that are currently awaiting French approval. I hope that the French Government will now give its approval the two outstanding GMO corn applications so that U.S. exports can enter the EU during these final weeks before Spain's import season closes. Looking to the future, I agree that we should work to improve our dialogue on GMOs and biotechnology issues, including through increased contacts between U.S., French and other European Union experts.

In the broader diplomatic arena, a vigorous U.S.-European partnership remains essential to addressing positively the difficult challenges ahead in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. The ties we are forging between the United States and France are helping to strengthen that transatlantic partnership and to make it more effective.

Hillary and I were delighted to be able to spend time with you and

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Sylviane, and
I hope we will soon have the opportunity to meet again.

Sincerely,

His Excellency Lionel Jospin
Prime Minister of the
French Republic
Paris

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Exchange Mail

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/16/2016
2016-0574-M (3.33)

DATE-TIME	7/20/98 5:14:18 PM
FROM	Butler, Lawrence E.
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(d)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/20/1998
DECLASSIFYON	07/20/2008
SUBJECT	FW: URGENT: BP on GMO Corn -- for comment asap. Tks. ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	McEldowney, Nancy E.
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	

-----Original Message-----
From: McEldowney, Nancy E.
Sent: Monday,
July 20, 1998 5:05 PM
To: Butler, Lawrence E.; Bandler, Donald K.
Subject: URGENT:
BP on GMO Corn -- for comment asap. Tks. ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT Doc1.doc
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

VICE PRESIDENT'S TELEPHONE CALL TO
FRENCH PRIME MINISTER LIONEL JOSPIN

I. BACKGROUND

The primary purpose of your call is to press our case for export of genetically
modified corn to Spain. The French have held up EU approval of two GMO
varieties, with potential losses to American farmers running over $220 million.

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This politically sensitive issue has become highly charged in France and was the subject of discussion with the President during Jospin's recent visit to Washington. Before broaching the GMO issue, you will want to congratulate Jospin on France's victory in the World Cup. Time permitting, you may also wish to preview your upcoming visit to Ukraine and Russia, and inquire about Jospin's July 17 meeting with Hafiz al-Asad.

World Cup: France's unexpectedly overwhelming success in the final World Cup match against Brazil set a triumphant tone for celebrations of Bastille Day. The popularity of the multi-ethnic French team has also prompted calls throughout France to combat racism and to embrace multiculturalism. In response, Interior Minister Pasqua (a long-time Gaullist hardliner on immigration issues) called for over 70,000 illegal immigrants to be granted residency. Both Chirac and Jospin have stated publicly that the French victory underscores the opportunities for people of all races and backgrounds to succeed in France.

GMO Corn: Both U.S. and European companies have used genetic engineering to modify certain crops (corn, soybeans, cotton, potatoes, and rapeseed) to impart pest and/or herbicide resistance. These genetically modified -- or GMO -- varieties have increased yields, reduced pesticide and herbicide use, and proven very popular with U.S. and Canadian farmers, in particular.

GMO varieties have proven safe for human, animals, and the environment. Review of new GMO varieties in the U.S. is based on notification by companies to USDA, FSA, and EPA. If any of these agencies sees a problem with the application, marketing is withheld until all issues are resolved. While the review process in the U.S., Canada, and Japan takes six to eight months, it is taking an average of two years in the EU. EU delays are due both to a cumbersome regulatory process as well as political sensitivity to European consumer concerns about

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GMO
technology.

U.S. applications for EU approval of GMO corn varieties have been pending since
1996. Earlier this year, a majority of EU countries approved the applications.
However, France has held up final approval on two varieties, claiming public
resistance to the technology. The President raised this issue with Jospin during
their June 18 meeting and Jospin suggested a bilateral dialogue to address the
broad question of GMO's. We are preparing a Presidential response to Jospin
which indicates a willingness to enter into a dialogue with the Europeans, but
nonetheless need approval of the two pending varieties. We understand the French
are inclined to approve export of these two varieties, but are delaying a
decision because of lack of consensus on an overall policy on GMO's.

RUSSIA/UKRAINE: INPUT FROM OVP

SYRIA: Syrian President Asad was in Paris last week, his first visit to Europe
in 22 years. To French disappointment, he avoided endorsing the Franco-Egyptian
initiative for a Middle East Peace Process conference, which Paris intends to
pursue if the U.S. concludes our current efforts have reached a dead end. We
understand that Asad did not engage actively on the French agenda, which included
human rights, economic/political liberalization, and interest in using the
Israeli acceptance of UNSCR 425 as a means of restarting the Israeli-Syrian and
Israeli-Lebanese tracks of the peace process. Most of Asad's time in Paris was
one-on-one meetings with Chirac or Jospin, and Jospin may want to offer his
insights into Asad's thinking.

II. POINTS TO MAKE

WORLD CUP VICTORY

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* Want to congratulate you on outstanding success in World Cup. Delighted to see
such smashing victory as you celebrated Bastille Day.

* Understand diversity of French team has also rebounded positively in social
debate of multiculturalism. Applaud your efforts to foster equity, promote
understanding throughout society.

GMO CORN

* Was a pleasure to host you here in Washington. Thoroughly enjoyed our
discussions.

* Would like to return to one issue you discussed with President -- U.S. exports
of genetically modified corn.

* Understand political sensitivity of this issue in France and know you are
personally engaged in finding a good solution.

* Issue also very sensitive here, with timing becoming increasingly tight. If we
are to export this summer, will require French approval in the next few weeks.

* Failure to complete approval process for these two varieties could cause loses
of over $200 million in corn exports to Spain and Portugal. Especially difficult
as corn exports are down due to Asian crisis.

* Know you have suggested dialogue to review GMO question broadly. President is
considering proposal and believes a U.S.-European format offers promise.

* But cannot hold up two pending cases any further -- farmers, Congress seized
with issue.

* Understand your Citizens Conference (June 20-21) was largely supportive of
moving forward in biotechnology area. Also am told that scientific review by
French government and European Commission have shown these varieties to be safe.

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

* As European Commission has voted approval, with only remaining step French
agreement. Hope you can find way to positive decision soon.

RUSSIA/UKRAINE -- TO BE PROVIDED BY OVP

SYRIA

* Understand you had opportunity to meet with Asad last week in Paris. Did
meetings give you any hope that a way could be found to restart the Syrian and
Lebanese tracks of the peace process?

* (IF NEEDED): Concerning your proposal with Egypt on convening a Middle East
Peace Conference: of course we would want to consult with you closely about the
procedures and goals of such a conference. At this moment, we don't want to
prejudge whether or not our current efforts will succeed or fail, so it's still
early for such consultation

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	7/21/98 1:18:07 PM
FROM	Behring, Deanna M.
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(d)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/20/1998
DECLASSIFYON	07/20/2008
SUBJECT	FW: Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]
TO	Jones, Kerri-Ann D.
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By LL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0524-M (3.34)

KAJ:

FYI. I am checking with Cliff/Rachel on this.
-----Original
Message-----
From: Butler, Lawrence E.
Sent: Tuesday, July 21,
1998 12:44 PM
To: Behring, Deanna M.; McEldowney, Nancy E.
Subject: FW:
Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]
Importance: High

here
is my redraft, incorporating USDA's language on GMO cooperation. Pls clear and I will get USDA, USTR and State to chop. Plan to send up as a cable.

-----Original Message-----
From: McEldowney,
Nancy E.
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 1998 9:44 AM
To: Behring, Deanna
M.
Cc: Butler, Lawrence E.
Subject: RE: Jospin Letter on GMO's
Dear [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]

Deanna: believe did not go out. have passed

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

over to Larry Butler for action.

Larry: anything to add for
Deanna?

-----Original Message-----
From: Behring, Deanna M.

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 1998 9:16 AM
To: McEldowney, Nancy E.
Subject: RE:
Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Nancy:

Just am
seeing this today--was out yesterday. Did this go last night?

-----Original
Message-----
From: McEldowney, Nancy E.
Sent: Monday, July 20,
1998 9:55 AM
To: Lee, Malcolm R.; Behring, Deanna M.
Cc: @EUROPE
- European Affairs
Subject: Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Malcom/Deanna:
could I please get your chop on attached? If at all possible, would like to send forward tonight.

Larry: please let me know if there
are folks in NEC or USTR that should see this.

<< File: jospin
letter.doc >>
Thanks very much. Nancy

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT jospin GMO letter.doc

Dear Lionel:

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Thank you for your kind letter. I too appreciated the opportunity to discuss with you some of the critical challenges that our two societies face as they enter the 21st century.

The accelerated pace of technological changes has created exciting new opportunities for increasing employment, raising incomes and addressing environmental and health problems. Advances in biotechnology are particularly impressive.

I know from our discussion that many in France remain concerned about products containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs). I was pleased, therefore, to learn that the preliminary report from the French Parliament's Conference of Consensus gave a positive assessment of the safety of the two GMO varieties awaiting final French approval. With the final obstacle to approval cleared away, I hope your government act on the two outstanding GMO corn applications so that U.S. exports can enter the EU during these final weeks before Spain's import season closes.

Looking to the future, I welcome your interest in transatlantic cooperation in expediting the future review and approval of biotechnology products. This would be hastened by France's action on the two pending applications.

In the broader diplomatic arena, a vigorous U.S.-European partnership remains essential to addressing positively the difficult challenges ahead in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. The ties we are forging between the United States and France are helping to strengthen that transatlantic partnership and to make it more effective.

Hillary and I were delighted to be able to spend time with you and Sylviane, and I hope we will soon have the opportunity to meet again.

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Sincerely,

His Excellency Lionel Jospin
Prime Minister of the
French Republic
Paris

2

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	7/21/98 1:47:20 PM
FROM	Behring, Deanna M.
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(d)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/20/1998
DECLASSIFYON	07/20/2008
SUBJECT	FW: Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	Jones, Kerri-Ann D.
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (3.35)

Given NSC goals for this letter--I say we clear and let it go as is. Agree?

-----Original Message-----
From: Butler, Lawrence E.
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 1998 1:43 PM
To: Behring, Deanna M.
Cc: McEldowney, Nancy E.
Subject: RE: Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

at stake in this letter is turning up heat on Jospin to deliver on 200 million of sales in midst of U.S. farm crisis; secondary, but important, is deflecting Jospin effort to lock us into a deathgrip of consultations on GMO ethics, etc. I'd leave FDA on the sidelines for the time being.

-----Original Message-----
From: Behring, Deanna M.
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 1998 1:24 PM
To: Butler, Lawrence E.; McEldowney, Nancy E.
Subject: RE: Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Larry:

I

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

have asked our Biotech expert--who has been working on these policy issues with her European counterparts through OECD and EU--to take a look at letter. I have asked her whether we could use the French interest in better exchanges on gmos/biotech to put more teeth in some existing fora.

I wonder if we should engage FDA as well as USDA??

I'll get back to you asap.

Deanna

-----Original Message-----
From: Butler,
Lawrence E.
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 1998 12:44 PM
To: Behring,
Deanna M.; McEldowney, Nancy E.
Subject: FW: Jospin Letter on GMO's
Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
Importance: High

here is my redraft, incorporating
USDA's language on GMO cooperation. Pls clear and I will get USDA, USTR and State to chop. Plan to send up as a cable.
<< File: jospin
GMO letter.doc >>
-----Original Message-----
From: McEldowney,
Nancy E.
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 1998 9:44 AM
To: Behring, Deanna
M.
Cc: Butler, Lawrence E.
Subject: RE: Jospin Letter on GMO's
Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Deanna: believe did not go out. have passed over to Larry Butler for action.

Larry: anything to add for
Deanna?

-----Original Message-----
From: Behring, Deanna M.

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 1998 9:16 AM
To: McEldowney, Nancy E.
Subject: RE:

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Nancy:

Just am
seeing this today--was out yesterday. Did this go last night?

-----Original
Message-----
From: McEldowney, Nancy E.
Sent: Monday, July 20,
1998 9:55 AM
To: Lee, Malcolm R.; Behring, Deanna M.
Cc: @EUROPE
- European Affairs
Subject: Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Malcom/Deanna:
could I please get your chop on attached? If at all possible, would like to send forward tonight.

Larry: please let me know if there
are folks in NEC or USTR that should see this.

<< File: jospin
letter.doc >>
Thanks very much. Nancy

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	7/21/98 4:32:35 PM
FROM	Butler, Lawrence E.
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(d)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/20/1998
DECLASSIFYON	07/20/2008
SUBJECT	RE: Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	Behring, Deanna M.
CARBON_COPY	

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VC NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (3.36)

TEXT_BODY

merci!

-----Original Message-----
From: Behring, Deanna M.
Sent: Tuesday,
July 21, 1998 2:47 PM
To: Butler, Lawrence E.
Cc: McEldowney, Nancy
E.
Subject: RE: Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Understood.
Letter looks fine as is. We'll work on other piece later.

-----Original
Message-----
From: Butler, Lawrence E.
Sent: Tuesday, July 21,
1998 1:43 PM
To: Behring, Deanna M.
Cc: McEldowney, Nancy E.
Subject: RE:
Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

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is turning up heat on Jospin to deliver on 200 million of sales in midst of U.S. farm crisis; secondary, but important, is deflecting Jospin effort to lock us into a deathgrip of consultations on GMO ethics, etc. I'd leave FDA on the sidelines for the time being.

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

-----Original
Message-----
From: Behring, Deanna M.
Sent: Tuesday, July 21,
1998 1:24 PM
To: Butler, Lawrence E.; McEldowney, Nancy E.
Subject: RE:
Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL~~]

Larry:

I have asked
our Biotech expert--who has been working on these policy issues with her European counterparts through OECD and EU--to take a look at letter. I have asked her whether we could use the French interest in better exchanges on gmos/biotech to put more teeth in some existing fora.

I wonder if we should engage FDA as well as USDA??

I'll
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Deanna

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Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 1998 12:44 PM
To: Behring,
Deanna M.; McEldowney, Nancy E.
Subject: FW: Jospin Letter on GMO's
Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
Importance: High

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GMO letter.doc >>
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Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

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Larry: anything to add for
Deanna?

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From: Behring, Deanna M.

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 1998 9:16 AM
To: McEldowney, Nancy E.
Subject: RE:
Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

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Sent: Monday, July 20,
1998 9:55 AM
To: Lee, Malcolm R.; Behring, Deanna M.
Cc: @EUROPE
- European Affairs
Subject: Jospin Letter on GMO's Dear ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Malcom/Deanna:
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like to send forward tonight.

Larry: please let me know if there
are folks in NEC or USTR that should see this.

<< File: jospin
letter.doc >>
Thanks very much. Nancy

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	7/27/98 7:00:36 PM
FROM	Butler, Lawrence E.
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(d)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/27/1998
DECLASSIFYON	07/27/2008
SUBJECT	FW: Bowles Letter on GMO Corn ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	McEldowney, Nancy E.
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	my suggestions.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By JC NARA, Date 12/7/2017
2016-0529-M

-----Original Message-----
From: McEldowney,
Nancy E.
Sent: Monday, July 27, 1998 6:58 PM
To: Lee, Malcolm
R.; Maxfield, Nancy H.; Butler, Lawrence E.
Subject: Bowles Letter
on GMO Corn ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Malcom: could I please get you chop
on attached? It responds to a shameless attempt by the French Ambo to link our GMO corn case to some French dispute with EPA over herbicides.
Need to send forward tomorrow. Thanks very much.

Larry: memo
will go through you but if you want to fiddle now, pls have at it.

Nancy: could you please format and get ready to go forward?
I put original folder in your in-box. Thanks a lot.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT Doc3.doc
Draft Letter from Bowles

Dear Ambassador Bujon:

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Thank you for your recent letter conveying a copy of French Parliamentarian Le Deaut's report on Genetically Modified Organisms. This is an issue of importance to both our governments and I appreciate your efforts to provide additional information. We look forward to receiving the decision on the two varieties of American-produced GMO corn currently pending approval in France.

I also appreciate you bringing to my attention the deliberations of the French company Rhone-Poulenc with the Environmental Protection Agency. I have forwarded a copy of your letter to EPA Administrator Browner, to ensure that all appropriate information is available as the deliberations proceed.

Sincerely,

Erskine Bowles

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	7/28/98 10:34:01 AM
FROM	McEldowney, Nancy E.
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(d)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/27/1998
DECLASSIFYON	07/27/2008
SUBJECT	FW: Bowles Letter on GMO Corn [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]
TO	Maxfield, Nancy H.
CARBON_COPY	

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By IW NARA, Date 12/2/2019
2016-0574-M

TEXT_BODY

Nancy: could you please give Malcolm a few more hours and then start
bugging him? I have to send this forward as early as possible today (it is now overdue.) thanks very much.

-----Original Message-----
From: McEldowney,
Nancy E.
Sent: Monday, July 27, 1998 6:58 PM
To: Lee, Malcolm
R.; Maxfield, Nancy H.; Butler, Lawrence E.
Subject: Bowles Letter
on GMO Corn [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]

Malcom: could I please get you chop
on attached? It responds to a shameless attempt by the French Ambo to link our GMO corn case to some French dispute with EPA over herbicides.
Need to send forward tomorrow. Thanks very much.

Larry: memo
will go through you but if you want to fiddle now, pls have at it.

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TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT Doc3.doc
Draft Letter from Bowles

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Dear Ambassador Bujon:

Thank you for your recent letter conveying a copy of the French parliamentary report on Genetically Modified Organisms. This is an issue of importance to both our governments and I appreciate your efforts to provide additional information. We look forward to receiving the French decision on the two varieties of American-produced GMO corn currently pending approval within the EU.

I also appreciate you bringing to my attention the deliberations of the French company Rhone-Poulenc with the Environmental Protection Agency. I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to our EPA Administrator, Ms. Carol Browner, to ensure that all appropriate information is available as the deliberations proceed.

Sincerely,

Erskine Bowles

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	8/3/98 1:53:05 PM
FROM	Lee, Malcolm R.
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(d)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	07/27/1998
DECLASSIFYON	07/27/2008
SUBJECT	FW: Bowles Letter on GMO Corn ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~
TO	McEldowney, Nancy E.
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	I was out last week. Did you get the clearance? ML -----Original Message----- From: McEldowney, Nancy E. Sent: Monday, July 27, 1998 6:58 PM To: Lee, Malcolm R.; Maxfield, Nancy H.; Butler, Lawrence E. Subject: Bowles Letter on GMO Corn ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~ Malcom: could I please get you chop on attached? It responds to a shameless attempt by the French Ambo to link our GMO corn case to some French dispute with EPA over herbicides. Need to send forward tomorrow. Thanks very much. Larry: memo will go through you but if you want to fiddle now, pls have at it. Nancy: could you please format and get ready to go forward? I put original folder in your in-box. Thanks a lot.
TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT	Doc3.doc Draft Letter from Bowles

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017
By h NARA, Date 11/20/2019
2016-052-A

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Dear Ambassador Bujon:

Thank you for your recent letter conveying a copy of the French parliamentary report on Genetically Modified Organisms. This is an issue of importance to both our governments and I appreciate your efforts to provide additional information. We look forward to receiving the French decision on the two varieties of American-produced GMO corn currently pending approval within the EU.

I also appreciate you bringing to my attention the deliberations of the French company Rhone-Poulenc with the Environmental Protection Agency. I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to our EPA Administrator, Ms. Carol Browner, to ensure that all appropriate information is available as the deliberations proceed.

Sincerely,

Erskine Bowles

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	6/14/99 6:13:48 PM
FROM	Davidson, Leslie K.
CLASSIFICATION	~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATIONREASON	1.5(b)(d)
DATECLASSIFIEDON	06/14/1999
DECLASSIFYON	06/14/2009
SUBJECT	GMO'S: RAISING THE ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND [~~CONFIDENTIAL~~]
TO	Osius, Theodore G.
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By N NARA, Date 11/26/14
2016-0524-M (3.37)

-----Original Message-----
From: WHSR
Sent: Monday, June 14,
1999 1:18 PM
To: Blinken, Antony J.; Davidson, Leslie K.; Gordon,
Philip H.;
Hammonds, D. Holly; Holtzapple, Richard A.; Lee, Malcolm
R.; Moyn,
Samuel A.; Schaefer, Matthew P.; Wechsler, William F.
Subject:
GMO'S: RAISING THE ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 011314

FOR THE PRESIDENT,
VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF
AGRICULTURE AND U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
FROM THE
AMBASSADOR

STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR SECRETARY GLICKMAN
AND
FAS/OA/GALVIN
STATE PASS USTR FOR BARSHEFSKY, SCHER AND MURPHY

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

STATE
PASS FDA FOR COMMISSIONER
STATE FOR UNDER SECRETARY EIZENSTAT AND
A/S LARSON
RIGA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY GROSSMAN

E.O. 12958:
6/14/04
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PREL, FR, EUN
SUBJECT: GMO'S: RAISING
THE ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND
PRIME MINISTER

CLASSIFIED BY
AMBASSADOR FELIX ROHATYN FOR REASONS 1.5 B
AND D.

REF: (A) PARIS
10706; (B) PARIS 8090; (C) PARIS 6984;
(D) PARIS 6774

1. ~~(C)~~
SUMMARY AND COMMENT. SENIOR FRENCH LEADERS ARE
TAKING AN INCREASINGLY
HOSTILE PUBLIC LINE ON GMO'S. BOTH
PRESIDENT CHIRAC AND PRIME MINISTER
JOSPIN SEE DOMESTIC
POLITICAL ADVANTAGE IN AN ANTI-GMO APPROACH.
WE SHOULD DO
OUR BEST TO ENGAGE THEM ON THIS ISSUE IN A RATIONAL,
COOPERATIVE
MANNER -- AND DO IT QUICKLY, BEFORE THEY ARE
COMPLETELY LOCKED INTO
POSITIONS THAT WILL FORCE US INTO A
MAJOR TRADE DISPUTE. RE-ENGAGING
WITH JOSPIN ON HIS
SUGGESTION LAST YEAR FOR A BILATERAL DIALOGUE
COULD BE ONE
MEANS OF MOVING THE ISSUE FORWARD IN A POSITIVE WAY.

END
SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

2. (U) THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT
CHIRAC AND PRIME
MINISTER JOSPIN ON GMO'S HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY
HARD
LINE IN RECENT WEEKS. IN A DISCUSSION WITH THE FRENCH
AMERICAN
BUSINESS COUNCIL OF PROMINENT CEO'S ON JUNE 11,

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

PRESIDENT CHIRAC
SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE "ABSOLUTE
PROTECTION" ON MATTERS OF FOOD
SAFETY AND THAT FRANCE AND
EUROPE WOULD ACCEPT NO GMO'S OR BEEF
RAISED WITH HORMONES.
CHIRAC STATED THAT THE WTO HAS NO JURISDICTION
ON MATTERS
OF HEALTH. IN HIS SPEECH TO THE BUSINESS COUNCIL,
PRIME
MINISTER
JOSPIN STATED THAT EUROPEANS ARE DEMANDING STRICT
CRITERIA FOR SCIENTIFIC
ANALYSIS OF HEALTH RISKS. HE SAID
"WE MUST REFRAIN FROM FORCING
THE ISSUES AND RESIST THE
TEMPTATION TO ACT UNILATERALLY WITH INCONSIDERATE
RUTHLESSNESS
THAT WILL PROVE HARMFUL IN BOTH THE SHORT AND
LONG TERM. IT IS
UP TO GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESS TO ENGAGE
IN DIALOGUE WITH CITIZENS
AND CONSUMERS TO FIND A
CONSENSUS THAT RECONCILES BUSINESS INTERESTS
WITH THE
DEMANDS OF OUR CONSUMERS AND CITIZENS."

3. (U) DANIEL
COHN-BENDIT, HAVING HELPED JOSPIN'S
COALITION-PARTNER GREENS WIN
A STRONG 9 PERCENT OF THE
FRENCH VOTE IN THE JUST-COMPLETED EUROPEAN
ELECTIONS,
STATED THAT THE GREENS WOULD PUSH FOR A
MORATORIUM ON
ALL
GMO'S. (SEE REF A FOR FRENCH ENVIRONMENT MINISTER
VOYNET'S
SIMILAR STATEMENT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.)

4. ~~(C)~~ SENATOR PAT ROBERTS
OF KANSAS REPORTED TO ME THAT A
GROUP OF FRENCH FARM LEADERS TOLD
HIM THEY WERE VERY MUCH
OPPOSED TO ACCEPTING GMO'S. I MET THE SAME
STRONG
ANTIPATHY ON THIS ISSUE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO FROM
SIMILAR
FARM
LEADERS. FRENCH POLITICIANS, FOOD DISTRIBUTORS AND

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

CONSUMER GROUPS
HAVE BEEN TELLING US THAT NON-ACCEPTANCE
OF GMO'S IS A MATTER OF
CULTURE NOT SCIENCE. SECRETARY
DALEY, WHO ATTENDED THE BUSINESS
COUNCIL MEETINGS AND
HEARD THE LEVEL OF FRENCH OPPOSITION TOLD ME
HE HAS SENT A
MEMO ON GMO'S TO SANDY BERGER AND GENE SPERLING.
SENATOR
ROBERTS TOLD ME HE WILL TALK TO SECRETARY GLICKMAN
ABOUT
BRINGING
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO FRANCE WHEN HE VISITS AT
THE END OF THE
MONTH. HE SAID THAT THIS IS AN ISSUE
CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO ENGAGE
ON WITH THE FRENCH.

5. ~~(C)~~ WE ARE HEARING THAT CHIRAC WILL RAISE
THE ISSUE OF
GMO'S AT THE G8 SUMMIT. HE THINKS THE ISSUE IS A
POLITICAL
WINNER FOR HIM. HIS PARTY AND THE CENTER-RIGHT
GENERALLY DID POORLY
IN THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS. HE WILL
THEREFORE DO WHATEVER HE CAN
TO TRY TO SOLIDIFY HIS
TRADITIONAL SUPPORT FROM RURAL FRANCE. HE
WILL VIEW
OPPOSING GMO'S AS A TACTIC FOR HIM TO REACH OUT TO
DISAFFECTED
VOTERS, SUCH AS THOSE WHO GAVE THE FISHING AND
HUNTING PARTY A SURPRISING
6.5 PER CENT OF THE VOTE. WE
ARE ALSO TOLD THAT CHIRAC PERSONALLY
IS VERY MUCH OPPOSED
TO GMO'S.

6. ~~(C)~~ THE FRENCH PUBLIC'S CONFIDENCE
IN SCIENCE AND
FRENCH AND EUROPEAN FOOD AND HEALTH SAFETY
MECHANISMS
HAS
BEEN BATTERED BADLY BY THE BELGIAN DIOXIN SCARE,
THE
TAINTED
BLOOD SCANDAL TRIALS HERE AND THE MAD COW CRISIS.
I AM CONCERNED
THAT THE FRENCH LEADERSHIP APPEARS MORE

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

THAN WILLING TO ADOPT A
LUDDITE APPROACH TO BIO-TECHNOLOGY
IN AGRICULTURE IF THAT IS THE
POLITICALLY POPULAR OR SAFE
THING TO DO. WE URGENTLY NEED TO ENGAGE
WITH THE FRENCH
AT THE HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVEL IN ORDER TO DEVELOP
A
COOPERATIVE, RATIONAL, SCIENCE-BASED APPROACH TO
~~CONFID-~~
~~ENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 011314

FOR THE PRESIDENT, VICE
PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF
AGRICULTURE AND U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
FROM THE
AMBASSADOR

STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR SECRETARY GLICKMAN
AND
FAS/OA/GALVIN
STATE PASS USTR FOR BARSHEFSKY, SCHER AND MURPHY
STATE
PASS FDA FOR COMMISSIONER
STATE FOR UNDER SECRETARY EIZENSTAT AND
A/S LARSON
RIGA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY GROSSMAN

E.O. 12958:
6/14/04
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PREL, FR, EUN
SUBJECT: GMO'S: RAISING
THE ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND
PRIME MINISTER

BIOTECHNOLOGY.

7.
~~(C)~~ FRANCE REMAINS POTENTIALLY OUR STRONGEST ALLY
IN
EUROPE IN THE
BIOTECHNOLOGY AREA. FRANCE IS EUROPE'S
BIGGEST AND MOST EFFICIENT
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER. IT HAS
ALWAYS BEEN A LEADER IN USING SCIENTIFIC
ADVANCES. BUT ON
GMO'S WE RUN THE RISK OF LOSING FRENCH POLITICAL
WILL IN
THE FACE OF DETERMINED INTEREST GROUPS AND A
WORRIED

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

PUBLIC.
IF WE LOSE FRANCE, WE WILL LOSE EUROPE. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR,
AFTER HAVING HEARD CHIRAC, TOLD ME BLUNTLY THAT "WE'LL BE AGAINST
YOU TOO."

8. ~~(C)~~ ON YOUR VISIT HERE THIS WEEK, I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU
TO LAY DOWN STRONG MARKERS WITH BOTH CHIRAC AND JOSPIN ON
GMO'S.
THE PROBLEM OF PUBLIC INSECURITY ABOUT AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SAFETY
HAS BEEN IN LARGE PART
CREATED BY EUROPE'S INADEQUATE AND POLITICALLY CONTROLLED
SAFETY MECHANISMS. THERE IS NO EUROPEAN FDA AND THERE
IS
UNLIKELY TO BE ONE ANYTIME SOON. WE HAVE TO WORK WITH
WHAT
EXISTS HERE NOW.

9. ~~(C)~~ I WOULD TELL CHIRAC AND JOSPIN THAT WE WANT TO WORK
WITH THEM. OUR GOAL IS A COOPERATIVE DIALOGUE TO ENCOURAGE
PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF SAFE NEW TECHNOLOGIES. IT WAS JOSPIN WHO SUGGESTED
TO YOU LAST YEAR THAT WE PURSUE A
BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE.
WHEN WE RESPONDED
POSITIVELY THE FRENCH LET THE MATTER DROP. USTR BARSHEFSKY
RECENTLY RAISED THE SUGGESTION AGAIN WITH THE FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER.
YOU SHOULD TELL JOSPIN THAT SUCH
AN APPROACH IS NEEDED SO THAT
WE CAN MOVE FORWARD
TOGETHER.

10. ~~(C)~~ YOU MIGHT TELL CHIRAC HOW
SURPRISED YOU WERE AT
HIS STATEMENT ON THE WTO'S LACK OF JURISDICTION ON HEALTH
SAFETY ISSUES. THAT STATEMENT WOULD CERTAINLY APPEAR
AT

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ODDS WITH OUR MUTUALLY AGREED-UPON SPS AGREEMENT AND THE
WTO
DECISION ON BEEF RAISED WITH HORMONES. SAFETY IS ONE THING - BOWING
TO IRRATIONAL POPULAR OPINION ANOTHER. IN
THE LONGER TERM, EUROPEAN
CONSUMERS WILL BE BETTER SERVED
BY GOVERNMENTS THAT INSIST ON USING
SCIENCE-BASED RISK
ANALYSIS.

ROHATYN

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME 12/22/1999 10:39:26 AM

FROM Davidson, Leslie K. (VP)

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT FW: : ITALY CONSIDERS THE BAN OF 7 GMO VARIETIES [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Osius, Theodore G. (VP)

CARBON_COPY

TEXT_BODY

-----Original Message-----
From: WHSR
Sent: Wednesday, December
22, 1999 6:25 AM
To: Blinken, Antony J. (EUR); Cables; Crawford,
Bernard T. (EUR/INTERN); Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Duncan, John
D. (INTECON/DOS); Hammonds, D. Holly (INTECON); Kass, Nicholas S.
(EUR); Lee, Malcolm R. (NEC); Munter, Cameron P. (EUR); Norland,
Richard B. (EUR); vonLipsey, Roderick K. (SEE); Yee, Hoyt B. (EUR)
Subject: ITALY
CONSIDERS THE BAN OF 7 GMO VARIETIES

[---Message Text---]
UNCLAS
SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 008858

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN;
ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE;
OFSTS/SLUTSKY;
STATE PASS USDA ALSO FOR
CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHENEIDER;
CMP/COTS/BLUM;
FAA/GEERKEN
DEPT PASS USTR
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE
MILAN
FOR ATO

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EU, IT

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

SUBJECT:
ITALY CONSIDERS THE BAN OF 7 GMO
VARIETIES

1. SUMMARY: IN A
PRESS RELEASE DATED
DECEMBER 17, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED
THAT
THE USE OF 7 GENETICALLY MODIFIED
PRODUCTS WILL BE SUSPENDED TEMPORARILY
AS A
PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE BASED ON A PETITION
MADE BY THE ASSOCIATION
FOR A GREEN
ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY. THE REASON FOR THE
SUSPENSION
IS BASED ON ARGUMENTS THAT THE
VARIETIES SHOULD HAVE BEEN EVALUATED
BY THE
MEMBER STATES AS OPPOSED TO BEING ACCEPTED
UNDER A PETITION
OF SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE
UNDER EU REGULATION 258/97. DR. ROMANO
MARABELLI,
HEAD OF THE NOVEL FOODS COMMITTEE
ASSURED THE EMBASSY THAT THE PRESS
RELEASE
HAS "LITTLE CONNECTION TO REALITY" AND THAT
NO DECISION
ON WHAT ACTION TO TAKE HAS BEEN
MADE. MARABELLI, SAID THAT THE
MOH DOES
BELIEVE THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH THESE
PRODUCTS WERE APPROVED
DOES NEED TO BE
REVIEWED, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE MINISTRY MAY
TURN
THE ISSUE OVER TO THE EU COMMISSION TO
MAKE A DETERMINATION. MARABELLI
STRESSED THAT
REACHING SUCH DECISION IS A TIME CONSUMING
PROCESS,
AND THAT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT
CRISIS WILL MAKE ARRIVING AT A DECISION
EVEN
MORE DIFFICULT. IF THE MOH DOES BAN THE
IMPORT OF THE 7 PRODUCTS,
IMPORTS OF U.S.
PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS, PARTICULARLY IN
PROCESSED

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FOOD, COULD BE SEVERELY RESTRICTED.
HOWEVER, AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE
OF ANY EFFECT
WILL DEPEND ON THE ULTIMATE DECISION TAKEN BY
THE
MOH. POST WILL FOLLOW THIS ISSUE CLOSELY
AND REPORT BACK AS INFORMATION
IS OBTAINED.
END SUMMARY.

2. ON DECEMBER 17, THE MINISTRY OF
HEALTH
RELEASED THE FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT:
"FOLLOWING THE RECOMMENDATION
OF THE SUPERIOR
HEALTH INSTITUTE AND THE SUPERIOR HEALTH
COUNCIL,
BASED ON A PETITION BY THE
ASSOCIATION FOR A GREEN ENVIRONMENT
AND
SOCIETY (VERDE), THAT THE PROCEDURES FOLLOWED
FOR MARKETING
SEVEN GENETICALLY MODIFIED
PRODUCTS WERE NOT APPROPRIATE, THE MINISTRY
OF
HEALTH, WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE
MINISTRIES OF ENVIRONMENT AND
AGRICULTURE,
WILL ADOPT A PROVISION TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING
THE
USE OF THESE PRODUCTS AS A PRECAUTIONARY
MEASURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE MECHANISM
PROVIDED UNDER EU REGULATIONS". THE SEVEN
PRODUCTS
IN QUESTION ARE 4 CORN (MAIS BT11,
MAIS MON 810, MAIS MON809, AND
MAIS T25) AND
3 RAPESEEDS (RAPESEED GT 73, RAPESEED OIL MS1
RS1,
AND RAPESEED OIL RF2 MS1).

3. THIS PRESS RELEASE APPEARS TO HAVE
BEEN
BASED ON AN OPINION PROVIDED BY THE SUPERIOR
HEALTH COUNCIL,
AN ADVISING BODY TO THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH, ON DECEMBER 16. THE
OPINION
ITSELF IS IN RESPONSE TO A PETITION

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FROM VERDE, WITH SUPPORTING
DOCUMENTS FROM
THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION "FRIENDS OF THE
EARTH",
CLAIMING THAT THE SEVEN GMO PRODUCTS
WERE NOT PROPERLY APPROVED
FOR MARKETING AT
THE EU LEVEL. ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT, THE
SEVEN
PRODUCTS WERE TESTED AND SUBMITTED FOR
EU APPROVAL BY THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT UNDER
THE SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE FOR "SUBSTANTIALLY
EQUIVALENT"
PRODUCTS UNDER EU REGULATION
258/971. VERDE ARGUES THAT THE INSERTED
GENE
COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT (ALLERGIC
REACTION, PRODUCTION
OF TOXINS, OR ACTIVATION
OF PREVIOUSLY DORMANT GENES, ETC.) AND
ARE
THEREFORE NOT SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT. AS A
RESULT, THE PRODUCTS
SHOULD HAVE BEEN
EVALUATED BY EACH MEMBER STATE PRIOR TO
APPROVAL.
THE SUPERIOR HEALTH COUNCIL
SUPPORTS THIS ARGUMENT AND RECOMMENDS
THAT
THE EU RULES REGARDING PRODUCTION AND
MARKETING OF NOVEL FOODS
BE MODIFIED IN
ACCORDANCE TO THE NEW SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
UNCLAS
SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 008858

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN;
ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE;
OFSTS/SLUTSKY;
STATE PASS USDA ALSO FOR
CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHENEIDER;
CMP/COTS/BLUM;
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DEPT PASS USTR
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE
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SENSITIVE

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EU, IT
SUBJECT:
ITALY CONSIDERS THE BAN OF 7 GMO
VARIETIES

AVAILABLE ON THE ISSUE
OF SUBSTANTIAL
EQUIVALENCE.

4. DR. ROMANO MARABELLI, OF THE
MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NOVEL FOODS
COMMITTEE,
IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE
AGATTACHE, STRESSED THAT THIS PRESS RELEASE
"HAD
LITTLE CONNECTION TO REALITY" AND THAT
THE MOH WAS STILL STUDYING
THE ISSUE.
MARABELLI SAID THAT IT IS THE PRACTICE IN
EUROPE TO
INTRODUCE PRODUCTS THROUGH THE
SIMPLIFIED NOTIFICATION SYSTEM THAT
ARE
CONSIDERED TO BE SIMILAR TO TRADITIONAL
PRODUCTS. HOWEVER,
SOME PRODUCTS THAT HAVE
BEEN NOTIFIED MAY NOT BE EQUIVALENT OR MAY
NOT
HAVE HAD ADEQUATE RESEARCH DONE ON THEIR
POSSIBLE HEALTH AFFECTS.
MARABELLI ALSO SAID
THAT THERE COULD BE A PUBLIC PERCEPTION THAT
THE
PRODUCTS WERE NOT PROPERLY EVALUATED.
MARABELLI STRESSED THAT A
BAN ON THE PRODUCTS
WAS AN OPTION THAT SHOULD NOT EVEN BE
DISCUSSED
AT THIS TIME, AND THAT OTHER
OPTIONS, INCLUDING HANDING THE ISSUE
OVER TO
THE EU COMMISSION TO RESOLVE, ARE MUCH MORE
LIKELY TO HAPPEN.
MARABELLI ADDED THAT
REACHING ANY SUCH DECISION IS NORMALLY A TIME
CONSUMING
PROCESS, BUT THAT THE CURRENT

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GOVERNMENT CRISIS WILL MAKE ARRIVING AT A DECISION EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. (NOTE: THE ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER RESIGNED ON DECEMBER 18 AND IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO FORM A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT).

5. COMMENT: DR. MARABELLI HAD BEEN IN MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS SINCE LAST WEEK AND JUST RETURNED TO HIS OFFICE THE MORNING OF DEC. 21 WHEN HE TALKED WITH THE AGATTACHE. IT WAS APPARENT THAT HE WAS CAUGHT OFF GUARD, AND EMBARRASSED, BY THE PRESS RELEASE. MARABELLI GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE PROBABLY AGREES THAT THE SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES CURRENTLY FOLLOWED SHOULD BE REVIEWED, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF PUBLIC PERCEPTION THAT THERE MAY BE A PROBLEM. HOWEVER, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SUPPORTIVE, ALBEIT IN A CAUTIOUS WAY, OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND IT WOULD BE OUT OF CHARACTER FOR HIM TO GO ALONG WITH SUCH A KNEE-JERK PUBLIC ACTION. MARABELLI HAS OFTEN COAXED A MORE MODERATE LINE OUT OF HEALTH MINISTER ROSI BINDI, WHO LEANS TOWARD THE GREEN POINT OF VIEW. MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, EDO RONCHI, IS A MEMBER OF THE GREEN PARTY AND CAN BE ASSUMED TO BE FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF A BAN OF THE PRODUCTS. IF THE MOH DOES BAN THE IMPORT OF THE 7 PRODUCTS, IMPORTS OF U.S. PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS, PARTICULARLY IN PROCESSED FOOD, COULD BE SEVERELY RESTRICTED. HOWEVER, AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF

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ANY EFFECT WILL DEPEND ON THE
ULTIMATE DECISION TAKEN BY THE MOH.
POST
WILL FOLLOW THIS ISSUE CLOSELY AND REPORT
BACK AS INFORMATION
IS OBTAINED. END
COMMENT. FOGLIETTA

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	Sean Osterhaus, re: FY-2000 FSA SCP Biotechnology for Sustainable Agriculture [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (6 pages)	06/02/2000	b(6)
~~002. email~~	~~Leslie Davidson to Theodore Osius, re: Chancellor Schroeder's New~~ GMO Initiative; German Gov't Launches New Biotech Push (9 pages)	~~07/10/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 11/16/2016

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Emails
Exchange - Non-Records (Mar 97 - Jan 01) ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 630000

FOLDER TITLE:
[01/19/2000 - 07/17/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3026

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Exchange Mail

DATE-TIME	07/10/2000 1:56:10 PM
FROM	Davidson, Leslie K. (VP)
CLASSIFICATION	UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT	CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER'S NEW GMO INITIATIVE; GERMAN GOV'T LAUNCHES NEW BIOTECH PUSH [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO	Osius, Theodore G. (VP)
CARBON_COPY	
TEXT_BODY	

----------Message Text----------
UNCLAS
SECTION 01 OF 03 BERLIN 002889

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EB-M.BRUNO
STATE
PASS USTR
STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE - OSTP
ROME PASS USDA U/S SCHUMACHER

E.O.
12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, TSPL, SENV, PGOV, GM
SUBJECT:
CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER'S NEW GMO INITIATIVE; GERMAN
GOV'T LAUNCHES
NEW BIOTECH PUSH

REF: A. BERLIN 2669
B. TRICK-BRUNO E-MAILS
6/21
C. 6/22
D. BERLIN 1439

SUMMARY

1.
(SBU) GREATER DETAIL ON CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER'S

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AGRICULTURAL BIOTECH
INITIATIVE (REFS A-B) HAS EMERGED
THROUGH A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS
WITH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY
REPRESENTATIVES. NEGOTIATIONS ARE
SET TO BEGIN SOON BETWEEN
GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY THAT WILL LEAD
TO A VOLUNTARY
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES THAT WILL MARK
THE WAY
FORWARD ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECH OVER THE NEXT THREE
YEARS.
BOTH
SIDES EXPECT THE AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE INDUSTRY
ACQUIESCENCE TO
A RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM FOR GREATER
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
OF GMOS SHOULD THE MONITORING INDICATE
ACCEPTABLE ENVIRONMENTAL
AND HEALTH RISKS. THERE ARE STILL
VISIBLE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION
-- BOTH BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND
INDUSTRY AND WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT
ITSELF -- OVER THE EXACT
NATURE OF THE VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT TO BE
REACHED. INDUSTRY
VIEWS THE INITIATIVE VERY POSITIVELY, AND HOPES
IT CAN ACT AS
A MODEL TO BE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE EU. THE HEALTH
MINISTRY
BELIEVES THE AGREEMENT WILL CLOSELY RESEMBLE THE BRITISH
MORATORIUM.
CONTROL OF THE INITIATIVE WILL REMAIN IN THE
CHANCELLERY (NOT IN
THE HEALTH MINISTRY, WHICH UNTIL NOW HAS
HAD LEAD ON ALL BIOTECH
ISSUES), HOWEVER, WHICH COULD MEAN
THAT THE PRO-BIOTECH ECONOMICS,
RESEARCH AND AGRICULTURE
MINISTRIES HAVE FINALLY WON GREATER CONTROL
OVER GERMANY'S
OVERALL BIOTECH POLICY.

2. (U) SCHROEDER'S GMO
INITIATIVE IS TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF A STEPPED-UP
GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN TO PUSH ALL
ASPECTS OF BIOTECH RESEARCH AND
APPLICATIONS. THE EDUCATION
AND RESEARCH MINISTRY ANNOUNCED ON JULY

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4 THAT IT IS PURSUING
A POLICY DESIGNED TO MAKE GERMANY THE NUMBER
TWO COUNTRY
(BEHIND THE U.S.) IN BIOTECHNOLOGY. THE GOVERNMENT
WILL
INCREASE GENETIC RESEARCH FUNDING BY 70 PERCENT IN 2001,
ADDING
USD 72 MILLION TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET. CHANCELLOR
SCHROEDER HAS ALSO
TERMED BIOTECHNOLOGY TO BE A "KEY"
TECHNOLOGY EQUAL TO INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY, AND HE INCLUDED
AGRICULTURAL BIOTECH IN THIS ASSESSMENT.
END SUMMARY.

OUTLINES OF A PLAN EMERGE

3.
(U) SCHROEDER ANNOUNCED HIS INITIATIVE WITH A SPEECH TO
THE FIRM
KWS EINBECK, GERMANY'S LEADING GMO RESEARCHER AND
PRODUCER, WHICH
IS HOSTING AN EXHIBIT ON PLANT BREEDING AS
PART OF THE WORLD FAIR
2000. THE SPEECH DIFFERED NOTICEABLY
FROM THE VERSION LEAKED TO
THE PRESS, WHICH HAD APPARENTLY
SPOKEN OF A THREE-YEAR HALT TO ALL
COMMERCIAL GMO PLANTINGS
(REF. B). SCHROEDER SPOKE VERY POSITIVELY
ABOUT AGRICULTURAL
BIOTECHNOLOGY, STATING THAT THE RECENT GERMAN
BIOTECH DYNAMIC
(WHICH HAS SEEN RAPID INCREASES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF
FIRMS) MUST BE EXPANDED INTO AGRICULTURAL BIOTECH. IN
ORDER
FOR
THIS TO HAPPEN, CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE OF GMOS NEEDS TO BE
INCREASED.
TO DO THIS, SCHROEDER SUGGESTED TO INDUSTRY THAT
IT COME TO A VOLUNTARY
AGREEMENT THAT ALL CURRENT OR FUTURE
GMO VARIETAL APPROVALS WOULD
ONLY BE USED WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF A RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM
(WHICH WOULD
LAST FOR AN UNSPECIFIED -- AND LIKELY TO BE NEGOTIATED

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--
PERIOD OF TIME). THE MONITORING PROGRAM WOULD CALM THE PUBLIC
CONCERNS
WHILE GIVING INDUSTRY BETTER PLANNING ABILITY.

4. (SBU) COMMENT:
THE KEY POINT OF SCHROEDER'S SPEECH IS NOT WHAT HE SAID, BUT WHAT
HE DID NOT. UNLIKE PREVIOUS GERMAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS (REF. C),
HE NEVER GAVE ANY INDICATION THAT CONSUMER CONCERNS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL
AND HEALTH SAFETY
ARE JUSTIFIED. RATHER, HE SIMPLY NOTED THAT THEY EXIST, AND
THAT IT MUST BE THE GOAL OF ALL INVOLVED (SCIENCE, INDUSTRY,
APPROVAL
BODIES, CONSUMERS) TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY OF SCIENTIFIC STUDIES
AND PUBLIC INFORMATION TO PROVIDE A SOLID BASIS FOR USING GENETIC
TECHNOLOGY. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT DEPARTURE, FOR IT INDICATES THAT
THE DOMINANT GERMAN
GOVERNMENT VIEWPOINT IS THAT GMOS ARE SAFE, AND THAT THE
MESSAGE JUST NEEDS TO GET ACROSS TO THE PUBLIC. UNFORTUNATELY,
IT DOES NOT INDICATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL GET OUT IN FRONT OF
PUBLIC OPINION IN ORDER TO HELP RESOLVE OUR TRADE AND "PRECAUTIONARY
PRINCIPLE" DISPUTES, BUT WILL
RATHER WAIT FOR ACCEPTANCE TO COME. BUT AT LEAST THERE NOW
SEEMS TO BE A DRIVE TO PUSH SUCH ACCEPTANCE.
END COMMENT.
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 BERLIN 002889

SENSITIVE

DEPT
FOR EB-M.BRUNO
STATE PASS USTR
STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE - OSTP
ROME
PASS USDA U/S SCHUMACHER

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO,
TSPL, SENV, PGOV, GM
SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER'S NEW GMO INITIATIVE;
GERMAN
GOV'T LAUNCHES NEW BIOTECH PUSH

STILL
DISSENT WITHIN GOVERNMENT

5.
(SBU) THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL NOT QUITE CLEAR, HOWEVER, ON
EXACTLY
WHAT IT WANTS FROM THE AGREEMENT. THE GREENS
PARTY-LED HEALTH MINISTRY,
WHICH IS THE LEAD AGENCY ON
BIOTECH POLICY, SEEMS TO EXPECT AN ARRANGEMENT
MIRRORING THE
BRITISH THREE-YEAR MORATORIUM. ASSISTANT SECRETARY-
EQUIVALENT
ULRIKE
RIEDEL TOLD US THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD OBLIGATE
INDUSTRY TO FORSAKE
COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION OF GMO CROPS FOR
THREE YEARS, EVEN VARIETIES
THAT ALREADY HAVE EU APPROVAL.
THE THREE YEAR MONITORING PROGRAM
WOULD END WITH A "RISK
ASSESSMENT" LIKE THAT FORESEEN BY THE REVISED
EU 90/220
DIRECTIVE. FUTURE POLICY COULD THEN BE MADE ON THE BASIS
OF
THIS RISK ASSESSMENT.

6. (SBU) A CONTACT AT THE ROBERT KOCH
INSTITUTE (ROUGHLY THE
GERMAN EQUIVALENT OF THE FDA AND CDC) WHO
WAS PRIVY TO THE
PREPARATIONS OF THE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH, TOLD US
THAT THE
CHANCELLOR WOULD ALLOW GERMANY'S LIMITED COMMERCIAL
CULTIVATION
TO CONTINUE DURING THE PROGRAM, JUST THAT SUCH
CULTIVATION SHOULD
BE MONITORED. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SCHROEDER
HAD DECIDED TO KEEP THE
LEAD ON THE INITIATIVE WITHIN THE

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CHANCELLERY AGAINST THE EXPLICIT
REQUEST OF THE HEALTH
MINISTRY. AN ECONOMICS MINISTRY CONTACT NOTED
THAT
DISCUSSIONS WERE JUST BEGINNING WITH INDUSTRY, AND IT WAS
TOO
EARLY
TO SAY WHERE THEY WOULD END. SHE SPECULATED THAT THE
CHANCELLOR'S
INITIATIVE MAY IN PART HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY
RECENT OECD EVENTS
SUCH AS THE EDINBURGH BIOTECH CONFERENCE
THAT HIGHLIGHTED THE SCIENTIFIC
CONSENSUS ABOUT GMO SAFETY
(COMMENT: THIS ALLOWS THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT
TO SEEK SHELTER
FROM DOMESTIC GREEN OPPOSITION IN A MULTILATERAL
TENT).

INDUSTRY IS PLEASED

7.
(SBU) REPRESENTATIVES FROM MONSANTO GERMANY, ALFRED
TOEPFER INTERNATIONAL,
AND OTHER FIRMS INVOLVED IN THE
"BIOTECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP" (AN
INDUSTRY FORUM) WERE VERY
UPBEAT ABOUT THE SCHROEDER PROPOSAL. THEY
WERE ADAMANT THAT
IT DID NOT RESEMBLE THE BRITISH SITUATION FOR
TWO REASONS:
UNDER THE SCHROEDER PLAN COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION COULD
CONTINUE,
AND SCHROEDER WAS CLEAR THAT GMO CROPS GROWN FOR
RESEARCH PURPOSES
WOULD NOT BE DESTROYED, IN ORDER TO AVOID
THE APPEARANCE THAT THE
GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THEM DANGEROUS.
THE MONSANTO REPRESENTATIVE
WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ENOUGH TO VIEW
THE CHANCELLOR'S INITIATIVE AS A
POSSIBLE MODEL FOR OTHER EU
MEMBERS TO EMULATE.

NO
RESPONSE FROM ENVIRONMENTALISTS. YET.

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8.
(U) SO FAR, SCHROEDER'S PROPOSAL HAS NOT MOTIVATED PUBLIC COMMENTS
FROM THE ENVIRONMENTALIST AND CONSUMER-ADVOCACY GROUPS. THE OPPOSITION
OF GERMAN ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS TO
AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY IS AN
ARTICLE OF FAITH, HOWEVER,
AND NOT AMENABLE TO RATIONAL ARGUMENT
-- OR FASTIDIOUS
MONITORING.

GOVERNMENT
PUSHING BIOTECH IN GENERAL

9.
(U) THE CHANCELLOR'S INITIATIVE IS PART OF AN OVERALL GOVERNMENT
STRATEGY TO SUPPORT AND INTENSIFY THE BIOTECH
SECTOR HERE. AS OUR
ECONOMICS MINISTRY CONTACT PUT IT,
"BIOTECH HAS BEEN IN THE AIR"
OF LATE. CLOSE ON THE HEELS OF
SCHROEDER'S SPEECH, THE EDUCATION
AND RESEARCH MINISTRY
ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD INCREASE SUPPORT OF
GENETIC RESEARCH
BY 70 PERCENT -- USD 72 MILLION -- IN THE 2001
BUDGET. THIS
FOLLOWS TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF BIOTECH R&D BUDGET INCREASES
AND A FLOWERING OF BIOTECH CORPORATIONS. WHILE MOST OF THE
BIOTECH DRIVE HAS BEEN IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL AREA, THE GOVERNMENT
HAS ALSO HEAVILY SUPPORTED A PLANT GENOME PROJECT
AKIN TO THE HUMAN
GENOME PROJECT. THE GOVERNMENT HOPES WITH
THESE PROGRAMS TO PLACE
GERMANY IN THE NUMBER TWO POSITION
WORLDWIDE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT.

COMMENT

UNCLAS SECTION 03

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

OF 03 BERLIN 002889

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EB-M.BRUNO
STATE PASS
USTR
STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE - OSTP
ROME PASS USDA U/S SCHUMACHER

E.O.
12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, TSPL, SENV, PGOV, GM
SUBJECT:
CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER'S NEW GMO INITIATIVE; GERMAN
GOV'T LAUNCHES
NEW BIOTECH PUSH

10. (SBU) SCHROEDER'S PROPOSAL APPEARS -- OVERALL
-- TO BE A
POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. THE CHANCELLOR EXPLICITLY PRAISED
AGRICULTURAL
BIOTECHNOLOGY AND STATED HIS INTENT TO PUSH ITS
DEVELOPMENT IN GERMANY.
THE APPARENT DECISION TO RUN THE
INITIATIVE FROM THE CHANCELLERY
RATHER THAN HAND IT TO THE
OPENLY ANTI-GMO HEALTH MINISTRY IS A
MINOR VICTORY FOR U.S.
INTERESTS IN ITSELF. THE REASONS FOR REMAINING
SKEPTICAL
ABOUT ITS CHANCES FOR ACTUALLY INCREASING PUBLIC
ACCEPTANCE
OF
GMOS AND THUS ASSISTING IN RESOLVING OUR TRADE CONCERNS ,
HOWEVER,
ARE STILL VALID (REF. C). PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO GMOS
IS PROBABLY
SHALLOW ENOUGH TO BE OVERCOME BY A WIDE-SCALE
ENVIRONMENTAL AND
HEALTH MONITORING PROGRAM SUCH AS PROPOSED
BY THE CHANCELLOR. BUT
THE MONITORING PROGRAM WILL FACE AN
UPHILL BATTLE IN GETTING ITS
MESSAGE ACROSS FOR TWO REASONS:
(1) THE GERMAN PUBLIC WILL LIKELY
CONTINUE TO VIEW THE
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AS BEING THE MOST LEGITIMATE
"ANALYSTS"

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

OF THE RISKS OF GMOS; (2) THE MEDIA IS USUALLY BIASED IN THIS
ISSUE TOWARD THE GREENS (AN EXAMPLE: WHEN GM-RAPESEED WAS
INADVERTENTLY
RELEASED IN SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
RECENTLY, THE LEADING TELEVISION
NEWS PROGRAM WENT FOR
COMMENT NOT TO THE ROBERT KOCH INSTITUTE OR
THE MAX PLANCK
INSTITUTE, BUT RATHER TO THE ANTI-GMO "OEKO-INSTITUTE,"
CLOSELY
ASSOCIATED WITH THE GREENS PARTY.)
KORNBLUM

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. memo	Samuel Berger to the President, re: Letter to French Prime Minister Jospin (1 page)	08/01/1998	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
001b. letter	English translation of letter from Prime Minister Lionel Jospin of France to President Clinton (2 pages)	06/24/1998	P1/b(1) VL 11/26/2014
001c. letter	Prime Minister Lionel Jospin of France to President Clinton [in French] (1 page)	06/24/1998	P1/b(1) VL 11/26/2014
001d. memo	Samuel Berger to the President, re: Letter to French Prime Minister Jospin [draft of 001a] (1 page)	07/29/1998	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
001e. letter	Draft letter from President Clinton to Prime Minister Lionel Jospin of France (1 page)	07/00/1998	P1/b(1) VL 11/26/2014
001f. memo	Samuel Berger to the President, re: Letter to French Prime Minister Jospin [draft of 001a] (2 pages)	07/00/1998	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
001g. letter	Draft letter from President Clinton to Prime Minister Lionel Jospin of France [draft of 001e] (2 pages)	07/00/1989	P1/b(1) VL 11/26/2014
001h. memo	Samuel Berger to the President, re: Message to French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin [draft of 001a] (1 page)	07/00/1998	P1/b(1) VL 4/3/2020
001i. cable	Draft cable, re: Presidential Message to French Prime Minister Jospin [draft of 001e] (2 pages)	07/00/1998	P1/b(1) VL 11/26/2014
001j. letter	Draft letter from President Clinton to Prime Minister Lionel Jospin of France [draft of 001e] (2 pages)	07/00/1998	P1/b(1) VL 11/26/2014
002a. letter	[duplicate of 001b] (2 pages)	06/24/1998	P1/b(1) VL 4/26/2014

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Records Management
([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 2049

FOLDER TITLE:
9805002

2013-0836-F
ke3027

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
~~002b. letter~~	~~[duplicate of 001c] (1 page)~~	~~06/24/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
~~002c. letter~~	~~[duplicate of 001c] (1 page)~~	~~06/24/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
~~002d. letter~~	~~[duplicate of 001c] (1 page)~~	~~06/24/1998~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Records Management
([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 2049

FOLDER TITLE:
9805002

2013-0836-F
ke3027

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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

8-3-98

5002

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

'98 AUG 1 PM 1:09

August 1, 1998

ACTION

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER (K) FA

SUBJECT: Letter to French Prime Minister Jospin

Purpose

Respond to Jospin's letter expressing appreciation for his action to approve the U.S. bio-engineered corn varieties and expressing interest in a transatlantic dialogue on products of biotechnology.

Background

Prime Minister Jospin wrote to thank you for your hospitality and for your discussions on the challenges faced by modern democracies. He also raises the issue of bio-engineered corn ("GMOs") that you discussed in your meetings. As you recall, you pressed Jospin to approve the licenses for two U.S. biotech food products.

The French government acted July 30, announcing that while it would approve the two U.S. corn varieties, it was declaring a two-year moratorium on GMO rapeseed plants (a Canadian problem). In your reply, you thank him for his action on the corn and expressing interest in a transatlantic dialogue on the products of biotechnology.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to Prime Minister Jospin at Tab A.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/21/2009
2016-0529-M (3.40)

Attachments
Tab A Letter to Prime Minister Jospin
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Reason: 1.5(b)
Declassify on: 7/31/08

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Return to DLB.

5008

SLB

Ireland visit
- Pope visit
- This time
- US/EU
dde

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Mr. President, Dear Friend,

I should like to thank you very much for the welcome you gave me and the delegation accompanying me during my visit to Washington.

I particularly appreciated the time you were kind enough to give to our meetings which afforded an opportunity for some fascinating exchanges on the development of modern democratic societies and the challenges they face.

I was pleased to note the close convergence in our analyses and our common determination to build a truly multipolar world in which the United States and Europe will be able to intensify their partnership, a key element for prosperity and stability in the world.

I am most grateful to you that the few remaining differences between our two countries could be addressed so frankly, and I am pleased that approaches were found to surmount them together. I am thinking in particular of the difficult question of genetically altered organisms for which we decided to establish a French-American working group.

You may be sure that the French government is determined to continue its efforts, with the President of the Republic, to strengthen the French-American dialogue which was demonstrated throughout my visit, to take it forward and enhance it in all areas to a level worthy of the long history of friendship between our two countries.

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

My wife joins me in offering you and Mrs. Clinton our profound gratitude.

[Please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of my highest consideration.]

Yours sincerely,

signed: Lionel Jospin

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Le Premier Ministre

Paris, le 24 JUIN 1998

N° 10454

Monsieur le Président, Cher ami,

Je souhaite vous remercier vivement pour l'accueil que vous avez bien voulu me réserver, ainsi qu'à la délégation qui m'accompagnait lors de mon séjour à Washington.

J'ai été particulièrement sensible au temps que vous avez bien voulu consacrer à nos entretiens, qui ont été l'occasion d'échanges de vues passionnants sur l'évolution des sociétés démocratiques modernes et les défis auxquels elles sont confrontées.

J'ai relevé avec plaisir une grande convergence entre nos analyses et notre volonté commune de construire un monde véritablement multipolaire, au sein duquel les Etats-Unis et l'Europe pourront approfondir leur partenariat, élément fondamental de la prospérité et de la stabilité du monde.

Je vous suis très reconnaissant de la franchise avec laquelle nous avons pu aborder les quelques différends qui subsistent entre nos deux pays et je me réjouis que des pistes aient été trouvées pour les surmonter ensemble. Je pense en particulier à la difficile question des organismes génétiquement modifiés, pour lesquels nous avons décidé de créer un groupe de travail franco-américain.

Soyez assuré de la volonté du gouvernement français de continuer à oeuvrer, avec le Président de la République, pour que le renforcement du dialogue franco-américain qui s'est manifesté au cours de ma visite, se poursuive et s'enrichisse, dans tous les domaines, à un niveau digne de la longue histoire d'amitié entre nos deux pays .

Mon épouse se joint à moi pour vous transmettre, ainsi qu'à Mme CLINTON, l'expression de notre profonde gratitude.

Je vous prie de croire, Monsieur le Président, à l'assurance de ma très haute considération.

Respectueusement et cordialement à vous,

L. Jospin

Lionel JOSPIN

Son Excellence
Monsieur William CLINTON
Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 29, 1998

'98 JUL 29 PM10:32

ACTION

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (3.41)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

SUBJECT: Letter to French Prime Minister Jospin

Purpose

action to approve the U.S. ~~for~~ bio ~~tobacgineered~~ corn varieties

Respond to Jospin's letter expressing his appreciation for his ~~visit~~ and reiterating his interest in a ~~bilateral~~ transatlantic dialogue on products of biotechnology.

Background

Prime Minister Jospin wrote to thank you for your hospitality and for your discussions on the challenges faced by modern democracies. He also raises the issue of bio-engineered corn ("GMOs") that you discussed in your meetings. As you recall, you pressed Jospin to approve the licenses for two U.S. biotech food products.

two weeks ago July 30, announcing that

The French government ~~has not yet~~ acted. The Vice President spoke to Jospin ~~last week~~ to urge him to follow through before we lose the $200 million in corn sales to Spain this summer. Jospin was non-committal, though we believe they are ~~nearing~~ a decision.

while it would approve the two U.S. corn varieties, ~~but~~ it was declaring a two year Moratorium on GMO rapeseed plants (a Canadian problem)

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to Prime Minister Jospin at Tab A.

Attachments
Tab A Letter to Prime Minister Jospin
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Reason: 1.5(b)
Declassify On: 7/21/08

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Thank you for your kind letter. I too appreciated the opportunity to discuss with you some of the critical challenges that our two societies face as we enter the 21st century. I appreciate your announcement early July of approval of the two U.S. In particular, In the broader diplomatic arena, a vigorous U.S.-European partnership remains essential to addressing positively the difficult challenges ahead in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. The ties we are forging between the United States and France are helping to strengthen that partnership and to make it more effective.

~~I understand that you and Vice President Gore had an opportunity to discuss the issue of~~ GMO corn applications. ~~As the Vice President noted,~~ This is an extremely important matter for the United States, especially given our troubled corn exports this year. alleviates

Hillary and I were delighted to be able to spend time with you and Sylviane, and I hope we will soon have the opportunity to meet again. I wish you a well-deserved August holiday.

Sincerely,

His Excellency
Lionel Jospin
Prime Minister of the
French Republic
Paris

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 5002

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

SUBJECT: Letter to French Prime Minister Jospin

Purpose

Respond to Jospin's letter ~~reiterating~~ expressing his appreciation for his visit and reiterating his interest in a bilateral dialogue on products of biotechnology ~~and to maintain pressure on the French government to approve the licenses for two U.S. biotech food products~~.

Background

See next page

You discussed our problems with French delays in licensing two varieties of bio-engineered corn ("GMOs") during your meeting last month with Prime Minister Jospin. Jospin noted his political problems with the whole issue of biotechnology and food products, but admitted that the corn varieties appeared to be safe. His science minister proposed that we enter into a cooperative dialogue on issues related to biotechnology. You expressed interest, but noted that we should focus first on moving ahead with approvals on the products that we both agree are safe. Subsequently, the French told the press that we had agreed to a bilateral dialogue, and Jospin wrote you seeking to confirm your commitment to this.

The French held a "consensus conference" in late June under the auspices of the French parliament, and the resulting preliminary report blessed the two varieties. However, the government has still not acted. The Vice President spoke to Jospin Tuesday to urge him to follow through before we lose completely $200 million in corn sales to Spain this summer. Jospin was non-committal, though we believe they are nearing a decision.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Reason: 1.5(b)
Declassify On: 7/21/08

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

The question of a bilateral dialogue is tricky, as it risks drawing us into a series of time and resource consuming meetings, not just with the French, but any European nation seeking to stall acceptance of the products of biotechnology. In your reply, you confirm our interest in a **transatlantic** dialogue, and reiterate the importance of the French acting now to approve the corn imports in light of the positive Parliamentarian report. You also note the broader U.S.-European and U.S.-France diplomatic relationships in strengthening our transatlantic partnership.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to Prime Minister Jospin at Tab A.

Attachments
Tab A Letter to Prime Minister Jospin
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

Background

Prime Minister Jospin wrote to thank you for your hospitality and for your discussions on the challenges faced by modern democracies. He also raises the issue of bio-engineered corn ("GMOs") that you discussed in your meetings. As you recall, you pressed Jospin to approve the licenses for two U.S. biotech food products.

The French government has not yet acted. The Vice President spoke to Jospin last week to urge him to follow through before we lose $200 million in corn sales to Spain this summer. Jospin was non-committal, though we believe they are nearing a decision.

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Thank you for your kind letter. I too appreciated the opportunity to discuss with you some of the critical challenges that our two societies face as we enter the 21st century.

The accelerated pace of technological change has created exciting new opportunities for increasing employment, raising incomes and addressing environmental and health problems. Numerous advances in biotechnology are particularly impressive in this regard.

I know from our discussion that many in France remain concerned about the products of modern biotechnology. I was pleased, therefore, to learn that the preliminary report from French Parliamentarian Le Deaut gave a positive assessment of the safety of the two GMO varieties awaiting final French approval. With the final obstacle to approval cleared away, I hope your government will act on the GMO corn applications so that U.S. exports can enter the EU during these final weeks before Spain's import season closes. As Vice President Gore noted in his call to you, this is an extremely important matter for the United States, especially given our troubled corn exports this year.

Looking to the future, I welcome your interest in transatlantic cooperation to expedite the future review and approval of biotechnology products. This would be hastened by France's action on the two pending applications.

In the broader diplomatic arena, a vigorous U.S.-European partnership remains essential to addressing positively the difficult challenges ahead in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. The ties we are forging between the United States and France are helping to strengthen that partnership and to make it more effective.

I understand Mr.

With regard to the biotechnology issue mentioned in your letter, I understand Mr. Vice President Gore spoke to you and Mr. Prime Minister

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

INSERT (*)

Hillary and I were delighted to be able to spend time with you and Sylviane, and I hope we will soon have the opportunity to meet again.

Sincerely,

His Excellency
Lionel Jospin
Prime Minister of the
French Republic
Paris

(*) I understand that you and Vice President Gore had an opportunity to discuss the issue of GMO corn applications. As the Vice President noted, this is an extremely important matter for the United States, especially given our troubled corn exports this year.

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (3.44)

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

SUBJECT: Message to French Prime Minister Jospin

Purpose

Respond to Jospin's letter reiterating his interest in a bilateral dialogue on products of biotechnology and to maintain pressure on the French government to approve the licenses for two U.S. biotech food products.

Background

You discussed our problems with French delays in licensing two varieties of bio-engineered corn ("GMOs") during your meeting last month with Prime Minister Jospin. Jospin noted his political problems with the whole issue of biotechnology and food products, but admitted that the corn varieties appeared to be safe. His science minister proposed that we enter into a cooperative dialogue on issues related to biotechnology. You expressed interest, but noted that we should focus first on moving ahead with approvals on the products that we both agree are safe. Subsequently, the French told the press that we had agreed to a bilateral dialogue, and Jospin wrote you seeking to confirm your commitment to this.

The French held a "consensus conference" in late June under the auspices of the French parliament, and the resulting preliminary report ~~indeed~~ blessed the two varieties. However, the government has still not acted. The Vice President spoke to Jospin Tuesday to urge him to follow through before we lose completely $200 million in corn sales to Spain this summer. Jospin was non-commital, though we believe they are nearing a decision.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Reason: 1.5(b)
Declassify On: 7/21/08

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5002

PREC: IMMEDIATE CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FROM: THE WHITE HOUSE

TO: AMEMBASSY PARIS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO FRENCH PRIME MINISTER JOSPIN

1. AMBASSADOR OR DCM: PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON TO PRIME MINISTER JOSPIN AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. NO SIGNED ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR LIONEL:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND LETTER. I TOO APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH YOU SOME OF THE CRITICAL CHALLENGES THAT OUR TWO SOCIETIES FACE AS THEY ENTER THE 21ST CENTURY.

THE ACCELERATED PACE OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES HAS CREATED EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASING EMPLOYMENT, RAISING INCOMES AND ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH PROBLEMS. NUMEROUS ADVANCES IN BIOTECHNOLOGY ARE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE IN THIS REGARD.

I KNOW FROM OUR DISCUSSION THAT MANY IN FRANCE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRODUCTS OF MODERN BIOTECHNOLOGY. I WAS PLEASED, THEREFORE, TO LEARN THAT THE PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM FRENCH PARLIAMENTARIAN LE DEAUT GAVE A POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE SAFETY OF THE TWO GMO VARIETIES AWAITING FINAL FRENCH APPROVAL. WITH THE FINAL OBSTACLE TO APPROVAL CLEARED AWAY, I HOPE YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL ACT ON THE GMO CORN APPLICATIONS SO THAT U.S. EXPORTS CAN ENTER THE EU DURING THESE FINAL WEEKS BEFORE SPAIN'S IMPORT SEASON CLOSES. AS VICE PRESIDENT GORE NOTED IN HIS CALL TO YOU, THIS IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT MATTER FOR THE UNITED STATES, ESPECIALLY GIVEN OUR TROUBLED CORN EXPORTS THIS YEAR.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, I WELCOME YOUR INTEREST IN TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION ~~IN~~ TO EXPEDIT~~ING~~E THE FUTURE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS. THIS WOULD BE HASTENED BY FRANCE'S ACTION ON THE TWO PENDING APPLICATIONS.

IN THE BROADER DIPLOMATIC ARENA, A VIGOROUS U.S.-EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP REMAINS ESSENTIAL TO ADDRESSING POSITIVELY THE DIFFICULT CHALLENGES AHEAD IN EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, ASIA AND AFRICA. THE TIES WE ARE FORGING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reason: 1.5(b)

Declassify on: 7/21/08

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VR NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0579-M (3,45)

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

FRANCE ARE HELPING TO STRENGTHEN THAT PARTNERSHIP AND MAKE IT MORE EFFECTIVE.

HILLARY AND I WERE DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU AND SYLVIANE, AND I HOPE WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AGAIN SOON.

SINCERELY,

BILL CLINTON

END TEXT.

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

5002
redo

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Mr. Prime Minister

Dear ~~Lionel~~:

Thank you for your kind letter. I too appreciated the opportunity to discuss with you some of the critical challenges that our two societies face as ~~they~~ we enter the 21st century.

The accelerated pace of technological changes has created exciting new opportunities for increasing employment, raising incomes and addressing environmental and health problems. Numerous advances in biotechnology are particularly impressive in this regard.

Ask Kamy to check - "Le Boeuf"? (message had a different spelling.

I know from our discussion that many in France remain concerned about the products of modern biotechnology. I was pleased, therefore, to learn that the preliminary report from French Parliamentarian Le Beauf gave a positive assessment of the safety of the two GMO varieties awaiting final French approval. With the final obstacle to approval cleared away, I hope your government will act on the GMO corn applications so that U.S. exports can enter the EU during these final weeks before Spain's import season closes. As Vice President Gore noted in his call to you, this is an extremely important matter for the United States, especially given our troubled corn exports this year.

Looking to the future, I welcome your interest in transatlantic cooperation to expedite the future review and approval of biotechnology products. This would be hastened by France's action on the two pending applications.

In the broader diplomatic arena, a vigorous U.S.-European partnership remains essential to addressing positively the difficult challenges ahead in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. The ties we are forging between the United States and France are helping to strengthen that partnership and to make it more effective.

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

(3.46)

Hillary and I were delighted to be able to spend time with you and Sylviane, and I hope we will soon have the opportunity to meet again.

Sincerely,

His Excellency Lionel Jospin
Prime Minister of the
French Republic
Paris

Heads of State lists as Dear Mr. Prime Minister
Agree
Incoming letter says Dear Mr. President, Friend
should probably be formal

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Mr. President, Dear Friend,

I should like to thank you very much for the welcome you gave me and the delegation accompanying me during my visit to Washington.

I particularly appreciated the time you were kind enough to give to our meetings which afforded an opportunity for some fascinating exchanges on the development of modern democratic societies and the challenges they face.

I was pleased to note the close convergence in our analyses and our common determination to build a truly multipolar world in which the United States and Europe will be able to intensify their partnership, a key element for prosperity and stability in the world.

I am most grateful to you that the few remaining differences between our two countries could be addressed so frankly, and I am pleased that approaches were found to surmount them together. I am thinking in particular of the difficult question of genetically altered organisms for which we decided to establish a French-American working group.

You may be sure that the French government is determined to continue its efforts, with the President of the Republic, to strengthen the French-American dialogue which was demonstrated throughout my visit, to take it forward and enhance it in all areas to a level worthy of the long history of friendship between our two countries.

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

My wife joins me in offering you and Mrs. Clinton our profound gratitude.

[Please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of my highest consideration.]

Yours sincerely,

signed: Lionel Jospin

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Le Premier Ministre

Paris, le 24 JUIN 1998

N° 10454

Monsieur le Président, Cher ami,

Je souhaite vous remercier vivement pour l'accueil que vous avez bien voulu me réserver, ainsi qu'à la délégation qui m'accompagnait lors de mon séjour à Washington.

J'ai été particulièrement sensible au temps que vous avez bien voulu consacrer à nos entretiens, qui ont été l'occasion d'échanges de vues passionnants sur l'évolution des sociétés démocratiques modernes et les défis auxquels elles sont confrontées.

J'ai relevé avec plaisir une grande convergence entre nos analyses et notre volonté commune de construire un monde véritablement multipolaire, au sein duquel les Etats-Unis et l'Europe pourront approfondir leur partenariat, élément fondamental de la prospérité et de la stabilité du monde.

Je vous suis très reconnaissant de la franchise avec laquelle nous avons pu aborder les quelques différends qui subsistent entre nos deux pays et je me réjouis que des pistes aient été trouvées pour les surmonter ensemble. Je pense en particulier à la difficile question des organismes génétiquement modifiés, pour lesquels nous avons décidé de créer un groupe de travail franco-américain.

Soyez assuré de la volonté du gouvernement français de continuer à oeuvrer, avec le Président de la République, pour que le renforcement du dialogue franco-américain qui s'est manifesté au cours de ma visite, se poursuive et s'enrichisse, dans tous les domaines, à un niveau digne de la longue histoire d'amitié entre nos deux pays .

Mon épouse se joint à moi pour vous transmettre, ainsi qu'à Mme CLINTON, l'expression de notre profonde gratitude.

Je vous prie de croire, Monsieur le Président, à l'assurance de ma très haute considération.

Respectueusement et cordialement à vous,

L. Jospin

Lionel JOSPIN

Son Excellence
Monsieur William CLINTON
Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique

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