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Folder Title:

Denver Summit: Bioethics (Human Cloning)

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May 28, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: Toby Donenfeld, Office of the Vice President
Nancy Ann Min, Office of Management and Budget
Bill Corr, Dept. of Health and Human Services
Greg Frasier, Dept. of Agriculture
Elgie Holstein, Dept. of Energy

FROM: Elizabeth Drye, Domestic Policy Council
Rachel Levinson, Office of Science and Technology Policy

SUBJECT: Paragraph on Cloning for Denver Summit

The French have proposed a paragraph on cloning for inclusion in the Summit of the Eight joint communique. **We need your comments on the text -- and on our proposed revised text -- by 5:00 pm Thursday, May 29. Please fax your Department's comments to Elizabeth Drye at 456-7431.** In reviewing the texts, please keep the following in mind:

- 1) The National Bioethics Advisory Commission is scheduled to complete its report the week of June 9th. We will ask our negotiators to reserve the right to modify the U.S. position pending the completion and our review of this report. We expect, however, that NBAC will recommend a legislative ban.
- 2) We will recommend to our negotiators that the U.S. not actively advocate including a paragraph on cloning, and that the U.S. oppose including the paragraph if it remains broadly drawn.
- 3) Three other countries have stated their reactions to the French proposal. The German's support it. The Canadians want to delete the final sentence regarding a "universal ban" (note that we suggest modifying the last sentence to read "universal moratorium"). The Japanese are not yet prepared to comment without further technical review.

If you have any questions, please contact Rachael (202-456-6137) or Elizabeth (202-456-5573). Thanks in advance for your review.

Attachment

cc: Sherman Boone, National Economic Council

FRENCH PROPOSAL

Human cloning:

We have taken note with great concern of recent scientific experiments which could open the way to reproductive human cloning. We agree that the prohibition of any form of reproductive human cloning needs both strict domestic legislation and close international cooperation to adapt current international law. We are encouraged by the reflections underway within national ethics committees as well as in various regional and international fora. We are determined to give a strong impetus to their work with a view to arriving as soon as possible at a universal ban on reproductive human cloning.

OUR PROPOSED REDRAFT

We are hopeful that the recently reported breakthrough in entire animal cloning will yield enormous medical and agricultural benefits. We have also taken note with great concern that this scientific advance could open the way to using this technology (by which we mean somatic cell nuclear transfer technology) to create a child. We agree on the need for appropriate domestic legislation and close international cooperation to prohibit the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer to create a child while countries explore ethical and scientific implications in greater depth. We are encouraged by the reflections already underway within national ethics committees as well as in various regional and international fora. We are determined to give a strong impetus to their work with a view to arriving as soon as possible at a universal moratorium on the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer to create a child.