

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) VZ 11/26/2019
003. cable	Re: Anti-GMO Activities Expected with Arrival of U.S. Soybeans in Germany (3 pages)	09/03/1996	P1/b(1) VZ 11/26/2019
004. cable	Re: [Protest Against GMO's] (2 pages)	09/27/1996	P1/b(1) VZ 4/2/2020
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]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

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Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA5108 0660352-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 060341Z MAR 96
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 060341Z MAR 96
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 6800
INFO: ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 4633
SUBJ: GUIDANCE ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS

TEXT:

UNCLAS STATE 045108

BRUSSELS PASS USEU, GENEVA PASS USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, USTR, NO

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS

REFS: (A) OSLO 787; (B) OSLO 808; (C) STATE
40005; (D) STATE 37191

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST, SEE PARA. 4.

2. WASHINGTON AGENCIES APPRECIATE POST'S REPORTING ON THE NEGATIVE NORWEGIAN PRESS COVERAGE AND CONSUMER APPREHENSION REGARDING BEEF AND DAIRY HORMONES AND GMOS (REF A), AS WELL AS ON THE ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY THE CONSUMER COUNCIL OF NORWAY TO PROMOTE LABELING STANDARDS FOR GMOS TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (REF B). GUIDANCE WAS SENT IN REF C ON BEEF AND DAIRY HORMONES. AGENCIES REITERATE REQUEST THAT POST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEPARATE THE BEEF/DAIRY HORMONES ISSUES FROM GMO'S WHEN DEALING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY, THE PUBLIC AND THE MEDIA,

IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER CONFUSION.

3. TALKING POINTS ON THE USG POSITION ON THE APPROVAL AND LABELING OF FOOD PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM GMOS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN NUMEROUS PREVIOUS CABLES TO EUROPEAN POSTS, MOST RECENTLY IN REF D.

OUR POSITION IS THAT NO LABELING SHOULD BE NECESSARY UNLESS THERE IS A LEGITIMATE HEALTH OR SAFETY CONCERN OR USAGE ISSUE ON WHICH THE CONSUMER SHOULD BE INFORMED. IN ADDITION, ANY LABELING SHOULD BE TRUTHFUL AND NOT MISLEADING. ALTHOUGH WASHINGTON AGENCIES APPRECIATE POST'S OFFER TO CLARIFY AND ADDRESS CONSUMER APPREHENSIONS REGARDING GMOS, WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT A PUBLIC DISCUSSION WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME. CONSEQUENTLY, TALKING POINTS SHOULD BE USED ONLY AS NECESSARY IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES, AND POST SHOULD NOT INITIATE DIALOGUE ON THE GMO ISSUE.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE POST'S CONTINUED MONITORING OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS OR POSITIONS TAKEN ON APPROVAL AND LABELING OF FOOD PRODUCTS DERIVED THROUGH GMOS. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE POST'S CLARIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF THE INTENT OF THE ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY THE CONSUMER COUNCIL OF NORWAY. WE WONDER WHETHER THE INTENT OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL WAS TO PUSH NORWAY TO INFLUENCE DEBATE AND DECISIONS ON THIS TOPIC WITH REGARD TO THE EU NOVEL FOOD REGULATION, THE UPCOMING REVIEW OF 90/220/EEC AND/OR DISCUSSIONS BY CODEX ALIMENTARIUS, OR WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT MAY ACTUALLY BE CONSIDERING INDEPENDENT ADOPTION OF NATIONAL LABELING STANDARDS OR OTHER GUIDELINES OR LEGISLATION REGARDING GMOS.

5. BACKGROUND. AMENDMENTS TO THE EU NOVEL FOOD REGULATION THAT WOULD MORE STRICTLY APPLY LABELING REQUIREMENTS ARE CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED IN THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, AND THEY MAY BE COMING UP FOR DEBATE AND VOTE ON 12 -13 MARCH.

6. THERE WILL BE A POLITICAL-LEVEL DEBATE ON LABELING OF GMOS IN THE EU IN THE CONTEXT OF A LONG-PLANNED REVIEW OF 90/220, PROBABLY SOMETIME THIS YEAR. USEU BRUSSELS BELIEVES THAT THE DEBATE WILL BE LENGTHY AND THAT IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THERE WILL BE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AS A RESULT OF THE REVIEW, HOWEVER.

7. THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELING (CCFL) WILL MEET ON 14-17 MAY. AT THE PREVIOUS CCFL MEETING IN 1994, A U.S. DISCUSSION DOCUMENT CONSIDERING THE IMPLICATIONS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY ON FOOD LABELING AND ADDRESSED MANY SAFETY ISSUES AND CONCERNS, INCLUDING ALLERGENICITY, WAS DISTRIBUTED. THE USUAL U.S. CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS HAVE PROVIDED COMMENTS ON THE PAPER ALREADY AND MAY BE SEEKING TO INFLUENCE OPINIONS ABROAD AS WELL. THE CCFL IS TO RECONSIDER THIS ISSPE AND ANY COMMENTS AT THE MAY MEETING. END BACKGROUND.
CHRISTOPHER
BT

#5108

NNNN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5108

TOR: 960305230534 M2114978

DIST:

SIT: NSC

☐

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA1647 0751632-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 151632Z MAR 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 151632Z MAR 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0634
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC3570
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POSTS COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: AUSTRIAN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP ITS OWN GMO ARE OFF
TO A ROUGH SART

STCABLE 611

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 001647

STATE FOR EUR/NCE
STATE PASS TO USDA/FAS/ITP/ROBERTS, TING, CHESLEY; OFSTS;
FAA/LETARTE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ECON, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP ITS OWN GMO ARE OFF
TO A ROUGH SART

STCABLE 611

1. SUMMARY: A PUBLICHEARING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR THE FIRST FIELD TEST OF A GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATO WAS HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE AUSTRIAN MINISTER OF HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ON MARCH 1, 1996. THE HEARING WAS ATTENDED BY 400 PEOPLE, VIRTUALLY ALL OF WHOM OPPOSED THE DEVELOPMENT AND RELEASE OF THIS PRODUCT. THE TIMING OF THE PUBLICHEARING COULDN'T HAVE BEEN WORSE, AS IT COINCIDED WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT TO VOTE ON THE APPROVAL OF ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS. OVERALL, IT WAS NOT A GOOD DAY FOR AUSTRIAN SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE TRIED TO KEEP PACE WITH BIOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS, AND DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR FUTURE APPROVAL OR CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE OF THESE PRODUCTS IN AUSTRIA. END SUMMARY.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND: THE RESEARCH PROJECT WHICH LED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS GMO STARTED NEARLY 5 YEARS AGO AND WAS PARTIALLY FUNDED BY A GRANT OF A.S. 3 MILLION (US DOLLARS 300,000) FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. THE GMO POTATO THAT WAS DEVELOPED IS MORE RESISTANT TO BACTERIAL ROT. FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE LABORATORY WORK, THE

PROJECT LEADER APPLIED TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT FIELD TESTS ON 600 SQUARE METERS INVOLVING 650 PLANTS. THE TESTS WERE INTENDED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE GMO UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS, PARTICULARLY RELATED TO THE PERSISTENCE OF THE GMO'S DNA IN THE SOIL AND THE POSSIBILITY OF DNA TRANSFER TO OTHER ORGANISMS.

3. THE PUBLIC HEARING: THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS MODERATED BY DR. ERNST BOBEK, A SECTION HEAD IN THE HEALTH MINISTRY. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO OTHER MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS, DR. MICHAEL HAAS AND DR. ALEXANDER HASELBERGER (BOTH OF THESE OFFICIALS WERE KEY PLAYERS IN THE ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN ISSUE). PROFESSOR ERWIN HEBERLE-BORS, A PLANT GENETICIST ON THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION AND FIVE SCIENTISTS FROM THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE WERE ALSO PRESENT. ABOUT 40 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE HEARING AND, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, NEARLY 7,000 PEOPLE WROTE TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, REGISTERED THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE FIELD TESTING AND/OR INTRODUCTION OF THESE PRODUCTS INTO THE ENVIRONMENT.

4. AFTER THE OFFICIAL OPENING STATEMENT BY DR. BOBEK, THE LEADER OF THE RESEARCH TEAM PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT AND HIGHLIGHTED THE EXTENSIVE COOPERATION THE RESEARCH TEAM HAD WITH VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS IN AUSTRIA. HE ALSO EXPLAINED WHY THE FIELD TESTS WERE NEEDED.

5. THE FIRST SPEAKER FROM THE AUDIENCE WAS DR. MARLENE PETROVICH, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND LEADER OF THE GREEN PARTY. SHE FIERCELY CRITICIZED THE PROCEDURAL DEFICIENCIES OF THE REVIEW PROCESS, PARTICULARLY THE SHORT NOTICE OF THE HEARING AND THE FAILURE TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT (ONLY CERTAIN GROUPS/ORGANIZATIONS WERE INFORMED). PETROVICH ALSO SPOKE OUT AGAINST THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH RELEASING GMO'S INTO THE ENVIRONMENT.

6. FOLLOWING PETROVICH'S REMARKS, A SPOKESMAN FROM THE FREEDOM PARTY (THE FREEDOM PARTY IS FROM THE FAR RIGHT AND IS NOT PART OF THE GOVERNING COALITION) AND REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING GLOBAL 2000, ECOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, AUSTRIAN ASSOCIATION FOR PROTECTION OF NATURE, CONSUMER ASSOCIATION, ASSOCIATION OF MOUNTAIN FARMERS, ANIMAL RIGHTS, DOCTORS FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS, ORGANIC FARMER ASSOCIATIONS, AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS VOICED THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THE APPROVAL OF GMO'S.

7. THE TECHNICAL OBJECTIONS VOICED BY THESE ORGANIZATIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- GENETIC MATERIAL WHICH AS NOT EXISTED BEFORE SHOULD NOT BE RELEASED INTO THE ENVIRONMENT.
- IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW LONG GMO'S WILL PERSIST IN THE SOIL AND THERE IS ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY THAT THIS DNA COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER ORGANISMS BEFORE DEGRADATION.
- LONG TERM CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF SOIL ORGANISMS

ANNOT BE IGNORED.

-- CECROPIN (THE BACTERICIDE ACTOR OF THE SILK MOTH WHICH WAS INSERTED INTO THE GMO POTATO) COULD TRANSFER INTO OTHER POTATOES AND CONSEQUENTLY INTO BABY FOOD WHERE IT MAY HAVE ALLERGENIC EFFECTS.

-- LONGTIME ALLERGENIC EFFECTS OF INDUCED NEW PROTEINS CANNOT BE EXCLUDED PARTICULARLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER EMISSIONS AND POLLUTANTS. (ONE SPEAKER STATED THAT "NO CHANGE CAN BE MADE ON ONE SECTOR WITHOUT ENTAILING CHANGES UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 001647

STATE OR EUR/NCE

STATE PASS TO USDA/FAS/ITP/ROBERTS, TIG, CHESLEY; OFSTS; FAA/LETARTE

E.O. 12958: N/

TAGS: EAGR, ECON, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP ITS OWN GMO ARE OFF TO A ROUGH START

ON ANOTHER SECTOR".)

-- GMO'S ARE "ECONOMICALLY STRONGER" AND THEREFORE WILL REPLACE NATURAL SEEDS WHICH WILL LEAD TO A FURTHER REDUCTION IN THE DIVERSITY OF THE NATURAL GENE POOL.

8. BIO FARMERS AND CONSUMER GROUPS ARGUED THAT IF AUSTRIA EMBRACES GMO TECHNOLOGY, THE GOOD REPUTATION OF AUSTRIA'S ORGANIC FARMS WILL BE DESTROYED. FURTHERMORE, IT WILL ACCELERATE THE DEPOPULATION OF THE FARM SECTOR AS FEWER FARMERS WILL BE NEEDED TO PRODUCE THE SAME AMOUNT OF FOOD. VARIOUS SPEAKERS ALSO CLAIMED THAT GMO RESISTANCE TO CERTAIN HERBICIDES WILL ENCOURAGE FARMERS TO USE LARGER QUANTITIES OF HERBICIDES. ONE SPEAKER ALSO CLAIMED THAT SINCE ONLY THE LARGE CHEMICAL COMPANIES CAN AFFORD TO DEVELOP GMO'S, THESE FIRMS WILL GET A MONOPOLY POSITION IN THE MARKET, LEADING TO THE BANKRUPTCY OF TRADITIONAL PLANT BREEDERS. IN ADDITION, THEY CLAIMED THAT MANY CHEMICAL COMPANIES ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING NEW GMO'S THAT ARE MARKETING A COMBINATION WITH THEIR CHEMICAL PRODUCTS. PERHAPS THE MOST EMOTIONAL STATEMENTS DURING THE HEARING CAME FROM THOSE WHO WERE SIMPLY OPPOSED TO GMO'S FOR ETHICAL AND MORAL REASONS. ONE SPEAKER SAID THAT HUMAN BEINGS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE IN GOD'S CREATION AND THE SPLITTING OF THE CELL NUCLEUS IS ALMOST AS HAZARDOUS AS SPLITTING THE ATOMIC NUCLEUS.

9. AFTER ABOUT AN HOUR, MS. PETROVICH SPOKE AGAIN, AND VOICED STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD HANDLED THE APPLICATION PROCESS. SHE INDICATED THAT SHE WOULD BRING THE WHOLE CASE TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE COURT AND STORMED OUT OF THE HALL ACCOMPANIED BY ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF THE AUDIENCE.

10. THE RESEARCH GROUP INSISTED THAT THEY HAD FULFILLED ALL REQUIREMENTS NEEDED TO GET THE APPROVAL FOR TESTING THE GMO IN THE FIELD. HEBERLE-BORS ALSO ATTEMPTED TO REASSURE THE AUDIENCE WITH SCIENTIFIC FACTS, AND STATED THAT GENES ARE CHANGING EVERY DAY IN NATURE. HE ALSO SAID THAT IT IS

POSSIBLE TO RELEASE GMO'S INTO THE FIELD WITHOUT RISKS. HE USED THE GENETICALLY MANIPULATED U.S. TOMATO AS AN EXAMPLE, WHICH IMMEDIATELY PROMPTED LAUGHTER FROM THE AUDIENCE. HE ADMITTED THAT THE APPLICATION DOCUMENTS WERE DEFICIENT, BUT SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME SUCH AN APPLICATION HAD BEEN SUBMITTED AND THEY STILL HAD A LOT TO LEARN.

11. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH DECLINED TO TAKE ANY POSITION ON THE APPLICATION. THEY INDICATED THAT THEY WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO ALLOW FIELD TESTING OF THE GMO POTATO AFTER STUDYING THE OBJECTIONS RAISED AT THE HEARING AND AFTER RECEIVING A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION INCLUDES EXPERTS IN BIOLOGY, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, MICROBIOLOGY, BIOCHEMISTRY, CHEMISTRY, AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL PATHOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, PLANT BREEDING, PLANT PRODUCTION, BOTANY, ZOOLOGY. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IS REQUIRED TO MAKE A DECISION WITHIN 90 DAYS.

12. COMMENT: GIVEN AUSTRIA'S STRONG VIEWS ON THE ENVIRONMENT, THE GENERAL FEAR OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AMONG THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE AND THE DESIRE TO PRESERVE THE STATUS QUO IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, THE STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE DEVELOPMENT, TESTING AND USE OF GMO'S RAISED AT THE HEARING COMES AS NO SURPRISE. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, HAD PARTIALLY FUNDED THIS RESEARCH EFFORT WAS VERY SURPRISING TO MANY OBSERVERS. THAT THE RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGED TO ESCAPE SCRUTINY IN THE PRESS FOR SO LONG WAS ALSO RATHER REMARKABLE AND NO DOUBT CONTRIBUTED TO THE HEAVY CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE APPLICATION. UNTIL NOW, THE PUBLIC DEBATE REGARDING GMO'S HAS LARGELY BEEN FOCUSED ON CRITICISM OF EFFORTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE U.S., TO DEVELOP THEN PRODUCTS. NOW, WITH GMO'S LITERALLY POISED TO BE GROWN IN THEIR OWN BACKYARD, OPPONENTS OF GMO'S ARE EXPECTED TO MOUNT EVEN MORE VIGOROUS CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF GMO'S IN AUSTRIA AND THE EU.

HUNT

BT

#1647

NNNN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 1647
<^SSN>1647
TOR: 960315133801 M2133029
<^TOR>960315135430 M2133074
DIST:
SIT: NSC
□

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHOLA4288 0811411-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 211411Z MAR 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BONN
OSRI: RUEHOL
DTG: 211411Z MAR 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BONN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8926
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POSTS COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4356
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 1808
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG 0378
SUBJ: GERMAN SYMPOSIUM ON GMO'S

TEXT:
UNCLAS BONN 04288

PASS USDA FOR FAS/ITP/SCHROETER/ROBERTS/TING; CMP/RUDD
AND APHIS FOR MEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE

STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY AND KASKA

PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI

PASS HHS/FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM

POSTS PASS AGRICULTURE

HAMBURG FOR ATO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, GM
SUBJ: GERMAN SYMPOSIUM ON GMO'S

1. THE GERMAN ASSOCIATION OF FOOD LAW AND FOOD SCIENCE,
AN ORGANIZATION PRIMARILY FUNDED BY THE GERMAN FOOD
INDUSTRY, IS HOLDING A SYMPOSIUM ON "GENE TECHNOLOGY IN
THE FOOD SECTOR" APRIL 17-18 IN BONN. THIS SYMPOSIUM IS
CONSIDERED TO BE SIGNIFICANT, PARTLY BECAUSE IT IS THE
FIRST SUCH PUBLIC PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION IN GERMANY
ON THE USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S) FOR
FOOD PRODUCTS. REPRESENTATIVES FROM MUCH OF THE GERMAN
MEDIA HAVE BEEN INVITED.

2. THE ORGANIZERS DESCRIBE THE SYMPOSIUM IN THE
FOLLOWING MANNER: "REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FEDERAL
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY,
THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS, THE
ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR, THE TRADE UNIONS, AND THE FOOD

SECTOR WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWPOINTS AND OPINIONS ON THE SUBJECT. SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS, RESEARCHERS, AND ECONOMISTS WILL DISCUSS APPLICATIONS, SAFETY ISSUES, THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF GENE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE MARKET."

3. SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETING IN GERMAN AND ENGLISH WILL BE PROVIDED. THERE IS NO REGISTRATION FEE. THOSE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING ARE REQUESTED BY THE ORGANIZERS TO RESPOND BY APRIL 1.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS SYMPOSIUM MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS (USDA/FAS) AT THE EMBASSY IN BONN:

OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS
AMERICAN EMBASSY, BONN
TEL: (49-228) 339-2133
FAX: (49-228) 334697
REDMAN
BT
#4288

NNNN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4288

TOR: 960321091248 M2142013

DIST:

SIT: NSC

☐

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHLOA4027 0931023-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: P 021023Z APR 96

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

OSRI: RUEHLO

DTG: 021023Z APR 96

ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0865

INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1181

RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE

SUBJ: FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE POSITION ON AGRONOMIC
CHARACTERISTICS IN GMO LABELING

TEXT:

UNCLAS LONDON 004027

SENSITIVE

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR
FAS/OA/SCHUMACHER AND GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SCHROETER AND
ROBERTS; FAS/ITP/WEIAD/CHESLEY; FAS/HTP/PIASON;
FAA/AO/NE/LETARTE; APHIS/MEDLEY AND KUBICEK AND PAYNE
AND GIDDINGS; FSIS FOR BASU

STATE PASS USTR FOR MONIER AND MOORE
STATE PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI
STATE PASS FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK

SUBJECT: FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE POSITION ON AGRONOMIC
CHARACTERISTICS IN GMO LABELING

REF: LONDON 02762

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT
ACCORDINGLY.

2. FOLLOWING THE UK'S DECISION TO REQUIRE THE LABELING
OF THE FLAVR SAVR TOMATO, POST CONTACTED THE FOOD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC) SECRETARIAT TO CLARIFY ITS
POSITION ON LABELING REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIVED THE
FOLLOWING RESPONSE.

3. BEGIN TEXT:
LABELLING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED TOMATO TO BE CONSUMED
FRESH.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 19 MARCH ON THE ABOVE.

WHEN THE FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC) GUIDELINES WERE DRAWN UP IN 1993, IT WAS RECOGNISED THAT THEY WOULD NEED TO BE REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE. THE FLAVR SAVR TOMATO WAS THE FIRST PRODUCT TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE FAC WHERE INSERTED GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) MATERIAL REMAINED IN THE FOOD. THE FAC DECIDED THAT IT WAS AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO REVIEW THE GUIDELINES BEARING IN MIND THE COMMON POSITION REACHED ON THE DRAFT EC NOVEL FOODS REGULATION. THE COMMON POSITION WOULD REQUIRE SPECIAL LABELLING OF PRODUCTS SUCH AS THE FLAVR SAVR TOMATO.

THE FAC CONSIDERS EACH APPLICATION ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS THEREFORE I CANNOT PROVIDE A DEFINITIVE ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE THIRD PARAGRAPH OF YOUR LETTER. HOWEVER, AS A GENERAL OBSERVATION THE FAC IS UNLIKELY TO REGARD IMPROVED FLAVOUR AS AN AGRICULTURAL CHARACTERISTIC IN THE CONTEXT OF LABELLING. I TRUST THIS INFORMATION ANSWERS THE POINTS YOU HAVE RAISED, BUT IF NOT PLEASE CONTACT ME AGAIN.

YOURS SINCERELY,

MISS B J RICHARDS
SECRETARY TO THE FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

END TEXT.

4. NOTE: PARAGRAPH THREE OF POST'S LETTER TO THE FAC SECRETARIAT STATED THE FOLLOWING:

SPECIFICALLY, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD CLARIFY WHETHER THE FAC VIEWS QUALITY ENHANCEMENTS, INCLUDING IMPROVED FLAVOR, AS BEING AGRICULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS. I AM ALSO INTERESTED IN WHETHER THE FAC CONSIDERS THE USE OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE MARKERS AS REQUIRING LABELING. END NOTE. CROWE
BT
#4027

NNNN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4027

TOR: 960402052939 M2160454

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHSMA1969 1141310-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 231310Z APR 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
OSRI: RUEHSM
DTG: 231310Z APR 96
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 DECISION TO PERMIT IMPORTS OF RRS AND VOTED AGAINST BT CORN IN APRIL.
(REFS C - F.)

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 SWEDEN'S POSITION ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS?

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

END SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS.

SIEBERT
BT
#1969

NNNN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1969

TOR: 960423092144 M2193693

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA5042 1501050-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 291050Z MAY 96

LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS

OSRI: RUEHBS

DTG: 291050Z MAY 96

ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC

INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN

SUBJ: GENETICALLY MODIFIED CHICORY

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 005042

FAS FOR ITP/SCHROETER/CHESLEY
STATE PASS USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EC POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
MILAN FOR AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED CHICORY

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE, TITLED "COMMISSION APPROVES CONDITIONS FOR THE MARKETING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CHICORY" DATED 21 MAY 1996 WAS RECEIVED BY USEU BRUSSELS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. THE COMMISSION HAS APPROVED THE CONDITIONS FOR PLACING ON THE MARKET OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CHICORY. THIS DECISION WILL ALLOW THE NETHERLANDS TO ISSUE A CONSENT TO BEJO ZADEN BV TO PLACE ON THE EUROPEAN MARKET GENETICALLY MODIFIED MALE STERILE CHICORY WITH PARTIAL TOLERANCE TO THE HERBICIDE GLUFOSINATE AMMONIUM (OR CHICORY BRED FROM THIS PRODUCT BY CROSSING WITH TRADITIONAL VARIETIES) FOR BREEDING ACTIVITIES.

THE DECISION WAS TAKEN FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE PROCEDURE FORESEEN BY DIRECTIVE 90/220/EEC ON THE DELIBERATE RELEASE INTO THE ENVIRONMENT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GMO'S). THE CONSENT ONLY COVERS THE NOTIFIED USE OF THE PRODUCT I.E. GROWING FOR BREEDING PURPOSES. ACCORDING TO THE EVALUATION CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMITTEE, THERE IS NO

REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS
ON HUMAN HEALTH OR THE ENVIRONMENT FROM THE USES
NOTIFIED.

THERE ARE NO SAFETY REASONS JUSTIFYING MENTIONING ON THE
LABEL THAT THE PRODUCT HAS BEEN OBTAINED BY GENETIC
MODIFICATION. IT SHALL HOWEVER BE INDICATED ON EACH
PACKET OF SEEDS THAT THE PRODUCT IS TO BE USED IS FOR
QSICQ BREEDING ACTIVITIES AND THAT IT MAY BE TOLERANT TO
THE HERBICIDE GLUFOSINATE AMMONIUM SUCH THAT VOLUNTEERS
CANNOT BE CONTROLLED BY THIS HERBICIDE. END TEXT

(DRAFTED:FAS:DCARRIS, CLEARED:FAS:SNENON,
APPROVED:FAS:GPOPE)

WAYNE
BT
#5042

NNNN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5042

TOR: 960529065628 M2246088

DIST:

SIT: DRAGONE KYLE TARULLO WALSH

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA5089 1510957-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 300957Z MAY 96
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 300957Z MAY 96
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
SUBJ: GENETICALLY MODIFIED CHICORY

TEXT:
UNCLAS BRUSSELS 005089

FAS FOR ITP/SCHROETER/CHESLEY
STATE PASS USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EC POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
MILAN FOR AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED CHICORY

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE, TITLED "COMMISSION APPROVES CONDITIONS FOR THE MARKETING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CHICORY" DATED 21 MAY 1996 WAS RECEIVED BY USEU BRUSSELS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. THE COMMISSION HAS APPROVED THE CONDITIONS FOR PLACING ON THE MARKET OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CHICORY. THIS DECISION WILL ALLOW THE NETHERLANDS TO ISSUE A CONSENT TO BEJO ZADEN BV TO PLACE ON THE EUROPEAN MARKET GENETICALLY MODIFIED MALE STERILE CHICORY WITH PARTIAL TOLERANCE TO THE HERBICIDE GLUFOSINATE AMMONIUM (OR CHICORY BRED FROM THIS PRODUCT BY CROSSING WITH TRADITIONAL VARIETIES) FOR BREEDING ACTIVITIES.

THE DECISION WAS TAKEN FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE PROCEDURE FORESEEN BY DIRECTIVE 90/220/EEC ON THE DELIBERATE RELEASE INTO THE ENVIRONMENT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GMO'S). THE CONSENT ONLY COVERS THE NOTIFIED USE OF THE PRODUCT I.E. GROWING FOR BREEDING PURPOSES. ACCORDING TO THE EVALUATION CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMITTEE, THERE IS NO

REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE ANY ADVERSE EFFECTS
ON HUMAN HEALTH OR THE ENVIRONMENT FROM THE USES
NOTIFIED.

THERE ARE NO SAFETY REASONS JUSTIFYING MENTIONING ON THE
LABEL THAT THE PRODUCT HAS BEEN OBTAINED BY GENETIC
MODIFICATION. IT SHALL HOWEVER BE INDICATED ON EACH
PACKET OF SEEDS THAT THE PRODUCT IS TO BE USED IS FOR
QSIQ BREEDING ACTIVITIES AND THAT IT MAY BE TOLERANT TO
THE HERBICIDE GLUFOSINATE AMMONIUM SUCH THAT VOLUNTEERS
CANNOT BE CONTROLLED BY THIS HERBICIDE. END TEXT

(DRAFTED:FAS:DCARRIS, CLEARED:FAS:SNENON,
APPROVED:FAS:GPOPE)

WAYNE
BT
#5089

NNNN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5089

TOR: 960530060155 M2247880

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHSM2692 1561332-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 041332Z JUN 96

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

OSRI: RUEHSM

DTG: 041332Z JUN 96

ORIG: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6879
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC

INFO: RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 8902
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4587

SUBJ: BACKGROUND INFO ON SWEDISH VOTES ON GMO
BT CORN AND CHICORY

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 STOCKHOLM 002692

FAS FOR ITP/DA SCHROETER, WEIAD/WEG/REYNOLDS AND
MTPAD
APHIS FOR MEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE

DEPT PASS USTR
POSTS FOR FAS AND ECON OFFICERS
SENSITIVE
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR ETRD USTR EUN SW
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND INFO ON SWEDISH VOTES ON GMO
BT CORN AND CHICORY

REF: STOCKHOLM 1743

1. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, AGCOUNSELOR HAD REQUESTED BACKGROUND INFO TO THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION MAKING PROCESS FOR THEIR VOTES ON BT CORN AND CHICORY. THIS INFORMATION COULD PROVE USEFUL IN UNDERSTANDING THE SWEDISH POSITIONS AND APPROACHES TO FUTURE VOTES ON GMOS. INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION FROM SWEDISH OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FOLLOWS.

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2. SWEDISH POSITION ON PROPOSED DECISION REGARDING MARKET APPROVAL OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CHICORY (CICHORIUM INTYBUS L.)

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BASIS FOR DECISION

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THE SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE HAS IN PREVIOUS STATEMENTS HAD NO OBJECTION TO MARKET APPROVAL OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CHICORY. THE REASON IS THAT THE CROP IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A DANGER TO THE ENVIRONMENT. THE CHICORY CAN CROSSBREED WITH WILD POPULATIONS OF THE SAME SPECIES BUT NONE OF THE THREE GENES INTRODUCED IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A SELECTIVE VALUE TO THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED CHICORY. POSSIBILITIES FOR THESE KINDS OF CROSSINGS IS STRONGLY RESTRICTED BY THE WAY THE SEED PRODUCED AND HOW THE PROPERTY IS BEING MANAGED.

-

NOTES/COMMENTS

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THE SWEDISH COMPETENT AUTHORITY (BOARD OF AGRICULTURE) HAS IN PREVIOUS COMMENTS REGARDING GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS, PROVIDED INFORMATION TO CLARIFY SWEDEN'S VIEW ON DIFFERENT ISSUES. IN SOME CASES, WHEN THERE WERE QUESTIONS ABOUT INTERPRETATIONS OF (SWEDISH) LAW, THE ARGUMENT AGAINST APPROVAL WAS PUT FORTH. IN REFERENCE TO THE ACTUAL PRODUCT (UNDER DISCUSSION), THE FOLLOWING POINTS CAN BE MADE.

-

SWEDEN HAS PREVIOUSLY QUESTIONED THE USE OF HERBICIDE TOLERANCE, BECAUSE THE LONG TERM ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS HAVE NOT BEEN ANALYZED IN HERBICIDE TOLERANT CROPS. IN THIS CASE (CHICORY) SWEDEN CAN ACCEPT HERBICIDE TOLERANCE BECAUSE IT WILL ONLY BE USED IN THE BREEDING PROCESS AND NOT IN THE ACTUAL CULTIVATION.

-

RESISTANCE AGAINST ANTIBIOTICS (IN THIS CASE, KANAMYCIN) IS USED ONLY AS A SELECTIVE MARKER FOR A EARLY STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. THE GENE HAS NO SUBSTANTIAL VALUE IN THE END PRODUCT REGARDLESS OF THE AREA OF USE. THE SWEDISH VIEW IS THAT THE ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT GENE IS USED ONLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND IS NOT PRESENT IN THE FINAL PRODUCT.

-

DIRECTIVE 90/220/EEC DOES NOT SUPPORT LABELING DEMANDS. SWEDEN THINKS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT LABELING OF FOOD IS IMPROVED, SO IT CAN BUILD-UP/CREATE CONFIDENCE FOR NEW TECHNIQUES AND NEW PRODUCTS. THE QUESTION REGARDING FOOD LABELING IS NOW BEING HANDLED BY THE NOVEL FOODS COMMITTEE IN EC. BEFORE A DECISION ABOUT LABELING GMOS IN FOOD PRODUCTS IS REACHED (UNDER EU NOVEL FOODS LEGISLATION) THE PRESENT SITUATION MAY LEAD TO PRODUCTS BEING RELEASED WITHOUT LABELED AS CONTAINING GMOS, DESPITE THAT FACT THE SAME PRODUCT IN THE NEAR FUTURE MUST BE LABELED AS A GMO. THIS IS NOT A SATISFACTORY SITUATION FROM THE SWEDISH STANDPOINT.

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FINALLY, SWEDEN'S OPINION IS THAT IT IS DESIRABLE

TO TREAT SAFETY REGULATIONS IN THE SAME MANNER
WHETHER (THE PRODUCT IN QUESTION) IS FOR FEED OR
FOOD.

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3. SWEDISH POSITION ON PROPOSED DECISION
REGARDING MARKET APPROVAL OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED
CORN (ZEA MAYS L.)

BT

#2692

NNNN

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 STOCKHOLM 002692

FAS FOR ITP/DA SCHROETER, WEIAD/WEG/REYNOLDS AND
MTPAD
APHIS FOR MEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE

DEPT PASS USTR
POSTS FOR FAS AND ECON OFFICERS
SENSITIVE
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR ETRD USTR EUN SW
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND INFO ON SWEDISH VOTES ON GMO
BT CORN AND CHICORY

-

-

BASIS FOR DECISION

-

THE SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE HAS IN PREVIOUS
STATEMENTS REGARDING THIS ISSUE CALLED ATTENTION
TO THE LACK OF INFORMATION FOR THE DETERMINATION
OF RISK. SWEDEN DEMANDS THAT MORE INFORMATION
SHOULD BE GATHERED BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE. SUCH
COLLECTION HAS NOT BEEN MADE.

-

THE TARGET ORGANISM FOR THE INTRODUCED RESISTANT
IS MAJSMOTTET (CORN MOTH/BORER) (OSTRINA
NUBILALIS), WHICH IS A MAJOR PEST IN CORN IN LARGE
PARTS OF THE WORLD, BUT NOT IN SWEDEN. POTENTIAL
ECOLOGICAL RISKS AND EFFECTS DO NOT APPLY IN
SWEDEN. HOWEVER, GENERALLY SPEAKING, SWEDEN HAS A
POSITIVE VIEW ON CROPS THAT ARE BEING DEVELOPED
FOR RESISTANCE-QUALITY AGAINST PESTS, IN THIS CASE
(ZEA MAYS L.). HOWEVER, SWEDEN CAN NOT ACCEPT
MARKETING APPROVAL BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF
BACKGROUND INFORMATION. BACKGROUND INFORMATION IS
NEEDED REGARDING SENSITIVE BUTTERFLY SPECIES WHICH
USE CORN AS FOOD. ALSO (THE IMPACT OF) A MAJOR
REDUCTION OF MAJSMOTTET (CORN MOTH/BORER) (OSTRINA
NUBILALIS) IN CORN FIELDS HAS NOT BEEN ASSESSED
ON OTHER ORGANISMS IN THE ENVIRONMENT, SUCH AS

INSECTIVORE BIRDS AND OTHER INSECTIVORES. SWEDEN THINKS THAT ADDITIONAL RESEARCH IS NECESSARY BEFORE MARKETING APPROVAL.

-
IN ADDITION, IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT SWEDEN HAS EARLIER OPPOSED APPROVAL OF CROPS MODIFIED FOR HERBICIDE-TOLERANCE, BECAUSE THIS TECHNIQUE MIGHT LEAD TO NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS, IN PARTICULAR LONG TERM ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS. A REPORT/INVESTIGATION OF THESE EFFECTS HAS BEEN PROMISED, BUT NOT YET PRESENTED BY THE COMMISSION (EU).

-
FOR CORN (ZEA MAYS L.), HERBICIDE RESISTANCE WILL MAINLY BE USED AS A SELECTIVE MARKER IN BREEDING. IF HERBICIDE RESISTANCE IS USED ONLY FOR THIS PURPOSE AND UNDER CONTROLLED MEANS (GREENHOUSE) AND WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE IS NO RISK FOR SPREADING OF RESISTANCE TO NON CULTIVATED CROPS, IT IS ACCEPTABLE.

-
(HOWEVER) AS IT IS POSSIBLE TO USE THE RESISTANCE QUALITY IN FARMING, THE CORN IS NOT ACCEPTABLE IN REGARD TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. THE LONG TERM ECOLOGICALLY EFFECTS OF HERBICIDE RESISTANCE HAS NOT YET BEEN EXPLORED.

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COMMENTS/NOTES

-
THE SWEDISH COMPETENT AUTHORITY (BOARD OF AGRICULTURE) HAS IN PREVIOUS COMMENTS REGARDING GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS, PROVIDED INFORMATION TO CLARIFY SWEDEN'S VIEW ON DIFFERENT ISSUES. IN SOME CASES, WHEN THERE WERE QUESTIONS ABOUT INTERPRETATIONS OF (SWEDISH) LAW, THE ARGUMENT AGAINST APPROVAL WAS PUT FORTH. IN REFERENCE TO THE ACTUAL PRODUCT (UNDER DISCUSSION), THE FOLLOWING POINTS CAN BE MADE.

-
RESISTANCE AGAINST ANTIBIOTICS (IN THIS CASE AMPICILLIN) IS USED ONLY AS A SELECTIVE MARKER IN A EARLY STAGE IN THE BREEDING PROCESS. THE GENE HAS NO SUBSTANTIAL VALUE IN THE FINAL PRODUCT, REGARDLESS OF FIELD OF APPLICATION. THE SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE SUGGESTS THAT BREEDING PROGRAMS SHOULD BE WORKED OUT IN DETAIL, IN SUCH A WAY THAT ANTIBIOTICS RESISTANCE IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE FINAL PRODUCT.

-
DIRECTIVE 90/220/EEC DOES NOT SUPPORT LABELING DEMANDS. SWEDEN THINKS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT LABELING OF FOOD IS IMPROVED, SO IT CAN BUILD-UP/CREATE CONFIDENCE FOR NEW TECHNIQUES AND NEW PRODUCTS. THE QUESTION REGARDING FOOD LABELING IS NOW BEING HANDLED BY THE NOVEL FOODS COMMITTEE IN EC. BEFORE A DECISION ABOUT LABELING GMOS IN FOOD PRODUCTS IS REACHED (UNDER EU NOVEL FOODS
BT

#2692

NNNN

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 STOCKHOLM 002692

FAS FOR ITP/DA SCHROETER, WEIAD/WEG/REYNOLDS AND
MTPAD

APHIS FOR MEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE

DEPT PASS USTR

POSTS FOR FAS AND ECON OFFICERS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR ETRD USTR EUN SW

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND INFO ON SWEDISH VOTES ON GMO
BT CORN AND CHICORY

LEGISLATION) THE PRESENT SITUATION MAY LEAD TO
PRODUCTS BEING RELEASED WITHOUT LABELED AS
CONTAINING GMOS, DESPITE THAT FACT THE SAME
PRLDUCT IN THE NEAR FUTURE MUST BE LABELED AS A
GMO. THIS IS NOT A SATISFACTORY SITUATION FROM THE
SWEDISH STANDPOINT.

-

FINALLY, ACCORDING TO THE SWEDISH POINT OF VIEW,
IT MUST BE CLEAR IN THE APPLICATION WHICH PRODUCT
USE AREAS MARKET APPROVAL APPLIES TO. PRECISE
DEFINITION OF UTILIZATION AREAS ARE ESSENTIAL SO
THAT THE MEMBER STATES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE
13 OF DIRECTIVE 90/220/EEG, WILL BE ABLE TO RENDER
EXACT (INFORMED) DECISIONS AND EVALUATE THE
APPLICATION ON THE BASIS OF THE CONDITIONS
(INFORMATION) IN IT. END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION.

SIEBERT

BT

#2692

NNNN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03

<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 2692

<^SSN>2692

<^SSN>2692

TOR: 960604094051 M2255247

<^TOR>960604094156 M2255249

<^TOR>960604094217 M2255250

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAEZYUW RUEHTCA3517 2221515-EEEE--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY EEEEE ZZH
LINE3: O 091515Z AUG 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
OSRI: RUEHTC
DTG: 091515Z AUG 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2974
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: EU RETAILER ORGANIZATION PUSHES FOR
SEGREGATED TRADE OF GMO COMMODITY

TEXT:
UNCLAS E F T O THE HAGUE 003517

QQQQ
SENSITIVE

NOFORN

STATE PLEASE PASS TO USDA FOR
FAS/ITP/MCHESLEY//CMP/OPD/FRUDD//CMP/GF/
RRIEMENSCHNIEDER//ITP/OFSTS/GWIGGIN//FAA/
PLETARTE/

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, NL
SUBJECT: EU RETAILER ORGANIZATION PUSHES FOR
SEGREGATED TRADE OF GMO COMMODITY

REF: A)THE HAGUE 03493 B)LONDON 09547

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PROPRIETARY
INFORMATION AND OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SOURCES
UTILIZED. PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

2. EUROCOMMERCE, AN ASSOCIATION OF FOOD
RETAILERS AND SUPERMARKET CHAINS, IS
CONTINUING TO PRESS FOR SEGREGATION OF GMO
SOYBEANS FROM THE PROCESSING STREAM OF
CONVENTIONAL SOYBEANS. THIS IS BASED ON OUR
DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DUTCH
SOYBEAN INDUSTRY AND ITS ASSOCIATIONS. THE
LATTER GROUPS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO GAIN, WITHOUT
SUCCESS, THE SUPPORT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF
THE FOOD AND DRINK INDUSTRIES OF THE EU
(CIAA), THE DUTCH PRODUCT BOARD FOR OILSEEDS,
AND SEVERAL LARGE SOYBEAN PROCESSORS.
EUROCOMMERCE INTERESTS ARE SUPPORTED STRONGLY

BY ONE OF THEIR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS, THE CONSORTIUM OF BRITISH RETAILERS, THE ORGANIZATION WHICH SENT THE LETTER TO THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTER COUNSELOR IN LONDON (REF B). EUROCOMMERCE REPRESENTS A LARGE AND UNWIELDY EU GROCERY FOOD INDUSTRY AND WAS, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, INFLUENCED STRONGLY BY THE BRITISH RETAIL CONSORTIUM.

3. THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY, DESCRIBED IN REF A, INDICATES THAT EUROCOMMERCE IS STILL COMMITTED TO CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR SEGREGATION AND LABELING. AS A RESULT, ANY POSSIBLE GMO-BASED PRODUCT WOULD LIKELY BE LABELED AND/OR EXCLUDED FROM THE MARKET BY DEFAULT.

4. CONTACTS IN THE INDUSTRY INDICATE THAT DUTCH ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALSO CONSIDERING SOME FORM OF PROTEST ACTION AGAINST GMO SOYBEANS. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE NOT DECIDED ON A COURSE OF ACTION. THE DUTCH PRODUCT BOARD FOR OILSEEDS HAS MAINTAINED AN OPEN DIALOGUE WITH THE DUTCH ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO REMAIN FULLY INFORMED OF THEIR PLANS. (GREENPEACE IS EXPECTED TO USE THE INTERNATIONAL SOY SYMPOSIUM IN BRUSSELS, SEPTEMBER 16-18, AS A FORUM FOR THEIR VIEWS.)

COMMENT: INDUSTRY SOURCES INDICATE THAT FISSURES HAVE DEVELOPED BETWEEN OR AMONG DUTCH CRUSHERS AND, PERHAPS, RETAILERS IN THE NETHERLANDS REGARDING POSSIBLE LABELING OF GMO PRODUCTS AND DERIVATIVES. THE FIRM FOUNDATION THAT SUPPORTED PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION AS OPPOSED TO LABELING THAT WAS ASSUMED TO EXIST IN THE NETHERLANDS MAY STILL BE VIABLE. HOWEVER, IN REACTION TO THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE U.K. AND AMONG ASSOCIATIONS IN BRUSSELS, THE DUTCH HAVE REIGNITED THE DEBATE ON PROCESSING AND LABELING OF GMO COMMODITIES AND THEIR DERIVATIVES. IT STILL MAY BE POSSIBLE, ACCORDING TO SOME LARGE INDUSTRY PROCESSING AND MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES CLOSE TO THIS PROCESS, THAT THE DUTCH CONSENSUS CAN BE RE-ESTABLISHED. MOREOVER, THEY EVEN PROPOSE THIS AS A MODEL FOR DEVELOPING AN EU-WIDE RESOLUTION TO THE CURRENT CRISIS. DORNBUSH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3517

TOR: 960809113754 M2351902

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHTCA3689 2360834-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 230834Z AUG 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
OSRI: RUEHTC
DTG: 230834Z AUG 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3064
INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0212
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: VEG OIL INDUSTRY ON GMO SOYBEANS

TEXT:
UNCLAS THE HAGUE 003689

SENSITIVE

USDA FOR FAS/OA/ASCHUMACHER/
GALVIN/ITP/CTHORNE/MCHESLEY//CMP/OPD/FRUDD//
CMP/GF/RRIEMENSCHNIEDER//ITP/OFSTS/LHARBERT/
GWIGGIN//FAA/PLETARTE/

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, NL
SUBJECT: VEG OIL INDUSTRY ON GMO SOYBEANS

REF: A)THE HAGUE 03517

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PROPRIETARY INFORMATION AND OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SOURCES
2. AGCOUNSELOR AND AGSPECIALIST MET WITH UNILEVER REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS THE COMPANY'S POINT OF VIEW REGARDING SEGREGATION AND LABELLING OF GMO SOYBEANS FROM THE: PROCESSING STREAM OF CONVENTIONAL SOYBEANS. PRESENT AT THIS MEETING WERE MR. VIGEVENO (SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT YELLOW FATS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE UNILEVER BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE), MR. JONGENELEN (SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER) AND MR. LAAN (AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC ADVISER).
3. MR. VIGEVENO CLEARLY EXPRESSED THAT UNILEVER, IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, IS AGAINST SEGREGATION AND LABELING, SINCE IT IS NOT PRACTICAL. HE STATES THAT UNILEVER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS PARTICULAR GMO IS NEUTRAL, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE GENERALLY IN FAVOR OF

BIOTECHNOLOGY. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT GMO ISSUES SHOULD BE HANDLED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. VIGEVENO ADMITTED THAT WITHIN THE COMPANY, DIFFERENT OPINIONS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED TO VARIOUS GROUPS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND WITHIN BUSINESS CIRCLES; HE ADDED THAT THIS IS INEVITABLE EVEN IN A LARGE COMPANY SUCH AS UNILEVER.

4. MR. VIGEVENO CONTINUED THAT CURRENTLY THE INDUSTRY SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON INFORMING THE PUBLIC PROPERLY IN ORDER TO GENERATE ACCEPTANCE OF THE RRS BEFORE THE FIRST SHIPMENT ACTUALLY ENTERS THE EUROPEAN UNION. HE FEARS THAT, ONCE WE REACH THE END OF OCTOBER, THE MEDIA COULD USE THIS FACT TO STIR UP SENTIMENT AND CREATE A BACKLASH. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT EUROPEAN CONSUMERS ARE VERY CRITICAL AND HAVE A RIGHT TO ADEQUATE LEVELS OF INFORMATION. IN COOPERATION WITH ()THER INDUSTRIES, EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS HAVE BEEN INITIATED, LARGELY FOCUSING ON GERMANY, AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND. NOTE: THE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON RRS/GMO'S IN THE NETHERLANDS IS GOING WELL AND HAS ALREADY ACHIEVED GOOD RESULTS. UNILEVER SEES THESE OTHERS AS IMPORTANT SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION INITIATIVES UNDER MORE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS.

5. IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A COMMON VIEW, UNILEVER HAS JOINED FORCES WITH NESTLE, DANONE AND KRAFT. THEY MET WITH GREENPEACE TO DISCUSS THE SEGREGATION ISSUE AND OTHER GMO RELATED TOPICS. ACCORDING TO MR VIGEVENO, A MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TOOK PLACE AND THE EXCHANGE WAS VERY FRUITFUL. NEVERTHELESS, THEY DID NOT MANAGE TO RESOLVE ALL ARGUMENTS AND GREENPEACE SUPPOSEDLY STILL HAS SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT GMO'S IN GENERAL. CURRENTLY, THE INDUSTRY IS DRAFTING A REPLY TO GREENPEACE QUESTIONS FOR MORE INFORMATION. THEY EXPECT THAT THIS MAY RESULT IN SOME ADDITIONAL PROGRESS, BUT WILL NOT COMPLETELY DEFUSE THE PROBLEM. DORNBUSH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3689

TOR: 960823044011 M2368965

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHOLA3228 2471550-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 031550Z SEP 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BONN
OSRI: RUEHOL
DTG: 031550Z SEP 96
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

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

SSN: 3228

TOR: 960904120423 M2384068

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHCPA4653 2551411-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 111411Z SEP 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
OSRI: RUEHCP
DTG: 111411Z SEP 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9632
INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0271
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GMO CORN - MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
REITERATES SUPPORT

TEXT:
UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 004653

STATE, OES, EB/TPP/ATT
AGRICULTURE FOR ITP/SCHROETER/WHEATLEY, C&MP/OP/RUDD
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
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

E.O. 12958: NA
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, DA
SUBJECT: GMO CORN - MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
REITERATES SUPPORT

1. THE DANISH MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, SVEND AUKEN, HAS REITERATED PUBLICLY HIS POSITION THAT GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GMO) CORN POSES NO HEALTH OR ENVIRONMENTAL DANGER FOR THE DANISH CONSUMER. HIS WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE BUSINESS NEWSPAPER, "INFORMATION", APPARENTLY WAS DIRECTED TO THE NEWSPAPERS RECENT ARTICLES AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR EXPRESSING DOUBTS ON THE SAFETY OF GMO CORN. (DENMARK, HOWEVER, DID OBJECT TO THE MARKETING OF GMO CORN TO THE EU COUNCIL ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PRODUCT IS NOT LABELED "IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER".)

2. CORN FLAKES WERE FEATURED IN A RECENT "INFORMATION" ARTICLE WHICH HIGHLIGHTED THE POSSIBILITY AND PROBABILITY THAT, EVEN THOUGH GMO CORN IS NOT APPROVED IN THE EU, IT COULD AND WILL PROBABLY BE USED IN FOOD PRODUCTS SHIPPED TO OR MANUFACTURED IN THE EU. "INFORMATION" QUOTED THE GERMAN DAILY NEWSPAPER, "FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU"

EXTENSIVELY.

3. A SPOKESPERSON FOR CIBA-GEIGY IN DENMARK WAS QUOTED IN THE ARTICLE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT MANUFACTURERS HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER THE RAW OR SEMI-FINISHED PRODUCTS FOR PROCESSING, AS THESE PRODUCTS MAY GO THROUGH SEVERAL DISTRIBUTION PROCESSES. HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE USE OF GMOS FROM NON-GMOS IN THE FINAL PRODUCT. HE REPORTED THAT HE HAD ASKED CIBA-GEIGY HEADQUARTERS IN BASLE FOR FURTHER DETAILS BUT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE.

4. MINISTER AUKEN IN HIS WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE NEWSPAPER NOTED THAT DENMARK, OF ALL EU MEMBER STATES, INVOLVES ITS CITIZENS MOST DIRECTLY IN SUCH ISSUES. HE POINTED OUT THAT ORGANIZATIONS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND PARLIAMENT HAD BEEN LISTENED TO. ULTIMATELY, THE SCIENTIFIC CONCLUSION WAS THAT GMO CORN PROVIDED NO HEALTH OR ENVIRONMENTAL RISK. DANISH RESEARCH HAD CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS NO DANGER OF THE PESTICIDE RESISTANT GENE SPREADING TO OTHER PLANTS OR BEING ESTABLISHED IN NATURE FROM GMO CORN. IN FACT, THE REDUCED USE OF PESTICIDES AND CHEMICALS AFFORDED BY THE USE OF SOME GMOS ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT.

5. HE DID ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS MAY NOT BE THE CASE WITH GMO RAPESEED AND FOR THAT REASON DENMARK PROTESTED AGAINST ITS APPROVAL. THE MINISTER HAS DEMANDED IN THE EU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THAT THE EU INVESTIGATE THOROUGHLY THE LONG TERM CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FROM GMO PLANTS. HIS POSITION IS THAT THE ENVIRONMENT BE GIVEN "EVERY BENEFIT OF DOUBT".

6. COMMENT: AUKEN'S RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS ARE A WELCOME DEPARTURE FROM THOSE IN EARLIER GMO CASES. THEY INDICATE A MORE PRAGMATIC AND RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO THE ISSUE, PERHAPS PROMPTED BY THE REALIZATION OF THE WIDER POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF DENMARK'S POSITION ON THESE ISSUES, REPEATEDLY UNDERScoreD BY THE EMBASSY, AND DENMARK'S SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC ECONOMIC INTERESTS. INTERESTINGLY, THE ONLY RECENT PRESS ON THE GMO ISSUE HAS APPEARED IN A BUSINESS PUBLICATION WITH LIMITED DISTRIBUTION, AND NOT THE MORE WIDELY READ POPULAR PRESS.

7. DENMARK, WHILE OBJECTING ON THE GROUNDS OF UNSATISFACTORY LABELING, STILL HAS NOT SPECIFIED WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE SATISFACTORY LABELING FOR GMO PRODUCTS. ELSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4653

TOR: 960911102113 M2394982

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHTCA4066 2640908-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 200908Z SEP 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
OSRI: RUEHTC
DTG: 200908Z SEP 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3255
INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0228
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
SUBJ: DUTCH EXPERT'S VIEWS ON BIOSAFETY AND GMO APPROVAL PROCESS
IN THE EU--PROBLEM IS THE PROCESS AND NOT THE PRODUCT

TEXT:

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 004066

STATE FOR OES/ETC
PASS EPA/OIA, FAS FOR ITP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SENV, EAGR, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH EXPERT'S VIEWS ON BIOSAFETY AND GMO APPROVAL PROCESS
IN THE EU--PROBLEM IS THE PROCESS AND NOT THE PRODUCT

1. THIS IS AN ACTION CABLE. SEE PARA 5.

2. PIET VAN DER MEER, THE DUTCH ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY'S EXPERT ON BIOSAFETY, TOLD ECON OFFICERS THAT THE TIME CONSUMING GMO (GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS) CLEARANCE PROCEDURE NOW IN FORCE IN THE EU IS DELAYING THE MARKETING OF NEW PRODUCTS. VAN DER MEER SAID THESE ARE POLICY PROBLEMS, NOT PRODUCT PROBLEMS. THE DELAYS ARE PRIMARILY CAUSED BY DIFFERENCES IN THE RISK ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES OF EU MEMBER STATES AND THE LACK OF AGREEMENT ON DATA DESCRIPTIONS. ACCORDING TO VAN DER MEER, IF THE PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, THE DUTCH PLAN TO PUT MUTUAL ACCEPTABILITY OF DATA DESCRIPTIONS ON THEIR EU PRESIDENCY AGENDA.

3. IN THE EU, THE DUTCH ARE WORKING MOST CLOSELY WITH THE UK AND FRANCE TO EXAMINE SERIOUSLY THE ISSUE OF GMO'S. THE PERIOD OF VIOLENT PROTESTS IN THE NETHERLANDS OVER GMO PRODUCTS SEEMS TO HAVE PASSED, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE STILL OCCASIONAL LAWSUITS AND, MORE FREQUENTLY, THE NEED FOR GOVERNMENT TESTIMONY ON THESE ISSUES. AS IS THE CASE ON OTHER CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, DUTCH OFFICIALS HAVE SOUGHT TO BUILD CONSENSUS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY THROUGH ENDLESS DISCUSSION OF THE OBJECTIONS TO AND THE MERITS OF GMO'S. THE ISSUE IS NOT DEAD HERE, BUT MUCH OF THE PASSION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY COOLER SCIENTIFIC EXAMINATION OF THE PRO'S AND CON'S OF GMO'S.

4. THE DUTCH HAVE ESTABLISHED AN INTERAGENCY BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP HEADED BY MR. VERNOOY OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, NATURE AND FISHERIES. WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, ALL BIOSAFETY ISSUES ARE HANDLED BY VAN DER MEER, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WHO IS BOTH A BIOLOGIST AND A LAWYER. THE BIOTECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP IN THIS FRAMEWORK CONSISTS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL MINISTRIES, INCLUDING THE AGRICULTURAL, HEALTH, ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRIES AND IS HEADED BY SABINE VAN DER LAAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BECAUSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF THIS ISSUE. STIMULATION OF THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY HAS BEEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY, BUT THE MINISTRY'S TRADE OFFICE IS NOW ALSO INVOLVED.

5. ACTION: VAN DER MEER HAS ASKED FOR THE VIEWS OF THE U.S. ON THE UNDERLYING PROCESS OF EU GMO CLEARANCES AND SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF PROBLEMS/COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE PROCESS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING U.S. VIEWS WHICH WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE GON AS IT PREPARES ITS AGENDA FOR THE EU PRESIDENCY WHICH BEGINS IN JANUARY. DORNBUSH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4066

TOR: 960920052000 M2409220

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHVIA6178 2711122-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
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:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 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

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By W NARA, Date 11/16/2015
2016-0524-m (1.41)

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 SUPPLY 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. ~~(S)~~ 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. ~~(S)~~ 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, MOLTERER IS HARDLY IN A POSITION TO SWAY AUSTRIAN PUBLIC OPINION (OR AUSTRIA'S VOICE IN THE EU) IN FAVOR OF GMO'S OR HORMONES.

9. (SBU) CURIOUSLY, MAD-COW DISEASE, THOUGH AN UNRELATED PHENOMENON, IS ALSO HAVING AN APPARENT IMPACT IN THAT IT HAS FOCUSSED CONSUMER ATTENTION ON THE FOOD SUPPLY AND THUS MADE THE DEBATE OVER FOOD SAFETY, AND GMO'S, THAT MUCH MORE TOPICAL AND CONTROVERSIAL--EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE NO MAD COWS IN AUSTRIA. END COMMENT.

HNT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6178

TOR: 960927074337 M2420431

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHKO A9129 2750127-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 010127Z OCT 96

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

OSRI: RUEHKO

DTG: 010127Z OCT 96

ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO: RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 6581

RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7812

RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6413

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2427

RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 2599

INFO: ////

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN APPROVES IMPORT OF SEVEN
- GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

ON SEPTEMBER 24, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY,
AND FISHERIES APPROVED SIX GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS

TEXT:

UNCLAS TOKYO 009129

STATE PASS TO USTR

USDA FOR FAS/ITP/OFSTS/LLOYD HARBERT, FAS/ITP/JOHN
REYNOLDS, FAS/C&MP/O&P/FINN RUDD AND C&MP/G&F/MARC LOWER
GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN APPROVES IMPORT OF SEVEN
- GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

ON SEPTEMBER 24, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY,
AND FISHERIES APPROVED SIX GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS
FOR USE AS FEED, INCLUDING TWO GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN
PRODUCTS. WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE'S
APPROVAL LAST MONTH OF ALL 6 PRODUCTS FOR USE AS FOOD, IN
ADDITION TO ONE ADDITIONAL PRODUCT (GENETICALLY MODIFIED
POTATOES), FULL APPROVAL FOR THE SEVEN PRODUCTS HAS NOW
BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THESE PRODUCTS
MAY NOW BE FREELY IMPORTED INTO JAPAN. MONDALE

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 9129

TOR: 960930213339 M2425032

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHNYA4908 2761517-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 021517Z OCT 96

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

OSRI: RUEHNY

DTG: 021517Z OCT 96

ORIG: AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0165
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5005

INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 2051
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0924
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 8366
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 9253

SUBJ: GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS UNDER PRESSURE
IN NORWAY

TEXT:

UNCLAS OSLO 004908

STATE PASS TO USTR

USDA FOR FAS/ITP/WEID, CMP/O&P AND FAA/EUROPE

STOCKHOLM FOR FAS

GENEVA FOR FAS

COPENHAGEN FOR FAS

E.O. 12958 DECL:N/A.

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, NO

SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS UNDER PRESSURE
IN NORWAY

1. DENOFA A/S (NORWAY'S ONLY SOYBEAN IMPORTER) HAS BEEN PRESSURED BY THE NORWEGIAN MEDIA AND FOOD INDUSTRY TO FOREGO PURCHASING GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. THE FIRM HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO SWITCH THREE UPCOMING SHIPMENT CONTRACTS FROM U.S. TO CANADIAN SUPPLIERS. DENOFA HAS ALSO COVERED SOME OF ITS SOYBEAN OIL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FROM OLD CROP SUPPLIERS IN EUROPE. IN A WORSE CASE SCENARIO, PUBLIC PRESSURE AND/OR A NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEAN IMPORTS COULD CLOSE OFF THE U.S. SOYBEAN MARKET IN NORWAY. THIS AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 265,000 TONS ANNUALLY, VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY USD 50 MILLION. (NORWAY'S TOTAL SOYBEAN IMPORTS ARE ABOUT 300,000 TONS ANNUALLY.)

2. A DENOFA REPRESENTATIVE TOLD US HIS FIRM HOPES THE SOURCING SWITCH STRATEGY WILL BUY ENOUGH TIME TO KEEP SOYBEAN IMPORTS FLOWING STEADILY WHILE CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS BUILDS UP IN EUROPE. (THE SOYBEANS ARE EXPECTED TO HIT THE EU MARKET AROUND YEAR END.) WHILE THE EU HAS GIVEN A GREEN LIGHT TO THE SOYBEAN IMPORTS, THE FIRM SEES MAJOR RISKS TO THE MARKET IF GREEN ORGANIZATIONS OR CONSUMER GROUP STRONGLY OPPOSE THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS. DENOFA FEELS THAT POTENTIAL OPPOSITION CAN BE COUNTERED BY A GOOD PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN, BUT THAT WILL TAKE TIME. ONCE EUROPEAN CONSUMERS ACCEPT THE SOYBEANS, INTRODUCTION TO THE NORWEGIAN MARKET WILL BE CONSIDERABLY EASIER.

3. NORWEGIAN SOYBEAN PURCHASES HAVE MARKET RAMIFICATIONS THROUGHOUT SCANDINAVIA. IN 1995, NORWAY EXPORTED 180,000 TONS OF SOYBEAN MEAL VALUED AT USD 40 MILLION TO SWEDEN, DENMARK AND FINLAND. ACCORDING TO DENOFA, MANY OF ITS SCANDINAVIAN BUYERS HAVE REGISTERED CONCERNS ABOUT GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS.
LOFTUS

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4908

TOR: 961002132716 M2428230

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHNYA5191 2921702-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 181702Z OCT 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
OSRI: RUEHNY
DTG: 181702Z OCT 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0166
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5094
INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4296
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 8410
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 9307
SUBJ: NORWEGIAN GROCERS PUT DOWN A MARKER ON
GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OSLO 005191

STATE PASS TO USTR

USDA FOR FAS/ITP/WEID, CMP/O&E AND FAA/EUROPE

STOCKHOLM, COPENHAGEN AND USEU FOR FAS

GENEVA FOR USTR AND FAS

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, NO
SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN GROCERS PUT DOWN A MARKER ON
GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS

REF: OSLO 04908

1. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE.

OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

2. THE CHAIRMAN OF A NORWEGIAN GROCERIES TRADE ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBYING GROUP (DMF) HAS WRITTEN TO THE AMBASSADOR STATING THAT IF U.S. GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS ARE NOT SEPARATED FROM STANDARD SOYBEANS AND LABELED AS SUCH WHEN MARKETED IN NORWAY, THE LOBBYING GROUP WILL TAKE "ACTION AS APPROPRIATE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EUROPEAN GROCERY TRADE." DMF ARRANGED FOR PUBLICATION OF ITS LETTER THE SAME DAY IT WAS SENT TO US. THE EMBASSY IS CONSIDERING A RESPONSE AND REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON THE TEXT. ANY RESPONSE MUST BE BASED ON THE

ASSUMPTION THAT IT WILL BE LEAKED TO THE PRESS.

3. WHILE WE ARE UNSURE ABOUT THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF DMF, THE VIEWS REFLECTED IN THE LETTER ARE CONSISTENT WITH SENTIMENTS SHARED WIDELY AMONG NORWEGIANS AT THE GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL. NEVERTHELESS, NORWEGIAN EXPERTS HAVE MADE PUBLIC ASSURANCES THAT GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS ARE SAFE.

THE DMF LETTER

4. THE TEXTS OF THE LETTER AND ITS ATTACHMENT FOLLOW:

BEGIN TEXT

ON BEHALF OF THE NORWEGIAN GROCERY TRADE FORUM ON ENVIRONMENT AND PACKAGING WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS NEW BIOTECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH CAN IMPROVE FOOD QUALITY AND BRING ENVIRONMENTAL ADVANTAGES.

HOWEVER, GENETICALLY MODIFIED NEW FOODS MUST HAVE A CLEAR LABELLING.

THE NORWEGIAN GROCERY TRADE WOULD LIKE TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONSUMERS' RIGHT TO BE INFORMED AND THEIR RIGHT OF CHOICE. FURTHERMORE, THE IMPORTANCE OF PRODUCT AND INGREDIENT TRACEABILITY SHOULD NOT BE COMPROMISED. IN THIS RESPECT, THE MIXING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED AND CONVENTIONAL SOYA-BEANS FROM THE 1996 U.S. CROP DUE FOR HARVEST THIS AUTUMN, IS UNACCEPTABLE. THE MODIFIED BEANS HAVE TO BE SEPARATED FROM THE CONVENTIONAL BEANS SO THAT THE CONSUMERS' RIGHT TO CHOOSE IS PRESERVED. IF THIS SEPARATION IS NOT DONE, WE ARE PREPARED TO TAKE ACTION AS APPROPRIATE IN COLLABORATION WITH EUROPEAN GROCERY TRADE AND WILL DEMAND THAT THE PRODUCERS GIVE APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION.

WE ENCLOSE THE RECENT STATEMENT BY EUROCOMMERCE WITH REGARD TO THIS, A STATEMENT WHICH WE SUPPORT.

THE NORWEGIAN GROCERY TRADE FORUM ON ENVIRONMENT AND PACKAGING REPRESENTS THE TOTAL NORWEGIAN GROCERY TRADE, A BUSINESS SECTOR ACCOUNTING FOR APPROXIMATELY 50,000 EMPLOYEES.

SINCERELY YOURS,
STEINAR B. KRINGLEBOTTEN
CHAIRMAN
DAGLIGVAREHANDELENS MILJO-OG EMBALLASJEFORUM
OSLO

ATTACHMENT

(HEADING)

EUROCOMMERCE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY & GENETICALLY MODIFIED
SOYABEANS

(BEGIN TEXT)

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 OSLO 005191

STATE PASS TO USTR

USDA FOR FAS/ITP/WEID, CMP/O&E AND FAA/EUROPE

STOCKHOLM, COPENHAGEN AND USEU FOR FAS

GENEVA FOR USTR AND FAS

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN GROCERS PUT DOWN A MARKER ON
GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS

EUROCOMMERCE IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH
CONSUMERS, INDUSTRY AND THE AMERICAN SOYA BEAN EXPORTERS
ON THE SUBJECT OF THE IMMINENT ARRIVAL ON THE WORLD
COMMODITY MARKETS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYA BEANS.

APPROXIMATELY 2 PERCENT OF THE 1996 AMERICAN SOYABEAN
CROP, WHICH WILL BE HARVESTED THIS AUTUMN (40 PERCENT IS
EXPORTED TO EUROPE) IS MADE UP OF MONSANTO'S ROUND-UP-
READY, GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYABEANS. THE EU HAS GIVEN
APPROVAL FOR THESE BEANS TO BE PLACED ON THE MARKET IN
EUROPE. SOYABEANS OR THEIR DERIVED PRODUCTS CAN BE
FOUND IN UP TO 60 PERCENT OF ALL PROCESSED FOODS SOLD IN
SUPERMARKETS.

CONSUMERS ARE ONLY JUST COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE BSE
BEEF-SCANDAL: THEIR CONFIDENCE IN FOOD SAFETY IS
SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. FOOD RETAILERS THEREFORE
FEAR THAT

THE GENERAL INTRODUCTION OF FOODSTUFFS CONTAINING
GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS ON THE EUROPEAN MARKET
LATER THIS YEAR, WITHOUT OFFERING CONSUMERS ANY FURTHER
EXPLANATION, MAY LEAD TO FURTHER CONFUSION AND A
SUBSEQUENT DECLINE IN CONSUMER CONFIDENCE.

EUROCOMMERCE DOES NOT REJECT BIOTECHNOLOGY IN GENERAL.
HOWEVER, EUROCOMMERCE DOES BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER TO
AVOID EMOTIONAL REJECTION BY CONSUMERS, THEY MUST BE
ADEQUATELY INFORMED ON BIOTECHNOLOGY (E.G. BY MEANS OF
LABELLING) AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, THEY MUST BE OFFERED A
CHOICE BETWEEN PRODUCTS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED
INGREDIENTS AND PRODUCTS FREE FROM SUCH INGREDIENTS.

TO DATE, THE FOOD INDUSTRY HAS NOT CONSISTENTLY INFORMED
CONSUMERS IN AN ADEQUATE MANNER ABOUT BIOTECHNOLOGY.
EUROCOMMERCE HAS PUT STRONG PRESSURE ON FOOD
MANUFACTURERS TO START APPROPRIATE INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS

ON BIOTECHNOLOGY.

FURTHERMORE, EUROCOMMERCE HAS PROMOTED THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE AMERICAN GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYABEANS SHOULD BE SEGREGATED DURING HARVESTING, TRANSPORT AND FOOD PRODUCTION SO THAT FOOD PRODUCTS CAN BE LABELLED CORRECTLY.

EUROCOMMERCE HAS RECEIVED ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS, MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND SEVERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR ITS APPROACH.
BUTLER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 5191
<^SSN>5191
TOR: 961018163017 M2452534
<^TOR>961018163032 M2452535
DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHTCA4699 3061615-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 011615Z NOV 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
OSRI: RUEHTC
DTG: 011615Z NOV 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3689
INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0241
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIV
SUBJ: STUATION REPORT ON GMO
ISSUES IN THE NETHERLANDS

TEXT:
UNCLAS THE HAGUE 004699

SENSITIVE

TATE PASS USDA FOR
FAS/ITP/MCHESLEY//CMP/OPD/FRUDD//CMP/
GF/PRIEMENSCHNEIDER//IP/OFSTS/
LHARBERT//FAA/PLETARTE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, NL
SUBJECT: STUATION REPORT ON GMO
ISSUES IN THE NETHERLANDS

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.
PROPRIETAR INFORMATION AND OFFICIAL
GOVERNMENT SOURCES UTIIZED. PLEASE
PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

2. W HAVE HELD MEETINGS WITH
OFFICIALS, ASSOCIATION, AND PRIVATE
SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES REGARDINGTHE
STATUS OF GMO'S IN THE NETHERLANDS.
FOLOWING IS A COLLECTION OF OUR
INFORMATION GAINEDFROM THESE
MEETINGS. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER NET
WEEK. MEANWHILE, WE REQUEST THAT FAS/W
COORDINATE WITH ASA TO ARRANGE A
MEETING FOR MR.VIGEVENO OF UNILEVER/
ROTTERDAM. MR.VIGEVEO WILL BE IN
WASHINGTON, D.C.ON TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 5. WE RECOMMEND A MEETING AT
THE ADINISTRATOR OR ABOVE LEVEL.
ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE ADE BY
COORDINATING WITH ASA/ST.LOUIS. IF

POSSIBLE, NOTIFY AGRICULTURAL
COUNSELOR, STEVEN D.YODER BY COB
WASHINGTON TIME ON NOVEMBER 1
REGARDING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS
MEETING (HIS HOME PHONE IS 31 (70)
517-9029).

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

3. AGCOUNSELOR AND AGSPECIALIST MET
WITH DRAAISMA, DIRECTOR OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT OF MINAG TO
DISCUSS GMO ISSUES IN GENERAL.
DRAAISMA EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND
DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE NERVOUS
REACTION OF PRIVATE (FOOD) INDUSTRY IN
THE NETHERLANDS CONCERNING THE
CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE OF THE RRS. THE
ORIGINAL PUBLIC CAMPAIGN, AS ORGANIZED
BY THE PRODUCT BOARD FOR MARGERINES,
FATS & OILS, SEEMS TO HAVE PROCEEDED
WELL, BUT THE VIEWPOINT OF THE
INDUSTRY HAS BECOME LESS FOCUSED AND
MORE UNUNIFIED AS THE MARKET
INTRODUCTION DATE IS IMMINENT.

4. DRAAISMA REGRETTED THE FACT THAT
THE BABY FOOD INDUSTRY
(MILUPA/NUTRICIA AND NESTLE) DECLARED
THAT THEY WOULD NOT USE GMO PRODUCTS
IN THEIR BABY FOOD (AT LEAST NOT THIS
SEASON). HE OPINED THAT THEY MADE TO
STRONG A CASE OUT OF IT, ALLOWING FOR
GREENPEACE TO USE THEIR DECLARATION AS
A FIRST SUCCESS IN THEIR BATTLE
AGAINST GMO'S AND CREATING A
SEPARATION IN FOOD INDUSTRY FORCES.

5. DRAAISMA STATED THAT THE POSITION
OF THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT IS VERY CLEAR
IN SUPPORTING THE CASE OF ROUND-UP
READY SOYBEAN. THEY REQUEST CIBA-
GEIGY'S COOPERATION WITH A VOLUNTARY
SAFETY CHECK, WHICH IS LARGELY A PAPER
EXERCISE AND REVIEW. HE ALSO
EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS A
VOLUNTARY/NON-REGULATORY PROCEDURE SET
UP BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO
COVER FEED USE OF GMO'S. HE ARGUED
THAT THE POSITION OF THE COMPANIES
TOWARDS THE ENVIRONMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BECOME MUCH
STRONGER IF THEY HAVE AN OFFICIAL
DUTCH GOVERNMENT PAPER DECLARING THAT
THE PRODUCTS ARE SAFE FOR FEED
PURPOSES. HE OPINED THAT THE SAFETY

CHECK IS ONLY A INVESTIGATION OF DOCUMENTS, SINCE THE RESEARCH ALREADY TOOK PLACE IN THE U.S. DRAAISMA HAS NOT AWARE OF ANY MATERIAL ALREADY SUBMITTED BY CIBA-GEIGY CONCERNING BT CORN AND ASKED U.S. FOR HELP ON THIS SIDE. WE EXPLAINED THAT WE COULD NOT

COMMIT A COMPANY TO SUBMIT TO SUCH A PROCEDURE.

6. DRAAISMA'S CO-WORKER INFORMED US ABOUT A PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE CONSUMER ORGANIZATION CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF GMO'S TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 30. SHE ARGUED THAT THE VIEWPOINT OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS NEUTRAL TO POSITIVE.

7. MINAG PROVIDED AN UPDATE OF THE DRAFT LETTER TO PARLIAMENT CONCERNING GMO'S WHICH WILL BE SENT BY THE STATE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH. THIS LETTER IS EXPECTED TO BE FINISHED EARLY NOVEMBER. THE STATE SECRETARY IS LOOKING FOR SUPPORT FROM PARLIAMENT FOR HER CURRENT POLICY. MINAG ASSURED THAT THIS WILL RESTATE CURRENT POLICY AND WILL NOT ADD NEW ARGUMENTS OR A NEW SPIN TO THE ISSUE.

INDUSTRY

8. AGCOUNSELOR AND AGSPECIALIST MET WITH MR.VIGEVENO FROM UNILEVER. VIGEVENO'S VIEWPOINT IS UNCHANGED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS. HE STRONGLY ARGUES THAT UNILEVER IS VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, BUT THAT BOTH CONSUMER AND BUSINESS INTERESTS PREVAIL. UNILEVER/ GERMA.NY HAS ENOUGH SUBSTITUTE OILS FOR USING IN THEIR MARGERINE BRAND RAMA. IN THE NETHERLANDS AND IN OTHER MARKETS OUTSIDE GERMANY, UNILEVER PLANS TO CONTINUE USING SOYBEAN PRODUCTS. HE ALSO STATED THAT UNILEVER WILL NOT LABEL ANY OF THEIR PRODUCTS, BUT THAT THE COMPANY WILL MAKE PUBLIC A LIST WITH ALL PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN SOYBEAN PRODUCTS TO INFORM THEIR CONSUMERS.

9. VIGEVENO WILL MEET NEXT TUESDAY WITH THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON D.C. TO

CLEARIFY THE COMPANY'S INTERESTS AND ADVISE ASA ABOUT THE PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE IN EUROPE REGARDING CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE. HE PLANS TO CREATE A GOVERNMENT- AND BUSINESS-WIDE UNDERSTANDING IN THE U.S. THAT EUROPE IS DIFFERENT. HE PREDICTS THAT ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS WILL ARISE REGARDING GMO'S IN EUROPE AT ABOUT 5 TO 10 PERCENT.

10. UNILEVER'S BIOTECHNOLOGY EXPERT MR. DE VET WILL ATTEND THE GMO SEMINAR IN WASHINGTON D.C. ON NOVEMBER 16.

PRODUCT BOARD FOR FATS AND OILS

- PRODUCTBOARD FOR MARGERINES, FATS & OILS HAS A MEETING WITH GREENPEACE NEXT MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4
- CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION (THE NETHERLANDS) ANNOUNCED A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY
- FOOD INDUSTRY AND TRADE ARE WORKING ON A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE
- MEETING OF THE DUTCH ASSOCIATION OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY WITH THE PRODUCTBOARD FOR MARGERINES, FATS & OILS WENT FINE AND FOR THE TIME BEING; THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS RE A SOYBEAN DERIVATIVE BOYCOTT THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN EXPECTED FROM THEM.
- NUTRICIA MADE A RENEWED STATEMENT THAT THERE "BOYCOTT" ONLY INVOLVES

SOYBEAN DERIVED PROTEIN FOR THEIR BABY FOOD LINES.

- GREENPEACE IS EXPECTED TO CARRY OUT GMO ACTIONS IN HAMBURG NEXT WEEK.
- PARLIAMENT HAS ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BOTH SOYBEAN OR CORN (WERMUTH HAS NOT SURE ABOUT THIS) AND IT IS NOW UP TO MINAG TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS
- TERPSTRA'S (MIN.OF HEALTH) LETTER TO PARLIAMENT IS REPORTEDLY NEARLY FINISHED AND WILL BE SENT TO THEM IN THE COMING DAYS.
- NATURE PARTY ACTIONS ARE EXPECTED NEXT WEEK
- ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY IS WORKING ON A LETTER TO LUCAS REIJNDERS OF NATURE & ENVIRONMENT (THE MOST ACTIVE AND NEGATIVE GMO OPPONENT IN THE NETHERLANDS).
- THE NUMBER OF CALLS OF CONCERNED CONSUMERS TO THE CAMPAIGN OFFICE IS

LOW. DORNBUSH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4699

TOR: 961101112610 M2474405

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHTCA4705 3091217-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O 041217Z NOV 96

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

OSRI: RUEHTC

DTG: 041217Z NOV 96

ORIG: AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3695

INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0244

RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE

SUBJ: SITUATION REPORT ON GMO'S,
THE HAGUE, NOVEMBER 4, 1996

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 004705

SENSITIVE

STATE PASS USDA FOR
FAS/ITP/MCHESLEY//CMP/OPD/FRUDD//CMP/
GF/RRIEMENSCHNEIDER//ITP/OFSTS/
LHARBERT//FAA/PLETARTE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, NL

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT ON GMO'S,
THE HAGUE, NOVEMBER 4, 1996

REF: THE HAGUE 04699

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.
PROPRIETARY INFORMATION AND OFFICIAL
GOVERNMENT SOURCES UTILIZED. PLEASE
PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

2. AS CONFIRMED BY PHONE WITH LYNN
ABBOTT ON NOVEMBER 1, A HIGH-LEVEL
EMPLOYEE OF UNILEVER HEADQUARTERS/
ROTTERDAM IS CURRENTLY IN THE UNITED
STATES. MR. F.A.H. (HUIB) VIGEVENO,
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT--YELLOW FATS, IS
CONCURRENTLY CHAIRPERSON OF UNILEVER'S
BIOTECH COMMITTEE. HE PLAYS A KEY ROLE
IN HIS COMPANY'S POLICY FORMULATION
AND OPERATIONAL DECISIONS ON BIOTECH.
FITTING HIS LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE, HE
MET PREVIOUSLY WITH
USDA/FAS/ADMINISTRATOR SCHUMACHER IN
DECEMBER 1995 IN ROTTERDAM. BOTH HE

AND HIS STAFF HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO THE EMBASSY IN MONITORING AND GUIDING THE INTRODUCTION OF BID-ENGINEERED SOYBEANS INTO THE EU MARKET.

3. WE RECOMMENDED IN REFTTEL A MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT THE ADMINISTRATOR OR ABOVE LEVEL. MR. VIGEVENO WILL BE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. TO MEET SEPARATELY WITH AN AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 11:00 A.M., NOVEMBER 5.) WE WERE INFORMED BY FAS/CMP/OPD ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 1, THAT MR. VIGEVENO HAS BEEN INVITED TO LUNCH BY ADMINISTRATOR SCHUMACHER AT 1:00 P.M., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5. AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR YODER IMMEDIATELY INFORMED VIGEVENO BY PHONE OF THIS PLAN AND RECOMMENDED THAT HE PHONE THE FAS ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4 FOR FURTHER CONFIRMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT.

4. EMBASSY, THE HAGUE SUGGESTS THAT USDA/FAS CONTINUE A FULL DIALOGUE WITH VIGEVENO REGARDING THE CURRENT AND FUTURE ASPECTS OF BID-ENGINEERED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND THEIR DERIVATIVES. WE FEEL THAT POINTS RAISED IN REFTTEL SHOULD BE COVERED IN THE MEETING. ADDITIONAL POINTS FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION INCLUDE:

--THE SITUATION REGARDING CIBA'S BT CORN AND THE EU'S 90/220 REVIEW, INCLUDING CURRENT IMPACT ON CORN AND DERIVATIVE PRODUCT TRADE FLOWS

--THE ROLE OF BEN DE VET AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE BID-TECH CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 16 IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA (MR. DE VET IS UNILEVER'S BID-TECH EXPERT)

--THE CURRENT AND UPCOMING USE OF BID-ENGINEERED PRODUCTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN IN EUROPE (POTATO STARCH, CHICORY, RAPESEED, HERMAN THE BULL, DUTCH DAIRYMEN AND MILK PROCESSORS' CONCERNS ABOUT GMO FEED INGREDIENTS, AND SO ON)

--UNILEVER AND OTHER DUTCH IDUSTRY POSITIONS ON INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS FOR

GO'S (PARTICULARLY IN THE NETHERLANDS
AND GERANY) AND LABELING OR
NON-LABELING OF GMO OR MO-FREE
PRODUCTS

--THE ROLE OF THE PRODUC BOARD FOR
MARGARINE, FATS AND OILS IN GMO

B
#4705

NNNN
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 THE HAGUE 004705

SENSITIVE

STATE PASS USDA FOR
FAS/ITP/MCHESLEY//CMP/OPD/FRUDD//CMP/
GF/RIEMENSCHNEIDER//ITP/OFSTS/
LHARBERT//FAA/PLETARTE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, NL
SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT ON GMO'S,
THE HAGUE, NOVEMBER 4, 1996

INTRODUCTION IN THE NETHERLANDS

--THE ROLE OF THE MINISTRIES OF
AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT
AND THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT IN THIS
MATTER

5. ON A SEPARATE, BUT RELATED ITEM,
EMBASSY/THE HAGUE RECOMMENDS THAT USDA
SEND ONE OR TWO OFFICIALS TO THE
NETHERLANDS. WE SEE GMO'S, FOOD SAFETY
AND INSPECTION EQUIVALENCY (MEAT AND
ANIMAL PRODUCTS) AS FRONT-BURNER
ISSUES. WITH THE NETHERLANDS AS A KEY
FINAL AND INTERMEDIATE DESTINATION FOR
AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS, THEY WILL
CONTINUE TO PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN
CURRENT AND FUTURE PURCHASE PATTERNS
FOR U.S. AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND
FOOD AND BEVERAGE PRODUCTS. AS NOTED
IN REFTTEL, A SHIFT AWAY FROM SOYBEAN
OIL THIS YEAR FOR "RAMA" IN GERMANY
ALONE MAY REDUCE SOYBEAN OIL USAGE
LEVELS IN THE EU BY UP TO 100,000
TONS. DIRECTOR DRAAISMA AND VETERINARY
OFFICIALS HAVE NOTED THAT UNLESS THE
GMO F

FEED USE ISSUE FOR CIBA'S BT CORN
IS RESOLVED IMMEDIATELY, CORN GLUTEN
FEED IMPORTS WOULD BE ENDANGERED.
DRAAISMA ALSO STATED THAT MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING OF FOOD SAFETY ISSUES
(INCLUDING HAACP, LABELING,
SALMONELLA, E-COLI AND INSPECTION
EQUIVALENCY) SHOULD BE CLEARED UP BY
MORE INTENSE BILATERAL U.S.-DUTCH
CONSULTATIONS. THUS, WE RECOMMEND A
VISIT BY A DIRECTOR LEVEL OR HIGHER OF
ABOUT 2 DAYS TO HANDLE SOME OR ALL OF
THESE MATTERS IN THIS \$2 BILLION PLUS
MARKET FOR U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS.
ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION COULD BE A VISIT
BY FRANK TARRANT DURING THE FIRST WEEK
IN DECEMBER. DORNBUSH

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

SSN: 4705
<^SSN>4705

TOR: 961104072234 M2476851
<^TOR>961104072255 M2476852

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SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 041623Z NOV 96

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

OSRI: RUEHVI

DTG: 041623Z NOV 96

ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6590
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0740

INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 9478
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

SUBJ: ACTIONS AGAINST GENETICALLY MODIFIED
SOYBEANS CONTINUE

STCABLE 656

TEXT:

UNCLAS VIENNA 007153

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, PASS USTR
USDA FAS FOR ITP/THORN AND ZEITNER
GENEVA FOR USTR AND AGR
BRUSSELS FOR AGR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD AU

SUBJECT: ACTIONS AGAINST GENETICALLY MODIFIED
SOYBEANS CONTINUE

STCABLE 656

1. ON OCTOBER 30, MEMBERS OF GLOBAL 2000 DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE PARLIAMENT IN VIENNA FOR AN IMPORT BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) U.S. SOYBEANS. THEY ACCUSED HEALTH MINISTER KRAMMER OF BLINDNESS TO THE RIS OF GM SOYBEANS, OF IGNORING CONSUMERS AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS, AND BEING AFRAID TO STAND UP AGAINST THE EU COMMISSION.

2. ON THE SAME DAY, THE GREEN PARTY ASKED KRAMMER IN AN "URGENT REQUEST" IF SHE IS WILLING TO MAKE USE OF ARTICLE 16 OF THE EU RELEASING DIRECTIVE AND BAN U.S. GM SOYBEANS. KRAMMER'S ANSWER WAS THAT AN IMPORT BAN WOULD REQUIRE NEW SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE INDICATING A DANGER TO HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT. SINCE NO SUCH EVIDENCE IS AVAILABLE AT PRESENT, NO IMPORT BAN CAN BE IMPLEMENTED. HOWEVER, KRAMMER EMPHASIZED AGAIN THAT SHE IS WORKING INTENSIVELY TO ACHIEVE LABELING OF GM PRODUCTS.

3. THIS WEEK, THE RESULTS OF A STUDY CONCERNING NEW

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE ON EFFECTS OF GM SOYBEANS MAY BE PRESENTED. THE STUDY, ORDERED BY THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTER, WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY. IF THE STUDY CONCLUDES THAT GM BEANS ARE HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH AND/OR ENVIRONMENT, AUSTRIA WILL APPLY ARTICLE 16 AND BAN IMPORTS OF GM SOYBEANS.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, GLOBAL 2000 HAS MADE CONTACT WITH 6 U.S. COMPANIES WILLING TO SUPPLY GUARANTEED NON-GM BEANS. ACCORDING TO GLOBAL 2000, MANY FOOD PROCESSORS HAVE ALREADY SHOWN THEIR INTEREST IN CONVENTIONAL BEAN PRODUCTS. THE LARGE GROCERY CHAINS AND THE LARGEST FOOD PROCESSORS HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL MAINTAIN THEIR PRODUCTS FREE OF GM INGREDIENTS.

5. RECENTLY, SPAR, THE SECOND LARGEST GROCERY CHAIN, SENT LETTERS TO 314 SUPPLIERS. IN THE LETTERS, SPAR DEMANDED THAT SUPPLIERS INDICATE PRODUCTS WHICH CONTAIN SOYBEAN PRODUCTS AND THAT THEY INDICATE THE TYPE OF BEAN FROM WHERE THE PRODUCT ORIGINATES. IF THE ARTICLE CONTAINS ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS AND IF THE SUPPLIER IS NOT WILLING TO REPLACE THE ARTICLE WITH AN ARTICLE CONTAINING CONVENTIONAL BEAN PRODUCTS, SPAR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EXCLUDE THE ARTICLE FROM ITS SHELVES.

CORBETT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 7153

TOR: 961104170343 M2477807

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHSMA5754 3250828-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: P 200828Z NOV 96

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

OSRI: RUEHSM

DTG: 200828Z NOV 96

ORIG: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7939

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4630

RUCLRFA/FAS WASHDC

RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 0631

SUBJ: GMO'S/BT CORN: SWEDISH SCIENCE VS. SWEDISH

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 STOCKHOLM 005754

DEPT PLEASE PASS USTR FOR LANG, MOWREY, AND BUD ROCK

DEPT PLEASE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAS/ITP/SCHROETER,
FAS/OFSTS/HALBERT, FAS/G&F DIV/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, AND
FAS/OPD/RUDD

GENEVA FOR USTR

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, SENV, EAID, SW, EUN

SUBJECT: GMO'S/BT CORN: SWEDISH SCIENCE VS. SWEDISH
PUBLIC POLICY MAKING

REF: A) STOCKHOLM 04830 B) USDA FAS 22832 (10/24/96)

C) USEU BRUSSELS 09590

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED -- PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.
CONTAINS FOREIGN GOVERNMENT INFORMATION.

2. SUMMARY. A LEADING SWEDISH MICROBIOLOGIST WITH THE
STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE'S BIOTECHNOLOGY
ADVISORY COMMISSION DISCUSSED WITH US THE SWEDISH
ATMOSPHERE OVER BIOTECH. HE BELIEVES THAT SCIENTIFIC
COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE AND THE U.S. ARE EQUALLY
COMPETENT, ALTHOUGH U.S. SCIENTISTS HAVE GREATER
SPECIFIC EXPERTISE WITH BIOTECHNOLOGY. AMERICAN
RESEARCHERS ARE BETTER AT ASKING SKEPTICAL QUESTIONS
ABOUT COMMONLY-HELD CONCERNS OVER BIOTECHNOLOGY. FOR
HIS PART, HE BELIEVES THAT AMPICILLIN RESISTANCE IS A
RELATIVELY GREATER RISK THAN HERBICIDE RESISTANCE. ON
THE PUBLIC POLICY SIDE, HE FEELS THAT THE SWEDISH

ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY IS BLOCKING CONSENSUS WITHIN THE GOS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND THAT THIS MINISTRY IS MORE INFLUENCED BY NGOS AND ITS LEADERS' "GREEN" VIEWS THAN BY EXPERTS. OTHER CONCERNED MINISTRIES ARE HOPING FOR THE EU TO ACT TO TAKE THE DECISION OUT OF THEIR HANDS. END SUMMARY.

3. ONE OF SWEDEN'S LEADING NON-GOVERNMENTAL BIOTECH EXPERTS RECENTLY DISCUSSED WITH US THE ATMOSPHERE IN SWEDEN OVER BIOTECHNOLOGY ISSUES. DR. IVAR VIRGIN IS THE SENIOR MICROBIOLOGIST IN THE STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE'S (SEI) BIOTECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION (AND HE QUALIFIES AS ONE OF SWEDEN'S TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON BT CORN WHO COULD USEFULLY COOPERATE WITH U.S. COMPANY REPS--PLEASE ADD HIS NAME TO LIST DEVELOPED AS A RESULT OF REF B). SEE BIO NOTE IN PARA 14.

4. VIRGIN AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF SEI'S BIOTECH ADVISORY COMMISSION WERE ORIGINALLY CHARGED WITH ASSISTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ANALYZING THE PROS AND CONS OF BIOTECH IMPORTS. WHILE THAT IS STILL AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THEIR WORK, THEY HAVE BY NECESSITY BEEN DRAWN INTO THE SWEDISH/EUROPEAN DEBATE, PRINCIPALLY AS SEMI-OFFICIAL ADVISORS TO THE SWEDISH ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY. DURING OUR TALK, VIRGIN MADE SEVERAL INSIGHTFUL POINTS ABOUT THE DEBATE IN SWEDEN (AND BY EXTENSION IN EUROPE).

EUROPEANS MORE RISK-AVERSE THAN AMERICANS

5. VIRGIN BELIEVED THAT THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC AND POLICY COMMUNITIES WERE MORE WILLING TO ACCEPT RISK THAN THEIR EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS. AMERICANS IN GENERAL WERE MORE WILLING TO PERFORM CASE-BY-CASE ANALYSES, WHEREAS EUROPEANS PREFERRED BROADER, BLANKET CONCLUSIONS.

AMPICILLIN RESISTANCE MORE AN ISSUE THAN HERBICIDE RESISTANCE AMONG SWEDISH SCIENTISTS

6. VIRGIN SAID THAT HE AND MOST OF HIS BIOLOGIST COLLEAGUES FAVOR THE USE OF GMO'S, AND THAT SEI AND THE SWEDISH EPA HAD ENDORSED THEIR USE. ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THE DEBATE AMONG THE PUBLIC AND NGOS IN SWEDEN CONCERNED THE POSSIBILITY OF RESISTANCE TO HERBICIDES WHICH COULD LEAD TO GREATER USE OF PESTICIDES, HE WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SMALL POSSIBILITY OF CREATING AMPICILLIN-RESISTANT ORGANISMS.

7. WHILE HE BELIEVED THAT SOME HERBICIDE RESISTANCE AMONG OTHER STRAINS OF CORN OR NON-ROUNDUP READY CROPS MIGHT OCCUR, THERE WERE OTHER ISSUES WHICH AFFECTED WHETHER PESTICIDE USE WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY INCREASE. PESTICIDES WERE EXPENSIVE FOR FARMERS, MORE EXPENSIVE THAN BUYING GENETICALLY-MODIFIED SEEDS. IN ADDITION,

EVEN IF FARMERS USED MORE ROUNDUP OR OTHER CUTTING-EDGE PESTICIDES, THIS WOULD BE MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY THAN USING THE ORIGINAL QUANTITIES OF OLDER PESTICIDES.

8. VIRGIN SAID THAT PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH AMPICILLIN UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 STOCKHOLM 005754

DEPT PLEASE PASS USTR FOR LANG, MOWREY, AND BUD ROCK

DEPT PLEASE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAS/ITP/SCHROETER, FAS/OFSTS/HALBERT, FAS/G&F DIV/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, AND FAS/OPD/RUDD

GENEVA FOR USTR

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, SENV, EAID, SW, EUN

SUBJECT: GMO'S/BT CORN: SWEDISH SCIENCE VS. SWEDISH PUBLIC POLICY MAKING

RESISTANCE WERE RELATIVELY MORE LIKELY TO OCCUR. THIS WAS A POINT STRESSED IN EU DISCUSSIONS BY SWEDISH AND UK SCIENTIFIC REPRESENTATIVES. IT WAS THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE FOR AMPICILLIN-RESISTANT GENES TO "LEAP" FROM CORN TO HUMAN DIGESTIVE BACTERIA WHICH WOULD RESULT IN HUMAN RESISTANCE TO A FAMILY OF ANTIBIOTIC DRUGS, BUT IN HIS VIEW, THE LIKELIHOOD WAS SMALL. VIRGIN HAD SEEN QUANTIFICATIONS DONE BY UK EXPERTS WHICH INDICATED ONLY A MINUTE THREAT OF THIS EXISTED.

MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE AMONG EUROPEAN SCIENTISTS IN TERMS OF THE "SO WHAT?" QUESTIONS

9. VIRGIN CONTINUED BY NOTING THAT ONE HAD TO "GET DOWN TO CASE STUDIES" IN EXAMINING THE RISKS OF SUCH GENE TRANSFERENCE. IN HIS EXPERIENCE, U.S. SCIENTISTS WERE BETTER AT ASKING THE "SO WHAT?" QUESTIONS THAN EUROPEANS; I.E., IF ONE POSTULATED THAT GENE TRANSFER MIGHT OCCUR FROM BT CORN TO OTHER ORGANISMS, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE MICRO ENVIRONMENT INVOLVED AND BE ABLE TO ASK "SO WHAT?". IF BT CORN PLANTS "LEAKED THEIR GENES" INTO OTHER NON-GENETICALLY-MODIFIED STRAINS OF CORN, WOULD THAT BE IMPORTANT IN EACH AND EVERY ECOSYSTEM? IF THE REAL STRESS ON CORN IN, SAY, MEXICO WAS ROUGHT, IT MIGHT NOT MAKE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE TO THAT PLANT IF IT BECAME RESISTANT TO A CERTAIN HERBICIDE--WHAT IT REALLY NEEDED WAS INCREASED DROUGHT-RESISTANCE.

SWEDISH POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT ON GMO'S A PUBLIC POLICY MORASS

10. VIRGIN MADE SOME COMMENTS ON THE PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN BIOTECHNOLOGY DEBATES IN SWEDEN, ALTHOUGH HE INDICATED THAT POLITICS WAS NOT HIS EXPERTISE.

11. VIRGIN NOTED THAT THE AGRICULTURE, TRADE, AND FOREIGN MINISTRIES IN SWEDEN ARE LARGELY IN FAVOR OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TRADE IN GMO'S FOR VARIOUS PAROCHIAL REASONS. THE MAIN RESTRAINING INFLUENCE IN THE CABINET IS THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY. THEY ARE MUCH MORE INFLUENCED BY NGO'S AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE THAN BY EXPERTS, AND THE CURRENT MINISTER (ANNA LINDH) IS THE PRODUCT OF A "GREEN" TRADITION SIMILAR TO THAT FOUND IN GERMANY. OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THAT MINISTRY, WITH THE SAME "GREEN" OUTLOOK, BELIEVE THAT INDUSTRY SCIENTISTS--PARTICULARLY IN THE U.S.--ARE LIKELY "SPINNING" THEIR EMPIRICAL RESULTS TO SUPPORT SALES OF BIOTECH PRODUCTS.

12. GIVEN ENVIRONMENT'S STRONG BUT "INEXPERT" OPPOSITION, AND SUBSTANTIAL SUSPICION ABOUT BIOTECH IN THE SWEDISH PARLIAMENT, THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE IS UNWILLING TO FORCE A DECISION AT THIS POINT, HOPING THAT THE EU WILL DEVELOP A CONSENSUS POSITION WHICH SWEDEN CAN THEN ADOPT. THIS WAS ACTUALLY RAISING THE STAKES IN SWEDEN AT PRESENT AS THE EU COMMISSION SEEMS TO BE LOSING CONTROL OF PAN-EUROPEAN DECISIONMAKING.

13. AN ADDITIONAL COMPLICATION FOR THE GOS IS THAT SEVERAL SWEDISH FIRMS ARE INVOLVED IN BIOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT. ONE THAT VIRGIN NOTED IN PARTICULAR WAS THE SVALOF COMPANY IN SOUTHERN SWEDEN (SKANE PROVINCE) WHICH HAD DEVELOPED AN EXPERTISE IN GENETICALLY-MODIFIED POTATOES (ALTHOUGH THEIR WORK WAS LIMITED TO ALTERATIONS OF STARCH GENES WHICH VIRGIN SAID CARRIED LESS ENVIRONMENTAL RISK THAN BT CORN OR ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN MODIFICATIONS). IN THE NEAR FUTURE, SWEDEN WILL DEVELOP A "HIGHER ORDER" OF BIOTECH EXPERTISE WHICH WILL BRING INDUSTRY MORE HEAVILY INTO THE DOMESTIC AND EU DEBATE.

14. BIO NOTE: DR. VIRGIN HAS DOCTORAL AND POST-DOCTORAL DEGREES IN MICROBIOLOGY FROM LUND UNIVERSITY AND STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY AS WELL AS LAB EXPERIENCE IN GERMANY AND LATIN AMERICA. IF WASHINGTON AGENCIES DECIDE TO CONTACT HIM ALONG THE LINES OF REF B, HIS PHONE NUMBER IS 46-8-723-0260; FAX NUMBER UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 STOCKHOLM 005754

DEPT PLEASE PASS USTR FOR LANG, MOWREY, AND BUD ROCK

DEPT PLEASE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAS/ITP/SCHROETER, FAS/OFSTS/HALBERT, FAS/G&F DIV/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, AND FAS/OPD/RUDD

GENEVA FOR USTR

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, SENV, EAID, SW, EUN
SUBJECT: GMO'S/BT CORN: SWEDISH SCIENCE VS. SWEDISH
PUBLIC POLICY MAKING

46-8-723-0348).

15. COMMENT: WE FOUND VIRGIN'S PERSPECTIVE BALANCED
AND WELL-INFORMED. HE WAS EAGER TO PROVIDE ANALYSIS AND
INFORMATION. WE SUGGEST THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES
CONSIDER BRINGING VIRGIN AND THE BIOTECHNOLOGY ADVISORY
COMMISSION INTO THE USG PUBLIC STRATEGY FOR BIOTECH
ISSUES. EMBASSY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SERVING AS AN
INFORMATION CONDUIT TO THIS GROUP. END COMMENT.

SIEBERT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 5754
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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE3: R 041200Z DEC 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 041200Z DEC 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0756
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7008
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 9508
SUBJ: RESULTS OF AUSTRIAN POLL ON CONSUMER ATTITUDES
TOWARDS GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

STCABLE 666

TEXT:
UNCLAS VIENNA 007850

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, PASS USTR
USDA FAS FOR ITP/ZEITNER, THORN, OAA/GALVIN,
OFS4R/HARBERT
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE, BRUSSELS FOR USEU PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ECON, ETRD, AU
SUBJECT: RESULTS OF AUSTRIAN POLL ON CONSUMER ATTITUDES
TOWARDS GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

STCABLE 666

1. SUMMARY: OVER HALF OF AUSTRIANS POLLED HARBOR GENERALLY
NEGATIVE FEELINGS TOWARD GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS
(GMOS). EIGHTY PERCENT STRONGLY FAVOR LABELING OF PRODUCTS
CONTAINING GMOS, AND NINETY PERCENT OPPOSE INCLUSION OF GMOS
IN THE FOOD SUPPLY. END SUMMARY.

2. GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS CONTINUE TO BE A HOT ISSUE IN
AUSTRIA. AT THE SAME TIME, THIS PROBLEM IS SEEN AS A GREAT
OPPORTUNITY FOR DOMESTIC AUSTRIAN FOODS, IF AUSTRIAN
AGRICULTURE REFRAINS FROM THE USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS (GMO) FOR FOOD PRODUCTION. TO GET AN IDEA OF THE
EXPECTED MARKET REQUIREMENTS AND TO DEVELOP PROMOTION
STRATEGIES, THE AUSTRIAN MARKET PROMOTION ORGANIZATION
AGRICULTURAL MARKET AUSTRIA (AMA) ORDERED A POLL ON CONSUMER
ATTITUDE TOWARDS GENE TECHNOLOGY IN GENERAL AND GMO FOODS IN
PARTICULAR.

3. ACCORDING TO THE POLL, 58 PCT OF AUSTRIANS CONNECT GENE-

TECHNOLOGY WITH SOMETHING NEGATIVE AND ONLY 8 PCT REGARD IT AS POSITIVE. ALMOST EXACTLY ONE THIRD OF THOSE POLLED SEE BOTH, ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES IN GENE TECHNOLOGY. IN GENERAL, THE ATTITUDE OF EDUCATED PEOPLE IS MORE POSITIVE. THE LOWER THE EDUCATION LEVEL AND THE LOWER THE INFORMATION LEVEL ABOUT THIS TOPIC, THE MORE DISTINCT ARE FEAR AND SKEPTICISM. THE COMBINATION OF HIGHER AGE, LOWER SOCIAL STATUS, AND NON-URBAN RESIDENCE TENDS TOWARDS REJECTION OF GMOS. ADVOCATES OF GENE MODIFICATION ARE USUALLY BETTER INFORMED ABOUT GMOS IN GENERAL.

4. PRACTICALLY ALL AUSTRIANS DEMAND THAT GMOS/PRODUCTS BE LABELED CLEARLY; 80 PCT WANT IT STRONGLY AND ONLY 6 PCT ARE AGAINST MANDATORY LABELING. THE ARGUMENTS BROUGHT FORWARD FOR COMPULSORY LABELING ARE THAT THE CONSUMER SHOULD BE ABLE TO DECIDE, AND TO RECOGNIZE EASILY "GOOD AUSTRIAN PRODUCTS".

5. AMONG AUSTRIANS WITH A RELATIVELY NEUTRAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS GENE TECHNOLOGY, 85 PCT ADVOCATE ITS APPLICATION IN MEDICINE~(

HOWEVER, THE QUESTION "IN WHICH SECTORS SHOULD GENE TECHNOLOGY NOT BE APPLIED?" WAS ANSWERED BY 90 PCT WITH "AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SECTOR".

6. MOST AUSTRIANS BELIEVE THAT A SMALL COUNTRY LIKE AUSTRIA WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EXCLUDE ITSELF FROM WORLD WIDE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS TECHNOLOGY. ONLY 13 PCT BELIEVE THAT A DECOUPLING IS POSSIBLE, 8 PCT BELIEVE THAT A DECOUPLING IS PARTIALLY POSSIBLE, 69 PCT THINK THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, AND 10 PCT HAVE NO ANSWER.

7. A LARGE SHARE OF THE AUSTRIAN POPULATION REGARDS GENE TECHNOLOGY AS USELESS AND DANGEROUS DUE TO THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

-- A PRODUCTION INCREASE IS NOT NECESSARY DUE TO LARGE FOOD SURPLUSES.

-- THE WISH FOR "NATURAL, GOOD, CLEAN" FOODS FROM THE HOME COUNTRY.

-- IT IS DANGEROUS BECAUSE SOMETHING COMES INTO THE BODY WHICH IS AGAINST NATURE.

GENE TECHNOLOGY MAY BE ACCEPTED BY A MAJORIT, HOWEVER, IF PLANTS ARE MADE RESISTANT AGAINST PESTS.

8. AROUND 52 PERCENT OF AUSTRIANS DECLARED THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD THEY BUY GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS AND ONLY 13 PCT WOULD BUY SUCH PRODUCTS IF THEY ARE CAREFULLY TESTED AND LABELED. 27 PCT WANT TO WAIT FOR WHAT THEY HEAR ABOUT THE NEW PRODUCTS.

9. IN THE OPINION OF MARKET EXPERTS, THE CURRENT REJECTION OF GMO FOODS DOES NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE PERMANENT. SO FAR, NO ADVERTISING OF GMO PRODUCTS HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT. IF SUCH

FOODS HAVE A LONGER SHELF LIFE OR ARE CONSIDERABLY CHEAPER, THEY WILL PROBABLY FIND CUSTOMERS. BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE OF MARKET EXPERTS, POLLS ARE NOT ALWAYS IDENTICAL WITH CONSUMER BEHAVIOR. THE BEST EXAMPLE, ACCORDING TO THESE EXPERTS, WAS THE POLL ON GLASS BOTTLES FOR MILK. BEFORE INTRODUCTION OF GLASS BOTTLES AROUND `90 PCT ADVOCATED THEM BUT NOWADAYS ONLY 20 PCT BUY THEM.

CORBETT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 7850

TOR: 961204070631 M2523539

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHCPA6262 3401145-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 051145Z DEC 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
OSRI: RUEHCP
DTG: 051145Z DEC 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0137
INFO: RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK 0242
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 3526
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: DANISH DEBATE ON GMO LABELLING

TEXT:
UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 006262

ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EU, DA
SUBJECT: DANISH DEBATE ON GMO LABELLING

1. THE DANES ARE ENGAGED IN A PUBLIC DEBATE OVER GMO'S (GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS) AND LABELING. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FIRST SHIPLOAD OF ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS' ARRIVAL IN DENMARK IN MID-DECEMBER, GREENPEACE AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS INTEND TO STEP UP THEIR PUBLIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST GMO'S.
2. HEALTH MINISTER YVONNE HERLOV ANDERSEN IS UNDER ATTACK FOR PROPOSING THAT NOTICES IN STORES OR ON SHELVES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES TO LABELS ON INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMO'S. THE DANISH INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION HAD ASKED HER NOT TO REQUIRE INDIVIDUAL LABELS, AS THIS WOULD AMOUNT TO A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR COST FOR RETAILERS. THEY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT 60 PERCENT OF PROCESSED FOODSTUFFS CONTAIN SOME SOY DERIVATIVE. THE LEFT-WING OPPOSITION IN THE FOLKETING IMMEDIATELY ATTACKED HERLOV ANDERSEN, ARGUING THAT DANISH POLITICAL PARTIES HAD AGREED IN 1994 ON THE NECESSITY OF INDIVIDUAL LABELING OF GMO FOODS. HERLOV DENIES THAT THE AGREEMENT SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED INDIVIDUAL LABELING.
3. THE CONSUMER ADVISORY COUNCIL HAS ALSO ENDORSED INDIVIDUAL LABELING OF GMO FOODS. COUNCIL DIRECTOR BENEDICTE FEDERSPIEL HAS CHARGED THAT "STORE NOTICES ARE NOT THE SAME AS PRODUCT LABELS. CONSUMERS BUY PRODUCTS, TAKE THEM HOME, AND SHOULD THEN BE ABLE TO SEE IF THE PRODUCT CONTAINS GMO'S." ON THE OTHER HAND, KAREN

ANDRESEN, FOOD AND TESTING CHIEF AT THE COUNCIL, TOLD US THAT THE COUNCIL VIEWS GMO'S POSITIVELY RATHER THAN NEGATIVELY. NONETHELESS, THEY FAVOR LABELING AS A METHOD OF EDUCATING THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE PERVASIVENESS AND INNOCUOUSNESS OF GMO FOODSTUFFS. MOREOVER, THEY SEE THE LABELING AS RESPONSIVE TO THE PUBLIC'S DESIRE FOR SUCH INFORMATION.

4. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PUBLIC NOW VIEWS GMO'S EXTREMELY NEGATIVELY. ACCORDING TO A GALLUP POLL PUBLISHED ON DECEMBER 4:

-- ONLY 20 PERCENT FAVOR THE SALE OF GMO'S IN DENMARK, WHILE 68 PERCENT WANT THEM DECLARED ILLEGAL.

-- 95 PERCENT BELIEVE THAT GMO'S SOLD IN DENMARK SHOULD BE LABELED; ONLY 3 PERCENT SAID NO.

-- ONLY 20 PERCENT WOULD BUY A GMO TOMATO WITH BETTER FLAVOR AND COLOR INSTEAD OF A NORMAL ONE AT THE SAME PRICE.

-- ONLY 34 PERCENT THINK THAT GMO'S SHOULD BE PRODUCED, EVEN IF THEY COULD DRAMATICALLY REDUCE HUNGER IN THE WORLD. 53 PERCENT DO NOT WANT GMO'S EVEN FOR THAT REASON.

5. COMMENT: THE DANISH PUBLIC HAS BEEN GREATLY INFLUENCED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST GMO'S. TO BALANCE THE RECORD AND ENCOURAGE A MORE INFORMED PUBLIC, WE WILL NEED TO PAY GREATER ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN THIS AREA. RATHER THAN PUSHING SPECIFIC U.S. PRODUCTS, WE WOULD ENVISION LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN SEMINARS AND OTHER PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION EFFORTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION OF A BROAD RANGE OF EMERGING BIOENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING GMO'S.

ELSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6262

TOR: 961205064920 M2525525

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHLOA5125 3461444-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 111444Z DEC 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG: 111444Z DEC 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0031
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1454
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: UK ORGANIC FOOD BOARD OPPOSES GMO USE

TEXT:
UNCLAS LONDON 015125

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR OSEC/DRAZEK;
FAS/OA/SCHUMACHER/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/ZEITNER;
FAS/ITP/WEIAD/THORN/WHEATLEY; FAS/ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT;
FAS/GFD/RADLER; FAS/OPD/RUDD; APHIS/MEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE

STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY
STATE PASS HHS/FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM
STATE PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK
SUBJECT: UK ORGANIC FOOD BOARD OPPOSES GMO USE

1. THE UK REGISTER OF ORGANIC FOOD STANDARDS (UKROFS) HAS MAINTAINED ITS OPPOSITION TO THE USE OF GENE TECHNOLOGY IN THE PRODUCTION OF ORGANIC FOODS. IN ITS STATEMENT THE UKROFS BOARD CONCLUDES THAT "...AT THIS TIME, CROPS AND ANIMALS, FOOD INGREDIENTS AND PROCESSING AIDS, THAT HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO GENETIC MODIFICATION, INCLUDING THE USE OF ENZYMES, HAVE NO PLACE IN ORGANIC PRODUCTION SYTEMS. (THE BOARD) IS ALSO OF THE OPINION THAT EXISTING AND PROPOSED REGULATIONS CONCERNING ORGANIC PRODUCTION SHOULD SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDE SUCH PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES." THE BOARD HAS WRITTEN TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION STATING ITS VIEW.

2. NOTE: UKROFS IS THE BODY APPOINTED BY THE UK GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER EC COUNCIL REGULATION 2092/91 ON THE PRODUCTION AND LABELING OF ORGANIC FOOD. AT PRESENT, GMOS THAT ARE DEVELOPED FOR USE IN FOOD PROCESSING MUST BE APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE EC ORGANIC FOOD REGULATION IF THEY ARE TO USED IN ORGANIC FOOD. NONE ARE PRESEN,LY APPROVED. ENZYMES DERIVED FROM GMOS (NOT

THE GMOS THEMSELVES) CAN BE USED AS PROCESSING AIDS.
END NOTE. CROWE

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5125

TOR: 961211095300 M2534033

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHCPA6421 3481412-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: P 131412Z DEC 96

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

OSRI: RUEHCP

DTG: 131412Z DEC 96

ORIG: AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0193

INFO: RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK 0251

RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 3540

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4081

RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0288

RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATORS DELAY UNLOADING OF GMO

- SOYBEANS; DEBATE CONTINUES

TEXT:

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 006421

STATE PASS USTR FOR LANG AND MURPHY

STATE PASS HHS/FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM

STATE PASS USDA FAS

FAS FOR OA/SCHUMACHER/GALVIN, ITP/CTHORN, ZEITNER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, SENV, DA

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATORS DELAY UNLOADING OF GMO

- SOYBEANS; DEBATE CONTINUES

REF: COPENHAGEN 6349 (NOTAL)

1. THIS IS A JOINT STATE/FAS CABLE

2. PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION: THE FIRST DIRECT SHIPMENT FROM THE U.S. OF SOYBEANS WHICH LIKELY INCLUDES GMO SOYBEANS ARRIVED ON THE KOREAN VESSEL "HANJIN TAMPA" THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 11 AT THE PORT OF AARHUS. ALSO PRESENT WERE 50-100 DEMONSTRATORS FROM GREENPEACE, AN ECOLOGICAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL, AND THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY'S YOUTH ORGANIZATION. THE DEMONSTRATION STARTED OUT PEACEFULLY UNDER POLICE SURVEILLANCE, BUT ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 12, APPROXIMATELY 10 DEMONSTRATORS CHAINED THEMSELVES TO CRANES AND BLOCKED UNLOADING. THE POLICE INTERVENED EARLY DECEMBER 13 LIFTING THE BLOCKADE AND ALLOWING UNLOADING TO TAKE PLACE.

3. FINANCIAL LOSSES: THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, JENS

THRIGE ANDERSEN, OF THE IMPORTING COMPANY, CENTRAL SOYA (A SUBSIDIARY OF CENTRAL SOYA, USA), TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT HIS ADVISORS HAD RECOMMENDED NOT TAKING ANY DRASTIC ACTIONS WHEN THE BLOCKADE STARTED. HE ALSO TOLD THE PRESS THAT HIS COMPANY WAS HELD HOSTAGE BY THE BLOCKADE SINCE IT HAD SERIOUSLY TRIED TO CONTRACT FOR "NATURAL" SOYBEAN DELIVERIES ONLY, BUT THAT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE. THE BLOCKADE ALSO COST HIS COMPANY A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY.

4. PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE: GMO SOYBEANS WERE DISCUSSED IN A DECEMBER 12 DEBATE IN THE FOLKETING (PARLIAMENT) CALLED BY THE LEFT-WING OPPOSITION UNITY LIST WITH THE INTENTION OF PREVENTING THE ENTRY INTO DENMARK OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY SVEND AUKEN SAID THAT DESPITE HIS CRITICAL VIEW OF GMO PRODUCTS, GENE TECHNOLOGY IS BENEFICIAL IN SOME AREAS, NOTING INSULIN PRODUCTION, HEPATITIS VACCINES, AND GROWTH HORMONES. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD A FAVORABLE VIEW OF A UNITY LIST PROPOSAL ON "POSITIVE LABELING", I.E., LABELING WHICH SHOWS AN ITEM DOES NOT/NOT CONTAIN GMO PRODUCTS.

5. CONFLICT WITH EU RULES: THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF THE PENDING EU NOVEL FOODS REGULATION ON THE NEW DANISH LABELING REQUIREMENTS (REFTEL) FOR PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMO SOYBEAN WAS DISCUSSED, WITH A LEFT WING PARLIAMENTARIAN ARGUING THAT DANISH LABELING REQUIREMENTS CAN BE MAINTAINED SINCE THE EU REGULATION WILL ONLY APPLY TO NEW, NOT YET MARKETING, PRODUCTS. OTHERS REPLIED THAT THE DANISH REQUIREMENT WOULD PROBABLY CONFLICT WITH EU LEGISLATION SINCE THE GMO SOYBEAN IS "NOT SO SCIENTIFICALLY SPECIAL" AS TO WARRANT SUCH LABELING. KOLKER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6421

TOR: 961213091738 M2537799

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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)]

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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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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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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(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
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