

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

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

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/14/1997 - 03/26/1997]

2013-0836-F
ke3004

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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]

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]

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.

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA0301 0141516-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 141516Z JAN 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 141516Z JAN 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 1879
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3877
INFO: RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 7111
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 5121
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GMO LABELING - ITALY
TEXT:
UNCLAS ROME 000301

STATE PASS USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, ACTING
UNDER SECRETARY SMITH; FAS FOR OA/SCHUMACHER;
ITP/DA/ZEITNER; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/HARPER; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; CMP/OPD/FRUDD;
FAA/LETARTE; APHIS/OA/TMEDLEY; ERS/CED/OBRIEN
STATE PASS USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
MILAN FOR AGOFF
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O.: 12598: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EU, IT
SUBJECT: GMO LABELING - ITALY

1. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS
(GIUSEPPE BATTAGLINO, DIRECTOR, BIOTECHNOLOGY
DIVISION AND ITALO ZAFFINO, DIRECTOR,
VEGETABLE ORIGIN FOOD DIVISION), ITALY DOES
NOT INTEND TO ADOPT ADDITIONAL LABELING
REQUIREMENTS FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED
PRODUCTS ALREADY APPROVED AT THE EU LEVEL.
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WHICH IS THE LEAD
AGENCY ON THIS ISSUE, LISTENED TO GREENPEACE
ARGUMENTS IN OCTOBER 1996, BUT OPTED TO
SUPPORT THE EU COMMISSION'S POSITION.

UNCLASSIFIED

2. FOR THE MOMENT, THE FREE MARKETING IN
ITALY OF MONSANTO'S ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS
AND CIBA GEIGY'S BT CORN IS ASSURED, ALTHOUGH
GREENPEACE (BACKED BY THE GREEN PARTY WHICH

IS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT COALITION) IS
EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO CALL FOR CAREFUL
SCRUTINY OF FUTURE GMO APPLICATIONS AND
ADDITIONAL LABELING REQUIREMENTS.

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0301

TOR: 970114102242 M2572661

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE3: R 171808Z JAN 97
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OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 171808Z JAN 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHRC/DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2582
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4248
SUBJ: GMO ISSUE DEBATED ON FRENCH TELEVISION

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 001357

USDA FOR OS FOR DRAZEK, ACTING UNDER SECRETARY SMITH;
FAS FOR OA/SCHUMACHER; OAA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/ZEITNER;
ITP/WEIAD/MCHESLEY; CMP/DA/JPARKER;

FAA/PLETARTE;APHIS/TMEDLEY

STATE PASS USTR

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE

EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR

SUBJECT: GMO ISSUE DEBATED ON FRENCH TELEVISION

1. SUMMARY. ON JANUARY 15, 1997, A FRENCH TV CHANNEL (FRANCE 3) DEDICATED ITS WEEKLY ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM CALLED "LA MARCHE DU SIECLE" (THE PATH OF THE CENTURY) TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS). THIS PROGRAM USUALLY HAS A WIDE AUDIENCE BECAUSE IT IS BROADCAST LIVE IN PRIME TIME.. MOST PARTICIPANTS FAVORED GMO LABELING AS A MEASURE TO INFORM CONSUMERS OF THE CONTENTS OF THE FOOD PRODUCTS THEY PURCHASE. IT IS THE FIRST TIME THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED ON FRENCH TELEVISION, AND IT COINCIDES WITH EUROPEAN PROTESTS AGAINST THE RECENT EUROPEAN UNION (EU) APPROVAL OF BT CORN, AND THE

GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE'S (GOF) STATEMENT THAT GMOS FOR THE FRENCH MARKET ARE TO BE LABELED (SEPTTEL). END SUMMARY.

2. THE ROUND TABLE WAS HOSTED BY THE JOURNALIST JEAN-MARIE CAVADA, WHO INVITED A WIDE RANGE OF PARTICIPANTS. THESE INCLUDED (1) SCIENTISTS AXEL KAHN, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH COMMITTEE ON MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (CGB), AND LOUIS-MARIE HOUEBINE, DIRECTOR OF THE CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR LABORATORY OF THE FRENCH INSTITUTE OF REASEARCH IN AGRONOMY (INRA); (2) INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES PHILIPPE GAY, DIRECTOR OF THE BIOTECHNOLOGY BRANCH OF THE GROUP NOVARTIS (NOTE: CIBA GEIGY AND SANDOZ MERGED TO CREATE NOVARTIS) AND CHRISTIAN GODDE, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH ASSOCIATION OF FOOD INDUSTRIES (ANIAA); (3) REPRESENTATIVES OF ECOLOGICAL ORGANIZATIONS BRICE LALONDE, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH GREEN PARTY (GENERATION ECOLOGIE), AND JEAN-MARIE PELT, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN INSTITUTE; (4) CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVE MARIE-JOSEE NICOLI, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION (UFC-QUE CHOISIR); AND (5) PHILOSOPHER DOMINIQUE LECOURT.

3. MR. KAHN AND MR. HOUEBINE SUPPORTED GMOS. KAHN INSISTED THAT, AS AN EXPERT IN BIOTECHNOLOGY, INDEPENDENT FROM ANY PRIVATE COMPANY, NO LABELING SHOULD BE REQUIRED BECAUSE GMOS DO NOT PRESENT RISKS FOR CONSUMERS' HEALTH. HOUEBINE STRESSED THAT USING GENETIC ENGINEERING METHODS PERMITS RESEARCHERS TO CONTROL GENE TRANSFER VERY PRECISELY, CONTRARY TO OTHER MEANS OF PLANT SELECTION LIKE NATURAL CROSSING, WHERE MAN DOES NOT CONTROL GENE CROSSING AND INTERFERENCE. ALSO, KAHN AND HOUEBINE ADDED THAT GENETIC ENGINEERING INCREASES BIODIVERSITY, WHICH IS DESIRED.

4. MR. GAY, AS THE "FATHER" OF BT CORN, SAID THAT CORN IS USED IN FRANCE FOR SILAGE TO FEED ANIMALS, OR BY THE INDUSTRY TO PRODUCE STARCH, WHICH GOES FOR BOTH FOOD AND NON-FOOD USES (SUCH AS IN PAPER OR GLUE) CHANNELS, AND TO PRODUCE SUGAR FOR FOOD USE. ACCORDING TO GAY, FRENCH CORN PRODUCERS WOULD BENEFIT FROM GROWING BT CORN BECAUSE YIELDS WOULD BE INCREASED AND INSECTICIDE COSTS WOULD BE REDUCED. AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THIS INCREASE IN YIELDS WOULD ALSO BE POSITIVE BECAUSE FRANCE IS NOT SELF-SUFFICIENT IN CORN. FINALLY, GAY STATED THAT THERE WAS NO PROBLEM OF DISSEMINATION OF GENES FROM BT CORN TO THE ENVIRONMENT, BECAUSE CORN HAS BEEN FULLY DOMESTICATED BY MAN. (NOTE: THIS IS NOT THE CASE WITH RAPESEED, WHERE GENES ARE EASILY TRANSFERRED TO WILD MUSTARD, WHICH IS A WEED OF THE SAME FAMILY. END NOTE.)

5. MR. GODDE, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FRENCH FOOD INDUSTRY, CLEARLY FAVORED LABELING PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS, BECAUSE "THINGS SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSED ON CONSUMERS THAT THEY DO NOT WANT." HOWEVER, HE AGREED THAT, AMONG THE THREE PRODUCTS SOURCED FROM SOYBEANS -- OIL, LECITHIN, AND MEAL -- MEAL IS THE ONLY CATEGORY THAT INCLUDES GENES FROM SOYBEAN (INCLUDING ROUND UP READY

SOYBEANS). GODDE INSISTED THAT CONSUMERS NEED TO BE EDUCATED ON GMOS, AND MENTIONED AN ONGOING DEBATE AT THE FRENCH INSTITUTE FOR NUTRITION, BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDUSTRY AND SCIENTISTS, ON HOW TO LABEL GMOS.

6. BOTH GREEN REPRESENTATIVES WERE AGAINST GMOS AND UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 001357

USDA FOR OS FOR DRAZEK, ACTING UNDER SECRETARY SMITH;
FAS FOR OA/SCHUMACHER; OAA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/ZEITNER;
ITP/WEIAD/MCHESLEY; CMP/DA/JPARKER;

FAA/PLETARTE;APHIS/TMEDLEY

STATE PASS USTR

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EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

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SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR

SUBJECT: GMO ISSUE DEBATED ON FRENCH TELEVISION

SUPPORTED THEIR LABELING. MR. LALONDE SAID THAT SCIENTISTS ARE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SEED COMPANIES, WHO LOBBY POLICY MAKERS AND PUSH THEIR PRODUCTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, PROBABLY AT THE EXPENSE OF HUMAN HEALTH. MR. PELT BELIEVES THAT GMOS PRESENT A RISK FOR HUMAN HEALTH. AS A RESULT, HE SIGNED A REQUEST FOR A MORATORIUM OF GMOS UNTIL FURTHER RESEARCH WORK IS DONE, THEREBY PREVENTING THEIR DISSEMINATION IN THE ENVIRONMENT.

7. THE CONSUMERS REPRESENTATIVE, ALTHOUGH STATING THAT HER ORGANIZATION WAS OPEN TO GMO COMMERCIALIZATION, FIRMLY PRONOUNCED HERSELF FOR LABELING ALL PRODUCTS SOURCED FROM GMOS. MS. NICOLI ARGUED THAT A "GMO" MENTION ON PRODUCTS WOULD BE USEFUL TO CONSUMERS WHO WOULD HAVE ALLEGIES CAUSED BY GMOS IN FOOD PRODUCTS. NICOLI'S CONCERN IS THAT SCIENTISTS ARE ONLY CERTAIN OF GMO BEHAVIOR IN LABORATORIES, BUT NOT IN THE ENVIRONMENT.

8. COMMENT. THIS TYPE OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION, ESPECIALLY IN A SOMEWHAT BIASED FORMAT, CLEARLY AFFECTS THE PERSPECTIVES OF FRENCH CONSUMERS. IT ALSO CAN INDIRECTLY INFLUENCE THE GOF'S POLICY AS WELL. END COMMENT.

BANDLER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 1357

<^SSN>1357

TOR: 970117132414 M2578533

<^TOR>970117132415 M2578535

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 301616Z JAN 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
OSRI: RUEHSM
DTG: 301616Z JAN 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8395
INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: EU DECISION ON GMO REFLECTED IN
SWEDISH AND BELGIAN MEDIA

TEXT:
UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 000580

DEPT PLEASE PASS USTR FOR MINNIES

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, SW, EU
SUBJECT: EU DECISION ON GMO REFLECTED IN
SWEDISH AND BELGIAN MEDIA

1. SUMMARY

IN A JANUARY 2B ARTICLE IN SVENSKA DAGBLADET, A LARGE CONSERVATIVE DAILY IN SWEDEN, HANS LINDQVIST, A LEADING CENTER PARTY EU PARLIAMENTARIAN, DEMANDS THAT SWEDEN BAN GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD. THE ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES THE BELGIAN DAILY, LE SOIR, REPORTING THAT THE EU COMMISSION LET ECONOMIC CONCERNS TAKE THE UPPER HAND OVER HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS IN THEIR RECENT DECISION TO ALLOW SALES OF CERTAIN GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD. THIS ARTICLE AND OTHER SMALL BUT CRITICAL PRESS PIECES ON BIOTECHNOLOGY MAY BE THE BEGINNING OF A HEIGHTENED FOCUS ON THIS ISSUE BY THE SWEDISH MEDIA. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN SUMMARY OF ARTICLE:

SWEDISH CENTER PARTY EU PARLIAMENTARIAN DEMANDS STRICTER SWEDISH LEGISLATION ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS. SVENSKA DAGBLADET (SVD) REPORTS THAT HANS LINDQVIST, SWEDISH EU PARLIAMENTARIAN, IN A PRESS RELEASE HAS DEMANDED THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT BAN GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD, IN ORDER TO AVOID UNCONTROLLABLE DEVELOPMENT. THE PRESS RELEASE WAS ISSUED AFTER EU'S DECISION TO ALLOW GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN, RAPE SEED, AND SPICES. SVD ALSO REPORTS THAT THE BELGIAN DAILY LE SOIR, SUPPORTED BY EU RECORDS, ACCUSES THE EU COMMISSION OF HAVING PUT

ECONOMIC INTEREST BEFORE PUBLIC HEALTH, NOT ONLY WITH REGARD TO THE MAD COW DISEASE, BUT ALSO WHEN DECISIONS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN WERE TAKEN. LE SOIR REPORTEDLY HAS PUBLISHED RECORDS WHICH SHOW THAT SEVERAL EU COMMISSIONERS, AMONG THEM LEON BRITTAN OF UK, MARTIN BANGEMANN OF GERMANY AND JACQUES SANTER, CHAIRMAN OF THE EU COMMISSION, MAINLY SEEMED MORE CONCERNED THAT THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY WAS NOT GIVEN ENOUGH SUPPORT. SOME OF THEM ALSO REFER TO AMERICAN THREATS OF TRADE SANCTIONS, SHOULD GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN BE BANNED. SVD GOES ON TO SAY THAT OTHER EU COMMISSIONERS ARE CONCERNED OVER CONSUMERS' DISTRUST OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS, AND WOULD RATHER SEE THAT THE PRODUCTS ARE LABELED IN ORDER TO GIVE CONSUMERS A CHOICE. DESPITE THE FACT THAT EU REGULATIONS GIVE LITTLE POSSIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUAL STATES TO DEFEY EU'S DECISION TO ALLOW GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN, SOME COUNTRIES WILL DO SO. AUSTRIA WANTS TO PROHIBIT IMPORT, FRANCE DEMANDS LABELLING OF THE PRODUCTS, AND HOLLAND HAS INTRODUCED VOLUNTARY MARKING.

END OF SUMMARY OF ARTICLE.

3. COMMENT: DURING THE CAMPAIGN LEADING UP TO SWEDEN'S EU REFERENDUM IN 1994, HANS LINDQVIST WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NO-TO-EU-CAMPAIGN. HE WAS LATER VOTED INTO THE EU PARLIAMENT IN THE 1995 ELECTIONS, BEING THE FIRST NAME ON ONE OF THE CENTER PARTY ELECTORAL LISTS. CONTACTS AT THE TRADE MINISTRY ARE WORRIED THAT THIS ARTICLE AND OTHER SMALL BUT CRITICAL PRESS PIECES ON BIOTECHNOLOGY MAY BE THE BEGINNING OF A HEIGHTENED FOCUS BY THE SWEDISH MEDIA. END COMMENT.

SIEBERT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 0580
TOR: 970130112956 M2595560
DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHSM A0777 0381711-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8460
INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: SEMINAR ON GMO AIMED FOR SWEDISH MP'S

TEXT:

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 000777

DEPT. PLEASE PASS TO USTR FOR MINNIES
DEPT. PLEASE PASS TO USDA FOR FAS/ITP/WEIAD AND
OFSTS AND FAA/EUROPE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR ETRD SENV SW EU
SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON GMO AIMED FOR SWEDISH MP'S

REF: A) PARIS 02974

1. SUMMARY. ON FEBRUARY 5 THE "ASSOCIATION OF POLITICS AND BUSINESS", SPN, HELD A SEMINAR ON GMOS IN FOOD, WITH THE OBJECTIVE TO EDUCATE AND DISCUSS WITH SWEDISH PARLIAMENTARIANS, WHO WERE THE PRIMARY TARGET FOR THE SEMINAR. SPEAKERS INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM REGULATORY AGENCIES, PRODUCERS, DISTRIBUTORS, CONSUMERS, INTEREST GROUPS, AND THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, ANNIKA AHNBERG. THE DISCUSSIONS GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF A RATHER FAVORABLE (BUT CAUTIOUS) OPINION ON GMO ON MOST PARTS, NOT LEAST THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, BUT ALL PARTIES EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CONSUMERS' TRUST AND CONFIDENCE. ALL SPEAKERS WERE IN FAVOR OF FAR-REACHING LABELING. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SEMINAR DID NOT ATTRACT VERY MANY MP'S, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE GMO ISSUE IS PRESENTLY HIGH ON THE POLITICAL AGENDA. MOST OF THOSE WHO WERE PRESENT INSTEAD REPRESENTED PARTIES ALREADY INVOLVED IN THE SCIENTIFIC, REGULATORY, OR POLITICAL DISCUSSION ON GMOS. WE NOTE BELOW THE NOTEWORTHY PORTIONS OF THE DISCUSSION.

3. ANITA JANELM FROM THE BUREAU FOR REGULATIONS AT THE NATIONAL FOOD ADMINISTRATION REPORTED THAT A NORDIC

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE NFA'S IS TO START SHORTLY. THEY WANT TO HAVE ONE OR TWO MEETINGS ON THE NORDIC LEVEL, FOR DISCUSSION AND COORDINATION OF PRINCIPAL POSITIONS, BEFORE THE NOVEL FOODS DECREE ENTERS INTO FORCE.

4. THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, ANNIKA AHNBERG, REITERATED THE GOS POSITION ON GMOS, BEING CAUTIOUS BUT NOT ADVERSE. EVEN THOUGH THE GOS WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE A MORE FAR-REACHING REGULATION CONCERNING GMOS IN THE EU, SHE WELCOMED THAT THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION IS ABOUT TO COME INTO FORCE. IN PASSING SHE MADE AN INTERESTING COMMENT NOTING THAT SHE HOPED THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT APPROVE BT CORN UNTIL AFTER THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION HAD COME INTO FORCE - WHICH WOULD PUT LABELING REQUIREMENTS ON THE BT CORN. AT THIS POINT, FRANCE HAD ALREADY APPROVED BT CORN - ON FEBRUARY 4. (REF A)

5. COMMENT. WE WERE STRUCK BY THE RATHER FAVORABLE OPINION ABOUT GMOS. SEVERAL OF THE SPEAKERS POINTED OUT THE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS GMOS HAVE MADE TO SOCIETY, AND NOTED THAT THE POSSIBILITIES SHOULD BE EXPLORED FURTHER IN THE FUTURE. HOWEVER, THE GMO ISSUE IS SENSITIVE, WHICH CALLS FOR ADDITIONAL RESEARCH INTO THE LONG TERM EFFECT OF ITS USE. SWEDISH CONSUMERS TRADITIONALLY QUESTIONS SCIENTISTS, AND INCREASINGLY SO, ALSO POLITICIANS. ALL SPEAKERS POINTED OUT THE NEED TO INFORM CONSUMERS ABOUT GMOS, AND THE DESIRE TO USE LABELING AS A WAY TO LET CONSUMERS MAKE THE CHOICES THEY DEMAND. THERE IS A STRONG CONSENSUS IN SWEDEN THAT LABELING IS NEEDED IN ORDER NOT TO DISRUPT CONSUMER CONFIDENCE. END COMMENT.

SIEBERT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0777

TOR: 970207142427 M2608872

DIST:

SIT: SCHMIDT

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4697
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2647
SUBJ: GNZ INTERIM POLICY ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000188

STATE ALSO FOR EAP/ANZ
AMEMBASSY CANBERAA FOR AG COUNSELOR
USDA FOR ITP/ZEITNER, ITP/OFSTS

E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: GNZ INTERIM POLICY ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

REF: WELLINGTON 01687

1. SUMMARY: THE NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS ISSUED AN INTERIM POLICY ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS (GMF'S). ACCORDING TO N.Z. HEALTH OFFICIALS THE INTERIM POLICY IS NOT INTENDED TO INTERFERE WITH THE EXISTING MOVEMENT OF FOOD PRODUCTS INTO NEW ZEALAND, BUT IS MEANT TO IDENTIFY THE EXTENT TO WHICH SUCH PRODUCTS ARE PART OF THE IMPORT PATTERN. THE INTERIM STANDARD WILL REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL THE RECENTLY CREATED AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY DEVELOPS A FINAL STANDARD FOR GMF'S. THE DRAFT STANDARD IS BEING DEVELOPED IN COOPERATION WITH AUSTRALIA AND, AS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED IN NEW ZEALAND, WOULD PROHIBIT THE SALE OF GMF'S UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED. END SUMMARY.

2. AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL, THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND IS CHANGING RAPIDLY. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDE A NOVEMBER 1996 REMINDER FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE THAT PROPOSALS FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS OR VIABLE PLANT PRODUCTS FROM GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS SHOULD BE REFERRED FOR ASSESSMENT TO THE GMO INTERIM ASSESSMENT GROUP (IAG) MANAGED BY THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. THE IAG REMAINS THE PRIMARY REVIEW MECHANISM FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF BIOENGINEERED PRODUCTS INTO NEW ZEALAND

UNTIL A NEW INDEPENDENT AGENCY, THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (ERMA), CAN BE ESTABLISHED LATER THIS YEAR.

3. PUBLICLY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS STATED THAT ITS INTERIM POLICY ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 4 HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE CONSUMERS WITH CONFIDENCE OF THE SAFETY OF FOOD DERIVED FROM GENE TECHNOLOGY THAT MAY BECOME AVAILABLE IN NEW ZEALAND BEFORE A JOINT AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND GMF'S STANDARD IS IN PLACE.

4. AS PART OF THE POLICY, FOOD IMPORTERS AND PRODUCERS ARE NOW BEING ASKED TO CONFINE IMPORTS, OR THE USE OF GMF'S OR PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM GMF'S, TO PRODUCTS ASSESSED AND APPROVED BY COMPETENT OVERSEAS BODIES. MINISTRY OFFICIALS CITED FDA EVALUATION FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF ASSESSMENT ENVISAGED.

5. THE INTERIM POLICY WILL REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL THE STANDARD CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED BY THE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY (ANZFA) IS FINALIZED TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR. GMF'S COME WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE JOINT FOOD STANDARD SETTING SYSTEM THAT EXISTS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

6. UNDER ANZFA, CREATED IN DECEMBER 1995, NEW ZEALAND IS ADOPTING THE AUSTRALIAN FOOD STANDARDS CODE ALONGSIDE ITS EXISTING FOOD REGULATIONS AND AUSTRALIA WILL EXTEND MUTUAL RECOGNITION TO FOOD PRODUCED IN CONFORMITY WITH NEW ZEALAND STANDARDS. THE JOINT SYSTEM WILL BE BASED ON THE MODEL OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY. NEW ZEALAND WILL RETAIN THE POWER TO REJECT ANY STANDARDS DEEMED INAPPROPRIATE FOR NEW ZEALAND ACCORDING TO SPECIFIC CRITERIA. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT SYSTEM IS INTENDED TO ELIMINATE DIFFERENCES WHICH HAVE FREQUENTLY OPERATED AS TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA, AND ALLOW THE FOOD INDUSTRY FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' AGREEMENT ON CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

7. ANZFA HAS PREPARED A DRAFT STANDARD ON GMF'S WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT IN NEW ZEALAND OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS, THE PROPOSAL HAS ALREADY RECEIVED PUBLIC COMMENT IN AUSTRALIA. AS PROPOSED THE STANDARD WOULD PROHIBIT THE SALE OF GMF'S UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED. IN ADDITION, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IS SUGGESTING THAT FOOD IMPORTERS AND PRODUCERS APPLY TO ANZFA TO HAVE THEIR PRODUCTS INCLUDED IN A GMF STANDARD.

8. THE PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD, #A18-FOOD DERIVED FROM GENE TECHNOLOGY" FEATURES SEVERAL KEY ELEMENTS, INCLUDING A GENERAL BAN ON THE SALE OF FOODS AND FOOD INGREDIENTS DERIVED FROM GENE TECHNOLOGY UNLESS THE ITEM HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND LISTED AS APPROVED THROUGH THE AUTHORITY'S APPLICATION PROCESS. SPECIAL CONDITIONS, SUCH AS LABELING, ARE TO BE DETERMINED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

9. CURRENTLY THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR GMF'S UNDER NEW ZEALAND'S FOOD LEGISLATION. HOWEVER, IF THE NATURE OR COMPOSITION OF FOOD DERIVED FROM GENE TECHNOLOGY IS DIFFERENT TO THAT OF THE STANDARD PRODUCT, UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000188

STATE ALSO FOR EAP/ANZ
AMEMBASSY CANBERAA FOR AG COUNSELOR
USDA FOR ITP/ZEITNER, ITP/OFSTS

E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: GNZ INTERIM POLICY ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS DECLARED LABELING WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAKE CONSUMERS AWARE OF THE DIFFERENCE TO AVOID MISLEADING BUYERS.

10. A SMALL NUMBER OF FOOD ADDITIVES DERIVED FROM GENE TECHNOLOGY ARE SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED FOR SALE UNDER CURRENT FOOD LEGISLATION IN NEW ZEALAND. FOOD ADDITIVES OTHER THAN PROCESSING AIDS ARE REQUIRED TO BE DECLARED ON THE INGREDIENT LIST ON THE LABEL OF THE FOOD.

11. A COPY OF THE DRAFT ANZFA STANDARD HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO USDA/FAS OFFICE OF FOOD SAFETY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES. BEEMAN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 0188
<^SSN>0188
TOR: 970209172253 M2610210
<^TOR>970209172253 M2610211
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SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 131621Z FEB 97

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

OSRI: RUEHFR

DTG: 131621Z FEB 97

ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3401

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4312
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 3595
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 8935
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6195

SUBJ: FRANCE BANS THE USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED
CORN SEEDS

TEXT:

UNCLAS PARIS 003597

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, ACTING UNDER SECRETARY SMITH;
FAS FOR OA/SCHUMACHER; ITP/DA/ZEITNER;
ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY; OFSTS/HARBERT;
CMP/DA/JPARKER; CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE;
APHIS/OA/TMEDLEY; ERS/CED/OBRIEN; ERS/APB/MHALEY

STATE PASS USTR

COMMERCE FOR 4212/IEP/EUR/OWE/NED/MDORSETT

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE

EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR

SUBJECT: FRANCE BANS THE USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED
CORN SEEDS

REF: PARIS 2974

1. SUMMARY: ON FEBRUARY 12, FRENCH PRIME MINISTER
ALAIN JUPPE ANNOUNCED THAT THE USE OF GENETICALLY
MODIFIED CORN (GMC) SEEDS WILL BE BANNED IN FRANCE. THE

FRENCH CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION (AGPM) AND THE FRENCH NATIONAL FARMERS UNION (FNSEA) CRITICIZED THE DECISION AND CALLED IT INCONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS FRENCH POLICY. FNSEA SAID THAT IF FRANCE DOES NOT ALLOW FRENCH FARMERS TO PRODUCE BT CORN, IT SHOULD BAN IMPORTS OF BT CORN AND

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3597

TOR: 970213114623 M2616554

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHWA0894 0501650-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 191650Z FEB 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BERN
OSRI: RUEHSW
DTG: 191650Z FEB 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BERN
TO: RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC 0126
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG 0010
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3082
INFO: RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 2051
SUBJ: GMO'S AND THE FAS MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM --
HELPING IN SWITZERLAND

TEXT:
UNCLAS BERN 000894

FAS FOR GALVIN/OA

HAMBURG FOR ATO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SZ
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE FAS MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM --
HELPING IN SWITZERLAND

REF: A) BONN 1703 B) BERN 0676 C) BERN 0630

1. WE READ WITH INTEREST BONN'S REPORT ON THE SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT OF THE MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM (MAP) TO SECURE REGULATORY APPROVAL, AND CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE, OF THE ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN (RRS) IN GERMANY.

2. AS USDA, USTR, AND DEPT ARE AWARE (REFS B AND C), THE PROBLEMS FACING RRS IN THE SWISS MARKET ARE EVEN GREATER THAN IN GERMANY, AND WE COULD CERTAINLY USE MAP SUPPORT. HERETOFORE MONSANTO HAS CARRIED THE BALL ALONE ON THE REGULATORY APPROVAL PHASE, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE ALSO BANKROLLING THE VERY LIMITED CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE. THUS FAR THAT CAMPAIGN HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL -- SWITZERLAND'S TWO LARGEST FOOD RETAILERS, AND THE BAKERS' ASSOCIATION HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO USE GMO PRODUCTS, AND GREENPEACE AND SOME RADICAL CONSUMER GROUPS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING ALL IMPORT OF RRS PRODUCTS. RECENT GOS REGULATIONS TO FORCE THE LABELING OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMO (ASSUMING IMPORTS ARE ULTIMATELY

PERMITTED) MAY ALSO DISCOURAGE CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE.

3. WE ENCOURAGE THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION TO FOCUS ON SWITZERLAND. A VISIT WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH WOULD BE VERY USEFUL. WE COULD ALSO USE THE GERMAN-LANGUAGE MATERIALS ON GMO WHICH BONN DISTRIBUTED, AND WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HEAR ASA VIEWS ON SUCCESSFUL TACTICS THEY EMPLOYED IN GERMANY ON BOTH THE REGULATORY AND CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE ISSUES. WE HOPE THAT THE ASA CAN USE MAP FUNDS TO HOLD END-USER SEMINARS, CONDUCT TECHNICAL MEETINGS WITH GOS OFFICIALS, AND UNDERTAKE OTHER PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES TO TURN THE TIDE ON AN ISSUE THAT IS SLIPPING AWAY FROM US IN SWITZERLAND.

4. WE APPRECIATE THAT THE SWISS MARKET IS SMALLER THAN THE GERMAN ONE, BUT UNFAVORABLE SWISS ACTION ON GMO SOYBEANS RISKS SETTING A PRECEDENT THAT WILL ENCOURAGE GMO OPPONENTS ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE TO IMPOSE NEW RESTRICTIONS ON THIS AND OTHER GMO PRODUCTS.
KUNIN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0894

TOR: 970219115904 M2623652

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA1267 0511213-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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DTG: 201213Z FEB 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0450
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0009
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0013
SUBJ: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE AUSTRIAN GMO SECTOR

STCABLE 705

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 001267

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

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ECON, ETRD, AU
SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE AUSTRIAN GMO SECTOR

STCABLE 705

A. SUMMARY

1. THE AUSTRIAN SUGAR AND STARCH COMPANY, AGRANA, CANCELED ITS APPLICATION FOR FIELD TESTS WITH GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) POTATOES DUE TO THE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT CLIMATE FOR GMOS BEFORE THE REFERENDUM ON GENE TECHNOLOGY. AFTER THE EU APPROVAL OF BT-CORN, AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES BANNED IT BY ORDINANCE. AN ORDINANCE ON GMO LABELING IS EXPECTED TO BE IMPLEMENTED SOON. IT WILL BE VALID UNTIL THE EU NOVEL FOOD REGULATION BECOMES EFFECTIVE.

B. NO GMO FIELD TESTS

2. ON FEBRUARY 6, 1997, THE AUSTRIAN SUGAR AND STARCH COMPANY AGRANA INFORMED THE MINISTRY FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (UNTIL RECENTLY, GENE TECHNOLOGY MATTERS WERE HANDLED BY THE MINISTRY FOR HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION) THAT THEY WITHDREW THEIR APPLICATION FOR FIELD TESTS OF GM POTATOES FOR THE TIME BEING. THIS STEP, WHICH WAS A GREAT SURPRISE FOR THE PUBLIC, WAS JUSTIFIED BY AGRANA BECAUSE OF EMOTIONAL DISCUSSIONS AND STATEMENTS BY SOME POLITICIANS AND THE CURRENTLY SENSITIVE ATMOSPHERE IN ADVANCE OF THE GENE-TECHNOLOGY REFERENDUM (TO BE HELD ON

APRIL 7 - 14, 1997). IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO AGRANA, THEY DO NOT WANT TO BECOME A POLITICAL PUNCHING BAG.

3. THE NEW MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, BARBARA PRAMMER, WELCOMED AGRANA'S DECISION AS THE "RIGHT CONSEQUENCE WHICH COMES FROM THE AWARENESS THAT THERE IS LITTLE CONSENT FOR FIELD RELEASE FOR GMOS IN THE AUSTRIAN SOCIETY." A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT WHO COMES FROM THE REGION WHERE THE POTATOES WERE TO BE PLANTED, COMMENTED WITH RELIEF THAT THE REGION CAN NOW REMAIN A GMO FREE AREA AND MAINTAIN ITS IMAGE AS AN ECO - REGION. GLOBAL 2000 HAILED IT AS A GREAT SUCCESS FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CONSUMER PROTECTION. THE SPEAKER FOR GMO MATTERS OF THE GREEN PARTY, MADELEINE PETROVIC, WELCOMED THE POSTPONEMENT OF FIELD TESTS AND DEMANDED A TOTAL RENUNCIATION OF SUCH TESTS.

4. AGRANA'S WITHDRAWAL WAS REGRETTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. PROFESSOR HEBERE-BORS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY AND GENETICS AND MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE SAID THAT UNDER THE CURRENT CLIMATE, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IS BLOCKED.

5. AGRANA EMPHASIZED THAT IT HAS NOT GIVEN UP SCIENTIFIC WORK WITH GM POTATOES; RESEARCH WILL CONTINUE IN LABORATORIES AND NEW EFFORTS FOR FIELD TESTS IN AUSTRIA WILL BE MADE IN 1998.

6. BACKGROUND

IN LATE 1996, AGRANA HAD APPLIED FOR THE RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES INTO FIELDS. THE POTATOES, WHICH HAVE AN ALTERED STARCH COMPOSITION COMPARED TO CONVENTIONAL POTATOES, WERE INTENDED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NON-FOOD STARCH.

7. ALL APPLICATION FORMS AND DOCUMENTS WERE AVAILABLE FROM FEBRUARY 5, 1997, UNTIL THE DATE OF WITHDRAWAL AT THE HEALTH MINISTRY AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW. THE TIME FOR PUBLIC STUDY AND POTENTIAL OBJECTIONS CONCERNING THE GMO RELEASE WAS INTENDED TO GO THROUGH FEBRUARY 25, 1997, AND THE PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE APPLICATION WAS INTENDED FOR MARCH 6, 1997.

8. THE GREEN PARTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WERE EAGER TO SABOTAGE THE FIELD TESTS. THEY INTENDED TO DISTRIBUTE MORE THAN 100,000 POST CARDS OBJECTING TO THE RELEASE OF THE POTATOES IN THE ENVIRONMENT. THE CARDS WERE TO BE MAILED TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH DURING THE PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT.

C. BT CORN BANNED

9. ON FEBRUARY 13, 1997, AUSTRIA BANNED THE USE OF BT CORN. THE BAN IS BASED ON AN ORDINANCE PREPARED EARLIER BY THE FORMER HEALTH MINISTER KRAMMER IN DECEMBER 1996 BUT IMPLEMENTED ONLY AFTER THE BT-CORN WAS LEGALLY APPROVED BY BRUSSELS.

10. THEORETICALLY THE BAN REGARDS ONLY THE DISTRIBUTION OF UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 001267

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

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ECON, ETRD, AU

SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE AUSTRIAN GMO SECTOR

- INSECT PESTS COULD BECOME RESISTANT AGAINST BT-TOXIN
WHICH IS FREQUENTLY USED AS A PESTICIDE BY AUSTRIAN FARMERS.

- THE HERBICIDE RESISTANCE IS VIEWED CRITICALLY.

12. FROM THE AUSTRIAN VIEWPOINT, THESE CONSIDERATIONS WERE
NOT ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED BY THE THREE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES
WHICH PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR THE EU DECISION.

13. THE POSSIBILITY OF A GENE TRANSFER IS REGARDED AS
SMALL. HOWEVER, THE CURRENT SCIENTIFIC RISK EVALUATION IS
NOT CONSIDERED FINAL SINCE MANY RELEVANT MECHANISMS ARE NOT
YET FULLY UNDERSTOOD OR INVESTIGATED.

14. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 16, BRUSSELS HAS TO RECONSIDER BT-
CORN APPROVAL WITHIN 3 MONTHS. IF BRUSSELS DOES NOT ACCEPT
AUSTRIA'S REASONS FOR THE BAN, AUSTRIA MUST PERMIT THE
IMPORT AND DISTRIBUTION OF BT CORN.

15. MINISTER PRAMMER, WHO PUT THE ORDINANCE INTO EFFECT,
WAS APPLAUDED BY THE GREEN PARTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS
WHO REFERRED TO IT AS A COURAGEOUS MOVE. AT THE SAME TIME
THEY URGED PRAMMER TO SEARCH FOR ALLIES WHICH WOULD FOLLOW
AND SUPPORT THE AUSTRIAN POSITION.

16. AT PRESENT, THE MINISTRY IS PREPARING AN INFORMATION
CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE SOMEWHAT THE EMOTIONS WHICH SEEM TO
DOMINATE THE PUBLIC OPINION. THE MINISTRY CANNOT TAKE SIDES
AND THEREFORE WANTS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON ADVANTAGES AND
DISADVANTAGES IN A BALANCED WAY. SUCH INFORMATION IS
ALREADY AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AND A BROCHURE IS ALSO
BEING PREPARED. THE MINISTRY IS ALSO PLANNING AN
INFORMATION SEMINAR FOR JOURNALISTS WHICH WILL BE HELD BY
AUSTRIAN SCIENTISTS AT THE END OF FEBRUARY.

17. AN ORDINANCE ON GMO LABELING IS EXPECTED TOWARD THE END
OF FEBRUARY 1997. THE ORDINANCE, INITIATED BY PRAMMER, IS
BEING COORDINATED WITH THE ECONOMIC MINISTER JOHANN
FARNLEITNER. AFTER PUBLICATION, THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A
TRANSITION PERIOD OF ONE MONTH. AS THE EU NOVEL FOOD
REGULATION IS EXPECTED TO GO INTO EFFECT IN MAY/JUNE, THE
NATIONAL REGULATION, WHICH SHOULD BE SIMILAR TO THE NOVEL
FOOD REGULATION, MAY BE VALID ONLY FOR A PERIOD OF 1 - 2
MONTHS.

C. COMMENT

18. THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE APPLICATION FOR FIELD TESTS AND
THE BAN ON BT-CORN WAS DEFINITELY A VICTORY FOR THE GREENS

AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS. WITHOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES AND PRESSURE, AUSTRIA WOULD HAVE ALREADY PROBABLY CARRIED OUT GMO FIELD TESTS IN 1996. THE MINISTRIES INVOLVED IN GENE TECHNOLOGY, PARTICULARLY THE MINISTRY FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, ARE IN A DILEMMA. ON ONE HAND THEY DO NOT WANT TO KEEP AUSTRIA IN THE POSITION OF AN OUTSIDER ON GENE TECHNOLOGY; ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY HAVE TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION PUBLIC OPINION IN THEIR POLICY MEASURES. THE MINISTRY FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION WHICH IS THE LEADING MINISTRY FOR GENE TECHNOLOGY MATTERS, HAS A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT STAND. IN CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS, OFFICERS OF THIS MINISTRY EXPRESS THAT THE GMO ISSUE IS INFLATED AND MUCH TOO EMOTIONAL IN AUSTRIA. IN THIS CONTEXT SOME OF THE TEMPORARY MEASURES - INTENDED ONLY TO PLEASE THE BROAD MASSES - MAY HAVE TO BE OBSERVED. IN THE OPINION OF AGOFFICERS, OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY FOR WOMEN AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, DO NOT HAVE MUCH FAITH THAT THE REASONS GIVEN FOR THE BAN WILL BE ACCEPTED BY BRUSSELS. THE AUSTRIAN LABELING ORDINANCE WHICH WILL BE VALID FOR 1 - 2 MONTHS WAS PROBABLY ALSO DESIGNED TO PLEASE THE PUBLIC.

19. THE REASONS FOR THE INTENSE EMOTIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN GENE TECHNOLOGY ARE PROBABLY MORAL, ETHICAL, AND RELIGIOUS FEELINGS OF A BASICALLY CONSERVATIVE POPULATION. IN ADDITION, INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS LAUNCHED BY THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY AND THE AGRICULTURAL CHAMBER BEFORE AND SHORTLY AFTER EU ACCESSION MADE THE POPULATION AWARE OF AUSTRIA'S "NATURAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION." THUS, CAMPAIGNS AND ARGUMENTS BY THE GREEN PARTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS - PARTICULARLY GLOBAL 2000 AND GREENPEACE - FELL ON FERTILE SOIL. EMOTIONALLY CONSOLIDATED VIEWS ARE DIFFICULT TO CHANGE BY RATIONAL ARGUMENTS IN A SHORT TIME. END COMMENT HUNT

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

SSN: 1267
<^SSN>1267

TOR: 970220071734 M2625012
<^TOR>970220071820 M2625014

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Cable

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

TEXT:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 LUXEMBOURG 000180

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VJ NARA, Date 11/26/2011
2016-0529-WM (1.44)

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

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

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS/BT CORN

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

LEG-HOLD TRAPS/FUR

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

TIMING FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE EURO.

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

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

7. ~~(C)~~ FRIDEN ALSO EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE IDEA OF DECIDING IN OCTOBER, 1997, WHO WAS IN ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 LUXEMBOURG 000180

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

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

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

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

WTO/TRIPS

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

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

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

BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

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

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

FAUCHER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 0180
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TOR: 970227142229 M2636659
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SIT: NSC

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PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 010930Z MAR 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0586
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0018
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0025
SUBJ: PROHIBITION TO PLANT GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES
OVERRULED.

STCABLE 707

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 001530

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

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ECON, ETRD, AU
SUBJECT: PROHIBITION TO PLANT GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES
OVERRULED.

STCABLE 707

1. (U) SUMMARY: ON FEBRUARY 20, 1997, THE AUSTRIAN ADMINISTRATIVE COURT OVERRULED THE MAY 1996 RULING OF FORMER HEALTH MINISTER KRAMMER PROHIBITING FIELD TESTS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) POTATOES AND RULED ADDITIONALLY THAT AN AUSTRIAN COMPANY'S PLANTING OF GM POTATOES BEFORE OFFICIAL APPROVAL SHOULD HAVE JUSTIFIED A FINE ONLY RATHER THAN DESTRUCTION OF THE POTATOES. AS A REACTION TO THE AC'S RULING, THE GREENS HAVE DEMANDED AN AMENDMENT TO THE GENE TECHNOLOGY LAW. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) BACKGROUND: IN 1995, SUGAR RESEARCH TULLN (SRT), A DAUGHTER COMPANY OF THE AUSTRIAN SUGAR COMPANY AGRANA, APPLIED FOR PERMISSION TO CARRY OUT FIELD TESTS WITH GM POTATOES IN 1996. AS KRAMMER'S RESPONSE WAS NOT EARLY ENOUGH FOR SPRING PLANTING, SRT PLANTED THE GM POTATOES WITHOUT OFFICIAL PERMISSION. AFTER THE HEALTH MINISTRY BECAME AWARE OF THE FIELD RELEASE, THE POTATOES HAD TO BE

REMOVED FROM FIELDS AND DESTROYED.

3. (U) ON FEBRUARY 20, 1997, THE AC RULED THAT KRAMMER'S DECISION, BASED ON THE HEALTH MINISTRY'S CONCERN THAT SRT WAS NOT RELIABLE ENOUGH, WAS ILLEGAL. ACCORDING TO THE AC, THIS IS NOT A LEGAL CRITERION FOR BANNING THE FIELD RELEASE OF GMOS. THE AC RULED THAT KRAMMER'S DECISION TO REMOVE THE GM POTATOES FROM THE FIELDS AND DESTROY THEM WAS ALSO ILLEGAL.

4. (U) ACCORDING TO THE AC, SRT'S APPLICATION PROCEDURE HAD ALREADY BEEN PASSED THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS. THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY HAD RECOMMENDED THE APPROVAL OF FIELD TESTS AND THE CONDITIONS WERE KNOWN TO SRT. SRT BASICALLY VIOLATED A FORMALITY BY PLANTING THE POTATOES WITHOUT THE FINAL BLESSING OF THE HEALTH MINISTRY. IN ORDER TO OVERRULE THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL, THE HEALTH MINISTRY WOULD HAVE HAD TO PROVE THAT ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS WOULD HAVE HAD TO BE FULFILLED. FOR THE FIELD RELEASE OF GMOS BEFORE THE FINAL HEALTH MINISTRY'S DECISION, ONLY A FINE WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE. ACCORDING TO THE AUSTRIAN GENE TECHNOLOGY LAW, THE MAXIMUM FINE IS AS 50,000 (U.S. DOLLAR 4,300).

5. (U) AFTER THE RECENT CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT, THE NEW MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, PRAMMER, SAID THAT THE AC'S RULING DOES NOT PROVIDE AN AUTOMATIC GREEN LIGHT FOR FUTURE FIELD TESTS WITH GM POTATOES. IF SRT INTENDS TO RELEASE THESE POTATOES IN 1998, THEY WILL HAVE TO APPLY AGAIN. IN ADDITION, PRAMMER STATED THAT FUTURE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CHECKED TO ASSURE THAT THEY COMPLY WITH THE "FUNDAMENTAL GOALS OF GENE TECHNOLOGY: SAFETY FOR MAN AND ENVIRONMENT".

6. (U) THE RULING OF THE AC WAS A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT FOR THE GREEN PARTY. TO AVOID SIMILAR DECISIONS IN THE FUTURE, THEY HAVE DEMANDED AN AMENDMENT TO THE GENE TECHNOLOGY LAW.

7. (SBU) COMMENT: IN ORDER NOT TO INCREASE THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE UPCOMING ANTI-GENE TECHNOLOGY REFERENDUM, SRT WITHDREW ITS APPLICATION FOR FIELD TESTS IN 1997. HOWEVER, THE AC'S RECENT DECISION HAS ALSO FIRED UP EMOTIONS WITH REGARD TO GENE TECHNOLOGY. THOSE WHO ARE WAITING FOR A POSITIVE SOLUTION OF THE GENE TECHNOLOGY MATTER (MAINLY SCIENTISTS), CAN PUT THEIR HOPES ONLY ON BRUSSELS. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE AUSTRIAN POPULATION IS CLEARLY AGAINST THE NEW TECHNOLOGY

. SUPERMARKETS ALREADY MAKE USE OF THIS ATTITUDE AND ARE CAMPAIGNING WITH GUARANTEES OF GM FREE PRODUCTS.

8. (SBU) THE REALITY OF THE MID, AND EVEN LONG TERM FUTURE, WILL PROBABLY BE THAT THE AUSTRIAN POPULATION WILL REMAIN UNHAPPY WITH GMOS. IT CANNOT BE EXPECTED THAT EMOTIONS OF THE BROAD MASSES CAN BE CHANGED OVERNIGHT BY SCIENTIFIC ARGUMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, IT CAN BE EXPECTED, THAT FOODS WITH GMOS/PRODUCTS WILL SLOWLY SLIDE INTO THE FOOD CHAIN AND SOONER OR LATER FIND THEIR WAYS INTO THE EVERYDAY DIET. IF

THE NEW PRODUCTS WILL BE IN MANY HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS,
PEOPLE WILL GRADUALLY LOSE CONCERN ABOUT GMOS.

9. (SBU) THE VISION OF THE GREENS AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS
TO MAKE AUSTRIA AN "ECOLOGICAL ISLAND" HAS A LIMITED CHANCE
OF SURVIVAL SINCE IN THE LONG RUN THERE WILL NOT BE ENOUGH
CONSUMERS WILLING TO PAY A HIGHER PRICE FOR GMO FREE
PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, SCIENTISTS SEE A GREAT DANGER THAT
AUSTRIA MAY BE EXCLUDED FROM A PROMISING AND PROFITABLE
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 001530

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

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ECON, ETRD, AU
SUBJECT: PROHIBITION TO PLANT GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES
OVERRULED.

SECTOR. END COMMENT. HUNT

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

SSN: 1530
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RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3871
INFO: RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 3608
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6212
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4352
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 8946
SUBJ: FRENCH BT CORN: A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN BY
NOVARTIS SEEDS AND A BAN OF GMO PRODUCTS UNDER THE BRAND
NAME OF THE FRENCH RETAILER CASINO.
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 004793

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, ACTING UNDER SECRETARY SMITH;
FAS FOR OA/SCHUMACHER/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/ZEITNER;
ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY; OFSTS/HARBERT;
CMP/DA/JPARKER; CMP/G&F/RRRIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE;
APHIS/OA/TMEDLEY; ERS/CED/OBRIEN

STATE PASS USTR

COMMERCE FOR 4212/IEP/EUR/OWE/NED/MDORSETT

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE

EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH BT CORN: A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN BY
NOVARTIS SEEDS AND A BAN OF GMO PRODUCTS UNDER THE BRAND
NAME OF THE FRENCH RETAILER CASINO.

REF: (A) PARIS 3597; (B) PARIS 3719; (C) PARIS 4112; (D)
PARIS 2239
1. SUMMARY: IN REACTION TO THE RECENT DECISION OF ALAIN

JUPPE, THE FRENCH PRIME MINISTER, THAT PROHIBITS FRENCH FARMERS FROM PRODUCING CIBA GEIGY'S BT CORN IN FRANCE (REF A), NOVARTIS SEEDS ANNOUNCED PLANS OF A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO INFORM CONSUMERS OF THE BENEFITS OF BT CORN. FRENCH NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORTED THAT CASINO, A LEADING FRENCH SUPERMARKET CHAIN, WILL NOT SELL FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S) UNDER ITS STORE BRAND NAMES (CASINO AND CASINO PALMARES). END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO TWO FRENCH DAILY NEWSPAPERS ("LES ECHOS" AND "LE FIGARO") ON FEBRUARY 20, ANDRE GOIG, THE HEAD OF NOVARTIS SEEDS EUROPE BRANCH (NOVARTIS IS THE CONGLOMERATE FORMED BY CIBA GEIGY AND SANDOZ COMPANIES) OUTLINED THE BENEFITS AND SAFETY OF BT CORN FOR USE BY BOTH ANIMALS AND HUMANS. HE DEFENDED THE ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLINESS OF BT CORN, WHICH REDUCES THE NEED FOR INSECTICIDES AND THE SAFETY OF WHICH IS ENSURED BECAUSE IT CANNOT BE CROSS-BRED WITH ANY OTHER CROP, THEREBY AVOIDING ANY POLLEN AND GENE TRANSMISSION. USING AN EXTREME EXAMPLE, GROIG SAID THAT IF A MAN WEIGHING 60 KILOGRAMS (130 LBS.) CONSUMED 40 MT OF BT CORN, THERE STILL WOULD BE NO TOXIC EFFECT ON HIM.

3. GROIG ALSO EMPHASIZED THE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE OF BT CORN FOR PRODUCERS. ALTHOUGH BT CORN SEEDS ARE ABOUT 20 PERCENT MORE EXPENSIVE THAN REGULAR CORN SEEDS, THE BT CORN YIELDS ARE ABOUT 10 PERCENT HIGHER THAN NORMAL AND THE PLANT IS PROTECTED FROM ITS MAIN PEST, THE CORN BORER, THEREBY REDUCING THE NEED FOR INSECTICIDE TREATMENTS (WHICH COST AROUND FF 250 OR USD 50 PER HECTARE).

4. GROIG WAS SURPRISED BY THE LACK OF CONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE'S (GOF) DECISION TO AUTHORIZE IMPORTS OF BT CORN, WHILE PROHIBITING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION. HE RECOGNIZED THAT CONSUMERS NEED TO ACCEPT UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 004793

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, ACTING UNDER SECRETARY SMITH;
FAS FOR OA/SCHUMACHER/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/ZEITNER;
ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY; OFSTS/HARBERT;
CMP/DA/JPARKER; CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE;
APHIS/OA/TMEDLEY; ERS/CED/OBRIEN

STATE PASS USTR

COMMERCE FOR 4212/IEP/EUR/OWE/NED/MDORSETT

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE

EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH BT CORN: A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN BY
NOVARTIS SEEDS AND A BAN OF GMO PRODUCTS UNDER THE BRAND
NAME OF THE FRENCH RETAILER CASINO.

PROBABLY IRREVOCABLE FOR 1997 PLANTINGS. IT REMAINS TO
BE SEEN IF THE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN BY NOVARTIS WILL BE
ABLE TO COUNTER THE GOF'S OVER CAUTIOUSNESS WITH GMOS,
WHICH WE BELIEVE IS, AT LEAST PARTLY, CAUSED BY SEVERAL
RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH SCANDALS IN FRANCE (REF D). END
COMMENT.
BANDLER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0607
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0020
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0027
SUBJ: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONTINUING
AUSTRIAN GMO SAGA

TEXT:
UNCLAS VIENNA 001590

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB, PASS USTR, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/ZEITNER, HARBERT, THORN
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ECON, TBIO, SCUL, AU
SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONTINUING
AUSTRIAN GMO SAGA

REF:STCABLE 709

1. THIS MESSAGE PRESENTS AN UPDATE ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED
EVENTS IN AUSTRIA.

GREENPEACE CLAIMS FARMERS SAY NO TO GMO

2. ACCORDING TO A GREENPEACE-INSTIGATED POLL, THE MAJORITY
OF AUSTRIAN FARMERS HAVE REJECTED GENE TECHNOLOGY IN
AGRICULTURE. GREENPEACE CLAIMS THE POLL REVEALED THAT 85
PCT OF FARMERS ADVOCATE A "GMO-FREE ZONE" IN AUSTRIA, AND
THAT THE SAME SHARE REGARDS GENE TECHNOLOGY AS INCOMPATIBLE
WITH AGRICULTURE AND ECOLOGICALLY PURE AREAS. ABOUT 75 PCT,
ACCORDING TO THE POLL, DO NOT BELIEVE THAT GENE TECHNOLOGY
LEADS TO HIGHER YIELDS AND WILL THUS PROTECT JOBS. HOWEVER,
60 PCT OPINED THAT RENUNCIATION OF GENE TECHNOLOGY WILL
IMPROVE AUSTRIAN MARKET OPPORTUNITIES. THE LOWER PRICE OF
FEEDS FROM GMOS ARE NOT A DECISIVE FACTOR FOR 68 PCT OF
THOSE POLLED. ABOUT 75 PCT OF THE FARMERS POLLED WILL SIGN
THE REFERENDUM AGAINST GENE TECHNOLOGY. COMMENT: WE ARE A

BIT SURPRISED BY THE SEVERE UPWARD BIAS OF THESE STATISTICS AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW THE RESPONDENT SAMPLE WAS CHOSEN. OUR CONTACTS WITH FARM GROUPS INDICATE A LESS LOPSIDED SPLIT BETWEEN FARMERS FAVORING AND FARMERS OPPOSING GMOS. AUSTRIAN CONSUMERS, OF COURSE, ARE OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSED. END COMMENT.

AUSTRIAN STUDY ON GMO IMPACT ON HEALTH RELEASED

3. RESULTS OF A STUDY OF HEALTH IMPACTS OF GMOS WAS RELEASED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 27. THE STUDY, CONDUCTED BY A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS HEADED BY PROF. WERNER PFANNHAUSER OF THE FOOD CHEMISTRY DEPT. OF GRAZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY. ACCORDING TO THE STUDY, THERE ARE NO SCIENTIFIC PAPERS REPORTING CREATION OF NEW ALLERGENS VIA GENE TECHNOLOGY, AND, IN ADDITION, NO EVIDENCE THAT NATURALLY OCCURRING ALLERGENS ARE AFFECTED BY GENE TECHNOLOGY. THE STUDY REPORTS THAT GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS SHOW NETHER QUALITATIVE NOR QUANTITATIVE DIFFERENCES FROM CONVENTIONALLY BRED SOYBEANS. THE AUTHORS EMPHASIZED THAT IN CONTRAST TO FREQUENTLY CITED RISKS, GENE TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS FOR REDUCTION OF ALLERGENIC PROTEINS.

4. REGARDING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE, THE SCIENTISTS CONCLUDED THAT THE PROBABILITY OF ANTIBIOTIC MARKER DNA JUMPING TO INTESTINAL FLORA IS SO SMALL IT CAN BE IGNORED, MAKING THE RISK OF DEVELOPING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE SO SMALL AS TO BE INSIGNIFICANT. THEY FURTHERMORE REPORTED THAT TRANSFER OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE FROM PLANTS TO SOIL MICROORGANISMS IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY (COMMENT: ODDLY ENOUGH, THOSE ARE THE SAME CONCLUSIONS THE EU SCIENTISTS CAME TO. END COMMENT).

5. THE AUTHORS BELIEVE THAT LABELING REQUIREMENTS ARE STRONGLY LINKED TO BEING ABLE TO PROVE THAT CONTENTS ARE OR ARE NOT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCT ORIGIN. HOWEVER, SCREENING TESTS FOR GMO PRODUCTS, THEY SAID, ARE AT ONLY AN EARLY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT.

6. THE UNDERTONE OF THE PRESENTATION WAS THAT HEALTH RISKS FROM GMOS ARE NEGLIGIBLE, BUT IT WAS MENTIONED THAT ONE-HUNDRED-PERCENT SAFETY IS NOT POSSIBLE. COMMENT: THE ROUNDUP-READY SOYBEAN HAS ALREADY BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED IN AUSTRIA BUT AS READERS CAN SEE IT REMAINS A POINT OF CONTROVERSY. FURTHERMORE, THE AUSTRIAN BAN ON CIBA-GEIGY'S BT CORN (WHICH BAN IS BASED IN PART ON THE ANTIBIOTIC MARKER GENE) REMAINS IN PLACE FOR NOW, SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AND EU APPROVAL NOTWITHSTANDING. END COMMENT.

AUSTRIAN FIRM TO IMPORT NON-GMO SOYBEANS

7. AN AUSTRIAN FEED TRADING COMPANY AND GREENPEACE ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 27 THAT THE COMPANY WILL IMPORT ABOUT 130,000 MT OF SOYBEANS AND MEAL FREE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS (NOTE: TOTAL AUSTRIAN SBM IMPORTS ARE AROUND 430,000 MT/YEAR. END NOTE). IF BEANS ARE IMPORTED, THEY WILL HAVE TO BE CRUSHED IN THE NETHERLANDS OR GERMANY, SINCE AUSTRIA

HAS NO CRUSHING FACILITIES.
HUNT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1590

TOR: 970305124212 M2646822

DIST:
SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. cable	Re: [France/Agricultural Trade] (5 pages)	03/04/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/14/1997 - 03/26/1997]

2013-0836-F
ke3004

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. cable	Re: [Brazil - EU/Soybeans] (4 pages)	03/07/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/14/1997 - 03/26/1997]

2013-0836-F
ke3004

RESTRICTION CODES

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Cable

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LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHCPA1228 0661232-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0305
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0635
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: DANES APPROVE GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES

TEXT:
UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 001228

USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, OA/SCHUMACHER, OFSTS/HARBERT,
ITP/WEIAD/CHESLEY, AGX/ALEXANDER, CMP/G&F, APHIS/MEDLEY,
ERS/CED/APB

STATE PASS USTR

E.O.: 12958:N/A
TAGS: KAGR, ETRD, SENV, DA
SUBJECT: DANES APPROVE GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES

1. THE DANISH MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, SVEND AUKEN, APPROVED THREE DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES FOR PLANTING FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES. RESEARCH ON THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES STARTED IN 1993 BY THE DANISCO BIOTECHNOLOGY, A PRIVATE COMPANY. THE COMPANY NOW PLANS RESEARCH PLANTING OF 0.55 HECTARES AT TWO SEPARATE LOCATIONS.

2. THE GENETIC MODIFICATION PROVIDES THE POTATOES WITH A GREATER AMOUNT OF STARCH AND CHANGES THE COMPOSITION OF DIFFERENT STARCH ELEMENTS. DANISCO'S MAJOR INTERESTS ARE IN POTATOES FOR PRODUCTION OF LIQUOR ("SNAPS") AND POTATO CHIPS.

3. PRIOR TO THE APPROVAL, THE APPLICATION FROM DANISCO HAS BEEN SENT TO DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS FOR COMMENTS. ONLY THE ORGANIC FARMERS' ORGANIZATION NOTED POTENTIAL SERIOUS PROBLEMS AND DID NOT RECOMMEND APPROVAL. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS, THE RISO RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND THE ASSOCIATION OF DANISH BIOLOGISTS HAD NO COMMENTS.

4. COMMENT. THIS APPROVAL FOLLOWS PREVIOUS ONES FOR
GENETICALLY MODIFIED SUGAR BEETS AND FODDER TURNIPS. THE
DANISH GOVERNMENT'S ENTHUSIASM IN SUPPORTING DANISH RESEARCH
IN GMOS IS AS A SHARP CONTRAST TO THEPRELUCTANCE SHOWN FOR
GMO IMPORTS. ELSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1228

TOR: 970307085858 M2654611

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

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

TEXT:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ VIENNA 001854

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

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/2017

TAGS: EAGR, PINR, PREL, SENV, TBIO, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN WOMEN'S AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTER
- ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

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

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

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

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

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By V2 NARA, Date 11/16/2016
2016-0524-W (1.44)

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

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

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

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

BIO NOTE

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

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

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1854

TOR: 970312092539 M2661637

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHFRA5852 0721742-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 131742Z MAR 97

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

OSRI: RUEHFR

DTG: 131742Z MAR 97

ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO: RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4294

INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4391
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE

SUBJ: MONSANTO CONCERNED BY FRENCH GMO POLICY

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 005852

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, ACTING UNDER SECRETARY SMITH;
FAS FOR OA/SCHUMACHER; ITP/DA/ZEITNER;
ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY; OFSTS/HARBERT;
CMP/DA/JPARKER; CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE;
APHIS/OA/TMEDLEY; ERS/CED/OBRIEN

STATE PASS USTR

COMMERCE FOR 4212 IEP/EUR/OWE/NED/MDORSETT

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE

EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR, EUN

SUBJECT: MONSANTO CONCERNED BY FRENCH GMO POLICY

1. SUMMARY. CHARGE, ECOMIN, AND AGMIN MET 3/11 WITH SENIOR MONSANTO OFFICIALS, WHO EXPRESSED UNEASE WITH RECENT FRENCH POLICY SHIFTS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) AND ASKED FOR USG SUPPORT TO HELP OBTAIN FRENCH APPROVAL FOR MONSANTO'S NEW GMO CORN, MAISGARD. MONSANTO REPS SAID THAT THEY ARE NOW WORKING WITH A COALITION OF EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN SEED PRODUCERS, GROWERS AND DISTRIBUTORS TO DEVELOP A PR STRATEGY TO PROVIDE INFO AND WORK TOWARD BETTER PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF GMOS IN EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

2. MONSANTO OFFICIALS HENDRIK VERFAILLIE (EXEC VP), BERNARD AUXENFANS (GROUP VP INT.) AND DANIEL RAHIER (PLANT BIOTECH MANAGER) BLAMED THE FRENCH ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY AND POLITICS (FALLOUT FROM BSE AND OTHER AG/HEALTH ISSUES) FOR PM JUPPE'S RECENT DECISION TO PROHIBIT THE PLANTING OF BT CORN WHILE ALLOWING ITS IMPORTATION. MONSANTO REMAINS HOPEFUL THAT FRANCE WILL APPROVE BT CORN FOR DOMESTIC PRODUCTION IN THE FUTURE -- AFTER ALLOWING SOME TIME FOR THE DUST TO SETTLE. THE REPS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HOW LONG THE GOF WILL WAIT. THEY NOTED THAT IF THE GOF DOES NOT ACT WELL BEFORE THE 1998 SPRING ELECTIONS, FRENCH FARMERS WILL LOSE A SECOND YEAR'S PLANTING. IF THE PROHIBITION ON PLANTING HERE CONTINUES, THERE IS A STRONG CHANCE THAT FARMERS (FACING A COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE) WILL PRESSURE THE GOF TO PROHIBIT IMPORTS OF GMO CORN, LEADING TO A MAJOR TRADE CONFRONTATION WITH THE U.S.

3. MONSANTO'S OTHER KEY CONCERN IS THAT FRANCE'S ABOUT-FACE ON BT CORN COULD UNDERMINE EU ACCEPTANCE OF GMO PRODUCTS GENERALLY. MONSANTO IS WORRIED THAT OTHER GMOS (EVEN ALREADY APPROVED ONES LIKE ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS) MAY BECOME A TARGET IF FRANCE DOESN'T GET WITH THE PROGRAM AND REASSERT ITSELF AS A PRO-ACTIVE PROPONENT OF GMO TECHNOLOGY. MONSANTO FEARS THAT EU AND FRENCH APPROVAL OF ITS OWN GMO CORN, MAISGARD, MAY BE STUCK FOR SOME TIME IN THE CURRENT BIOTECH/HEALTH DEBATE. WHEREAS FRANCE WAS THE PETITIONER FOR BT CORN APPROVAL BY THE EU, AND ACTIVELY PRESSED FOR ACTION IN BRUSSELS TO REGISTER THE PRODUCT, IT HAS BEEN SLOW IN RESPONDING TO THE REQUEST FOR MAISGARD APPROVAL. SINCE MONSANTO PLANS TO PLANT UPWARDS OF 5 MILLION ACRES OF MAISGARD CORN IN THE U.S. THIS YEAR -- MUCH OF IT FOR EXPORT -- IT IS VERY WORRIED THAT SLOW FRENCH AND EU APPROVAL MAY AFFECT ITS ABILITY TO EXPORT MAISGARD TO THE EU, EVEN IF BT CORN IS ACCEPTED.

4. MONSANTO IS WORKING WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER EU AND AMERICAN COMPANIES (SEED PRODUCERS, GROWERS AND DISTRIBUTERS) TO DEVELOP A GMO PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRATEGY FOR EUROPE. THE REPS NOTED THAT PUBLIC OPINION IN BOTH THE U.S. AND EU HEAVILY FAVORS USE OF GMO TECHNOLOGY PROVIDED THAT THE CONSUMER IS GIVEN ADEQUATE INFORMATION. WHILE INTERESTED IN EMBASSY'S OFFER TO ASSIST, THE MONSANTO REPS SAID THAT THEY AND THEIR COLLEAGUES NOW BELATEDLY RECOGNIZE (POST- BSE, GROWTH HORMONES, TAINTED BLOOD, AND EVEN DOLLY, THE CLONED SHEEP) THAT EUROPEANS NEED TO HEAR ABOUT GMOS FROM OBJECTIVE, TRUSTED EUROPEAN SOURCES. THEY ARE CONFIDENT THAT CONSUMERS AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS WILL IN THE END RECOGNIZE THE ADVANTAGES AND SAFETY OF GMOS AND OTHER BIOTECHNOLOGIES.

5. MONSANTO REPS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THEIR CONCERNS THAT FRENCH ACTIONS/IN ACTIONS COULD AFFECT ITS U.S.

EXPORTS OF CORN THIS YEAR, POTENTIALLY LEADING TO MAJOR TRADE PROBLEMS. THE MONSANTO REPS SAID THAT THEY PLAN TO VISIT VARIOUS FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO PRESS THEIR CONCERNS, INCLUDING THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FINANCE AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 005852

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, ACTING UNDER SECRETARY SMITH;
FAS FOR OA/SCHUMACHER; ITP/DA/ZEITNER;
ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY; OFSTS/HARBERT;
CMP/DA/JPARKER; CMP/G&F/RRIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE;
APHIS/OA/TMEDLEY; ERS/CED/OBRIEN

STATE PASS USTR

COMMERCE FOR 4212 IEP/EUR/OWE/NED/MDORSETT

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE

EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR, EUN

SUBJECT: MONSANTO CONCERNED BY FRENCH GMO POLICY

6. THE CHARGE ASSURED THE MONSANTO REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE FRENCH POSITION AND STRATEGIES ARE BEING MONITORED VERY CLOSELY TO GUARD AGAINST NEGATIVE REPERCUSSIONS ON IMPORTS OF CORN. WE ALSO NOTED THAT THEIR INFORMATIONAL CAMPAIGN WAS VERY TIMELY AND WOULD GO A LONG WAY IN EDUCATING CONSUMERS ON GMO'S AND BIOTECHNOLOGY IN GENERAL.

BANDLER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 5852

<^SSN>5852

TOR: 970313130113 M2664095

<^TOR>970313130114 M2664096

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

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

TEXT:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ VIENNA 001966

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- PROVISION OF SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC TO ALLOW FOR

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
7016-0529-m (1.50)

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

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

- CIRCUMSPECTION WITH RESPECT TO ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE, HERBICIDE TOLERANCE, AND ALLERGENICITY; AND

- PROHIBITION OF THE PATENTING OF "SPECIES OF ANIMALS AND VARIETIES OF PLANTS."

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

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

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

CORBETT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1966

TOR: 970314135953 M2666453

DIST:

SIT: KYLE LEE PETERS TARULLO WALSH

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006. cable	Re: [Supplying Genetically Modified Organism-Free Soybeans] (2 pages)	03/19/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/14/1997 - 03/26/1997]

2013-0836-F
ke3004

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed
of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C.
2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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007. cable	Re: [Sale of Genetically Modified Organism-Free Soybeans] (2 pages)	03/20/1997	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/14/1997 - 03/26/1997]

2013-0836-F

ke3004

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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.

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA2249 0851126-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 261126Z MAR 97
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 261126Z MAR 97
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
SUBJ: COMMISSIONER FISCHLER'S BIG IDEAS ABOUT
LABELING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 002249

SENSITIVE

OSSEC FOR DRAZEK, FAS FOR OA/SCHUMACHER/GALVIN,
ITP/SHEIKH/THORN/WHEATLEY, C&MP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, TO
APHIS FOR MEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY
STATE PASS HHS/FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM
STATE PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: COMMISSIONER FISCHLER'S BIG IDEAS ABOUT
LABELING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

REFERENCE: USEU BRUSSELS 2046

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT
ACCORDINGLY.

2. SUMMARY: SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE NOVEL FOODS
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RESPECT TO COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 90/220 (REFTEL).
COMMISSIONER FISCHLER HAS NOW SAID THAT HE WOULD ISSUE
GUIDELINES FOR THE LABELING OF ANIMAL FEED AND SEEDS (TWO

SECTORS NOT COVERED BY NOVEL FOODS). FISCHLER'S PROPOSALS, IF ADOPTED, WOULD EXPAND THE SCOPE OF LABELING TO ANIMAL FEEDS PRODUCED FROM, BUT NOT CONTAINING, LIVE GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. BOTH THE BJERREGAARD AND FISCHLER GUIDELINES WILL BE DISCUSSED BY COMMISSION CHIEFS DE CABINET TODAY, AND BY THE COMMISSION COLLEGE ON 2 OR 9 APRIL. END SUMMARY.

3. A DG VI OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO AGATT THAT COMMISSIONER FISCHLER WOULD COME FORWARD WITH LABELING GUIDELINES FOR ANIMAL FEED AND SEED VARIETIES DERIVED FROM GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. THE GUIDELINES WOULD BE ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH LONG-DELAYED AMENDMENTS REGARDING BIOTECHNOLOGY TO COUNCIL DIRECTIVES 82/471 (ON PROTEINS IN FEED) AND 70/457 AND 70/458 (ON SEEDS). OVER TWO YEARS AGO, THE COMMISSION PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGISLATION IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO APPROVE BIOTECH SEED VARIETIES BY EVALUATING THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL RISK AND FEED SAFETY. THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, HOWEVER, HAS BLOCKED THE AMENDMENTS BECAUSE OF ITS CONCERNS REGARDING CONSUMER LABELING. THE DG VI OFFICIAL REPORTED THAT COMMISSIONER FISCHLER WAS RESPONDING TO THE PARLIAMENT'S CONCERNS BY PROPOSING THE LABELING GUIDELINES.

4. SPECIFICALLY, THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT UNDER THE PROPOSED FISCHLER GUIDELINES, ANIMAL FEED PRODUCED FROM GRAIN THAT HAD BEEN GENETICALLY MODIFIED WOULD BE SUBJECT TO LABELING FOR THE FARMER. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT SHIPMENTS OF GRAIN FROM COUNTRIES THAT HAVE APPROVED GENETICALLY MODIFIED VARIETIES WOULD ALSO BE LABELED SINCE SEGREGATION WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE, SHE ADDED. SHE EXPECTED VIRTUALLY ALL SHIPMENTS TO BE LABELED.

5. MOREOVER, SEED PACKETS OR BAGS WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARLY LABELED AS HAVING BEEN OBTAINED BY GENETIC MODIFICATION. (THIS WOULD BE SIMILAR TO CIBA-GEIGY'S LABELING OF ITS BT CORN SEEDS.) THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL HAD BEEN TO SIMPLY HAVE A NOTATION IN THE COMMON CATALOGUE OF SEED VARIETIES RATHER THAN ON SEED PACKAGES.

6. THE OFFICIAL ADMITTED THAT THE LABELING OF FEED THAT MAY NOT CONTAIN LIVE GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS WOULD BE CONTENTIOUS. SHE SAID THAT SHE EXPECTED OTHER COMMISSION DIRECTORATES-GENERAL (E.G., DG I AND DG III) TO OPPOSE THIS PROVISION WHEN THE PROPOSAL GOES THROUGH INTER-SERVICES REVIEW. SHE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE FISCHLER GUIDELINES WOULD BE NOTIFIED TO THE WTO AND SHE EXPECTED THIRD COUNTRIES TO ATTACK THE PROVISIONS ON FEED LABELING IN THAT FORUM.

7. THE DG VI OFFICIAL REPEATEDLY UNDERScoreD THAT THE PROPOSED FISCHLER GUIDELINES WERE A LONG WAY FROM BEING A FAIT ACCOMPLI. SHE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE LABELING GUIDELINES WERE THE ONLY MEANS OF MOVING THE AMENDMENTS ON BIOTECH SEEDS AND FEED FORWARD. IF PARLIAMENT CONTINUED TO BLOCK THE LEGISLATION, THERE WOULD BE NO POSSIBILITY OF EUROPEAN REGISTRATION OF BIOTECH SEED VARIETIES, SHE ASSERTED.

8. MISSION COMMENT: THE DISCUSSION OF THE LABELING ISSUE IS EVOLVING QUICKLY. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO HEAR THAT THE COMMISSION IS NOT TALKING ABOUT SEGREGATING GENETICALLY ALTERED PRODUCTS. IN ADDITION, THE BROAD BRUSH LABELING THAT FISCHLER IS PROPOSING, HOWEVER UNJUSTIFIED, IS UNLIKELY TO AFFECT UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 002249

SENSITIVE

OSCE FOR DRAZEK, FAS FOR OA-SCHUMACHER/GALVIN,
ITP/SHEIKH/THORN/WHEATLEY, C&MP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, TO
APHIS FOR MEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY
STATE PASS HHS/FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM
STATE PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN

SUBJECT: COMMISSIONER FISCHLER'S BIG IDEAS ABOUT
LABELING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

DEMAND FOR U.S. GRAIN OR ANIMAL FEED SINCE EVERYTHING
WILL BE LABELED. MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR
DEVELOPMENTS AND REPORT CHANGES. END COMMENT.

(DRAFTED:FAS:SGNENON) WEAVER

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

SSN: 2249
<^SSN>2249

TOR: 970326063407 M2684145
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Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 261645Z MAR 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BERN
OSRI: RUEHSW
DTG: 261645Z MAR 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BERN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3379
INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
SUBJ: SWISS INTERIOR DEPARTMENT LIFTS IMPORT
BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEAN PRODUCTS

TEXT:
UNCLAS BERN 001526

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SZ
SUBJECT: SWISS INTERIOR DEPARTMENT LIFTS IMPORT
BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEAN PRODUCTS

REF: BERN 1122 AWD PREVIOUS

1. THE SWISS DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HAS ISSUED AN APPROVAL FOR THE IMMEDIATE IMPORTATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEAN PRODUCTS, INCLUDING MONSANTO'S ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN, FOR USE IN FOOD. THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME ON MARCH 25, LESS THAN A WEEK AFTER 500 TONS OF CHOCOLATE WAS RECALLED FROM SWISS STORES AFTER IT WAS DISCOVERED TO CONTAIN TRACES OF GENE-MODIFIED SOYBEANS (WHICH HAD BEEN IMPORTED FROM GERMANY). THE DECISION REVERSES AN IMPORT SUSPENSION WHICH RESULTED FROM A LEGAL CHALLENGE BY GREENPEACE AND OTHER GROUPS. OPPONENTS OF GMO PRODUCTS MAY APPEAL THE APPROVAL WITHIN THIRTY DAYS, BUT THE APPROVAL WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT DURING THAT TIME.

2. THE PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING THE APPROVAL REAFFIRMS THE LABELLING REQUIREMENT FOR PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMO INGREDIENTS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO CONFIRMS THAT THE FEDERAL OFFICE FOR HEALTH IS CARRYING OUT AN INVESTIGATION OF GMO PRODUCTS TO DETERMINE THEIR SAFETY. THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS SILENT ON THE QUESTION OF GMO SOYBEAN PRODUCTS FOR ANIMAL FEED. KUNIN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1526

TOR: 970326120119 M2684713

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 261724Z MAR 97
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 261724Z MAR 97
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
SUBJ: COMMISSIONER FISCHLER'S BIG IDEAS ABOUT
LABELING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 002275

SENSITIVE

OSSEC FOR DRAZEK, FAS FOR OA/SCHUMACHER/GALVIN,
ITP/SHEIKH/THORN/WHEATLEY, C&MP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, TO
APHIS FOR MEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE
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STATE PASS HHS/FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM
STATE PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: COMMISSIONER FISCHLER'S BIG IDEAS ABOUT
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REFERENCE: USEU BRUSSELS 2046

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<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 2275

<^SSN>2275

TOR: 970326132357 M2684908

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DIST:

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