

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

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

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[04/01/1997 - 05/28/1997]

2013-0836-F
ke3005

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]

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHLOA3595 0911402-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 011402Z APR 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG: 011402Z APR 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3493
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1580
SUBJ: GMO LABELING CODE PROPOSED BY INSTITUTE OF
GROCERY DISTRIBUTION

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 003595

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR
FAS/OA/SCHUMACHER; FAS/OA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH;
FAS/ITP/EAME/THORN/CHESLEY; FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT;
FAS/DLP/REDDINGTON; FAS/PECAD/HAUSAMANN; ERS/WES/MADELL;
ERS/CED/OBRIEN; APHIS/OA/MEDLEY; APHIS/VS/LUCHSINGER;
FSIS/OA/BILLY; FSIS/IP/PRUCHA; FAA/AO/NE/LETARTE

STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY AND KASKA
STATE PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI
STATE PASS FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK
SUBJECT: GMO LABELING CODE PROPOSED BY INSTITUTE OF
GROCERY DISTRIBUTION

1. SUMMARY. THE INSTITUTE OF GROCERY DISTRIBUTION (IGD) HAS PUBLISHED ITS GMO LABELING GUIDELINES AFTER A NUMBER OF YEARS' DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE IGD, RETAILERS, MANUFACTURERS, FARMERS, BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANIES AND CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS. THE LABELING GUIDELINES GO FURTHER THAN THE EU'S NOVEL FOODS REGULATIONS BY REQUIRING THAT (AS FAR AS IS REASONABLY POSSIBLE) ALL FOODS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED MATERIAL (MGM) BE LABELED. THE GUIDELINES EXPLICITLY REJECT NEGATIVE LABELING AND THE USE OF LABELING THAT INDICATES THAT A PRODUCT "MAY CONTAIN MGM." HOWEVER, AS THE GUIDELINES ARE VOLUNTARY IT WILL BE LEFT TO INDIVIDUAL MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS TO IMPLEMENT SYSTEMS TO MEET ITS REQUIREMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE INSTITUTE OF GROCERY DISTRIBUTION (IGD), WHICH REPRESENTS ALL SECTIONS OF THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION CHAIN

IN THE UK, HAS PUBLISHED ITS #COMMUNICATION AND LABELING GUIDELINES FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS." ACCORDING TO THE IGD, ITS (VOLUNTARY) GUIDELINES ARE INTENDED TO SUPPLEMENT THE UK'S FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S (FAC) RECOMMENDATIONS ON LABELING AND THE LABELING PROVISIONS OF THE EU REGULATION FOR NOVEL FOODS AND NOVEL FOOD INGREDIENTS.

3. THE IGD STATES THAT THE BASIS FOR ITS GUIDELINES IS TWOFOLD:

- EVIDENCE OF CONSUMER CONCERN ABOUT THE INTRODUCTION OF GM FOODS CREATING THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE INFORMATION TO ENABLE CONSUMERS TO MAKE AN INFORMED CHOICE ABOUT PURCHASING THESE PRODUCTS.

LABELING OF PRODUCTS, WHEN MEANINGFUL AND PRACTICAL, IS KEY AND IS LIKELY TO BUILD UNDERSTANDING AND CONFIDENCE RATHER THAN TO GENERATE FEAR.

- A DESIRE TO AVOID A PROLIFERATION OF INDIVIDUAL COMPANY POLICIES WHICH COULD LEAD TO INCONSISTENCY AND CONFUSION.

THE IGD SAYS THAT ITS RESEARCH FOUND THAT MAINSTREAM CONSUMER CONCERN CENTERED ON THE INGESTION OF MODIFIED GENETIC MATERIAL RATHER THAN ON THE USE OF THE TECHNOLOGY PER SE.

4. ACCORDING TO THE IGD, COMPANIES SHOULD TAKE ALL REASONABLE STEPS "TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT MODIFIED GENETIC MATERIAL (MGM) IS PRESENT IN A PRODUCT OR INGREDIENT. IF THE PRESENCE OF MGM CAN BE CONFIRMED, THEN THE IGD'S LABELING GUIDELINES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED. IF THE PRESENCE OF MGM CANNOT BE CONFIRMED, THE IGD ENCOURAGES COMPANIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS BY ALTERNATIVE MEANS, FOR EXAMPLE BY USING LEAFLETS, POSTERS AND TELEPHONE CARELINES." THE IGD SAYS IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES COMPANIES SHOULD NOT USE #LABELING STATEMENTS SUCH AS MAY CONTAIN GENETICALLY MODIFIED (INGREDIENTS)." THE IGD RECOMMENDS THAT "UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD NEGATIVE CLAIMS," SUCH AS FREE FROM GMS, "BE USED."

5. THE IGD LABELING GUIDELINES:

A. WHERE GM WHOLE FOODS OR PRODUCTS CONTAINING GM INGREDIENTS ARE OFFERED FOR SALE, COMPANIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE:

- READILY ACCESSIBLE CONSUMER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRODUCT OR INGREDIENT
- WHY IT HAS BEEN GENETICALLY MODIFIED

- HOW IT IS USED

B. IF A PRODUCT OFFERED FOR SALE IS NO LONGER EQUIVALENT TO AN EXISTING COUNTERPART, THE CHANGE SHOULD ALWAYS BE IDENTIFIED ON THE LABEL.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 LONDON 003595

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR
FAS/OA/SCHUMACHER; FAS/OA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH;
FAS/ITP/EAME/THORN/CHESLEY; FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT;
FAS/DLP/REDDINGTON; FAS/PECAD/HAUSAMANN; ERS/WES/
MADELL;
ERS/CED/OBRIEN; APHIS/OA/MEDLEY; APHIS/VS/LUCHSINGER
;
FSIS/OA/BILLY; FSIS/IP/PRUCHA; FAA/AO/NE/LETARTE

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK

SUBJECT: GMO LABELING CODE PROPOSED BY INSTITUTE OF GROCERY DISTRIBUTION

IF THE CHANGE WAS DUE TO THE USE OF GENETIC MODIFICATION, THIS SHOULD ALSO BE INDICATED ON THE LABEL.

C. WHETHER OR NOT B. APPLIES, AS FAR AS IS REASONABLY POSSIBLE:

- A WHOLE FOOD, SUCH AS A TOMATO, OR
- AN INGREDIENT OF A COMPOSITE FOOD, SUCH AS DURUM WHEAT IN DRIED PASTA

SHOULD BE LABELED IF IT IS KNOWN TO CONTAIN MGM, WHETHER ACTIVE OR NOT.

THE IGD STATES THAT THE TERM "GENETICALLY MODIFIED" SHOULD BE USED TO DESCRIBE PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM THE GM PROCESS.

6. PROCESSING AIDS

ACCORDING TO THE IGD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EU NOVEL FOODS REGULATION, WHERE THE USE OF A PROCESSING AID THAT IS EITHER DERIVED FROM A GMO OR IS ITSELF GENETICALLY MODIFIED, RESULTS IN A CHANGE IN THE COMPOSITION, FUNCTION, NUTRITIONAL VALUE OR INTENDED USE OF A FOOD WHICH RENDERS IT NO LONGER EQUIVALENT TO AN EXISTING FOOD OR FOOD INGREDIENT, THEN THE PRODUCT WOULD BE

LABELED.

WHEN THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE ABOVE CHARACTERISTICS THEN THE IGD STATES THAT "THE IDENTIFICATION OF PROCESSING AIDS WOULD NOT USEFULLY SERVE TO INFORM THE CONSUMER ABOUT GENETIC MODIFICATION."

7. ACTIVE/INACTIVE GENETIC MATERIAL

IGD'S CONSUMER RESEARCH REVEALED THAT CONSUMERS WERE "UNABLE TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN ACTIVE AND INACTIVE GENETIC MATERIAL." IGD GOES ON TO SAY THAT "FOR THE MAINSTREAM CONSUMER WHO IS CONCERNED ABOUT GENETIC MODIFICATION, IT IS THE PRESENCE OF DNA THAT HAS BEEN GENETICALLY MODIFIED THAT IS MOST RELEVANT TO THEM, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE MODIFIED DNA IS INTACT OR HAS BEEN DEGRADED." THE IGD THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT NO DISTINCTION BE DRAWN BETWEEN ACTIVE AND INACTIVE GENETIC MATERIAL WHEN APPLYING ITS GUIDELINES.

8. COMPOUND INGREDIENTS

THE IGD STATES THAT INGREDIENTS CURRENTLY EXEMPT FROM LABELING SHOULD BE LABELED IF THEY FALL INTO IGD GUIDELINES B) OR C) ABOVE.

9. COMMODITY INGREDIENTS

THE IGD BELIEVES THAT CONFIRMATION OF THE PRESENCE OF GM COMPONENTS IN COMMODITY INGREDIENTS MAY NOT CURRENTLY BE REASONABLY PRACTICABLE. IN SUCH CASES, THE IGD RECOMMENDS THAT INGREDIENTS WHICH MAY CONTAIN A GM COMPONENT, ARE IDENTIFIED AS DESCRIBED IN GUIDELINE A).

10. COMPARISON WITH EU NOVEL FOODS REGULATIONS

ACCORDING TO THE IGD, THE APPLICATION OF ITS GUIDELINES DIFFERS FROM THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION (NFR) IN THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

EXAMPLE: FRUIT PIE CONTAINING APPLE, GENETICALLY MODIFIED TO BE DISEASE RESISTANT AND COOKED TO 70 DEGREES C.

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 LONDON 003595

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FAS/ITP/EAME/THORN/CHESLEY; FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT;
FAS/DLP/REDDINGTON; OAS/PECAD/HAUSAMANN; ERS/WES/MADELL;

ERS/CED/OBRIEN; APHIS/OA/MEDLEY; APHIS/VS/LUCHSINGER;
FSIS/OA/BILLY; FSIS/IP/PRUCHA; FAA/AO/NE/LETARTE

STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY AND KASKA
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STATE PASS FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK
SUBJECT: GMO LABELING CODE PROPOSED BY INSTITUTE OF
GROCERY DISTRIBUTION

IGD - LABELING REQUIRED AS THE INGREDIENT CONTAINS MGM.

NFR - NO LABELING REQUIRED AS GMO IS NOT VIABLE.

EXAMPLE: BREAD MADE WITH YEAST (2 PERCENT) GENETICALLY
MODIFIED FOR FASTER ACTION.

IGD - LABELING REQUIRED AS MGM PRESENT.

NFR - NO LABELING REQUIRED AS GMO IS NOT VIABLE.

EXAMPLE: COMPOSITE FLOUR CONTAINING HEAT TREATED WHOLE
GRAIN FROM PLANTS GENETICALLY MODIFIED TO BE PEST
RESISTANT.

IGD - LABELING REQUIRED AS MGM PRESENT.

NFR - NO LABELING REQUIRED AS GMO IS NOT VIABLE.

EXAMPLE - YOGURT MADE WITH STARTER CULTURE MODIFIED TO
BE PHAGE RESISTANT.

-- WHEN YOGURT IS PASTEURIZED--

IGD - LABELING REQUIRED AS MGM PRESENT.

NFR - NO LABELING REQUIRED AS GMO IS NOT VIABLE.

11. COMMENT. GIVEN ITS WIDE MEMBERSHIP, THE IGD
GUIDELINES, WHICH IT HAS TO BE SAID ARE VOLUNTARY, ARE
LIKELY TO BE STUDIED CAREFULLY BY THE BRITISH FOOD
INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY BY THE RETAILERS. HOWEVER, THE
NEED TO LABEL ALL PRODUCTS CONTAINING MODIFIED GENETIC
MATERIAL IS LIKELY TO BECOME ONEROUS AS MORE GMO'S COME
TO MARKET. PERHAPS THE IGD RECOGNIZED THIS WHEN IT
STATES, "THE GUIDELINES WILL REQUIRE REGULAR REVIEW AND
MODIFICATION IN THE LIGHT OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS
FIELD. AT THE REQUEST OF THE BRITISH RETAIL CONSORTIUM,
THE FOOD AND DRINK FEDERATION OR THE INSTITUTE OF
GROCERY DISTRIBUTION, IGD WILL CALL TOGETHER A GROUP TO
UNDERTAKE SUCH REVIEWS AND ALSO TO ADVISE ON HOW THE
GUIDELINES SHOULD BE APPLIED TO SPECIFIC
PRODUCTS/INGREDIENTS." END COMMENT. CROWE

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

SSN: 3595

<^SSN>3595

<^SSN>3595

TOR: 970401091003 M2692312

<^TOR>970401094028 M2692371

<^TOR>970401091212 M2692316

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 031145Z APR 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 031145Z APR 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1058
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0034
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0014
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0071
SUBJ: GMO ISSUES IN AUSTRIA REACHING A LOW BOIL

STCABLE 717

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 002664

SENSITIVE

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

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

STCABLE 717

1. SUMMARY: IN THE RUN-UP TO THE POPULAR INITIATIVE SCHEDULED APRIL 7 - 14, ANTI-GMO FORCES IN AUSTRIA HAVE BEEN WORKING OVERTIME TO GARNER SUPPORT FOR THE ANTI-GENETIC ENGINEERING MOVEMENT AND TO KEEP THE ISSUE ON EVERYBODY'S FRONT BURNER. AN UPDATE ON THE THE REFERENDUM WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS ON THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS:

- VIENNA'S MAYOR SIGNS A GLOBAL 2000 RESOLUTION;
- AUSTRIA'S ENVIRONMENT AND CONSUMER PROTECTION MINISTERS CALL FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE EU APPROVAL OF BT CORN;
- AUSTRIAN SUPERMARKETS BAN CHOCOLATE CONTAINING LECITHIN FROM PURPORTEDLY GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS;
- LIABILITY REGULATIONS PROPOSED FOR PRODUCTS OF GENE TECHNOLOGY;
- INTERIM LABELING ORDINANCE GOES INTO EFFECT.

END SUMMARY.

VIENNA MAYOR SIGNS GLOBAL 2000 RESOLUTION

2. UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM THE GREEN PARTY AND IN THE WAKE OF DISPUTES WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, VIENNA MAYOR MICHAEL HAEUPL (OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, SPO) SIGNED THE GLOBAL 2000 RESOLUTION "NO RELEASE OF GMOS IN MY MUNICIPALITY." THE RESOLUTION IS AIMED AT MAYORS TO SIGN A COMMITMENT NOT TO PERMIT THE RELEASE OF GMOS IN THEIR JURISDICTIONS. ACCORDING TO THE GREENS, 300 MAYORS OF VARIOUS AUSTRIAN CITIES AND VILLAGES HAVE ALREADY SIGNED THE DOCUMENT. AFTER THE SIGNATURE OF THE HEAD OF AUSTRIA'S CAPITAL AND LARGEST CITY, IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT MORE MAYORS, WHO SO FAR HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES, WILL SIGN THE RESOLUTION.

3. DESPITE HAVING SIGNED THE GLOBAL 2000 PAPER, MAYOR HAEUPL, PREVIOUSLY THE CITY'S COUNSELOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, STATED THAT HE DOES NOT FAVOR A TOTAL REJECTION OF GENE TECHNOLOGY. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT HE IS STRICTLY AGAINST THE RELEASE OF GMOS INTO THE ENVIRONMENT AT THIS TIME AS THERE IS NOT YET SATISFACTORY INFORMATION ON LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES.

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSUMER PROTECTION MINISTERS CALL FOR RECONSIDERATION OF BT CORN APPROVAL

4. ENVIRONMENT MINISTER BARTENSTEIN AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION PRAMMER HAVE BEEN LOBBYING FOR ALLIES FAVORING A REVERSAL OF BRUSSELS' APPROVAL OF CIBA-GEIGY'S UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 002664

SENSITIVE

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

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PINR, PROP, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: GMO ISSUES IN AUSTRIA REACHING A LOW BOIL

ONLY A GM-FREE PRODUCT. THE HEAD OF "MEINL" ANNOUNCED THAT HIS COMPANY WILL DEMAND COMPENSATION FROM JAKOBS SUCHARD. IN ADDITION THEY WILL DEVISE A CONTROL SYSTEM TO MAKE SURE THAT NO FURTHER GM PRODUCTS CAN BE DELIVERED IN THE FUTURE.

8. THE INDUSTRIALISTS' ASSOCIATION ("INDUSTRIELLENVEREINIGUNG") HAVE REACTED SHARPLY CRITICIZING IN PARTICULAR THE INCINERATION OF CHOCOLATE IN FRONT OF RUNNING CAMERAS -- A PUBLIC RELATIONS STUNT WHICH HAS FURTHER FUELED THE EMOTIONS SURROUNDING GENE TECHNOLOGY. THE ASSOCIATION HAS THREATENED TO PULL ALL GENE TECHNOLOGY WORK CONTRACTS OUT OF AUSTRIA, IF THE GENERAL ATTITUDE TOWARD MODERN TECHNOLOGY REMAINS HOSTILE.

9. COMMENT: AS THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION HAS GREAT RESERVATIONS ABOUT GM FOODS, AUSTRIAN SUPERMARKETS MADE AN

EXAMPLE OF THE TOBLERONE AFFAIR IN SWITZERLAND TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR INTENT TO PROVIDE EXCLUSIVELY GM-FREE PRODUCTS. CURIOUSLY, ACCORDING TO "MEINL", MOST CUSTOMERS REJECTED TOBLERONE NOT OUT OF HEALTH CONCERNS BUT AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. WE FRANKLY VIEW THE DECISION TO TORCH TOBLERONE A CRAVEN EXAMPLE OF GRANDSTANDING AND PANDERING TO THE CROWD. END COMMENT.

GENE TECHNOLOGY LIABILITY REGULATION IN THE WORKS

10. AT PRESENT, THE QUESTION OF WHO IS LIABLE IF MISHAPS OR ACCIDENTS ARE CAUSED BY GENE TECHNOLOGY IS STILL AN OPEN QUESTION. AS APPLICATIONS FOR FIELD RELEASE OF GMOS ARE ANTICIPATED SOON AND NOT ALL SUCH APPLICATIONS CAN BE REJECTED, MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION PRAMMER INTENDS TO REGULATE LIABILITY PROBLEMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TO SPEED UP THE POLITICAL LEGAL PROCESS, PRAMMER WANTS THE QUESTION OF LIABILITY TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THE PLANNED COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY LAW AND TO BE REGULATED UNDER A SPECIAL GENE TECHNOLOGY LIABILITY LAW. THE GERMAN REGULATION IS REQUESTED AS EXEMPLARY AND WILL FORM THE CORE OF THE NEW AUSTRIAN DRAFT LAW. LIKE THE GERMAN LAW, THE AUSTRIAN REGULATION WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

- THE RESPONSIBLE COMPANY IS LIABLE EVEN IF THE MISHAP WAS NOT ITS FAULT;
- COMPANIES INVOLVED IN GENE TECHNOLOGY HAVE TO BE INSURED.

INTERIM LABELING ORDINANCE GOES INTO EFFECT

11. ON APRIL 2, 1997 THE LABELING ORDINANCE ON GENE TECHNOLOGY GOES INTO EFFECT. IT WILL BE VALID UNTIL THE EU NOVEL FOOD REGULATION BECOMES EFFECTIVE. AN EXACT FORM OF THE LABEL IS NOT FIXED BUT IT MUST BE EASILY VISIBLE. THE FOLLOWING LABELING CRITERIA MUST BE MET: WHETHER THE ORGANISM WAS MODIFIED THROUGH GENE TECHNOLOGY; WHETHER NUTRITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS COMPOSITION, NUTRITION VALUE, OR INTENDED USE HAVE CHANGED; AND WHETHER THE PARTICULAR GENE TECHNOLOGY APPLIED OR SUBSTANCES WHICH ARE NOT CONTAINED IN THE CORRESPONDING NON-GM PRODUCT COULD AFFECT HEALTH.

HUNT

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

SSN: 2664
<^SSN>2664

TOR: 970403064701 M2695864
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DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHWA1629 0931254-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 031254Z APR 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BERN
OSRI: RUEHSW
DTG: 031254Z APR 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BERN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3431
RUEHC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC 0127
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
INFO: RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 2143
SUBJ: NOVARTIS HEAD DISCUSSES HOLOCAUST-ERA
ASSETS, GENETICALLY-MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
TEXT:
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 BERN 001629
STATE FOR EUR/DAS WAYNE AND EUR/AGS (VAN HEUVEN)
USDOC FOR U/S EIZENSTAT
E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/2/07
TAGS: EFIN, PREL, EAGR, ECON, SZ
SUBJECT: NOVARTIS HEAD DISCUSSES HOLOCAUST-ERA
ASSETS, GENETICALLY-MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
REF: BERN 1526 AND PREVIOUS
1. CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR MADELEINE MAY KUNIN.
REASON: 1.5 (B) AND (D).
2. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST -- SEE PARAGRAPH 15.
3. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: IN AN APRIL 1 MEETING WITH THE
AMBASSADOR, NOVARTIS PRESIDENT DR. DANIEL VASELLA
PROVIDED AN UPBEAT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRESS MADE TO
DATE IN MERGING THE TWO SWISS PHARMACEUTICAL GIANTS--
CIBA-GEIGY AND SANDOZ--WHILE ADMITTING THAT THE
EMERGENCE OF A NEW NOVARTIS "CULTURE" WOULD OCCUR
ONLY OVER TIME. HE FURTHER DISCUSSED THE DEBATE IN
SWITZERLAND OVER FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GENETICALLY
MODIFIED ORGANISMS, AND EXPRESSED FEAR THAT THE SO-
CALLED "GENE-PROTECTION INITIATIVE" WHICH WOULD
EFFECTIVELY BND GENETIC RESEARCH IN SWITZERLAND MAY
BE APPROVED BY SWISS VOTERS NEXT YEAR. VASELLA ALSO
PROVIDED HIS VIEWS ON THE ISSUE OF HOLOCAUST-ERA
ASSETS, AND VOICED CONCERN OVER A PIECE OF NEW JERSEY
LEGISLATION AIMED AT PUNISHING SWISS FIRMS BECAUSE OF
THIS ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By YL NARA, Date 11/16/2014
7016-0579-001 (1.53)

NOVARTIS

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

GMO'S

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

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

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

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

USDOC FOR U/S EIZENSTAT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/2/07

TAGS: EFIN, PREL, EAGR, ECON, SZ

SUBJECT: NOVARTIS HEAD DISCUSSES HOLOCAUST-ERA ASSETS, GENETICALLY-MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

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

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

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

HOLOCAUST-ERA ASSETS

9. ~~(c)~~ VASELLA NOTED THAT AS HEAD OF NOVARTIS HE

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

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

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

NOVARTIS' ROLE

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

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

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

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

USDOC FOR U/S EIZENSTAT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/2/07

TAGS: EFIN, PREL, EAGR, ECON, SZ

SUBJECT: NOVARTIS HEAD DISCUSSES HOLOCAUST-ERA

ASSETS, GENETICALLY-MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

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

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

COHEN-SINGER

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

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

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
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DTG: 031149Z APR 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1060
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0036
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0016
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0073
SUBJ: GMO REFERENDUM IN AUSTRIA

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 002665

SENSITIVE

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

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

REF: 96 VIENNA 8073

STCABLE 718

1. BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY: ON APRIL 7 - 14, A POPULAR INITIATIVE ("VOLKSBEQUEHREN") ON GENE TECHNOLOGY WILL TAKE PLACE (REFTEL). IF APPROVED, AND WE FULLY EXPECT IT WILL BE, THE RESULT WILL BE TO FORCE A DEBATE ON GENE TECHNOLOGY IN PARLIAMENT. UNDER AUSTRIAN LAW, SUCH AN INITIATIVE IS NOT BINDING ON THE GOVERNMENT. IN ANY EVENT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE INITIATIVE'S SPONSORS, SINCE A TOTAL BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS WOULD BE OVERRULED BY THE EU. THE INITIATIVE WILL, HOWEVER, PROVIDE ANTI-GMO FORCES A FORUM TO MOBILIZE PUBLIC OPINION IN A WAY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EASILY IGNORE. END BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY.

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

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

3. THE INITIATIVE DEMANDS THE FOLLOWING:

- A LAW BANNING PRODUCTION, IMPORT, AND MARKETING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS;
- NO RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND MICROORGANISMS; AND
- A LAW BANNING THE PATENTING OF LIVING ORGANISMS.

VIEWS OF AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS

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

VIEWS OF AGRICULTURALISTS

5. AGRICULTURALISTS ARE SPLIT OVER THE GMO ISSUE. AS NOTED ABOVE, THE MOUNTAIN FARMERS' UNION IS CO-SPONSORING THE INITIATIVE, WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTER IS GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF APPLICATIONS OF GENE TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE. MINISTER MOLTERER HAS EVEN EMPHASIZED THE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEST RESISTANT PLANTS IN ORDER TO REDUCE PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS IN "ECO-COUNTRY" AUSTRIA. THE PRESIDENT OF THE PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF AUSTRIA'S AGRICULTURAL CHAMBERS, RUDOLF SCHWARZBOECK, HAS STATED THAT GENE TECHNOLOGY IS IN THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF AUSTRIA'S AGRICULTURE. HE PARTICULARLY SEES THIS IN THE SPHERE OF RENEWABLE RAW MATERIALS. RECENTLY, SCHWARZBOECK EVEN REJECTED IN HIS AGRICULTURAL PAPER AN ADVERTISEMENT CALLING FOR SIGNING THE GMO REFERENDUM.

6. VIRTUALLY ALL SCIENTISTS OF THE FEDERAL OFFICE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE, THE INTERUNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGY, AND MOST SCIENTISTS OF THE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY FAVOR GENE TECHNOLOGY. SOME OF THEM BLAME THEMSELVES FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION BECAUSE THEY UNDERESTIMATED THE PROFESSIONALISM OF THE ECO-GROUPS AND DID NOT DO ENOUGH TO INFORM THE POPULATION AND TO COUNTER THE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENE TECHNOLOGY.

7. AMONG AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS, THERE IS, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, ONLY ONE PROFESSOR, AN INSTRUCTOR OF ORGANIC FARMING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, WHO OPPOSES GENE TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE. THE MAJORITY OF WORKING FARMERS, ESPECIALLY ORGANIC FARMERS, STRONGLY OPPOSE APPLICATION OF THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY IN UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 002665

SENSITIVE

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

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PINR, PROP, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: GMO REFERENDUM IN AUSTRIA

REF: 96 VIENNA 6073

AGRICULTURE.

ATTITUDE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AUSTRIA

8. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS NO UNIFORM APPROACH TO GENE TECHNOLOGY. IN A RESOLUTION FROM THE RECENT SPRING CONFERENCE, THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS INDICATED A NEUTRAL POSITION ON THE ISSUE. THE PAPER STATES THAT NO REJECTION OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGY CAN BE DEDUCED ON THE BASIS OF CHURCH DOCTRINE; HOWEVER, THE BISHOPS REJECTED ANY IDEOLOGIES, NEW OR OLD, WHICH REDUCE THE HUMAN BEING TO A MERE PRODUCT OF GENETICS. SIGNIFICANTLY, THOUGH, THE BISHOP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS STAKED OUT A CLEAR POSITION AGAINST GENE TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, ANNOUNCING THAT HE WILL SIGN THE INITIATIVE. AND, AS NOTED ABOVE, "ARGE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CREATION", THE CHURCH ORGANIZATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS, IS A CO-SPONSOR OF THE INITIATIVE. IN A LETTER, THIS ORGANIZATION ASKED PRIESTS TO ENCOURAGE THE POPULATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INITIATIVE. IN ADDITION THE ORGANIZATION REQUESTED A SERMON ON THE ISSUE IN ORDER TO STIMULATE PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN THE INITIATIVE.

HUNT

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

SSN: 2665
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TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0761
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0315
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: DANISH IMPORTER GUARANTEES GMO FREE SOYBEANS - FOR
1997

TEXT:
UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 001725

USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, OA/SCHUMACHER, OFSTS/HARBERT,
ITP/WEIAD/CHESLEY, CMP/O&P, ERS/CED/APB

STATE PASS USTR

E.O: 12958:N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH IMPORTER GUARANTEES GMO FREE SOYBEANS - FOR
1997

REF: 96 COPENHAGEN 06421

1. SUMMARY: BY ALLOCATING CURRENT STOCKS TO THE DANISH MARKET, DENMARK'S LARGEST IMPORTER OF SOYBEANS, CENTRAL SOYA AARHUS A/S, A SUBSIDIARY OF CENTRAL SOY COMPANY, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA, IS GUARANTEEING GMO FREE PRODUCTS - FOR 1997. THE COMPANY HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SUCH ASSURANCES IN THE FUTURE WILL BE POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH SUFFICIENT STOCKS OF SOY PROTEIN CONCENTRATE, CENTRAL SOYA CAN GUARANTEE ITS DANISH CUSTOMERS GMO FREE PRODUCTS FOR THE REST OF YEAR, 1997. THE DANISH MARKET REPRESENTS 10 TO 20 PER CENT OF THE COMPANY'S TOTAL SOYBEAN IMPORTS. PRODUCTS PRODUCED FROM THE 23,000 MT OF SOYBEANS IMPORTED LAST YEAR (SEE REP CABLE) WILL BE EXPORTED. MOST OF THE BY-PRODUCTS FROM THE PRODUCTION (SOYBEAN MEAL AND SOYBEAN OIL) WILL STILL BE MARKETED IN DENMARK.

3. THE COMPANY HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IF THE U.S. EXPORTERS CAN NOT BE CONVINCED OF THE BENEFITS OF EXPORTING GMO FREE

SOYBEANS, THE CURRENT GUARANTEE WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN IN 1998. SOYBEAN PRODUCTS MARKETED IN DENMARK ARE NOW LABELED AS 'MAY CONTAIN GENE MODIFIED SOYBEANS', REFLECTING PRESSURE FROM DANISH PRODUCERS AND RETAILERS. CENTRAL SOYA AARHUS FACES STRONG COMPETITION FROM BRAZILIAN SOYBEANS, MARKETED AS GMO FREE. THE COMPANY CLAIMS THAT THEY LIKELY WOULD SWITCH TO BRAZILIAN SOYBEANS, IF THEY WERE SUITABLE FOR PRODUCTION AND DESPITE SOME QUESTIONS ON THE BRAZILIAN CERTIFICATION PROCESS.

4. THE DECISION TO MAINTAIN OLD STOCKS FOR THE DANISH MARKET IS A RESULT OF REPORTED CONSUMER CONCERNS. THE INDUSTRY AND RETAIL CHAIN STORES HAVE BEEN VERY CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN A GMO FREE GUARANTEE FOR VERY LONG. ONE OF THE RETAILERS, FDB, WITH A MARKET SHARE OF 38 PERCENT, DISTRIBUTED ONE MILLION PAMPHLETS INFORMING ITS COSTUMERS THAT IF THEY WANT PRODUCTS FREE OF GMO SOYBEANS IN THE FUTURE, THEY SHOULD AVOID PRODUCTS BASED ON SOYBEANS AT ALL. ACCORDING TO CENTRAL SOYA AARHUS, MOST SOYBEAN PRODUCTS IN EUROPE COULD BE REPLACED BY RAPESEED AND PALM OIL PRODUCTS.

5. COMMENT: DANISH NEWSPAPERS INCORRECTLY REPORTED THAT CENTRAL SOYA AARHUS RE-EXPORTED THE ENTIRE SHIPMENT OF 23,000 TONS, SUBMITTING TOTALLY TO FEARS OF CONSUMER REACTION. SUCH ERRONEOUS INFORMATION LIKELY INCREASES CONSUMERS' SKEPTICISM TO GMO PRODUCTS, INTENSIFIES REACTIONS AND HEIGHTENS RETAILERS HESITANCY TO SELL GMO IDENTIFIABLE PRODUCTS. THE INDUSTRY AND RETAILERS CANDIDNESS ABOUT THEIR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THE POLICY HELPS TO KEEP THE PUBLIC DEBATE BALANCED AND EXPECTATIONS REALISTIC. END COMMENT.
ELSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

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OSRI: RUEHSM

DTG: 041426Z APR 97

ORIG: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8892

INFO: RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA 0038

RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN 1484

RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE

RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 0806

SUBJ: SWEDISH GMO UPDATE

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 STOCKHOLM 001972

FOR EB/ATT AND EUR/NB

STATE PASS USDA FOR USDA/FAS/OFS&TS, ITP/WEIAD, INFO,
CMP/DA, G&F, OPD, DLP

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD

SUBJECT: SWEDISH GMO UPDATE

1. SUMMARY: THE GMO DEBATE CONTINUES IN SWEDEN WITH THE PERIODIC RELEASE OF ARTICLES BY THE MEDIA, DOCUMENTARIES THAT HAVE RECENTLY BEEN AIRED ON NATIONAL TELEVISION, AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOCAL SEMINARS. CONSUMER GROUPS, RETAIL AND THE DAIRY INDUSTRY CAN ONLY BE CHARACTERIZED AS CAUTIOUS ON THE BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES ATTACHED TO THE SUBJECT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. MINAG OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO STATED THAT SWEDEN MAY VOTE AGAINST THE EU'S INTRODUCTION OF GMO RAPESEED INTO THE UNION'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR MAINLY DUE TO CONCERNS REGARDING ITS LONG TERM ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS. FURTHERMORE, THE ASSOCIATION OF SWEDISH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE IMPORTERS HAVE INFORMED EMBOFFS THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY DECIDED NOT TO MARKET ANY VEGETABLES OR FRUITS PRODUCED WITH AG BIOTECHNOLOGY UNTIL CONSUMERS SPECIFICALLY ASK FOR SUCH GMO PRODUCTS. SWEDEN'S DAIRY INDUSTRY HAS ALSO PRESSURED THE NATION'S FEED INDUSTRY TO PROVIDE GMO FREE FEED TO THE COUNTRY'S DAIRY FARMERS; WHO THEMSELVES CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS CONCERNED WITH THE ADDED COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGES THEY WILL EXPERIENCE AS A CONSEQUENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. SWEDEN MAY VOTE AGAINST BASTA RESISTANT GMO RAPESEED IN EU. AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FEDERATION OF SWEDISH FARMERS (LRF), NATURVARDSVERKET (SWEDISH SOCIETY FOR NATURE CONSERVATION), NATURSKYDDSFÖRENINGEN (NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY) AND THE BOARD OF GENE TECHNOLOGY, THE GOS HAS TENTATIVELY DECIDED TO OBJECT TO THE EU'S APPROVAL OF BELGIAN-PRODUCED GMO RAPESEED RESISTANT TO THE HERBICIDE BASTA. ONLY SWEDEN'S BOARD OF GENE TECHNOLOGY HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THE GMO RAPESEED. OPPOSITION LARGELY REFLECTS CONCERNS WITH THE LONG TERM EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT OF HERBICIDE RESISTANCE, WHICH SEVERAL GROUPS VIEW AS INSUFFICIENTLY DOCUMENTED. SUCH OBJECTIONS FROM PROMINENT SWEDISH GROUPS REFLECTS A RATHER COMMONLY HELD VIEW THAT FURTHER STUDIES ARE REQUIRED. ECOLOGICAL FARMERS AND ORGANIZATIONS FEAR THE CULTIVATION OF GMO RAPESEED IN SWEDEN AS IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO GUARANTEE THAT GMO VARIETIES DO NOT CROSS POLLINATE OTHER VARIETIES GROWN.

3. THE ASSOCIATION OF SWEDISH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE IMPORTERS HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY'S AG AFFAIRS OFFICE THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN A DECISION NOT TO MARKET ANY GMO VEGETABLES OR FRUIT UNTIL CONSUMERS SPECIFICALLY ASK FOR THEM. THE ASSOCIATION'S MEMBERS HOLD CLOSE TO 90% OF THE SWEDISH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF DOLLARS 1.1 BILLION IN 1996.

4. SWEDEN'S DAIRY INDUSTRY HAS PRESSURED THE NATION'S FEED INDUSTRY TO PROVIDE GMO FREE FEED; WHILE THE COUNTRY'S FARMERS HAVE COUNTERED WITH CONCERNS THAT THEIR COMPETITIVE SITUATION - ALREADY AT A DISADVANTAGE - WILL BE FURTHER ERODED BY AN ADDITIONAL 5% DUE TO THE NEED TO UTILIZE NON-GMO FEED INGREDIENTS. MAJOR FEED PRODUCERS CONTINUE TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO PROVIDE GMO FREE FEED, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT BEEN GIVING LEGAL GUARANTEES. WHILE SUCH PRODUCERS RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS A MARKET FOR SEPARATE HANDLING -- AT LEAST FOR SOME TIME YET -- THEY ACKNOWLEDGE IT HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO FIND GMO-FREE CORN GLUTEN FEED AND SOYBEAN MEAL. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THEY HAVE BEEN RELYING ON SUPPLIES FROM OTHER THAN U.S. SUPPLIERS.

5. SWEDEN'S RETAIL AND FOOD INDUSTRY AS WELL AS CONSUMER AND GREEN ORGANIZATIONS ARE CONVINCED THAT SWEDISH CONSUMERS DO NOT WISH TO EAT GMO PRODUCTS OR DERIVATIVES, AT LEAST NOT WITHOUT CONSENT. VOLUNTARY LABELING BEYOND EU LEGISLATION (I.E. THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION) IS PRESENTLY FOLLOWED BY RETAILERS WITH SUPPORT FROM CONSUMER GROUPS. CONSUMER GROUPS HAVE ALSO LAUNCHED NATIONWIDE ANTI-GMO FOOD CAMPAIGNS WITH THE SLOGAN "NO TO GENEFOOD - I NEVER ASKED FOR IT". LEADING SWEDISH RETAIL AND WHOLESALE CHAINS (ICA, KF, DAGAB - WHICH TOGETHER ACCOUNT FOR 80 PERCENT OF THE RETAIL FOOD MARKET) HAVE MAINTAINED A RESTRICTIVE

STANCE VIS-A-VIS PRODUCTS WITH BIOTECHNOLOGY
INGREDIENTS. ICA AND KF HAVE PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED
INFORMATIVE PAMPHLETS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AND FOODS -
DECLARING THEIR RESERVATIONS AND INTENT TO RESPECT
CONSUMER DEMANDS. KF TOOK TOBLERONE (CHOCOLATE CANDY)
OFF ITS SHELVES WHEN IT WAS SHOWN TO INCLUDE LECITHIN
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 STOCKHOLM 001972

FOR EB/ATT AND EUR/NB

STATE PASS USDA FOR USDA/FAS/OFS&TS, ITP/WEIAD, INFO,
CMP/DA, G&F, OPD, DLP

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD

SUBJECT: SWEDISH GMO UPDATE

FROM GMO SOYBEANS; AND KF AND ICA HAVE DECLARED THAT
THEY ONLY MARKET PRODUCTS WHICH ARE GUARANTEED BY THE
DISTRIBUTOR TO BE GMO FREE. FINALLY, THE REMOVAL OF
ADDITIONAL RETAIL SHELF PRODUCTS CANNOT BE RULED OUT
GIVEN GREENPEACE'S RECENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST KARLSHAMN
AB -- SWEDEN'S SOLE CRUSHER AND OIL PRODUCER; AND
ALSO THE SOURCE FOR MOST OF THE COUNTRY'S FOOD
PROCESSING INDUSTRY. GREENPEACE HAS ALLEGED THAT
KARLSHAMN AB HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE FOOD INDUSTRY
WITH SOYBEAN OIL DERIVED FROM GMO SOYBEANS. SUCH
ACTION HAS FORCED KARLSHAMN AB TO ENSURE NON GMO
PRODUCE AT LEAST UNTIL THE FALL.

HARNISH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
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SSN: 1972
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TOR: 970404093453 M2698188
<^TOR>970404093728 M2698201

DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA2724 0941432-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 041432Z APR 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 041432Z APR 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1086
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0078
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0038
SUBJ: HYSTERICS OVER BIOTECH IN AUSTRIA: CAN ANTI-GMO
FACTIONS PUSH IT EU WIDE?

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 VIENNA 002724

SENSITIVE

FAS FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, OFSTS/HARBERT, OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
COMMODITY DIVISIONS

DEPT PASS USTR, FDA, EPA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, KPRP, PROP, SCUL, EUN, AU

SUBJECT: HYSTERICS OVER BIOTECH IN AUSTRIA: CAN ANTI-GMO
FACTIONS PUSH IT EU WIDE?

REF: (A) PARIS 3597, (B) VIENNA 1982, (C) ROME 1980,
(D) VIENNA 1966, (E) VIENNA 1854, (F) VIENNA 1590, (G)
VIENNA 1530, (H) VIENNA 1267, (I) LUXEMBOURG 150, (J)
VIENNA 119, (K) 96 VIENNA 8373, (L) 96 VIENNA 8073, (M) 96
VIENNA 7850, (N) 96 VIENNA 7206, (O) 96 VIENNA 7153

1. SENSITIVE, BUT UNCLASSIFIED -- PLEASE TREAT
ACCORDINGLY.

2. SUMMARY. IN A COUNTRY WHERE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH
ISSUES ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF MAINSTREAM POLITICS,
CREATING PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS (GMO'S) IS AN UPHILL BATTLE. AUSTRIANS ARE
GENERALLY NOT WELL INFORMED ABOUT GMO'S, BUT NEGATIVE AND
AGGRESSIVE PRESS REPORTING INSTIGATED BY AUSTRIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS HAS SUCCEEDED IN PRODUCING WIDESPREAD
FEAR AND RESISTANCE TO GMO'S AMONG THE AUSTRIAN PUBLIC.
THESE ANTI-GMO FORCES ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO GAIN INFLUENCE
AT THE EU LEVEL BY PROPOSING SIMILAR ANTI-GMO POLICIES
ALREADY EFFECTIVE IN AUSTRIA FOR OTHER EU MEMBER STATES.

THE GOA AND OTHER AUSTRIAN INSTITUTIONS WITH A VESTED

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INTEREST IN BIO-TECHNOLOGY HAVE FAILED TO PROVIDE TIMELY AND ACCURATE INFORMATION ON GENETIC ENGINEERING AND HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO STIMULATE A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE. ONE RESULT IS THAT ALL AUSTRIAN POLITICAL PARTIES CALL FOR LABELING SCHEMES WHICH WILL ENABLE CONSUMERS TO AVOID PURCHASING FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMO'S.

3. ALTHOUGH MAINSTREAM POLITICAL PARTIES, CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND THE SCIENCE COMMUNITY HAVE ARRIVED LATE IN THE GAME TO SHAPE THE PUBLIC DEBATE ON GMO'S, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS MAY SIGNAL A BROADENING OF TOPICS UNDER DISCUSSION, WHICH WILL SHED MORE LIGHT ON THE ACTUAL RISKS AND BENEFITS OF GENETIC ENGINEERING AND THE POTENTIAL LOSSES TO THE AUSTRIAN ECONOMY THAT COULD RESULT FROM BIOTECHNOLOGICAL XENOPHOBIA. IN THE RECENT SPO CABINET RESHUFFLE, THE NEW WOMEN'S MINISTER, BARBARA PRAMMER, WAS GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR GMO'S. SHE APPEARS MORE OPEN TO DIALOGUE ON THE ISSUE THAN HER PREDECESSOR, FORMER HEALTH MINISTER CHRISTA KRAMMER (REF E). A GROUP OF AUSTRIAN SCIENTISTS IS LOBBYING FOR GENE TECHNOLOGY. RECENTLY, THE AUSTRIAN ECONOMICS MINISTRY WARNED THAT AUSTRIA'S OPPOSITION TO GENETIC ENGINEERING MIGHT HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON AUSTRIA'S ABILITY TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT. THE "GREENS" AND OTHER ANTI-BIO TECHNOLOGY GROUPS HAVE REACTED BY LAUNCHING A POPULAR INITIATIVE SCHEDULED APRIL 7-14 TO PUT THE GMO ISSUE ON PARLIAMENT'S AGENDA. THIS CABLE IS IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF POST REPORTING PLAN. END SUMMARY.

AUSTRIANS OPPOSE GMO'S

4. ACCORDING TO RECENT POLLS, 90 PERCENT OF THE AUSTRIAN POPULATION OPPOSES THE INTEGRATION OF GMO'S IN FOOD PRODUCTS AND 80 PERCENT STRONGLY FAVORS MANDATORY LABELLING OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMO'S (REF M). MOST AUSTRIANS SEE MINIMAL VALUE IN GMO'S AND BELIEVE ANY BENEFITS ARE OUTWEIGHED BY THE POTENTIAL RISKS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH. IN ADDITION, AUSTRIA HAS FOUND A NICHE WITHIN THE EU BY MOVING TOWARDS ORGANIC FARMING. 20,000 AUSTRIAN ORGANIC FARMERS ACCOUNT FOR 50 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL IN THE EU. IN LIGHT OF THIS SPECIALIZATION, MANY AUSTRIANS BELIEVE THAT GENETIC ENGINEERING IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH ORGANIC FARMING AND SUPPORT DESIGNATING AUSTRIA AS "A GMO FREE ZONE." ON THE

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OTHER HAND, THE AUSTRIAN PUBLIC DOES NOT OPPOSE ALL APPLICATIONS OF GENETIC ENGINEER

ING. FOR EXAMPLE, MOST
AUSTRIANS FAVOR THE USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN MEDICAL AND
PHARMACEUTICAL APPLICATIONS.

PRESS COVERAGE -- ONE-SIDED AND EXAGGERATED

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 06 VIENNA 002724

SENSITIVE

FAS FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, OFSTS/HARBERT, OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
COMMODITY DIVISIONS

DEPT PASS USTR, FDA, EPA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, KPRP, PROP, SCUL, EUN, AU

SUBJECT: HYSTERICS OVER BIOTECH IN AUSTRIA: CAN ANTI-GMO
FACTIONS PUSH IT EU WIDE?

REF: (A) PARIS 3597, (B) VIENNA 1982, (C) ROME 1980,
5. NEGATIVE PRESS COVERAGE IS ONE FACTOR THAT HAS SHAPED
THE AUSTRIAN PUBLIC'S RESISTANCE TO GMO'S. INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, SUCH AS GLOBAL 2000 AND GREENPEACE,
IN CONCERT WITH LOCAL AUSTRIAN GROUPS, HAVE DRIVEN THE GMO
DEBATE. TO FURTHER ITS PUBLIC CAMPAIGN, GLOBAL 2000
CONTINUES TO SUPPLY AUSTRIA'S LARGEST DAILY "DIE KRONEN
ZEITUNG" (WITH ABOUT 2 MILLION DAILY READERS) WITH ONE-
SIDED AND EXAGGERATED INFORMATION, WHICH THE PAPER
INCORPORATES INTO ITS NEWS ARTICLES ON GMO'S. AN ARTICLE
IN THE JANUARY ISSUE OF THE WOMEN'S FASHION MAGAZINE
"WIENERIN" DESCRIBED GMO'S IN NEGATIVE TERMS LIFTED FROM
INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THE GLOBAL 2000 INTERNET WEBSITE.
GLOBAL 2000 ANNOUNCED MARCH 12 THAT IT HAD GARNERED THE
SUPPORT OF ITALY, SWEDEN AND DENMARK IN SUPPORTING THE
AUSTRO-LUXEMBOURG BT CORN BAN, AND THAT THE EU
ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTERS COUNCIL WAS ONE VOTE AWAY FROM
FORCING THE EU'S BT CORN APPROVAL BACK ON TO THE AGENDA
FOR RECONSIDERATION. THE MONTHLY ADVERTISING CIRCULAR
"CONSUMER" SENT FREE OF CHARGE TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN
VIENNA, HAS BEEN COVERING GMO'S IN A SIMILARLY UNFAVORABLE
WAY FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

6. IN THEIR MOST RECENT MOVE, ANTI-GMO FORCES HAVE
LAUNCHED A POPULAR INITIATIVE ON GMO'S TO BE HELD APRIL 7-
14, WHICH, IF SUCCESSFUL IN GARNERING 100,000 SIGNATURES,
WILL REQUIRE PARLIAMENT TO DEBATE THE GMO ISSUE. THE
POPULAR INITIATIVE DEMANDS: 1) LABORATORIES NOT BE
PERMITTED TO PRODUCE GENETICALLY ALTERED FOOD; 2) THE
INTRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS INTO THE
ENVIRONMENT BE BANNED; 3) NO PATENTS ON ORGANISMS BE
ISSUED.

POLITICIANS AREN'T HELPING

7. AUSTRIAN POLITICIANS HAVE SHIED AWAY FROM THE

CONTROVERSY OVER GMO'S AND DONE LITTLE OR NOTHING TO

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DAMPEN THE EMOTIONAL CONTENT OF THE PUBLIC DEBATE. THE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH LAST WINTER (REF L) BEGAN ONLY IN FEBRUARY AND HAS PROVED TO BE TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE. CONSISTING LARGELY OF AN INTERNET WEB SITE AND ONLY OCCASSIONAL PRESS COVERAGE ON THE IMPACT OF GMO'S ON PUBLIC HEALTH (REF F), THE "CAMPAIGN" HAS BEEN COMPLETELY DROWNED OUT BY THE HIGHLY CHARGED CAMPAIGN OF THE ANTI-GMO FORCES: NEON SIGNS ON THE GURTEL (VIENNA'S MAIN THOROUGHFARE), DUMPING SACKS OF SOYBEANS ON THE HEALTH MINISTER'S DESK, OCCUPYING THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER'S OFFICES, AND PUBLISHING PICTURE CALENDARS SHOWING PEOPLE WITH SOYBEAN PODS INSTEAD OF BACKBONES. THESE ANTICS HAVE DRAWN FAR MORE PUBLIC ATTENTION THAN HAVE THE MINISTRY'S TALKING HEADS AND WEB SITE.

CHALLENGING THE EU; POPULAR INITIATIVE ON GMO'S

8. THE WARINESS OF AUSTRIAN POLITICIANS AND THEIR INCLINATION TO DODGE THE ISSUE HAVE BEEN COMPOUNDED BY AN OTHERWISE UNRELATED EU COMMISSION-EU MEMBER STATE CONTROVERSY, WHICH BEGAN LAST CHRISTMAS WHEN EX-HEALTH MINISTER KRAMMER ANNOUNCED STEPS TO BAN BT CORN IN AUSTRIA. BY BANNING BT CORN AFTER THE EU HAD APPROVED IT, KRAMMER NOT ONLY CHALLENGED BRUSSELS, BUT ALSO DEFLECTED PRESSURE FROM ANTI-GMO FORCES (REF K AND J). IN THEIR BRIEF TO BRUSSELS, AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS RAISED NO NEW OBJECTIVES TO BT CORN, BUT MERELY LISTED THE ITEMS THE EU SCIENTISTS HAD ALREADY CONSIDERED AND DISMISSED AS VIABLE CONCERNS. AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS ALSO COMPLAINED LESS ABOUT THE POTENTIAL RISKS OF GMO'S THAN THAT THE EU COMMISSION HAD NOT SHARED THE SAME INFORMATION DIRECTLY WITH AUSTRIAN HEALTH AUTHORITIES -- EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD ACCESS TO THE SAME INFORMATION.

PRAMMER PROMISES TO BE MORE PRAGMATIC WITH GMO ISSUE

9. THE CABINET RESHUFFLE AMONG SPO MINISTERS LATE JANUAR
Y
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 06 VIENNA 002724

SENSITIVE

FAS FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, OFSTS/HARBERT, OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
COMMODITY DIVISIONS

DEPT PASS USTR, FDA, EPA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, KPRP, PROP, SCUL, EUN, AU
SUBJECT: HYSTERICS OVER BIOTECH IN AUSTRIA: CAN ANTI-GMO
FACTIONS PUSH IT EU WIDE?

REF: (A) PARIS 3597, (B) VIENNA 1982, (C) ROME 1980,
RESULTED IN A SHIFT OF "COMPETENCE" ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR
GMO'S FROM THE HEALTH MINISTRY TO THE WOMEN'S AFFAIRS
MINISTRY, WHICH IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSUMER
PROTECTION. ALTHOUGH ON FEBRUARY 13 THE NEW WOMEN'S
MINISTER BARBARA PRAMMER FOLLOWED THROUGH ON KRAMMER'S

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CHRISTMAS EVE BAN ON BT CORN BY SIGNING IMPLEMENTING
REGULATIONS (REF H), OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH PRAMMER
SUGGEST THAT SHE WILL TAKE A MORE PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO
GMO'S THAN HER PREDECESSOR. SHE RECOGNIZES THAT AUSTRIAN
POLICIES CANNOT IN THE LONG TERM CONFLICT WITH EU TRADE
REGULATIONS.

ALL PARTIES CALL FOR LABELING

10. PRAMMER'S MINISTRY ISSUED AN ORDINANCE ON GMO
LABELING WHICH WENT INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 2, BEFORE THE EU
NOVEL FOOD REGULATION (REF H). ALTHOUGH NOT UNANIMOUSLY
OPPOSED TO GENETIC TECHNOLOGY, ALL OF AUSTRIA'S POLITICAL
PARTIES SUPPORT SOME SORT OF MANDATORY LABELING REGARDING
GMO'S. ECONOMICS MINISTER JOHANN FARNLEITNER OF THE SPO'S
COALITION PARTNER, THE PEOPLE'S PARTY (OVP), ANNOUNCED
THAT HIS MINISTRY WILL CREATE A "QUALITY LABEL" FOR GMO-
FREE FOOD PRODUCTS SIMILAR TO THE AUSTRIAN ORGANIC FOOD
LABELS WIDELY ACCEPTED BY THE PUBLIC. THIS "POSITIVE
LABELING" APPROACH IS THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT THE SPO, THE
GREENS AND THE FPO ARE DEMANDING: "NEGATIVE LABELING" OF
ALL FOODS WHICH THAT DO OR POSSIBLY MIGHT CONTAIN GMO'S.

11. AMONG THE OPPOSITION PARTIES, THE GREEN PARTY HAS
LONG TAKEN THE LEAD IN OPPOSING ALL GENETIC ENGINEERING IN
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION, ACCUSING MULTINATIONAL
COMPANIES OF ENDANGERING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY IN
SEARCH OF PROFITS. THE GENERALLY DEREGULATIONIST FREEDOM
PARTY (FPO), WHILE NOT FORMALLY OPPOSED TO GMO'S PER SE,
SUPPORTS MANDATORY LABELING, OPPOSES ANTIBIOTIC AND
PESTICIDE RESISTANCE, AND IS INCLINED MORE AND MORE TO A
BAN ON FIELD TESTING IN AUSTRIA UNTIL THERE IS MORE
EXPERIENCE WITH THE TECHNOLOGY. THE SMALLEST PARTY, THE
LIBERAL FORUM, SUPPORTS MANDATORY LABELING AS A MATTER OF
CONSUMER CHOICE.

AUSTRIAN SCIENTISTS SPEAK OUT, BUT MEEKLY

12. AMONG PROPONENTS FOR GENE TECHNOLOGY IS A GROUP OF
WELL-KNOWN AUSTRIAN BIOTECHNOLOGISTS, WHO IN JANUARY

FORMED A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP, "GENE TECHNOLOGY AND US."
THE GROUP'S AIM IS TO PROVIDE "OBJECTIVE AND ACCURATE"

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INFORMATION, SO AS "NOT TO LEAVE THE DEBATE ON THE MOST
PROMISING KEY TECHNOLOGY TO SOME EMOTIONAL
FUNDAMENTALISTS" ACCORDING TO HELMUT SCHWAB, THE GROUP'S
PRESIDENT. HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES FROM AUSTRIAN
UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH CENTERS MAINTAIN THAT AUSTRIA
SHOULD NOT RENOUNCE GENETIC ENGINEERING BECAUSE OF THE
IMPORTANT ECONOMIC APPLICATIONS.

13. INDEED, THERE ARE SEVERAL VERY PROMISING GENETIC
ENGINEERING PROJECTS IN AUSTRIA, SUCH AS THE AUSTRIAN
INTER UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL
TECHNOLOGY (IFA), WHICH IS FOCUSING ON THE ELIMINATION OF
WHEAT ALLERGIES AND THE FIGHT AGAINST A MYCOSIS (FUNGUS
DISEASE) OF WHEAT AND CORN. AUSTRIA'S INSTITUTE OF
MICROBIOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE IN VIENNA IS
USING GENETIC ENGINEERING TO COMBAT VIRUS DISEASES OF
STONE FRUIT (DRUPES). DESPITE THE HIGH SCIENTIFIC VALUE
OF THESE PROJECTS, RESEARCHERS AT THESE INSTITUTES
COMPLAIN THAT THEIR WORK IS HINDERED BY THE LACK OF
FINANCIAL SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY FROM THE GOA.

AUSTRIAN INDUSTRY VIEWS

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 06 VIENNA 002724

SENSITIVE

FAS FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, OFSTS/HARBERT, OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
COMMODITY DIVISIONS

DEPT PASS USTR, FDA, EPA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, KPRP, PROP, SCUL, EUN, AU

SUBJECT: HYSTERICS OVER BIOTECH IN AUSTRIA: CAN ANTI-GMO
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REF: (A) PARIS 3597, (B) VIENNA 1982, (C) ROME 1980,

14. UNDER PRESSURE FROM AUSTRIAN CONSUMERS, SEVERAL FOOD
RETAILERS HAVE DEMANDED SUPPLIERS PROVIDE CERTIFICATIONS
THAT PRODUCTS DELIVERED CONTAINING NO GMO'S -- AMONG THEM,
"BILLA", AUSTRIA'S LARGEST GROCERY CHAIN, AND "SPAR", THE
SECOND LARGEST (REF 0 AND N). AFTER GREENPEACE PUBLISHED
A WATCH LIST ON OILS CONTAINING OIL FROM ROUNDUP-READY
SOYBEANS, AUSTRIA'S PREMIERE SUPERMARKET CHAIN "JULIUS
MEINL" BANNED S

UCH PRODUCTS FROM ITS SHELVES. (NOTE:
SOYBEAN OIL, OF COURSE, CONTAINS NO GENETIC MATERIAL AD
WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATON. END

NOTE.) THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY, HOWEVER, IS DIVIDED BETWEEN RETAILERS READY TO RESPOND TO CONSUMER DEMAND FOR GMO-FREE PRODUCTS AND WHOLESALE SUPPLIER OFFERING PRODUCTS THAT CANNOT BE CERTIFIED AS GMO-FREE. FURTHERMORE, WHILE FOOD RETAILERS OPENLY FAVOR LABELING, AUSTRIA'S FOOD MANUFACTURING AND WHOLESALING SECTORS ARE HESITANT TO MAKE ANY STATEMENTS ON GMO'S AT ALL. NEVERTHELESS, PROTESTS FROM GREENPEACE CAUSED SWISS-OWNED NESTLE TO ANNOUNCE IT WOULD USE UP EXISTING STOCKS OF SOYBEANS THAT MIGHT CONTAIN GMO'S AND TO AVOID GMO'S IN ITS RAW MATERIAL PURCHASES. THIS MOVE PROMPTED SHARP

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CRITICISM FROM AUSTRIAN CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS, WHO APPARENTLY EXPECTED NESTLE TO DUMP EXISTING STOCKS. UNILEVER ALSO CAME UNDER FIRE FROM GREENPEACE FOR NOT PROMISING NOT TO IMPORT GMO SOYBEAN OIL, A COMMODITY IT DOES NOT EVEN USE IN ITS FOOD MANUFACTURING PROCESS.

15. TWO LARGE AUSTRIAN BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANIES ARE HEAVILY ENGAGED IN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELDS OF BLOOD DERIVATIVES, VACCINES AND PHARMACEUTICALS: IMMUNO AG, A SUBSIDIARY OF BAXTER HEALTHCARE CORPORATION, HEADQUARTERED IN DEERFIELD, IL AND BIOCHEMIE GES.M.B.H., A SUBSIDIARY OF SANDOZ, WHICH IS HEADQUARTERED IN SWITZERLAND. COMPANY SOURCES NOTE THAT PLANNED AUSTRIAN GENETECHNOLOGY/BIOTECHNOLOGY LEGISLATION COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND LEAD TO THE RELOCATION OF RESEARCH DEPARTMENTS TO COUNTRIES WITH A MORE LIBERAL ATTITUDE.

MULTINATIONAL AND U.S. COMPANIES' RESPONSE TO GMO DEBATE

16. MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES PRODUCING GMO'S IN THE UNITED STATES AND MARKETING THEM IN EUROPE HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY SILENT IN AUSTRIA, PREFERRING NOT TO DRAW ADDITIONAL ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE IN THE HOPES IT WILL SIMPLY GO AWAY. PIONEER SAATEN, THE U.S. PRODUCER OF SEEDS IN AUSTRIA, TOLD US THAT, GIVEN THE STRONG PRESENCE OF ANTI-GMO FORCES IN AUSTRIA, THEY DO NOT WANT TO PRODUCE OR SELL GMO'S HERE IN THE LOCAL MARKET. THE U.S. COMPANY DOES NOT PLAN TO REGISTER ANY GMO'S IN THE NEAR FUTURE, GIVEN THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF PUBLIC REACTION TO SALES. THIS STRATEGY HAS DRAWN CRITICISM FROM AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS (REF E) AND GIVEN ANTI-GMO FORCES AN OPEN PLAYING FIELD IN WHICH TO DISTRIBUTE BIASED MISINFORMATION.

17. MASTER FOODS AUSTRIA, THE U.S. MANUFACTURER OF CONFECTIONERY AND PETFOODS IN AUSTRIA, DOES NOT USE LECITHIN IN ITS PRODUCTION. THE COMPANY'S PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR INFORMED US THAT MASTER FOODS AUSTRIA IMPORTS CERTIFIED GMO-FREE LECITHIN AND ADDED THAT THIS STRATEGY WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY INTENDED FOR AUSTRIA, BUT THAT THE PARENT COMPANY HAD DECIDED TO USE GMO-FREE LECITHIN ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

POSSIBLE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON AUSTRIA

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UNCLASSIFIED

18. AT A FEBRUARY 26 PRESS CONFERENCE, REINHARD KOEGLERER, SECTION CHIEF FOR INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE AUSTRIAN ECONOMICS MINISTRY, WARNED THAT THE AUSTRIAN GENERAL NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS "GENE" (THE AUSTRIAN UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 06 VIENNA 002724

SENSITIVE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CLASSIFICATION IN TEXT)

FAS FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, OFSTS/HARBERT, OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
COMMODITY DIVISIONS
DEPT PASS USTR, FDA, EPA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, KPRP, 8OP, SCUL, EUN, AU
SUBJECT: HYSTERICS OVER BIOTECH IN AUSTRIA: CAN ANTI-GMO
FACTIONS PUSH IT EU WIDE?

REF: (A) PARIS 3597, (B) VIENNA 1982, (C) ROME 1980, (D) SHORTHAND FOR GENE TECHNOLOGY), MIGHT HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON AUSTRIA AS AN INVESTMENT SITE. HE NOTED A GROWING TREND BY BIOTECH FIRMS TO WITHDRAW THEIR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS FROM AUSTRIA. FOR EXAMPLE, NOVARTIS AUSTRIA (WHICH RESULTED FROM THE MERGER OF SANDOZ AND CIBA-GEIGY) HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL CANCEL INVESTMENTS WORTH AS 600 MILLION (USD 50 MILLION), PROJECTED TO CREATE ABOUT 50 TO 100 NEW JOBS IN AUSTRIA, IF AUSTRIA IMPLEMENTS ANTI-GENETIC ENGINEERING LEGISLATION AND IF THE NEGATIVE CLIMATE FOR GENETIC ENGINEERING DOES NOT IMPROVE.

19. IN FEBRUARY, AFTER AUSTRIA'S SUPREME COURT DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL A 1996 HEALTH MINISTRY ORDER TO STOP RESEARCH TEST PLANTINGS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES BY THE AUSTRIAN FIRM AGRANA (REF G), THE AUSTRIAN GREEN PARTY CALLED FOR AN AMENDMENT TO AUSTRIA'S GENETIC ENGINEERING LEGISLATION. THE CURRENT LAW HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE JANUARY 1, 1995 AND INCORPORATES EU DIRECTIVES 90/219 AND 90/220. THE GREENS' AMENDMENT WOULD TOTALLY BAN IMPORT, PRODUCTION AND THE SALE OF AGRICULTURAL GMO'S OUTSIDE OF LABORATORIES. AGRANA CANCELLED A PLANNED 1997 RESEARCH PLANTING, AFTER HAVING WON ITS COURT BATTLE, DUE TO PUBLIC PRESSURE ORCHESTRATED BY ANTI-GMO FORCES (REF H).

COMMENT

20. AFTER FAILING TO PROVIDE BALANCED INFORMATION IN TIME TO FOSTER AN OPEN AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE, THE GOA IS NOW FORCED TO REACT TO AUSTRIAN CONSUMER DEMANDS TO AVOID ALIENATING THE OVERWHELMINGLY ANTI-GMO ELECTORATE. WHILE THE GOA REFUSED TO IMPLEMENT A BAN ON U.S. ROUND-UP READY SOYBEANS LAST FALL, NOW, AFTER MASSIVE PROTEST BY ANTI-GMO AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, THE GOA HAS CARRIED OUT ITS PROMISED BAN ON BT-CORN. THESE SAME GROUPS ARE NOW USING AUSTRIA'S BAN AS A WEDGE TO SEEK REVERSAL OF THE EU APPROVAL OF BT CORN, IN PARTICULAR, AND TO FOSTER RESISTANCE TO GMO'S EU-WIDE MORE GENERALLY. UNDER HEAVY DOMESTIC PRESSURE, THE DANGER EXISTS THAT AUSTRIA WILL TRY TO INCREASE ITS INFLUENCE WITHIN THE EU ON THE GMO ISSUE AND SEEK MORE ALLIES. THIS STRATEGY MAY HAVE ALREADY MET WITH SOME SUCCESS: WE NOTE THAT LUXEMBOURG HAS JOINED AUSTRIA IN BANNING BT CORN (REF I), AND FRANCE AND ITALY HAVE PROHIBITED PLANTING OF BT CORN SEED (REF A AND C).

21. AS A RESULT OF THE CURRENT DISCUSSION ON GENE

TECHNOLOGY AND FOOD, AUSTRIANS HAVE BEGUN TO QUESTION EVERYTHING THAT HAS TO DO WITH "GENE," SUCH AS GENE RESEARCH FOR MEDICAL OR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES. RECENT HIGHLY PUBLICIZED CLONING EXPERIMENTS, SUCH AS THE "DOLLY" STORY, HAVE BROADENED THE CURRENT PUBLIC DEBATE BEYOND GMO'S TO INCLUDE ANY MANIPULATION OF THE NATURALLY-OCCURRING GENE POOL AND FURTHER EMOTIONALIZED THE DISCUSSION. EVEN THOUGH THERE IS A DEFINITE THREAD OF RATIONALITY IN THAT AUSTRIANS TEND TO SUPPORT GENETIC RESEARCH IN MEDICAL APPLICATIONS, FEAR CONTINUES TO DRIVE THE DEBATE. AS LONG AS GREENPEACE AND GLOBAL 2000 EXERT A VIRTUAL MONOPOLY ON THE (MIS)INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, HOSTILITY IN AUSTRIA TO GENETIC ENGINEERING WILL NOT LIKELY SUBSIDE.

22. FROM AN ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW, CUTTING ITSELF OUT OF THE BIOTECHNOLOGY MARKET COULD CREATE SERIOUS ECONOMIC LOSSES FOR AUSTRIA. ALREADY LAGGING BEHIND OTHER EU COUNTRIES IN R AND D ACTIVITIES, AUSTRIA CAN ILL AFFORD TO BECOME A NO MAN'S LAND FOR A PROMISING NEW INDUSTRY.

RECOMMENDATIONS

23. THIS HORSE IS OUT OF THE BARN AND WILL ONLY BE LED BACK AFTER A LONG CHASE. ANY STRATEGY FOR UNDOING THE DAMAGE -- CORRECTING A WEALTH OF ANTI-GMO MISINFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA THAT HAVE SWAYED NEARLY 9 OUT OF 10 AUSTRIANS AGAINST GMO'S -- WILL TAKE A LOT OF TIME. IT UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 06 VIENNA 002724

SENSITIVE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CLASSIFICATION IN TEXT)

FAS FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, OFSTS/HARBERT, OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
COMMODITY DIVISIONS
DEPT PASS USTR, FDA, EPA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, KPRP, PROP, SCUL, EUN, AU

SUBJECT: HYSTERICS OVER BIOTECH IN AUSTRIA: CAN ANTI-GMO
FACTIONS PUSH IT EU WIDE?

REF: (A) PARIS 3597, (B) VIENNA 1982, (C) ROME 1980,
WILL ALSO RELY HEAVILY ON AUSTRIAN PUBLIC FAITH IN
INSTITUTIONS OF WHICH THEY ARE CURRENTLY VERY SUSPICIOUS,
NAMELY: EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH
AUTHORITIES, WHOM THE PUBLIC HOLD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BSE
CRISIS, AND MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES ENGAGED IN GMO PRODUCT
DEVELOPMENT, WHICH THE SOCIALLY-ORIENTED AUSTRIAN PUBLIC
VIEW LARGELY AS WHOLLY UNCONCERNED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AND

PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES.

24. A LONG-TERM EDUCATION CAMPAIGN APPEARS TO BE IN
ORDER, WHICH COUPLED WITH ACCEPTANCE OF "POSITIVE"
LABELING (I.E. "CERTIFIED GMO-FREE," NOT UNLIKE LABELING
OF ORGANIC FOODS) MIGHT EVENTUALLY LEAD TO GREATER POPULAR
ACCEPTANCE OF GMO'S IN AUSTRIA. CORBETT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 06

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 06

<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 06

<^SECT>SECTION: 04 OF 06

<^SECT>SECTION: 05 OF 06

<^SECT>SECTION: 06 OF 06

SSN: 2724

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TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4914
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2329
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2784
SUBJ: NZ IMPORTER INFO ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS
SOUGHT BY MINISTRY OF HEALTH

TEXT:

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 000477

STATE ALSO FOR EAP/ANZ
STATE FOR USTR/STILLMAN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA FOR AG COUNSELOR
USDA FOR ITP/SHEIKH, ZEITNER, ITP/FSTS, FAA/MOLSTAD

E.O. 12958:N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, WTRO, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: NZ IMPORTER INFO ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS
SOUGHT BY MINISTRY OF HEALTH

REF: WELLINGTON 01687, WELLINGTON 00188, GENEVA 01809

1. SUMMARY: CITING RECENT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS, THE NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MINHEALTH) HAS REQUESTED THAT ALL FOOD INDUSTRY MEMBERS PROVIDE INFORMATION ON FOODS MARKETED IN NEW ZEALAND (IMPORTED OR MANUFACTURED) WHICH ARE DERIVED FROM GENE TECHNOLOGY. INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS, INCLUDING FOOD ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS, IS TO BE PROVIDED BY MAY 16, 1997. END SUMMARY.

2. MINHEALTH HAS FOLLOWED ITS ISSUANCE OF AN INTERIM POLICY ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS (GMF'S) WITH A REMINDER TO ALL FOOD INDUSTRY MEMBERS OF CURRENT NZ FOOD LEGISLATION, AND OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF OTHER NZ GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR GMF'S AND GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S), ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO WIDER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATING TO GMO'S. MINHEALTH HAS ALSO REQUESTED THAT ALL FOOD INDUSTRY MEMBERS PROVIDE INFORMATION ON FOODS MARKETED IN NEW ZEALAND (IMPORTED OR MANUFACTURED) WHICH ARE DERIVED FROM GENE TECHNOLOGY. A

QUESTIONNAIRE ON FOOD AND INGREDIENTS DERIVED FROM GENE TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO FIRMS ACROSS NEW ZEALAND. MINHEALTH HAS ASKED THAT COMPANIES CONFIRM WITH IMPORTERS AND SUPPLIERS IF NECESSARY THE SPECIFICATIONS OF INGREDIENTS USED. MEANWHILE, MINHEALTH HAS RECOMMENDED THAT COMPANIES ALSO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THEIR PRODUCTS WHICH MAY BE GENETICALLY MODIFIED.

3. UNDER NEW ZEALAND'S GMF INTERIM POLICY, IMPORTERS AND PRODUCERS ARE 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, INCLUDING THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND THE UK ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES.

4. THE INTERIM POLICY REMAINS IN FORCE UNTIL REPLACED BY A JOINT ANZFA (AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY) STANDARD. PUBLIC COMMENT IN NEW ZEALAND ON THE DRAFT STANDARD ON GMF'S CLOSED ON APRIL 3, 1997, BUT COMMENTS WILL BE RECEIVED FROM WTO MEMBERS UNTIL APRIL 30. WHEN ANZFA HAS CONSIDERED COMMENTS (THE WELLINGTON ANZFA OFFICE HAS RECEIVED THE VIEWS OF THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS) AND MADE A RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND THE AUSTRALIAN FOOD STANDARDS CODE, THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT WILL DECIDE IF THE STANDARD WILL BE ADOPTED IN NEW ZEALAND. COMMENT REVIEW AND PREPARATION OF A SUMMARY IS EXPECTED TO TAKE TWO MONTHS. AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN, THE STANDARD WOULD PROHIBIT THE SALE OF GMF'S UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED.

5. A COPY OF THE MINHEALTH INSTRUCTION HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO USDA/FAS FOOD SAFETY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION. BEEMAN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0477

TOR: 970409000007 M2704172

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SIT: NSC

Cable

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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 141541Z APR 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6462
RUEHRC/USDA WASHDC
INFO: RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 7939
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 003325

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS FOR ITP/SHEIKH/THORN,
GFD, OPD
MILAN FOR AGOFF

E.O. 12598: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EEU, USTR, IT
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

1. SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND: ON APRIL 10, AGCOUNSELOR AND AGSPECIALIST ATTENDED A SEMINAR ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS, SPONSORED BY COLDIRETTI, A LEADING ITALIAN FARM ORGANIZATION. SPEAKERS RANGING FROM MONSANTO'S REPRESENTATIVE IN ITALY TO DEPUTIES OF THE GREEN PARTY PRESENTED THEIR VIEWS. BOTH MINAG AND MINHEALTH WERE REPRESENTED AT HIGH LEVELS, ALTHOUGH NEITHER EXPRESSED STRONG POSITIONS. A GREEN PARTY DEPUTY REPORTED THAT ON APRIL 8 THE HOUSE SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PASSED A RESOLUTION MANDATING THE GOVERNMENT TO STOP IMPORTING PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS, TO MAKE LABELING COMPULSORY, AND TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EU. WE WILL REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTION AND LIKELY IMPACT, IF ANY, SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SYMPOSIUM WAS CHAIRED BY MR ALFONSO PECORARO SCANIO, PRESIDENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GREEN PARTY, WHO IS KNOWN FOR HIS STRONG OPPOSITION
UNCLASSIFIED

TO GMOS. OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDED MR MICOLINI, PRESIDENT OF COLDIRETTI, MR PILO, DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINAG, DR. MARABELLI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOOD AND VETERINARY DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, MR FONTANA, REPRESENTATIVE OF MONSANTO IN ITALY, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, ACADEMICS AND SCIENTISTS. GREENPEACE WAS REPORTEDLY NOT INVITED TO MAKE A PRESENTATION AND, THEREFORE, DIDN'T ATTEND.

3. THE SPEECHES REFLECTED, AS EXPECTED, A WIDE RANGE OF POSITIONS ON GMOS. MR PECORARO SCANIO ANNOUNCED THAT THE HOUSE AGCOMMITTEE WILL SOON START A SURVEY ON BIOTECHNOLOGIES WITH THE TARGET OF DRAFTING NEW, COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION. PECORARO SCANIO AND SEVERAL OTHER SPEAKERS MADE THE POINT THAT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON GMOS SHOULD BE OBJECTIVE, AND NOT SUBJECT TO THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF MULTINATIONAL GROUPS.

4. MRS PROCACCI, GREEN PARTY DEPUTY, REPORTED THAT ON APRIL 8 THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE PASSED A RESOLUTION MANDATING THE GOVERNMENT TO ACTIVATE PROCEDURES TO STOP IMPORTS OF GMOS, TO MAKE LABELING COMPULSORY, AND TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS AT THE EU LEVEL. THE GOI WILL BE REQUIRED TO REPORT TO THE PARLIAMENT IN THE SHORT TERM. DR. MARABELLI (FORMERLY MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S VETERINARY REPRESENTATIVE IN BRUSSELS) SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WILL FOLLOW UP ON THE COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTION.

5. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE DG PILO SAID THAT WHILE THE MINISTRY RECOGNIZED THE ROLE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, THERE IS PRESENTLY NO LEGISLATION IN PLACE REGARDING THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION OF GM SEED VARIETIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER FOR SEEDS. (COMMENT: REGISTRATION IS A PREREQUISITE FOR SEED IMPORTATION. SINCE CIBA-GEIGY'S BT CORN WAS NOT ON THE NATIONAL SEED REGISTER, THE BAN ON PLANTING THE SEEDS WAS MOOT. END COMMENT.)

UNCLASSIFIED

6. REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS REPEATED OFT-STATED ATTACKS ON GMOS, SUCH AS MEDIUM-TO-LONG TERM RISKS OF GENETIC UNIFORMITY AND POTENTIAL RESISTANCE TO ANTIBIOTICS. MR FONTANA (MONSANTO) POINTED OUT THAT BIOTECHNOLOGIES HAVE BEEN REGULATED IN RECENT YEARS BY THE EU IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE SAFE FOOD PRODUCTS,

WITH NO NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.
HE ADDED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF BIO-
ENGINEERED PRODUCTS IN OTHER SECTORS, LIKE
PHARMACEUTICALS, HAS NOT RAISED A DEBATE
SIMILAR TO THE CURRENT DISCUSSION OVER FARM
PRODUCTS. FURTHERMORE, MR FONTAN
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 003325

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS FOR ITP/SHEIKH/THORN,
GFD, OPD
MILAN FOR AGOFF

E.O. 12598: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EEU, USTR, IT
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

A SAID THAT
HIS COMPANY IS NOT OPPOSING LABELING OF GMOS,
IF THE PRODUCT IS DIRECTLY SOLD FOR HUMAN
CONSUMPTION. HE ADDED THAT HE DOES NOT
BELIEVE IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO LABEL MEAT
PRODUCTS SOLD IN SUPERMARKETS WITH A
STATEMENT THAT THE PRODUCT COMES FROM AN
ANIMAL WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN FED WITH
GENETICALLY MODIFIED GRAINS. MR MICOLINI
(PRESIDENT OF COLDIRETTI), IN A CONCLUDING
STATEMENT, EXPRESSED THE CONCERNS OF THE
ITALIAN FARM SECTOR. HE SAID THAT WHILE
ITALIAN FARMERS ARE NOT NEGATIVE TO ANY
SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH ALLOWS HIGHER
YIELDS WITH A LOWER INPUT USE, THEY HAVE
CONCERNS ABOUT THE SAFETY OF GMOS.
BARTHOLOMEW

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 3325
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0342
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5406
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: DUTCH LABELING RULES FOR GMO 'S IN
TEXT:
UNCLAS THE HAGUE 001642

FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/DA/SHEIKH;
ITP/WEIAD/THORN; ITP/OFSTS/LHARBERT
CMP/DA/JPARKER; FAA/PLETARTE;
STATE PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

SENSITIVE

E.O.12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, NL
SUBJECT: DUTCH LABELING RULES FOR GMO 'S IN
FOOD.

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.

2 AS AGREED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS, INDUSTRY, RETAIL
TRADE AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES,
LABELING OF ALL FOOD PRODUCTS WHICH CONTAIN
GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEAN PROTEIN, SOYBEAN
FLOUR OR SOYBEAN MEAL IS REQUIRED AS OF APRIL
1, 1997. PRODUCTS WILL BE LABELED: "CONTAINS
SOYBEAN PROTEIN PRODUCED WITH THE HELP OF
MODERN BIOTECHNOLOGY". THIS REGULATION
CONCERNS FOOD PRODUCTS WHICH CONTAIN MODIFIED
SOYBEAN PROTEIN THAT IS DETECTABLE. THE
LABELING AGREEMENT WAS LEGALLY ACCEPTED ON
MARCH 11, 1997, AND PUBLISHED IN THE
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE. THE REGULATION
REPORTEDLY COMPLIES WITH THE EU NOVEL FOODS
REGULATION, THAT WILL ENTER INTO FORCE ON MAY
16, 1997. ACCORDING TO A SPOKESPERSON OF THE
PRODUCT BOARD FOR MARGARINE, FATS & OILS, THE
EUROPEAN COMMISSION IS STILL WORKING ON THE

PRACTICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION AND IS LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE DUTCH LABELING REGULATION AS A MODEL.

3. THE DUTCH MINHEALTH HAD AWAITED THE PUBLICATION OF THE EU NOVEL FOODS REGULATION BEFORE ESTABLISHING THEIR OWN LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR LABELING. THE DUTCH REGULATION WAS ONLY RECENTLY PUBLISHED ON MARCH 11, 1997; THIS LEFT THE INDUSTRY WITH ALMOST NO TIME TO PUT THE REGULATION INTO PRACTICE. THEREFORE, THE ACTUAL LABELING OF ALL FOOD PRODUCTS WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED IN PRACTICE FOR AT LEAST A COUPLE OF MONTHS- AROUND 100 PRODUCT GROUPS WILL BE LABELED. THE CONSUMER ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCED THAT THEY INTEND TO INSPECT FOOD PRODUCTS ON LABELING, STARTING AT THE END OF JUNE 1997. PRODUCERS OF PRODUCTS WITHOUT THE APPROPRIATE LABEL WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVE THAT NO MODIFIED SOYBEAN INGREDIENT HAS BEEN USED.

4. MINHEALTH AND MINAG HAVE ASSIGNED THE RESEARCH LABORATORY "TNO FOOD" TO DEVELOP A DETECTION METHOD FOR GMO-PROTEIN. TNO IS REPORTEDLY WORKING TO FURTHER DEVELOP A ALREADY EXISTING TEST. ALTHOUGH THE TEST HAS NOT BEEN YET COMPLETED, THE METHOD IS EXPECTED TO BE FINALIZED WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

5. TWO PARTIES OF THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT HAVE FILED A MOTION IN ORDER TO ATTRACT ATTENTION TO ASSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF NON-GMO PRODUCTS TO THE CONSUMER- THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT HAS REJECTED ANY RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS FIELD AND LEAVES IT UP TO THE MARKET TO OFFER NON-GMO PRODUCTS TO THE CONSUMER. CURRENTLY, NON-GMO FOOD PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH HEALTH FOODS STORES. NO APPARENT GROWTH IN CONSUMER DEMAND FOR NON-GMO PRODUCTS HAS BEEN DETECTED.

6. ALTHOUGH THE GMO DEBATE CONTINUES TO BE COVERED IN THE MEDIA, BOTH THE CONSUMER ASSOCIATION AND THE PRODUCT BOARD FOR MARGARINE, FATS & OILS PERCEIVE NO MAJOR CONCERN ABOUT GMO PRODUCTS IN THE NETHERLANDS. TELEPHONE LINES FOR CONCERNED CONSUMERS DID NOT GENERATE MANY CRITICAL CALLS. MANY OF THE WORRIED CONSUMERS THAT DID CALL APPEAR TO ALREADY HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR ORGANIC FOODS. POPE

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1642

TOR: 970418081210 M2721006

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Cable

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CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0032
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0100
SUBJ: GREENPEACE AUSTRIA'S VIEWS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED
- ORGANISMS: LABELING IS JUST A START, WE WANT A BAN

TEXT:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 VIENNA 003316

SECSTATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB, PASS USTR, FDA, EPA
SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
USDA FAS PASS OSEC/DRAZEK, FAS FOR ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT,
- EAMEDTHORN
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE

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

REFS: A) VIENNA 3147, B) VIENNA 2829

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

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

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

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By 17 NARA, Date 11/26/2014
7016-0524-m (1.54)

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

GREENPEACE'S MAIN POINT: THE RISK IS TOO HIGH

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

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

- WE CAN ONLY TEST FOR KNOWN ALLERGIES. INTRODUCTION OF GENES FROM GENOMES THAT ARE NOT NORMALLY CONSUMED (E.G. THE PETUNIA GENE USED IN THE MODIFIED SOYBEAN) MAY BE ALLERGENIC IN THE LONG TERM, AND WE CAN'T KNOW THAT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.
- THE FOOD QUALITY OF ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS WAS NOT TESTED AFTER TREATMENT WITH GLYPHOSATE, SO WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE IMPACT OF GLYPHOSATE ON THE SOYBEAN IS FROM A CONSUMER STANDPOINT. HE ALSO ALLEGED THAT WE DON'T KNOW THE IMPACT OF GLYPHOSATE BIODEGRADABLES.
- EU AUTHORITIES ASSUME THERE IS NO DANGER OF CREATING HERBICIDE-RESISTANT WEEDS FROM FIELD RELEASE OF THE MODIFIED SOYBEAN. HE NOTED THAT NO SCIENTISTS CAN SAY THERE ARE NO RISKS. PEKNY ALSO ALLEGED THAT GENE TECHNOLOGY RESULTS IN INSTABILITY IN THE GENOME SUCH THAT SPLICED GENES ARE MORE LIKELY TO "JUMP" TO OTHER ORGANISMS, AND CLAIMED TO KNOW OF AN EXAMPLE IN WHICH A SPLICED GENE HAD "JUMPED" TO A SCIENTIFIC WORKER.

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

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

SECSTATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB, PASS USTR, FDA, EPA
SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
USDA FAS PASS OSEC/DRAZEK, FAS FOR ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/
HARBERT, - EAMEDTHORN
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE

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

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

WHAT GREENPEACE WANTS

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

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

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

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

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

AUSTRIA'S ROLE IN THE GENE TECHNOLOGY DEBATE

12. ~~(C)~~ PEKNY DESCRIBED GENETIC MODIFICATION A "HIGH-RISK TECHNOLOGY" AND NOTED THAT AUSTRIA HAS EXPERIENCE WITH HIGH-RISK TECHNOLOGIES. THE ARGUMENTS OVER GMO'S, HE SAID, ARE SIMILAR TO

THOSE OVER NUCLEAR POWER, AND HE POINTED OUT THAT AUSTRIA HAD DECIDED IN 1978 TO REMAIN NUCLEAR-FREE. THIS POLICY WAS QUESTIONED UNTIL THE 1986 CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT, HE SAID, AFTER WHICH IT CEASED TO BE AN ISSUE. AUSTRIA, HE SAID, WAS HIT HARD

BY CHERNOBYL--FOR AN ENTIRE GROWING SEASON, PEOPLE COULD NOT EAT PRODUCE FROM THEIR GARDENS (COMMENT: DUE TO THE RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION. END COMMENT). HE ADDED THAT THE BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY CRISIS IN EUROPE HAD SHAKEN AUSTRIANS' BELIEF IN SCIENCE.

13. ~~(C)~~ GREENPEACE AUSTRIA, THEY SAID, INTENDS TO PUSH FOR A BAN

IN AUSTRIA EVEN IF IT VIOLATES EU LAW, AND THEN SEE WHERE IT GOES. THEY EXPECT A BAN TO BE IMPOSED IN AUSTRIA, THAT THIS WILL

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

THE U.S. AND THEWTO

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

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- EAMEDTHORN

POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/18/2017

TAGS: EAGR, ECON, ETRD, PGOV, PROP, SCUL, TBIO, AU

SUBJECT: GREENPEACE AUSTRIA'S VIEWS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED

- ORGANISMS: LABELING IS JUST A START, WE WANT A BAN

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

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

A LITTLE ABOUT GREENPEACE AUSTRIA

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

COMMENT AND OBSERVATIONS:

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

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

- DISCREDITING AND DENUNCIATION OF SUPPORTERS OF GENE

- TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING AD HOMINEM ATTACKS IN THE PRESS,
- SCARE TACTICS SO AS TO FRIGHTEN THE PUBLIC,
 - CAMPAIGNS DIRECTED AT INDOCTRINATION OF CHILDREN, TO ENSURE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF OPPOSITION,
 - PHYSICAL INTIMIDATION OF PRO-GMO FACTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING OCCUPATION OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE COMPANY OFFICES,
 - DISCREDITING OF SCIENCE AS A BASIS FOR MAKING DECISIONS (THE GREENPEACE REPS' PROTESTATIONS TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING), SHIFTING THE FOCUS TO EMOTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN STIRRED BY VISIONS OF "MONSTERS", AND
 - GROSS DISTORTIONS OF FACT, WRAPPING MISINFORMATION AND QUOTES TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT AROUND A SMALL KERNEL OF TRUTH.

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

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

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SECSTATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB, PASS USTR, FDA, EPA
 SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
 USDA FAS PASS OSEC/DRAZEK, FAS FOR ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT,
 - EAMEDTHORN
 POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/18/2017

TAGS: EAGR, ECON, ETRD, PGOV, PROP, SCUL, TBIO, AU

SUBJECT: GREENPEACE AUSTRIA'S VIEWS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED

- ORGANISMS: LABELING IS JUST A START, WE WANT A BAN

DECISIONS.

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

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

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 04

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SSN: 3316

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Cable

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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 221135Z APR 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG: 221135Z APR 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4315
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1598
SUBJ: BRITISH INDUSTRY GROUP PUBLISHES GMO CODE OF
PRACTICE

TEXT:
UNCLAS LONDON 004595

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR
FAS/OA/SCHUMACHER AND GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH;
FAS/ITP/EAME/THORN/CHESLEY; FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT;
FAS/CMP/GF/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAS/CMP/COTS/BLUM;
FAS/CMP/HTP/PIASON; FAS/PECAD/HAUSAMANN; ERS/WES/MADELL;
ERS/CED/OBRIEN; APHIS/OA/MEDLEY; APHIS/OA/BILLY;
FAA/AO/NE/LETARTE

STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY AND KASKA
STATE PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI
STATE PASS FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK
SUBJECT: BRITISH INDUSTRY GROUP PUBLISHES GMO CODE OF
PRACTICE

1. SUMMARY. THE NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION (NFU), THE UNITED KINGDOM AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY TRADE ASSOCIATION (UKASTA), AND THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF PLANT BREEDERS (BSPS) IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS, HAVE DRAWN-UP A "CODE OF PRACTICE ON THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS." THE CODE CALLS ON SEED COMPANIES, FARMERS AND MERCHANTS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AT EACH STAGE OF THE FOOD CHAIN, BY SEGREGATING AND LABELING GM CROPS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NFU, UKASTA AND BSPB CODE OF PRACTICE, WHICH IS NOT BINDING, IS THE BRITISH INDUSTRY'S RESPONSE TO DEMANDS FROM RETAILERS AND CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS THAT GMOS BE ACCURATELY LABELED.

3. TO ENABLE TRACEABILITY THROUGHOUT THE FOOD CHAIN, THE CODE OF PRACTICE STATES THAT "THE LICENSER OF THE GM TECHNOLOGY AND/OR DEVELOPER OF THE VARIETY SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO GROWERS - EITHER DIRECTLY OR VIA THE SEED SUPPLY TRADE - IN RELATION TO EACH GM CROP VARIETY: THE VARIETY IS GENETICALLY MODIFIED. THE NATURE OF THE MODIFICATION(S). SPECIFIC HUSBANDRY AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE."

4. ONCE THE SEED PASSES TO FARMERS, THE CODE OF PRACTICE EXHORTS THEM TO ENSURE THAT EACH GM CROP IS #IDENTIFIABLE BY VARIETY AT ALL STAGES, FROM INITIAL SEED STOCK THROUGH PRODUCTION, HARVESTING AND STORAGE." ONCE TRANSPORTED OFF-FARM, THE CODE STATES THAT "EACH GM CROP CONSIGNMENT SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A POST-HARVEST DECLARATION WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE VARIETY." THE CODE SAYS THAT THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE MAINTAINED DURING SUBSEQUENT TRANSPORTATION OF CONSIGNMENTS.

5. COMMENT. BY ADOPTING THIS CODE OF PRACTICE THE BRITISH INDUSTRY IS REACTING TO THE LARGELY POST-BSE DEMANDS FOR TRACEABILITY. WHILE THE CODE IS APPLICABLE TO THE ENTIRE FOOD CHAIN, THE ADDITIONAL COSTS OF SEGREGATION ARE UNLIKELY TO BE SHARED EQUALLY. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN INVESTMENT RETURNS IN THE FORM OF HIGHER PRICES, SEED DEVELOPERS AND SUPPLIERS WOULD, IN ANY CASE, BE LIKELY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. HOWEVER, UNDER NORMAL MARKET CONDITIONS, FARMERS WOULD ONLY TEND TO BEAR THE ADDITIONAL COSTS OF SEGREGATION IF PREMIA WERE AVAILABLE, FOR INSTANCE FOR CROPS WITH QUALITY TRAITS.

6. BY PROVIDING A "TRACEABILITY GUARANTEE" THE CODE CIRCUMVENTS THE USUAL MARKET MECHANISMS FOR THE PROVISION OF SPECIFIED VARIETIES/PRODUCTION METHODS. THUS, THIS INDUSTRY AGREEMENT MAY HAVE THE UNINTENDED EFFECT OF MAKING BRITISH AGRICULTURE LESS COMPETITIVE IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS. END COMMENT. CROWE

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4595

TOR: 970422073849 M2725386

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
OSRI: RUEHSM
DTG: 281515Z APR 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO: RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA 0061
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RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUCLRFA/USDA WASHDC
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 3431
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9076
INFO: ////
SUBJ: PERMITS FOR GMO CULTIVATION - SWEDEN

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 STOCKHOLM 002481

DEPT. PLEASE PASS USTR

DEPT. FOR OES/ETC (CATHY ENRIGHT), EUR/ERA AND
EB/ATT

USDA FOR FAS/ITP/OFSTS, WEID AND CMP/OPD AND HTP

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: EAGR ETRD SENV TBIO SW EUN AU

SUBJECT: PERMITS FOR GMO CULTIVATION - SWEDEN

L.SUMMARY. THE SWEDISH BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (BOA) ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 24 ITS APPROVAL OF SIX NEW PERMITS FOR CULTIVATION OF GMO CROPS; THREE FOR HERBICIDE RESISTANT RAPESEED, ONE FOR HERBICIDE RESISTANT SUGARBEET AND TWO FOR INDUSTRIAL POTATO WITH MODIFIED STARCH CONTENT. SIMILAR PERMITS HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE BOA FOR SEVERAL CONSECUTIVE YEARS. APPROVAL IS SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS I.E. DISTANCE TO OTHER CULTIVATION OF THE SAME CROP. THESE PERMITS ALLOW FOR CULTIVATION BUT NOT FOR RELEASE ONTO MARKET. END SUMMARY.

2. BELOW ARE UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS OF A PRESS RELEASE FROM BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, APRIL 24 AND A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE IN DAGENS NYHETER, SWEDENS MAJOR DAILY, APRIL 24. THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE PROVIDES CONTENT REGARDING GMO POTATO PERMITS AND NOTES A DEMONSTRATION BY ENVIRONMENTAL

ACTIVISTS AGAINST GMO IN FOOD.

3. BEGIN TEXT.

SIX PERMITS FOR CULTIVATION OF GENETICALLY
MODIFIED PLANTS.

BOA GRANTED PERMISSION FOR CULTIVATION OF GMO
RAPESEED, SUGAR BEET AND POTATO ON THURSDAY
(4/24/97). THE BOARD OF GENE TECHNOLOGY AND THE
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, WHO
RECEIVE APPLICATIONS/SUBMISSIONS FOR
CONSIDERATION, HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO THE BOA
APPROVING PERMITS. THE PERMITS ARE AS A RULE VALID
FOR ONE YEAR. THEY ARE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS SUCH
AS DISTANCE FROM OTHER CULTIVATIONS OF THE SAME
CROP. BOA WILL MONITOR ALL THE CULTIVATIONS DURING
THE SUMMER.

THREE OF THE PERMITS ARE FOR RAPESEED RESISTANT TO
THE HERBICIDE BASTA. ALL THREE CULTIVATIONS WILL
BE IN SOUTHERNMOST SWEDEN. ONE PERMIT IS ISSUED TO
SVALOF WEIBULL AB, ONE TO PLANT GENETICS SYSTEMS
N.V. AND ONE TO THE SWEDISH AGRICULTURAL
UNIVERSITY, SLU. THE LATTER FOR A STUDY OF GENE
DISPERSION.

ONE PERMIT HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR HILLESOG AB
PERTAINING TO CULTIVATIONS OF SUGAR BEET RESISTANT
TO THE HERBICIDES BASTA AND ROUND UP IN SOUTHERN
SWEDEN. THIS PERMIT IS VALID FOR FIVE YEARS WHILE
THE REST ARE ONLY ONE YEAR PERMITS.

TWO PERMITS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO AMOLYGENE HB FOR
THE CULTIVATION OF POTATO FOR INDUSTRIAL USE. ONE
IS FOR POTATO WITH AN INCREASED CONTENT OF STARCH,
THE OTHER IS FOR POTATO WITH AN ALTERED STARCH
COMPOSITION. BOA MUST BE NOTIFIED OF THE EXACT
LOCATIONS BEFORE PLANTING.

THE PERMITS INDICATE THE DISTANCE REQUIRED FOR THE
CULTIVATIONS IN RELATION TO OTHER CULTIVATIONS OF
THE SAME CROP. THE DISTANCE VARIES DEPENDING ON
THE RISK OF POLLEN SPREAD. BOA HOLDS THE
SUPERVISORY JURISDICTION FOR THE CULTIVATION AND
BOA STAFF WILL MONITOR THAT CONDITIONS ARE
RESPECTED. BOA HAVE FOR SEVERAL CONSEQUETIVE YEARS
APPROVED SIMILAR PERMITS FOR THE CULTIVATION OF
GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS. THE ISSUANCE OF
PERMITS IS BASED ON SWEDISH LAW. APPROVAL DOES
NOT MEAN THAT THE CROPS MAY BE RELEASED ON THE
MARKET.

END FIRST TEXT.

BEGIN SECOND TEXT.

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION - DAGENS NYHETER APRIL 25,

1997.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES APPROVED FOR
PLANTING

CRITICS WORRIED. RISK FOR RESISTENCE TO
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 STOCKHOLM 002481

DEPT. PLEASE PASS USTR

DEPT. FOR OES/ETC (CATHY ENRIGHT), EUR/ERA AND
EB/ATT

USDA FOR FAS/ITP/OFSTS, WEID AND CMP/OPD AND HTP

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: EAGR ETRD SENV TBIO SW EUN AU

SUBJECT: PERMITS FOR GMO CULTIVATION - SWEDEN

ANTIBIOTICS. THE SWEDISH COMPANY AMYLOGEN HB ON
APRIL 24 RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM THE SWEDISH BOARD
OF AGRICULTURE TO START SWEDEN'S SO FAR LARGEST
PLANTING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES FOR
INDUSTRIAL USE. A TOTAL OF ABOUT 90 HECTARES WILL
BE PLANTED.

CONVENTIONAL POTATOES CONTAIN TWO DIFFERENT KINDS
OF STARCH. ONE, AMYLO PECTIN, IS WIDELY USED
WITHIN THE PAPER INDUSTRY. THE GENE MODIFICATION
BLOCKS THE SECOND TYPE OF STARCH, AND ALL STARCH
PRODUCED WILL THUS BE OF THE AMYLO PECTINE T
YPE.

THE COMPANY ALSO HOPES THAT THE STARCH WILL
REPLACE OIL BASED RAW MATERIALS NOW USED IN THE
P LASTIC INDUSTRY.

SO FAR, THE GMO POTATOES WILL ONLY BE USED FOR
INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES. HOWEVER, THE STARCH HAS
LARGE POTENTIAL FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY, AND IT IS
CONCEAVALBE THAT AMYLOGEN - AND OTHER COMPANIES -
IN THE FUTURE WILL APPLY FOR PERMIT TO GROW THE
GMO POTATOES FOR USE IN FOOD PRODUCTION.
IN PRODUCING THE GMO POTATO A MARKER HAS BEEN
USED, SHOWING CELLS WITH SUCCESSFUL GENE
MODIFICATION (MANIPULATION).

THE MARKER IS ACTUALLY A GENE PROVING THE CELLS
WITH RESISTANCE TO ANTIBIOTICS SUCH AS CANAMYCIN
AND NEOMYCIN. THE CRITICS CLAIM THAT ARE IS A
RISK THAT THE MARKER OF THE GMO POTATOES WILL
SPREAD, AND RENDER ANTIBIOTICS USED FOR HUMANS
INEFFECTIVE.

HOWEVER, NEITHER CANAMYCIN OR NEOMYCIN IS USED FOR
HOWEVER, AND THE GENE IS APPARENT IN MANY SOIL
BACTERIAS.

EXPERTS DO NOT CONSIDER THE MARKER A THREAT TO
NATURAL RESISTANCE GENES. SIMILAR TRIALS WITH GMO
POTATOES ARE UNDERTAKEN IN THE NETHERLANDS ON
MUCH LARGER AREAS - CLOSE TO 1,000 HECTARES. AT THE
SAME TIME, A FEW MEMBERS OF GREENPEACE

DEMONSTRATED OUTSIDE A FOOD SHOP IN STOCKHOLM ON APRIL 24. THEY PROTESTED AGAINST THE POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF GMO PRODUCTS IN THE SHOP. THE OWNER REMOVED A FEW ITEMS, THAT MIGHT HAVE CONTAINED GMO'S. THE DEMONSTRATORS ALSO DISTRIBUTED PAMPHLETS URGING CUSTOMERS TO PROTEST AGAINST ICA (THE MAJOR RETAIL ORGANIZATION IN SWEDEN, COVERING APPROXIMATELY 45 PERCENT OF THE RETAIL MARKET), AND TO REQUEST GUARANTEES THAT NO GMO FOOD PRODUCTS WILL BE SOLD IN THE FUTURE.

END SECOND TEXT.

HARNISH

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

SSN: 2481
<^SSN>2481

TOR: 970428111758 M2734764
<^TOR>970428111917 M2734769

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Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 072051Z MAY 97
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 072051Z MAY 97
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RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0000
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG 0000
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RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 0000
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0000
RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK 0000
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0000
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 0000
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0000
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 0000
SUBJ: BIOTECHNOLOGY GUIDANCE

ATHENS FOR AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR
BERN FOR AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST
BONN FOR AG MINISTER-COUNSELOR
TEXT:
UNCLAS STATE 085434

BRUSSELS FOR AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EU
SUBJECT: BIOTECHNOLOGY GUIDANCE

ATHENS FOR AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR
BERN FOR AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST
BONN FOR AG MINISTER-COUNSELOR
COPENHAGEN FOR AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE
DUBLIN FOR AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST
GENEVA FOR AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR
HAMBURG FOR AG TRADE OFFICER

HELSINKI FOR ECONOMIC OFFICER
LISBON FOR AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST
LONDON FOR AG MINISTER-COUNSELOR
LUXEMBOURG FOR POL/ECON/COM OFFICER
MADRID FOR AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR
MILAN FOR AGRICULTURAL OFFICER
OSLO FOR AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST
PARIS FOR AG MINISTER-COUNSELOR
REYKJAVIK FOR ECONOMIC OFFICER
ROME FOR AG MINISTER-COUNSELOR
STOCKHOLM FOR AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR
THE HAGUE FOR AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR
VIENNA FOR AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR

1. THIS IS A STATE/USDA CABLE. THIS GUIDANCE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

2. SUMMARY. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS REQUESTS FROM POST FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS AND ACTIONS CONCERNING BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS THAT HAVE BEEN APPROVED IN THE U.S., PARTICULARLY BT/CORN AND HERBICIDE TOLERANT SOYBEANS. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS MEANT TO BE GENERAL ADVICE AS TO HOW TO RESPOND, KEEPING IN MIND THAT EACH SITUATION AND COUNTRY IS DIFFERENT. WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF EACH COUNTRY, EMBASSIES CAN LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMUNICATE THE NEED TO JUDGE BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS ON A SCIENTIFIC BASIS. THE GUIDANCE FOCUSES ON THE U.S. APPROVAL PROCESS, LABELING, CONSUMER RIGHT-TO-KNOW AND SEGREGATION OF PRODUCTS. END SUMMARY.

3. GENERALLY, IF A U.S. COMPANY RECEIVES NEGATIVE COMMENT IN THE PRESS OR BY SPECIFIC GROUPS, IT IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE USG TO RESPOND OR DEFEND THE COMPANY OR ITS PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, THE USG CAN ENCOURAGE THE COMPANY TO ACT ON ITS OWN BEHALF. ALSO, THE USG CAN EXPLAIN THAT THE PRODUCT HAS BEEN APPROVED IN THE U.S., MAKING CLEAR THAT THIS APPROVAL PROCESS IS IMPARTIAL AND BASED ON SOUND SCIENCE. THE USG CAN BRING OUT THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS. IN ADDITION, THE USG CAN ALSO ENCOURAGE COMPANIES TO EXPLAIN THE BENEFITS OF THEIR PARTICULAR PRODUCTS (SEE PARA 6-10).

4. IF QUESTIONS ARE RAISED IN THE PRESS OR BY SPECIFIC GROUPS REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE USG TO A PARTICULAR COMPANY, IT IS USUALLY NOT PRODUCTIVE FOR THE USG TO RESPOND. IF A RESPONSE IS INDICATED, IT IS BETTER FOR THE COMPANY TO RESPOND DIRECTLY. AS IN PARA. 3, THE USG CAN EXPLAIN THAT THE PRODUCT HAS BEEN APPROVED IN THE U.S. AND CAN SPEAK TO THE BENEFITS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS.

5. IF A QUESTION IS ASKED REGARDING THE U.S. APPROVAL OF A SPECIFIC PRODUCT OR REGARDING THE U.S. APPROVAL PROCESS IN GENERAL, A FACTUAL RESPONSE IS RECOMMENDED.

IF MISSTATEMENTS ARE MADE IN THE PRESS OR BY SPECIFIC GROUPS REGARDING THE U.S. APPROVAL PROCESS, A CLARIFICATION MAY BE NECESSARY DEPENDING ON THE SEVERITY OF THE MISSTATEMENT. IT IS NOT RECOMMENDED

TO ENTER INTO A CONSTANT GIVE-AND-TAKE REGARDING MISSTATEMENTS. THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS (PARA. 6) CAN BE USED AS A GENERAL RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS. MORE SPECIFIC BACKGROUND AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWS THE GENERAL TALKING POINTS (PARA. 7-10).

6. GENERAL TALKING POINTS:

- USG FEDERAL POLICY FOR THE REGULATION OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY IS BASED ON THE 1986 COORDINATED FRAMEWORK FOR THE REGULATION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. THE FRAMEWORK OUTLINES THE REGULATORY PATHWAY FOR THE TESTING AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS AS THEY MOVE FROM THE LABORATORY TO THE FIELD TO THE MARKETPLACE.

-THE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO CAREFULLY EVALUATE PRODUCTS FOR RISKS TO HUMAN, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH, AND RISKS TO ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY. APPROVALS ARE GROUNDED IN RIGOROUS SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS SO THAT RISKS ARE ADDRESSED BEFORE PRODUCTS REACH THE MARKET.

-THE USG ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT BIOTECHNOLOGY WILL BE IMPORTANT TO MEET OUR CONTINUING NEED FOR INCREASED AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION. IT PROVIDES A SET OF TOOLS THAT CAN POTENTIALLY LEAD TO DECREASED DEPENDENCY ON CHEMICAL PESTICIDES, INCREASED YIELDS, ENHANCED NUTRIENT CONTENT AND REDUCED TILLAGE AND SOIL LOSSES.

-THE USG REGULATORY PROCESS IS AN OPEN AND PUBLIC PROCESS. THE U.S. FEDERAL AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR REGULATING BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS HAVE ALL HELD OPEN, PUBLIC MEETINGS WITH SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANELS WHEN DEVELOPING THEIR OVERALL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND WHEN REVIEWING SPECIFIC PRODUCTS. THESE AGENCIES HAVE JOINTLY SPONSORED OPEN MEETINGS TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC RISK ISSUES.

7. USG POLICY ON LABELING:

-THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELING OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS AND FOOD INGREDIENTS OR ADDITIVES SOLELY DUE TO THEIR MEANS OF PRODUCTION (I.E., BECAUSE THEY ARE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED). LIKEWISE, THE USG HAS NOT REQUIRED LABELING FOR OTHER METHODS OF PLANT BREEDING. FOR EXAMPLE, SWEET CORN IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE LABELED "JUVHYBRID SWEET CORN" BECAUSE IT WAS DEVELOPED THROUGH CROSS-HYBRIDIZATION.

-FOOD LABELING IN THE U.S. CAN BE USED TO CONVEY A VARIETY OF INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO CONSUMERS. HOWEVER, IN THE U.S., LABELING REQUIREMENTS ARE

GENERALLY LIMITED TO INFORMATION CONCERNING ATTRIBUTES OF THE FOOD ITSELF, SUCH AS NUTRITIONAL COMPOSITION, INGREDIENTS, SPECIAL SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS (SUCH AS THE PRESENCE OF ALLERGENS) AND ANY REQUIRED HANDLING AND CONDITIONS OF SAFE USE. ADDITIONALLY, LABELING MAY NOT BE FALSE OR MISLEADING.

-THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS ARE INHERENTLY LESS SAFE THAN FOODS DERIVED FROM CONVENTIONAL TECHNIQUES OR SHARE ANY COMMON INTRINSIC PROPERTIES OR CHARACTERISTICS. THEREFORE, AS A CLASS, SUCH FOODS DO NOT WARRANT MANDATORY LABELING.

8. "CONSUMER'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW":

-THE USG BELIEVES THAT CONSUMERS SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS AND ENCOURAGES MANUFACTURERS TO PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION. HOWEVER, UNDER U.S. LAWS AND POLICY, MANDATORY DISCLOSURES ON FOOD LABELS ARE GENERALLY LIMITED TO INFORMATION CONCERNING ATTRIBUTES OF THE FOOD ITSELF SUCH AS INFORMATION ON HEALTH, SAFETY, ALTERED NUTRITIONAL COMPOSITION, REQUIRED HANDLING AND CONDITIONS OF SAFE USE.

-THE USG BELIEVES THAT REQUIRING INFORMATION ON A LABEL AS TO WHETHER A PRODUCT, OR PART OF A PRODUCT, HAS BEEN PRODUCED THROUGH GENETIC ENGINEERING WOULD PROVIDE NO INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE FOOD ITSELF.

-THE USG BELIEVES THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MEANS OTHER THAN LABELING, SUCH AS EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND PUBLIC FORA, WHICH CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE CONSUMER ON GENETIC ENGINEERING.

-THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT PROHIBIT VOLUNTARY LABELING WHICH DESCRIBES THE METHOD OF PRODUCTION FOR A PRODUCT, PROVIDED THAT THE INFORMATION IS NOT FALSE OR MISLEADING.

9. SEGREGATION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS:

-THE USG DOES NOT ORDINARILY REQUIRE THE SEGREGATION OF FOOD PRODUCTS BECAUSE THEY ARE DERIVED FROM GMOS. THE USG ALSO DOES NOT CERTIFY "GMO FREE" PRODUCTS.

-THE USG DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE PRIVATE SECTOR FROM SEGREGATING FOODS DERIVED FROM GMOS.

-HOWEVER, THE USG BELIEVES THAT THE DIFFICULTIES AND COSTS IN APPLYING SUCH LABELING TO COMMINGLED COMMODITIES AND TO PROCESSED FOODS CONTAINING INGREDIENTS FROM MANY DIFFERENT SOURCES WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL.

-IN ADDITION, THIS COST WOULD BE BORNE BY ALL CONSUMERS REGARDLESS OF THE LEVEL OF THEIR OWN

CONCERNS AND WITHOUT PROVIDING INFORMATION THAT WOULD LEAD TOWARD ANY GREATER ASSURANCE OF SAFETY.

10. BACKGROUND ON DATA THAT COMPANIES SUBMIT TO U.S. REGULATORY AGENCIES:

-USDA AND EPA HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY ASSESSMENTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE OF PLANTS THAT HAVE BEEN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED. USDA'S RESPONSIBILITY EXTENDS TO VIRTUALLY ALL GENETICALLY ENGINEERED PLANTS WHILE EPA HAS EXERCISED ITS AUTHORITY FOR A SUBSET OF THESE PLANTS, PLANTS WITH PESTICIDAL CHARACTERISTICS (E.G., BT CORN).

-FDA HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FOOD SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR NEW PLANT VARIETIES DEVELOPED THROUGH THE NEW BIOTECHNOLOGY. EPA HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FOOD SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS SPECIFICALLY STEMMING FROM THE PESTICIDAL SUBSTANCE PRODUCED IN THE PLANT.

-ALL THREE REGULATORY AGENCIES MAKE THEIR DECISIONS BASED ON A THOROUGH ANALYSIS BY TEAMS OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS REPRESENTING THE FIELDS OF CHEMISTRY, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, TOXICOLOGY, PLANT PATHOLOGY, HUMAN AND ANIMAL NUTRITION, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND THE REGULATION OF FOOD INGREDIENTS.

-USDA/APHIS' REGULATORY DECISION IS BASED ON IT OWN ANALYSIS AND FINDING THAT THE NEW PLANT VARIETY:

- 1.EXHIBITS NO PLANT PATHOGENIC PROPERTIES;
- 2.IS NO MORE LIKELY TO BECOME A WEED THAN THE NON-ENGINEERED PLANT;
- 3.IS NOT LIKELY TO INCREASE THE WEEDINESS OF ANY OTHER PLANT WITH WHICH IT IS SEXUALLY COMPATIBLE;
- 4.WILL NOT CAUSE DAMAGE TO PROCESSED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES; AND

- 5.IS NOT LIKELY TO HARM OTHER ORGANISMS THAT ARE BENEFICIAL TO AGRICULTURE.

-EPA ANALYZES DATA RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WHEN CONDUCTING ITS RISK ASSESSMENT:

- 1.HOW MUCH AND WHERE IS THE PESTICIDAL SUBSTANCE PRODUCED IN THE PLANT?
- 2.WHEN (DURING THE PLANT'S LIFE CYCLE) IS THE PESTICIDAL SUBSTANCE PRODUCED?
- 3.IS THE PESTICIDAL SUBSTANCE PERSISTENT IN THE ENVIRONMENT?
- 4.WHAT NON-TARGET ORGANISMS WILL BE EXPOSED (E.G., ARE HONEY BEES EXPOSED)?
- 5.ARE THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES EXPOSED?
- 6.IS THERE TOXICITY TO BENEFICIAL NON-TARGET ORGANISMS?
- 7.WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL TOXIC EFFECTS TO HUMANS?

-IN 1992, FDA PUBLISHED A STATEMENT THAT EXPLAINS HOW

FOOD AND FEEDS DERIVED FROM NEW PLANT VARIETIES, INCLUDING THOSE DEVELOPED THROUGH MODERN BIOTECHNOLOGY, ARE REGULATED UNDER THE FOOD, DRUG AND COSMETIC ACT (FDCA). IN THIS POLICY STATEMENT FDA PROVIDED GUIDANCE, IN THE FORM OF A DECISION TREE, TO INDUSTRY. THIS DECISION TREE DESCRIBES THE STANDARD THAT FDA WOULD USE IN ENSURING THE SAFETY OF THESE FOODS.

-FDA'S REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBSTANCES INTRODUCED INTO FOOD VIA BREEDING, SUCH AS OCCURS WITH GENETIC ENGINEERING, ARE THE SAME AS FOR TRADITIONAL FOOD ADDITIVES. IF THE NEW SUBSTANCE IS NOT GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS SAFE, IT MUST BE RECEIVE FORMAL APPROVAL BY FDA BEFORE IT MAY BE SOLD. TO DATE, VIRTUALLY ALL NEW SUBSTANCES INTRODUCED INTO FOOD BY WAY OF GENETIC ENGINEERING HAVE BEEN PROTEINS THAT ARE OF THE KIND COMMONLY FOUND IN FOOD, AND THEREFORE HAVE NOT BEEN SUBJECT TO FORMAL FDA APPROVAL.

-IN ADDITION TO ITS FORMAL REVIEW PROCESS, FDA CONSULTS WITH COMPANIES AS THEY DEVELOP NEW BIO-ENGINEERED FOOD PRODUCTS. DURING THAT CONSULTATION PROCESS, THE AGENCY SEEKS TO ENSURE THAT ANY POTENTIAL SAFETY OR REGULATORY QUESTIONS ARE RESOLVED PRIOR TO MARKETING. AS PART OF THAT PROCESS, THE AGENCY REVIEWS INFORMATION ON:

- 1.THE SOURCE, IDENTITY, AND FUNCTION OF THE INTRODUCED GENETIC MATERIAL AND THE CONCENTRATION OF THE EXPRESSED PRODUCT IN THE FINAL FOOD;
- 2.THE INTENDED TECHNICAL EFFECT OF THE GENETIC

MODIFICATION, AND ITS EXPECTED EFFECT ON THE COMPOSITION OR CHARACTERISTIC PROPERTIES OF THE FOOD;

- 3.THE COMPOSITION OF FOOD FROM THE MODIFIED PLANT AS COMPARED TO THAT FROM COMMONLY CONSUMED VARIETIES, LOOKING BOTH AT SIGNIFICANT NUTRIENTS AND TOXICANTS;
- 4.THE POTENTIAL FOR THE NEW VARIETY TO HAVE ALTERED ALLERGENIC PROPERTIES; AND
- 5.ANY OTHER INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE SAFETY AND NUTRITIONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE BIO-ENGINEERED FOOD.

TALBOTT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5434

TOR: 970507170159 M2748833

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COLLECTION:

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

TEXT:
UNCLAS DUBLIN 002311

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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

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GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EI, EUN
SUBJ: COURT CHALLENGE TEMPORARILY BLOCKS GMO SUGARBEET
-- FIELD TRIALS IN IRELAND

REF: DUBLIN 2127

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED -- PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

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

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

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

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

5. (SBU) MONSANTO REPRESENTATIVES REPORTED THAT THE IRISH EPA WAS A DIFFICULT AGENCY TO DEAL WITH DURING THE 90/220 (EC DIRECTIVE) APPLICATION PROCESS. THEY CLAIMED THAT THE EPA PUT THE MONSANTO APPLICATION "THROUGH HOOPS" AND THE MOST "RIGOROUS SCRUTINY" OF ANY EU COUNTRY IN WHICH GMO APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN FILED BY MONSANTO (EVEN WORSE THAN DENMARK, THEY SAID). MONSANTO REPS WERE VERY ANGRY BECAUSE, THEY FELT THAT THE EPA "DRIP FED" THE MEDIA WITH INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS IN ADVANCE OF INFORMING MONSANTO, RATHER THAN KEEPING TO A MORE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC STANCE OF "NO COMMENT WHILE THE APPLICATION IS UNDER CONSIDERATION."

6. (SBU) IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING NEGATIVE MEDIA COVERAGE OVER THE GMO SUGARBEET APPLICATION, MONSANTO HAS DECIDED THAT IT WILL BEGIN TO CONTACT OTHER BIOTECH INDUSTRY FIRMS OPERATING IN IRELAND, AS WELL AS ACADEMICS WORKING ON BIOTECH RESEARCH PROJECTS (MONSANTO CLAIMS THERE ARE OVER 300 SUCH PROJECTS TAKING PLACE IN IRELAND NOW) IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A BALANCED, INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND GMOS. MONSANTO ASKED EMBOFFS FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO APPROACH

THIS GROWING PROBLEM.

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

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

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2311

TOR: 970514115624 M2758261

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHLEA0474 1421539-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH (CCY ADDEE ADX BD73EB/MSI8163)
LINE3: R 221539Z MAY 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
OSRI: RUEHLE
DTG: 221539Z MAY 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7658
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 2206
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 7876
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
SUBJ: LUXEMBOURG GREENPEACE AND CACTUS SUPERMARKET
CHAIN JOINTLY CAMPAIGN AGAINST GMO'S

SUMMARY

TEXT: UNCLAS LUXEMBOURG 000474

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - USEU BRUSSELS ADDED

BRUSSELS FOR USEU
THE HAGUE FOR AGATT

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, LU
SUBJECT: LUXEMBOURG GREENPEACE AND CACTUS SUPERMARKET
CHAIN JOINTLY CAMPAIGN AGAINST GMO'S

SUMMARY

L.GREENPEACE LUXEMBOURG AND THE LUXEMBOURG "CACTUS"
SUPERMARKET CHAIN HAVE LAUNCHED A JOINT INITIATIVE
AGAINST GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S).
CACTUS AGREED TO DISPLAY A LIST OF PRODUCTS GUARANTEED
BY SUPPLIERS NOT TO CONTAIN GMO'S FOLLOWING RECENT
GREENPEACE PROTESTS OUTSIDE ITS STORES. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO A MAY 21 REPORT IN ALE REPUBLICAIN
LORRAIN", GREENPEACE AND THE CACTUS SUPERMARKET CHAIN
HAVE LAUNCHED A JOINT CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT THE SPREAD OF
GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S). CACTUS IS
LUXEMBOURG'S LARGEST SUPERMARKET AND RESTAURANT CHAIN
AND RANKS AS FIFTH LARGEST EMPLOYER IN LUXEMBOURG. IT
IS PARTLY OWNED BY PRIVATE LUXEMBOURG SHAREHOLDERS
(FRERES LEGES) AND BY THE SWISS FOOD GROUP

"MOVENPICK."

3. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE CACTUS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL PUBLISH A SO-CALLED "POSITIVE LISTS OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING SOY, GUARANTEED BY THE SUPPLIER NOT TO CONTAIN ANY GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOY ORIGINATING FROM U.S. SUPPLIER MONSANTO. SUCH A LIST WILL BE DISPLAYED AT CACTUS OUTLETS IN LUXEMBOURG.

4. GREENPEACE LUXEMBOURG STARTED PROTEST CAMPAIGNS INCLUDING DEMONSTRATIONS OUTSIDE CACTUS STORES FOLLOWING THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S DECISION AGAINST MANDATORY LABELING OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMO'S. CACTUS' REACTION WAS TO AGREE TO THE JOINT CAMPAIGN AGAINST GMO'S. HOWEVER, CACTUS' MANAGEMENT STATED THAT LISTING PRODUCTS WHICH CONTAIN GMO'S WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO IT SINCE THIS MAY BE SEEN AS A CALL FOR BOYCOTTING SUCH PRODUCTS. THIS DID NOT STOP GREENPEACE REPS AT THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE FROM MENTIONING THE NAMES OF COMPANIES ADDING GMO'S TO THEIR PRODUCTS SUCH AS UNILEVER.

5. COMMENT: LUXEMBOURG'S FOOD RETAIL MARKET HAS UNTIL RECENTLY DOMINATED BY TWO SUPERMARKET CHAINS CACTUS AND MATCH. THE FRENCH GROUP AUCHAN OPENED AN OUTLET IN LUXEMBOURG CITY IN OCTOBER 1996, WHICH HAS BEEN SEEN AS A THREAT TO THE STATUS QUO OF TRADITIONAL OUTLETS. IN RESPONSE CACTUS LAUNCHED A MARKETING STRATEGY OUTLINING THE BENEFITS OF THE TRADITIONAL SUPERIOR QUALITY OF ITS PRODUCTS TO APPEAL TO LUXEMBOURG'S CONSUMERS. CACTUS MAY VIEW JOINING GREENPEACE ON GMO'S AS A USEFUL ADDITION TO ITS CURRENT MARKETING STRATEGY. END COMMENT.
CONSTANTINOU

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0474

TOR: 970523053539 M2772032

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHDLA2607 1481619-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 281619Z MAY 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
OSRI: RUEHDL
DTG: 281619Z MAY 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1522
INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0050
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0114
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: IRISH COURT OK'S GMO SUGARBEET PLANTING

TEXT:

UNCLAS DUBLIN 002607

USMISSION FOR USTR

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EUN, EI

SUBJECT: IRISH COURT OK'S GMO SUGARBEET PLANTING

REF: A) DUBLIN 2311 B) DUBLIN 2127

1. THE HIGH COURT DECIDED MAY 27 TO ALLOW MONSANTO TO PLANT ITS GENETICALLY-MODIFIED SUGARBEETS AT AN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER IN IRELAND. ON MAY 13, AT THE REQUEST OF "GENETIC CONCERN," THE COURT HAD GRANTED A TEMPORARY INJUNCTION AGAINST PLANTING (REF A) BASED ON THE COMPLAINANT'S FEAR OF THE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES TO HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT. IN ITS MAY 27 DECISION, THE COURT RULED THAT THE INJUNCTION COULD NOT BE SUSTAINED ABSENT "PROOF OF A WELL-GROUNDED APPREHENSION OF INJURY TO THE EXTENT OF A STRONG PROBABILITY ALMOST AMOUNTING TO A MORAL CERTAINTY." THE COURT FOUND THAT THIS BURDEN OF PROOF HAD NOT BEEN MET BY GENETIC CONCERN'S APPLICATION.

2. GENETIC CONCERN HAS REQUESTED JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THE EPA DECISION TO DETERMINE IF PROPER PROCEDURES WERE FOLLOWED IN ADJUDICATING MONSANTO'S APPLICATION. THE REVIEW IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN JUNE OR JULY. WE SPOKE WITH ONE OF MONSANTO'S DUBLIN-BASED PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVISORS ABOUT NEXT STEPS. ACCORDING TO THE ADVISOR, MONSANTO BEGAN PLANTING THE SUGARBEETS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COURT RULING AND IS EXPECTED FINISH ON MAY 28. MONSANTO IS NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PENDING JUDICIAL REVIEW, AS: THE MOST IMPORTANT

PHASE OF THE TRIAL PLANTING WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE TIME
THE CASE IS HEARD (THUS EVEN IF MONSANTO HAS TO PULL UP
THE PLANTING, IT WOULD HAVE THE TEST RESULTS IN HAND);
AND MONSANTO IS CONFIDENT THAT THE EPA, IF ANYTHING, WAS
TOO CAUTIOUS IN ITS ADJUDICATION OF THE APPLICATION.

SMITH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2607

TOR: 970528131230 M2777648

DIST:

SIT: NSC