

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

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

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[06/04/1997 - 08/28/1997]

2013-0836-F

ke3006

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHBSA3995 1551710-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 041710Z JUN 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 041710Z JUN 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3710
INFO: RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 9342
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: COMMISSION PROPONENTS OF GMO SEGREGATION ADVANCE
THEIR CASE

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By 72 NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (1.57)

TEXT:
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BRUSSELS 003995

STATE PASS TO USTR FOR SHER AND MURPHY
STATE PASS TO USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, FAS/OA/GALVIN,
FAS/ITP/ADA/SHEIKH, ITP/OFSTS/SLUTSKY, FAS/ITP/EAMED/THORN

E.O. 12958: 06/05/07
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN
SUBJECT: COMMISSION PROPONENTS OF GMO SEGREGATION ADVANCE
THEIR CASE

1. CLASSIFIED BY DCM DONALD B. KURSCH. REASON 1.5 (B/D)
2. ~~(C)~~ A SENIOR, WELL PLACED COMMISSION OFFICIAL INFORMED DCM JUNE 4 THAT THE MODERATE PROPOSALS FOR HANDLING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) DEVELOPED BY COMMISSION SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAMSON AND STRONGLY ENDORSED BY COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT BRITTAN HAD "TAKEN A DRUBBING". HE FEARED THAT IF WILLIAMSON'S PROPOSAL IS NOT APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION, A RADICAL ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL REQUIRING THAT ALL GMOS BE SEGREGATED WAS LIKELY TO BE ENDORSED. THIS ALTERNATIVE, SPEARHEADED BY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER FISCHLER, WAS GATHERING UP STEAM AND OTHER KEY COMMISSIONERS SUCH AS BJERREGAARD (ENVIRONMENT) AND BONINO (CONSUMER AFFAIRS) WERE RELUCTANT TO SUPPORT THE WILLIAMSON APPROACH FOR FEAR OF APPEARING TO BE SOFT ON THE HIGHLY SENSITIVE ISSUE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION. OUR SOURCE NOTED FURTHER THAT PRESIDENT SANTER'S LEADERSHIP ON THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN "WOBILY", AND NEEDED SHORING UP. HE COMMENTED THAT WITHOUT SANTER'S FORCEFUL HANDLING OF THIS QUESTION THERE WAS A GREAT POTENTIAL FOR THINGS TO GO WRONG.
3. ~~(C)~~ OPPONENTS OF THE PROPOSAL TO SEGREGATE GMOS WITHIN THE COMMISSION ARE GATHERING INFORMATION TO DEMONSTRATE THE ENORMOUS COSTS THAT WOULD BE INCURRED IF FISCHLER'S APPROACH

WERE TO BE ADOPTED. A CRASH EFFORT TO WORK WITH EUROPEAN TRADE ASSOCIATIONS WAS BEING MOUNTED IN ORDER TO GENERATE OPPOSITION. OUR SOURCE COMMENTED THAT EVEN FRENCH TRADERS ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH FISCHLER'S IDEAS, BUT CONTINUED THAT THE HIGHLY EMOTIONAL ENVIRONMENT GENERATED BY BSE HAD CREATED A SITUATION WHERE RATIONAL ECONOMIC CONCERNS COULD BE EASILY OVERRIDDEN.

4. ~~(C)~~ OUR CONTACT EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT TIME FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION MAY BE VERY SHORT SINCE WILLIAMSON'S PROPOSALS ARE EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE COMMISSION ON JUNE 10 AND COULD WELL BE REJECTED AT THAT SESSION. AS A RESULT, QUICK ACTION WAS CRITICAL.

5. ~~(C)~~ MISSION IS IN THE PROCESS OF SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE AMBASSADOR WITH SANTER AND SEVERAL OTHER KEY COMMISSIONERS TO EXPRESS OUR SERIOUS CONCERNS REGARDING ANY MEASURES TO SEGREGATE GMOS WHICH, IF ADOPTED, WOULD EFFECTIVELY CUT OFF LARGE PORTIONS OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE EU. IN OUR EFFORT TO TRY AND HEAD THESE BAD IDEAS OFF AT THE PASS WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON INPUT ON AN URGENT BASIS. GIVEN THE SHORT TIME FRAME WE MAY BE WORKING WITH AND THE VERY SERIOUS COMMERCIAL REPERCUSSIONS OF A BAD COMMISSION DECISION, MISSION RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON DIRECT APPROACHES TO KEY CONTACTS IN MEMBER STATES UNDERSCORING OUR SERIOUS CONCERNS.
WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3995

TOR: 970604131816 M2789332

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA5013 1571425-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 061425Z JUN 97

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

OSRI: RUEHVI

DTG: 061425Z JUN 97

ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1910
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0068

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0135

SUBJ: AUSTRIAN AG MINISTER ASKS AMBASSADOR TO PUSH FOR
- SEGREGATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS

TEXT:

UNCLAS VIENNA 005013

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, PASS USTR, EPA, FDA
USDA FAS FOR ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT, COTS/BLUM,
- OA/GALVIN, OSEC/DRAZEK
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE, GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN AG MINISTER ASKS AMBASSADOR TO PUSH FOR
- SEGREGATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS

REF: VIENNA 3147

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

2. AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER WILHELM MOLTERER HAS ASKED AMBASSADOR IN WRITING TO APPEAL TO U.S. AUTHORITIES NOT TO ALLOW MIXING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS WITH THE COMMODITY MAINSTREAM. A COPY OF LETTER IN ORIGINAL GERMAN HAS BEEN FAXED TO GREGG YOUNG, USDA/FAS/ITP/OFSTS. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

THE OUTCOME OF THE NATIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST APPLICATION OF GENE TECHNOLOGICAL METHODS IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURE IN AUSTRIA A FEW WEEKS AGO IS DOUBTLESS KNOWN TO YOU. WITH THE HIGH LEVEL OF SUPPORT OF THIS INITIATIVE, THE AUSTRIAN POPULATION HAS EXPRESSED ITS CONCERNS AND DISCOMFORT WITH RESPECT TO THE APPLICATION OF THIS TECHNOLOGY. THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TAKES THESE CONCERNS QUITE SERIOUSLY.

IN PARTICULAR THE INITIATIVE'S BACKERS FOCUSSED ON THE PROBLEMATIC NATURE OF ENTRY INTO COMMERCE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS. IN PARTICULAR THE CIRCUMSTANCE OF BRINGING MODIFIED SOYBEANS FROM THE UNITED STATES IN THE FORM OF A MIXTURE OF TRADITIONALLY BRED VARIETIES AND GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS WAS VIEWED AS ESPECIALLY PROBLEMATIC, IN THAT BECAUSE OF THAT NO DIFFERENTIATION IS POSSIBLE FOR THE END USER. IN ADDITION THE PRODUCERS OF FURTHER-PROCESSED PRODUCTS, WHO WANT TO OFFER THEIR CONSUMERS GOODS PRODUCED WITHOUT GENETIC MODIFICATION, HAVE NO OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE "GENE TECHNOLOGY-FREE" SOY PRODUCTS.

I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY, VERY RESPECTED MADAM AMBASSADOR, TO APPEAL EMPHATICALLY TO AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES, THAT THE EXPORTING ENTERPRISES ABSTAIN FROM SHIPPING MIXED CARGOES IN THE FUTURE, IN ORDER THAT AN EASY DISTINCTION CAN BE MADE BETWEEN GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS ON THE ONE HAND AND TRADITIONALLY PRODUCED BEANS ON THE OTHER.

I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS, AND I REMAIN MOST RESPECTFULLY, YOUR

/SIGNATURE/MOLTERER

END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: THE KLIMA GOVERNMENT HAS COME UNDER FIRE RECENTLY FROM THE FACTIONS WHICH ORGANIZED THE NATIONAL ANTI-GMO INITIATIVE (REFTEL) FOR ALLEGED "INACTION" DESPITE THE HIGH TURNOUT OF AUSTRIAN VOTERS AGAINST GENETIC MODIFICATION. WE VIEW THIS LETTER MORE AS A GESTURE TO APPEASE THOSE FACTIONS THAN AS AN EXPRESSION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY. STILL, IT IS DISQUIETING TO SEE IT FROM MOLTERER, HERETOFORE A SUPPORTER OF GENE TECHNOLOGY. WE NOTE ALSO THAT THIS LETTER SQUARES WELL WITH EU AG COMMISSIONER FISCHLER'S LATEST LINE ON SEGREGATION OF GMO'S. END COMMENT.
CORBETT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5013

TOR: 970606114819 M2793287

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBAA4131 1611255-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 101255Z JUN 97

LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS

OSRI: RUEHB

DTG: 101255Z JUN 97

ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC

INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

SUBJ: COMMISSIONERS DIVIDED ON FUTURE EU GMO POLICY

TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 0044131

SENSITIVE

USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/ADA/SHEIKH,
ITP/EAMED/THORN/CHESLEY/WHEATLEY,
ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT/SLUTSKY, CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER,
CMP/CTOS/BENNETT, APHIS FORMEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE
STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
STATE PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI
STATE PASS FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN

SUBJECT: COMMISSIONERS DIVIDED ON FUTURE EU GMO POLICY

REFERENCES: USEU BRUSSELS

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT
ACCORDINGLY.

2. SUMMARY. FUTURE EU POLICY REGARDING TREATMENT OF
GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS AND DERIVED PRODUCTS
REMAINS AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ISSUE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION ACCORDING TO JIM CLOOS, CHIEF OF STAFF FOR
COMMISSION PRESIDENT SANTER. SECRETARY GENERAL
WILLIAMSON'S PAPER ATTEMPTING TO FIND A REASONABLE

SOLUTION HAS MET WITH A DIVISIVE DEBATE. WHILE NO SPECIFIC DATE EXISTS FOR A DECISION ON THE WILLIAMSON PAPER, ACTION WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE AUGUST. SOME COMMISSION SOURCES ARE INDICATING THAT THE USG SHOULD RAISE THE PROFILE OF THIS ISSUE BEFORE MORE EXTREME POSITIONS ARE TAKEN. END SUMMARY.

3. USEU AMBASSADOR WEAVER MET WITH JIM CLOOS, CHIEF OF STAFF FOR COMMISSION PRESIDENT SANTER, ON JUNE 6 TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS FACING FUTURE EU POLICY ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (REFTEL). AMBASSADOR WEAVER OPENED BY POINTING OUT THE BENEFITS OF GMO'S AND THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH MANDATORY SEGREGATION. IN ADDITION, HE ASKED FOR PRESIDENT SANTER'S CONTINUED SUPPORT IN THE APPROVAL OF SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAMSON'S PAPER SETTING THE FUTURE OF EU GMO POLICIES.

4. CLOOS THANKED WEAVER FOR THE INFORMATION AND INDICATED THAT THE ISSUE WAS EXTREMELY POLITICALLY SENSITIVE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION. HE LAMENTED THE FACT THAT THE ISSUE WAS NOT BEING HANDLED EFFECTIVELY OR EFFICIENTLY, FURTHER HEIGHTENING CONSUMER CONCERNS. THE ISSUE OF LABELING WAS A COMPLEX AREA WITH A VERY NARROW LINE BETWEEN HEALTH CONCERNS, PRODUCTION METHODS AND CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO KNOW. HOWEVER, CLOOS SAID THAT VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE COMPANIES THAT HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY APPROACHED TO PROVIDE VOLUNTARY LABELING OF THEIR PREVIOUSLY-APPROVED GMO'S HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE COMMISSION REQUEST.

5. SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAMSON'S COMPREHENSIVE PAPER ON GMO POLICY, CLOOS SAID, WAS AN ATTEMPT TO CHART A FUTURE PATH FOR THE EU BY BRINGING TOGETHER VARIOUS OUTSTANDING COMMISSION PROPOSALS. THIS HAD SPARKED A HEATED DEBATE WITHIN THE COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS ON HOW TO PROCEED. THIS DEBATE WAS CREATING PROBLEMS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE WILLIAMSON PAPER IN LIGHT OF MORE EXTREME POSITIONS CURRENTLY BEING CIRCULATED.

6. WHEN ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD PROCEED ON JUNE 10 WITH THE WILLIAMSON PAPER, CLOOS RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD BE LATER. HE SAID NO DEFINITE DATE HAD BEEN SET BUT THAT IT WOULD OCCUR PRIOR TO THE END OF SUMMER.

7. IN DISCUSSING THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR EU BIOTECH POLICY, CLOOS SAID THAT HE HAD RECENTLY BEGUN TO QUESTION THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN SETTING POLICY ON SUCH MATTERS. HE SPECIFICALLY POINTED TO A RECENT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY HEARING IN WHICH A NUMBER OF U.S. SCIENTISTS HAD PRESENTED TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF THE CONTINUED BAN ON IMPORTS OF BEEF PRODUCED WITH GROWTH PROMOTERS.

8. IN CLOSING, CLOOS INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT SANTER HOPED TO FIND A SOLUTION THAT WOULD CALM CONSUMERS AND BE REASONABLE FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE COMPLEX ISSUE. WEAVER INDICATED THAT HE AND HIS STAFF WOULD BE CONTACTING SEVERAL COMMISSIONERS WHO ARE NOT NORMALLY

INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURAL ISSUES TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE WILLIAMSON PAPER. CLOOS FELT THAT THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 004131

SENSITIVE

USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/ADA/SHEIKH,
ITP/EAMED/THORN/CHESLEY/WHEATLEY,
ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT/SLUTSKY, CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER,
CMP/CTOS/BENNETT, APHIS FORMEDLEY/KUBICEK/PAYNE
STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
STATE PASS EPA FOR MILEWSKI
STATE PASS FDA FOR MARYANSKI AND FLAMM
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN

SUBJECT: COMMISSIONERS DIVIDED ON FUTURE EU GMO POLICY

9. COMMENT. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IS BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE. ON THE ONE HAND IT WANTS TO BE SEEN AS AGGRESSIVE ON CONSUMER HEALTH ISSUES IN LIGHT OF BSE. ON THE OTHER, THERE ARE MODERATE VOICES THAT UNDERSTAND THE REPERCUSSIONS THAT EXTREME EU POLICIES SUCH AS MANDATORY SEGREGATION AND LABELING WOULD CREATE.

10. SEVERAL COMMISSION SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD RAISE THE PROFILE OF THIS ISSUE IN THE COMING WEEKS. HOWEVER THIS MUST BE HANDLED CAREFULLY GIVEN BSE AND THE RECENT PRESS COVERAGE OF THE HORMONE CASE. USEU HAS BEGUN WORKING LEVEL CONTACT WITH THE STAFFS OF NUMEROUS COMMISSIONERS IN AN EFFORT TO SHORE UP SUPPORT FOR A MODERATE APPROACH IN FUTURE COMMISSION DISCUSSION. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE RAMIFICATIONS OF MANDATORY SEGREGATION INCLUDING POTENTIAL COSTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. END COMMENT.
(DRAFTED:FAS:RICHEY) KURSCH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 4131

<^SSN>4131

TOR: 970610101330 M2797673

<^TOR>970610090026 M2797535

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA5189 1630901-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 120901Z JUN 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 120901Z JUN 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1967
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0075
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0065
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0142
SUBJ: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE AUSTRIAN GMO SECTOR
TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 005189

SENSITIVE

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

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PINR, PROP, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE AUSTRIAN GMO SECTOR

REF: VIENNA 02665

STCABLE 726

A. SUMMARY

AUSTRIA'S BAN ON NOVARTIS BT CORN WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ACCEPTED BY BRUSSELS. IN JULY OR SEPTEMBER AT THE LATEST, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL PROBABLY DECLARE AUSTRIA'S BAN ILLEGAL. IN THIS CASE BARBARA PRAMMER, MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND MARTIN BARTENSTEIN, MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, YOUTH AND FAMILY AFFAIRS ARE READY TO BRING THE CASE TO THE EUROPEAN COURT. AFTER IT BECAME KNOWN THAT BRUSSELS APPROVED TWO GENETICALLY MODIFIED RAPE VARIETIES, PRAMMER STATED THAT THESE VARIETIES WOULD BE BANNED BY AUSTRIA. IN THE QUESTION OF GMO FIELD RELEASE, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT AND GENE TECHNOLOGY OPPONENTS ARE GETTING CLOSER.

UNCLASSIFIED

B. AUSTRIA'S BAN ON BT CORN TO FALL SOON?

1. ACCORDING TO TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPER REPORTS, AUSTRIA'S BAN ON BT CORN WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ACCEPTED BY BRUSSELS. A SPOKESMAN OF EU ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER RITT BJRREGAARD SAID THAT THREE SCIENTIFIC BOARDS CAME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION: THE DOCUMENTS FORWARDED TO BRUSSELS BY AUSTRIA TO SUPPORT THE BAN ON BT CORN INCLUDED NO NEW INFORMATION CONCERNING HEALTH HAZARDS.

2. THUS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT IN THE SECOND HALF OF JUNE, BJRREGAARD'S AGENCY WILL RECOMMEND TO AN EXPERT BOARD OF MEMBER COUNTRIES DECLARING AUSTRIA'S BAN AS "NOT EU CONFORMING." THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL DEAL WITH THIS SUBJECT PROBABLY IN JULY OR SEPTEMBER AT THE LATEST. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL ALSO REGARD AUSTRIA'S BT CORN BAN AS UNJUSTIFIED AND DECLARE IT ILLEGAL.

3. COMMENT: WHEN AUSTRIA ANNOUNCED THE BT CORN BAN, THE GOA WAS ALREADY AWARE THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE CHANCE OF GETTING THE BAN APPROVED BY BRUSSELS. HOWEVER, BARBARA PRAMMER, THE MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND MARTIN BARTENSTEIN, MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, YOUTH AND FAMILY AFFAIRS, HAVE FREQUENTLY MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING THE CASE TO THE EUROPEAN COURT IF THE OUTCOME IS NEGATIVE. GENE TECHNOLOGY OPPONENTS ARE NOW DEMANDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT REMAIN FIRM AND GO THIS WAY.

4. IN THEIR FIRST PUBLIC REACTION TO THE NEWS FROM BRUSSELS, PRAMMER AND BARTENSTEIN CONFIRMED THAT AUSTRIA IS READY TO GO TO THE EUROPEAN COURT. CONTACTS CLOSER TO THE CASE ADMIT THAT THERE IS LITTLE HOPE THAT AUSTRIA WOULD WIN SUCH A CASE BUT HOPE THAT THIS PROCESS WOULD SET A PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE CASES AND WOULD IN EFFECT HINDER THE EU APPROVAL OF GMOS/PRODUCTS IN THE FUTURE.

C. AUSTRIA WILL BAN GENETICALLY MODIFIED RAPE

5. AUSTRIA INTENDS TO CONTINUE ITS TRADITIONAL LINE ON THE GENE TECHNOLOGY SECTOR. AFTER IT BECAME KNOWN THAT THE EU COMMISSION HAS APPROVED TWO GM RAPE VARIETIES, PRAMMER ANNOUNCED THAT AUSTRIA WILL BAN THEM. THE BAN IS SUPPORTED BY BARTENSTEIN AND WELCOMED BY GREENPEACE AND GLOBAL 2000.

UNCLASSIFIED

2

6. THE BAN WILL AGAIN BE BASED ON ARTICLE 16 OF THE EU RELEASE DIRECTIVE 90/220. HOWEVER, IN CONTRAST TO BT CORN WHERE HEALTH REASONS WERE GIVEN, THE TWO RAPE VARIETIES WILL BE BANNED BECAUSE OF ECOLOGICAL REASONS. PRAMMER AN

D
BARTENSTEIN BELIEVE THAT THERE IS HIGH DANGER OF CROSS OVER TO WILD RAPE PLANTS. IN ADDITION, DEVELOPMENT OF RESISTANCE BY RELATED WEEDS MAY RESULT IN INCREASED HERBICIDE USE.

D. FIRST MEETING OF GENE TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUPS

7. SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER THE GOVERNMENT AND GMO OPPONENTS AGREED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON GMO MATTERS, THE GENE TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUPS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DEBATE MET

ON JUNE 10 IN THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY. TOPICS OF THE DISCUSSIONS WERE THE MAIN DEMANDS OF THE GENE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE (REFTEL), NAMELY: A 5-YEAR RELEASE MORATORIUM, GMO PRODUCTION BAN, AND NO PATENT ON LIVING ORGANISMS.

8. IN THE QUESTION OF GMO RELEASE, BOTH SIDES APPARENTLY UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 005189

SENSITIVE

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

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PINR, PROP, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE AUSTRIAN GMO SECTOR

REF: VIENNA 02665

CAME CLOSER TO AGREEMENT. PRAMMER PLEDGED AGAIN NOT TO PERMIT FIELD RELEASE OF GMOS FOR A 5-YEAR PERIOD. BARTENSTEIN AND WILHELM MOLTERER, MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, WHILE NOT CALLING FOR A BAN ON RELEASE OF GMOS, DID SUGGEST STRICTER CONDITIONS THAN CURRENTLY REQUIRED FOR GMO RELEASE. HUNT

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

SSN: 5189
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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BERN

OSRI: RUEHSW

DTG: 121506Z JUN 97

ORIG: AMEMBASSY BERN

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3983

INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2714

RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC 0130

RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE

SUBJ: SWISS COURT UPHOLDS GOS DECISION TO PERMIT GMO
SOYBEAN IMPORTS

TEXT:

UNCLAS BERN 002754

GENEVA FOR USTR

USTR/W FOR MINNIES

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS COURT UPHOLDS GOS DECISION TO PERMIT GMO
SOYBEAN IMPORTS

REF: A) BERN 00630 B) BERN 00676 C) BERN 01526

1. THE SWISS FEDERAL COURT OF JUSTICE UPHELD THIS WEEK THE DECISION OF THE FEDERAL OFFICE FOR HEALTH (FOH) IN DECEMBER 1996 TO PERMIT IMPORTATION OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS.

2. EARLIER THIS YEAR, GREENPEACE AND OTHER GMO OPPONENTS APPEALED TO THE FOH TO REVERSE ITS EARLIER DECISION. THE HEALTH OFFICE REJECTED THE APPEAL, ARGUING THAT THE CLAIMANTS LACKED LEGAL STANDING TO CHALLENGE THE DECISION. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE CLAIMANTS WENT TO THE FEDERAL COURT OF JUSTICE AND ASKED IT TO SUSPEND THE IMPORT PERMISSION UNTIL THE QUESTION OF LEGAL STANDING IS RESOLVED. THE FEDERAL COURT HAS NOW RULED AGAINST A SUSPENSION OF IMPORTS, BUT WILL DECIDE LATER ON THE QUESTION OF LEGAL STANDING.

3. THE FEDERAL COURT ARQUED THAT GMO SOYBEANS WERE ALREADY PERMITTED BY AUTHORITIES IN THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, ARGENTINA AND BY THE EU COMMISSION. IT EXPLAINED FURTHER THAT THE FOH, AFTER THOROUGH

EXAMINATION OF GMO SOYBEANS, DID NOT SEE ANY DANGER FOR CONSUMER HEALTH. FINALLY, THE COURT DETERMINED THAT A SUDDEN STOP OF IMPORTS WOULD INJURE THE U.S. COMPANY MONSANTO, WHICH HAD BEEN PERMITTED BY THE FOH TO MARKET ITS ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN, AND WOULD RESULT IN SHORTAGES IN SEVERAL SECTORS.

4. COMMENT: GREENPEACE MAY CONTINUE TO PLAY OUT ITS OPTIONS BEFORE THE JUDICIARY, BUT IT IS INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY THAT IT WILL OBTAIN ANY RELIEF AGAINST GMO PRODUCTS THROUGH THE COURTS. THE REAL BATTLE WILL BE IN THE MARKET, WHERE GREENPEACE AND OTHERS CONTINUE TO TRY TO SCARE CONSUMERS ABOUT THE NATURE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS. POLT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2754

TOR: 970612113345 M2801899

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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 2098
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INFO: RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 8548
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 5613
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: ITALIAN FOOD FEDERATION AGREES TO PUT GMO INFO
ON THEIR HOME
PAGE

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 005451

STATE PASS USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS/OA/SCHUMACHERA

ITP/DA/SHEIKH; ITP/EAMED/THORN/CHESLEY

ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT; CMP/DA/PARKER

CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; CMP/OPD/FRUDD

FAA/LETARTE

STATE PASS USDA FOR APHIS/OA/MEDLEY

STATE PASS USDA FOR ERS/CED/OBRIEN

STATE PASS USTR

STATE PASS FDA

STATE PASS EPA

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO FOR AGRICULTURE

MILAN FOR AGOFF

E.O.: 12598: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EU, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN FOOD FEDERATION AGREES TO PUT GMO INFO
ON THEIR HOME

PAGE

1. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE SEE PARA 6.

2. AGMIN COUNSELOR, AGATTACHE, AND AGSPECIALIST MET WITH GIANFRANCO CARLONE, PRESIDENT, FEDERALIMENTARE (THE ITALIAN FEDERATION FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY) TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF ISSUES, INCLUDING BIOTECHNOLOGY.

3. CARLONE AGREED DEVELOPMENTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY WILL PLAY AN EVER INCREASING ROLE IN FOOD PRODUCTION. TO PREVENT FUTURE PROBLEMS, HE STATED, THE EU COMMISSION MUST CLEARLY ESTABLISH A POLICY WHICH EQUALLY TO AND IS ENFORCED UNIFORMLY IN ALL THE MEMBER STATES. HE LAMENTED THE CURRENT LACK OF ASSURANCES ON RECENTLY APPROVED GMO PRODUCTS. CARLONE EXPLAINED CONSUMER CONCERNS OVER THE LACK OF INFORMATION WERE FORCING HIS MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS TO LEAN TOWARD LABELING OR SOURCING BASED ON SEGREGATION.

4. HE DECLARED THAT IF THE EU WOULD SIMPLY STATE CLEARLY AND DEFINITELY THAT THE APPROVED GO PRODUCT WAS NO DIFFERENT FROM THE ORIGINAL AND HAD BEEN FOUND SCIENTIFICALLY TO BE SAFE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED TO LABEL THE PRODUCT. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO CARLONE, ITALIAN CONSUMERS CURRENTLY DO NOT HAVE THIS ASSURANCE. FURTHERMORE, THEY RECEIVE CONTRADICTIONARY OR INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION FROM MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS, CONSUMER GROUPS AND VARIOUS COMMITTEES. AS A RESULT, ITALIAN CONSUMERS ARE SOMEWHAT WARY OF GMOS, ALBEIT NOT AS WARY AS THEIR NORTHERN NEIGHBORS.

5. AGATTACHE NOTED SOME ASSOCIATIONS IN OTHER MEMBER STATES HAVE BEGUN TO DISSEMINATE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION TO THEIR CUSTOMERS IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE THESE CONCERNS. SHE SUGGESTED FEDERALIMENTARE COULD USE THEIR NEW HOME PAGE FOR THIS PURPOSE. CARLONE CONCEDED THIS MIGHT BE USEFUL AND AGREED TO INCLUDE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT USG APPROVED GMO PRODUCTS, EVEN IF THESE PRODUCTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROVED IN THE EUROPEAN UNION. AGATTACHE OFFERED TO ALERT THE APPROPRIATE USG AGENCIES AND U.S. COMPANIES ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. POST VIEWS THE FEDERATIONS OFFER AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM THE ITALIAN PUBLIC ABOUT THE REVIEW PROCESS IN THE UNITED STATES AND TO ALLAY SOME CONSUMER CONCERNS ABOUT THE SAFETY OF

APPROVED PRODUCTS. POST REQUESTS FAS/ITP'S ASSISTANCE IN MAKING COMPANIES AWARE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY AND IN IDENTIFYING SUITABLE MATERIAL FOR FEDERALIMENTARE'S HOME PAGE. WE ALREADY HAVE INFORMED MICHAEL DYKES OF MONSANTO AND HAVE PROVIDED FEDERALIMENTARE THE INTERNET ADDRESS FOR AGBIOTECH ONLINE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 005451

STATE PASS USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS/OA/SCHUMACHERA

ITP/DA/SHEIKH; ITP/EAMED/THORN/CHESLEY

ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT; CMP/DA/PARKER

CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; CMP/OPD/FRUDD

FAA/LETARTE

STATE PASS USDA FOR APHIS/OA/MEDLEY

STATE PASS USDA FOR ERS/CED/OBRIEN

STATE PASS USTR

STATE PASS FDA

STATE PASS EPA

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO FOR AGRICULTURE

MILAN FOR AGOFF

E.O.: 12598: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EU, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN FOOD FEDERATION AGREES TO PUT GMO INFO ON THEIR HOME

PAGE

(AS A POSSIBLE LINK FOR USEFUL INFORMATION ON BIOTECH DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES).

FYI, FEDERALIMENTARE EXPRESSED A SPECIFIC INTEREST IN PRESS RELEASES FROM FDA, EPA, OR USDA ON APPROVED GMOS. BARTHOLOMEW

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

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RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN 1543
SUBJ: VOLUNTARY GMO LABELING AGREEMENT BETWEEN
SWEDISH INDUSTRY AND RETAIL TRADE

TEXT:
UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 003549

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS/ITP/EA&MED, MTND AND
FS&TSD, CMP/DA, DLP, G&F AND COT&SD, INFO AND FAA

STATE FOR EUR/EEA, EUR/NB AND OES
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY AND MOWREY
GENEVA FOR USTR AND AGR
E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY GMO LABELING AGREEMENT BETWEEN
SWEDISH INDUSTRY AND RETAIL TRADE

1. SUMMARY. SWEDEN'S RETAIL TRADE AND PROCESSED FOOD INDUSTRY HAVE AGREED TO BOTH UNDERTAKE THEMSELVES AND REQUIRE FROM FOREIGN SUPPLIERS SELECTED LABELING OF PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM ROUNDUP READY (GMO) SOYBEANS. THE LABELING AGREEMENT AFFECTS PRODUCTS PRODUCED AFTER JULY 1, 1997, AND WAS REACHED PRIMARILY IN RESPONSE TO THE INAPPLICABILITY (TO SOYBEANS) OF THE EU'S NOVEL FOOD REGULATION. THE VOLUNTARY LABELING AGREEMENT WILL BE APPLIED TO ALL PRODUCTS CONTAINING PROTEIN DERIVED FROM SOYBEANS UNLESS IT CAN BE DETERMINED THAT THE SOY INGREDIENTS ARE NOT DERIVED FROM ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS. SUCH PROCEDURES WILL NOT BE APPLIED TO PRODUCTS CONTAINING ADDITIVES SUCH AS LECITHIN AND AROMAS OR TO SOY OIL. THESE LABELING INITIATIVES ALSO ARISE INDEPENDENTLY OF AND IN THE ABSENCE OFFICIAL GOS DECISIONS WITH RESPECT TO SUCH ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 9, 1997 SWEDEN'S RETAIL FOOD TRADE

AND DOMESTIC FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT OF OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT) SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WHOSE IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE INCLUDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUALITY GUARANTEE SYSTEM FOR SELECTED FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING SOY PROTEIN. THE VOLUNTARY LABELING - TO BE IMPLEMENTED JULY 1, 1997 - WILL BE APPLIED TO ALL FOOD PRODUCTS WHOSE INGREDIENTS CONTAIN SOY PROTEIN UNLESS IT CAN CATEGORICALLY BE DETERMINED THAT SUCH INGREDIENTS ARE NOT DERIVED FROM ROUNDUP READY (GMO) SOYBEANS. THE GROUPS WILL ALSO BE PRODUCING AN INFORMATION PAMPHLET ON RR SOYBEANS AND WILL BE PREPARING A LIST OF PRODUCTS THAT MAY CONTAIN RR SOYBEAN DERIVATIVES.

3. THE GROUP'S PROPOSAL DOES NOT INCLUDE LABELING OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING SOYBEAN OIL, WHICH THEY MAINTAIN CANNOT BE MONITORED GIVEN THAT EXISTING ANALYSIS CANNOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN RR OIL OR "CONVENTIONAL" SOYBEAN OIL. THE INDUSTRY HAS THEREFOR AGREED TO SUPPLY INFORMATION ON RAW MATERIALS USED IN PRODUCTION TO THE TRADE WITHOUT GMO LABELING. THE AGREEMENT GOES ON TO OUTLINE WHAT IT VIEWS AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THIS VOLUNTARY LABELING INITIATIVE, I.E. SEGREGATION OF GMO PRODUCTS. IN THIS REGARD, THE SWEDISH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED THROUGH A FORMAL, SIGNED PETITION TO TAKE A MORE PROACTIVE STANCE WITH HER EU COLLEAGUES AND INTERNATIONALLY ON THE ISSUE OF SEGREGATION AND LABELING.

4. COMMENT: GROCERY WHOLESALERS AND RETAILERS - WHO WOULD HAVE LIKED A STRICTER AGREEMENT - HAVE STATED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CURRENT VOLUNTARY LABELING DECISION IS THAT THE INDUSTRY HAS AT LEAST GUARANTEED INFORMATION ON GMO PRODUCT USE THROUGHOUT THE FOOD CHAIN. POST WOULD ADD THAT SUCH INDUSTRY INITIATIVES REPRESENT YET ANOTHER STEP BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO "DRIVE" THIS PROCESS IN THE ABSENCE OF OFFICIAL DECISIONS WITH RESPECT TO SUCH ISSUES. END COMMENT.
SIEBERT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

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RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
SUBJ: TWO EU BIOTECH DEVELOPMENTS - COMMISSION ADDS
LABELING REQUIREMENTS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220 AND SEGREGATION
OF GMO'S LESS LIKELY

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 004419

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

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: TWO EU BIOTECH DEVELOPMENTS - COMMISSION ADDS
LABELING REQUIREMENTS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220 AND SEGREGATION
OF GMO'S LESS LIKELY

REFERENCES: (A) USEU BRUSSELS 4131
(B) NENON/GALVIN E-MAILS 4/2/97 AND 4/3/97
(C) DISCUSSION IN U.S.-EC BILATERALS ON AG
BIOTECHNOLOGY 15-16 APRIL 1997

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.
2. SUMMARY: ON 18 JUNE, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ADOPTED EXPECTED AMENDMENTS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220 ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS THAT WILL REQUIRE COMPANIES TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ON LABELING WITH THEIR APPLICATIONS. MOREOVER, IT APPEARS

THE DEBATE IN THE COMMISSION ON THE TREATMENT OF BIOTECH PRODUCTS HAS MOVED AWAY FROM SEGREGATION OF COMMODITIES. END SUMMARY.

DIRECTIVE 90/220 AMENDED

3. ON 18 JUNE, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ADOPTED A LONG-ANTICIPATED (REFS B AND C) COMMISSION DIRECTIVE WHICH ADDED LABELING PROVISIONS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220 ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S). THE AMENDMENTS REQUIRE COMPANIES TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ON THE LABELING OF THEIR PRODUCTS ALONG WITH THEIR APPLICATIONS. PRODUCTS RECEIVING 90/220 APPROVALS WILL HAVE TO HAVE AN INDICATION, EITHER ON THE LABEL OR ON ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION, THAT THEY WERE OBTAINED BY TECHNIQUES OF GENETIC MODIFICATION. MOREOVER, MIXTURES OF GMO'S AND CONVENTIONAL PRODUCTS WOULD HAVE TO INDICATE THAT THEY "MAY CONTAIN GMO'S". MEMBER STATES WILL HAVE UNTIL 31 JULY 1997 TO TRANSPOSE THESE AMENDMENTS INTO NATIONAL LAW.

4. THE COMMISSION'S PRESS RELEASE (FAXED TO FAS/ITP/EAMED) INDICATED THAT THESE AMENDMENTS WOULD MEAN THAT SHIPMENTS OF COMMODITIES AND POSSIBLY FOODS MADE FROM THEM WOULD BE LABELED. THE RELEASE SAYS THAT ENVIRONMENT COMMISSIONER BJERREGAARD ASKED TWO COMPANIES TO "CONSIDER FURTHER THE ISSUE OF BULK CONSIGNMENTS OF COMMODITIES." SHE IS ALSO QUOTED AS CLAIMING THAT THE AMENDMENTS ARE "A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE COMMISSION OF THE NEW PRINCIPLE OF LABELING GMO'S AS VALUABLE INFORMATION TO THE CONSUMER...." HOWEVER, SINCE DIRECTIVE 90/220 ONLY COVERS ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE, WHICH IS GENERALLY DONE THROUGH THE DISTRIBUTION OF BIOTECHNOLOGICALLY IMPROVED SEEDS, KEEN OBSERVERS EXPECT THESE LABELING REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY ONLY TO SEED BAGS. NOTE: THE SCOPE OF DIRECTIVE 90/220 DOES NOT REACH TO THE DISTRIBUTION OR FURTHER USE OF THE PRODUCTS APPROVED UNDER IT. PROCESSED PRODUCTS ARE COVERED BY THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION. END NOTE.

5. COMMISSIONER BJERREGAARD HAS EXTRACTED VARIOUS PROMISES FROM THE COMPANIES THAT HAVE PRODUCTS PENDING 90/220 APPROVAL TO INDICATE TO PURCHASERS THAT SPECIAL HANDLING MAY BE REQUIRED. HOWEVER, WE ARE TOLD THESE KINDS OF ASSURANCES HAVE LIMITED LEGAL VALUE SINCE SEED PRODUCERS CANNOT MAKE COMMITMENTS FOR USERS FURTHER DOWN THE PRODUCTION STREAM. THE COMPANIES WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH DO NOT BELIEVE THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL HAVE A COMMERCIAL IMPACT SINCE THEY WILL CHARGE PREMIUM PRICES FOR THEIR SEEDS PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY ARE GENETICALLY MODIFIED.

6. MOREOVER, OUR CONTACTS REPORT THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THESE AMENDMENTS BY A REGULATORY COMMITTEE LAST MONTH ALLOWED THE APPROVAL ON 6 JUNE OF TWO RAPESEED VARIETIES DEVELOPED BY PLANT GENETIC SYSTEMS. THE COMMISSION HAD BEEN SITTING ON THESE APPROVALS FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS BECAUSE COMMISSIONER BJERREGAARD INSISTED THAT SOME KIND OF LABELING WAS NECESSARY. OUR CONTACTS SAY THAT THE

NINE PENDING DIRECTIVE 90/220 APPROVALS CAN MOVE FORWARD
NOW THAT THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS ARE CLEAR.

SEGREGATION LESS LIKELY

7. RELIABLE COMMISSION AND INDUSTRY CONTACTS REPORTED TO
AGATT THAT SEGREGATION OF FEED INGREDIENTS WOULD NOT BE
THE APPROACH TAKEN IN ANY FURTHER COMMUNITY LEGISLATION
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 004419

SENSITIVE

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

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN

SUBJECT: TWO EU BIOTECH DEVELOPMENTS - COMMISSION ADDS
LABELING REQUIREMENTS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220 AND SEGREGATION
OF GMO'S LESS LIKELY

ON BIOTECHNOLOGY (REF A). WHATEVER EMERGES FROM
PRESIDENT SANTER'S EFFORT TO ELABORATE A COHERENT POLICY
ON THE LABELING AND TREATMENT OF BIOTECH PRODUCTS WOULD
"AVOID ANY MANDATORY REQUIREMENT FOR OPERATORS," THE
COMMISSION CONTACT SAID. HOWEVE, BOTH CONTACTS NOTED
THAT THE COMMISSION MUST STILL FIND A MEANS OF CALMING
CONSUMER CONCERNS ABOUT BIOTECHNOLOGY AND THIS WOULD
LIKELY COME THROUGH NEW LABELING REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAVE
NOT YET BEEN FORMULATED.

8. THE COMMISSION OFFICIAL SAID THAT, NEXT WEEK, THE
COMMISSIONERS' CHIEFS OF STAFF WILL DISCUSS REVISIONS TO
PRESIDENT SANTER'S COMMUNICATION ON BIOTECHNOLOGY. THE
COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS IS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS THE
REVISED SANTER PAPER ON 2 JULY.

(DRAFTED:FAS:SGNENON) WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02

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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[06/04/1997 - 08/28/1997]

2013-0836-F

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RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

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RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2351
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
SUBJ: NZ DEVELOPMENTS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS
TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000754

SENSITIVE

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

E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, WTRO, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: NZ DEVELOPMENTS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

REF: WELLINGTON 01687, WELLINGTON 00188, WELLINGTON 00477

1. THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE, BUT UNCLASSIFIED.
2. (SBU) SUMMARY: AN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY (ANZFA) "INQUIRY REPORT" REFLECTING PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED RULES CREATING A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS (GMF'S) WILL NOT BE READY UNTIL AUGUST AT THE EARLIEST. THE ANZFA STANDARDS COUNCIL, WHICH WILL RECEIVE THE REPORT, CAN ADOPT, AMEND OR REJECT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. NEIL KIRTON, THE N.Z. ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND A COUNCIL MEMBER HAS DEMONSTRATED LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR ARGUMENTS REFLECTING THE U.S. APPROACH TO REGULATING BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND HAS PUBLICALLY INDICATED SUPPORT FOR MANDATORY LABELING. HOWEVER, PARTLY WITH OUR ENCOURAGEMENT, OTHER GNZ MINISTERS ARE DEVELOPING A GROWING INTEREST IN THE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) ACCORDING TO ANZFA OFFICIALS IN WELLINGTON, AN

"INQUIRY REPORT" REFLECTING PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE A GMF REGULATORY FRAMEWORK WILL NOT BE READY FOR RELEASE PRIOR TO THE JULY MEETING OF THE ANZFA STANDARDS COUNCIL. THE COMMENT PERIOD FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS TO THE PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD, #A18-FOOD DERIVED FROM GENE TECHNOLOGY" WAS EXTENDED INTO LATE MAY, WELL BEYOND THE APRIL 3 CLOSING DATE. N.Z. MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, AND HEALTH EACH SUBMITTED SEPARATE COMMENTS TO THE RULE. THE VOLUME OF COMMENTS AND THE NUMBER OF ISSUES RAISED PRECLUDED A QUICK TURNAROUND ON A REVISED PROPOSAL BY ANZFA. HOWEVER IT'S LIKELY THE INQUIRY REPORT COULD BE READY FOR RELEASE TO THE ANZFA STANDARDS COUNCIL AND THE N.Z. PUBLIC BY THE END OF AUGUST.

4. (U) THE ANZFA STANDARDS COUNCIL IS COMPOSED OF AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH, STATE, AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH MINISTERS AND INCLUDES NEIL KIRTON, THE N.Z. ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF HEALTH. THE COUNCIL HAS A RANGE OF OPTIONS INCLUDING TO ADOPT, AMEND OR REJECT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INQUIRY REPORT. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW OR WHEN THE ISSUES SURROUNDING THE RULE WILL BE ADDRESSED BY ANZFA OR INCORPORATED INTO A FINAL REGULATION. HOWEVER THE RELEASE OF THE INQUIRY WILL PUT THE GMF ISSUE INTO THE LIMELIGHT AGAIN.

5. (SBU) NEIL KIRTON APPEARS LARGELY UNSYMPATHETIC TO THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION ON N.Z. AGRICULTURE, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, AND IMPORTERS. HE HAS REFUSED TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FOOD MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION (DESPITE HAVING MET WITH A CROSS-SECTION OF CONSUMER ACTIVIST GROUPS) AND HIS MINISTRY APPEARS UNWILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO A BALANCED DOMESTIC DEBATE.

6. (SBU) IN A JUNE 17 DISCUSSION WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE, KIRTON DEMONSTRATED ONLY LIMITED RECEPTIVITY TO THE IDEA THAT GENETIC ENGINEERING IS USED TO ACHIEVE THE SAME GOALS AS TRADITIONAL BREEDING TECHNIQUES AND THAT LITTLE DISTINGUISHES GMF'S AS A CLASS FROM FOODSTUFFS DERIVED FROM OTHER METHODS. IN EARLY APRIL, MINISTER KIRTON INDICATED IN A PRESS RELEASE THAT HE HAD "STRONG PERSONAL RESERVATIONS OVER THE ISSUE AND HAD CONSIDERED A MORATORIUM ON THE IMPORTATION OF GMF'S."

AT THAT TIME, THE MINISTER WAS ALSO OF THE VIEW THAT #THE CUSTOMER HAS A TOTAL RIGHT TO KNOW THE LEVEL OF GMF IN THEIR FOODSTUFFS" AND CALLED FOR STRICT LABELING REQUIREMENTS. UNFORTUNATELY THE MINISTER'S COMMENTS TO THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT INDICATE HIS VIEWS HAD CHANGED. IN RESPONSE TO INFORMATION FROM THE AMBASSADOR THAT U.S. FOOD LABELING IS USED TO CONVEY INFORMATION ABOUT FOOD ATTRIBUTES (SUCH AS NUTRITIONAL COMPOSITION), THE MINISTER STATED FROSTILY THAT #NEW ZEALAND RESERVED ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO DEVELOP ITS REGULATIONS AS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH."

7. (SBU) THE AMBASSADOR URGED THE MINISTER TO CONSIDER

THE RANGE OF APPROACHES AVAILABLE TO REGULATE SUCH FOODSTUFFS AND, REFERRING TO POSSIBLE NEGATIVE TRADE IMPACTS, RELAYED THE U.S. DESIRE TO AVOID UNINTENDED INDIRECT CONSEQUENCES OF NEW ZEALAND'S GMF REGULATION. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO REITERATED POINTS MADE IN USDA COMMENTS THAT THE PROPOSED STANDARD, AS CURRENTLY UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000754

SENSITIVE

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

E.O. 12958:N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, WTRO, AS, NZ

SUBJECT: NZ DEVELOPMENTS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

WRITTEN, ISN'T CLEAR HOW AND IN WHAT DETAIL FOODS WILL BE LISTED. HE SUGGESTED THAT EXHAUSTIVE REGULATIONS FOR PRODUCTS THAT DO NOT POSE SIGNIFICANT FOOD SAFETY ISSUES WOULD LIKELY ABSORB MANY RESOURCES AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT ENHANCE PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION.

8. (SBU) OTHER N.Z. POLICY MAKERS ARE DEVELOPING A GROWING AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE REGULATION OF GMF'S. THE AMBASSADOR PROVIDED A NON-PAPER ON U.S. POLICY FOR FOODS DERIVED BY BIOTECHNOLOGY ON JUNE 6 TO ROB EADDY, THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHIEF OF STAFF, AND LATER MENTIONED THE ISSUE TO PRIME MINISTER BOLGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER MCKINNON.

9. (SBU) ON HIS RETURN FROM MAY TRADE DISCUSSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND AGRICULTURE LOCKWOOD SMITH PRIVATELY INDICATED HE RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GMF ISSUE TO THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF N.Z. AGRICULTURE. WE UNDERSTAND MINISTER SMITH WILL MEET WITH KIRTON IN EARLY JULY TO ENSURE THAT THE N.Z. APPROACH TO REGULATING GMF'S REFLECTS BROADER TRADE INTERESTS.

10. (SBU) COMMENT: ALTHOUGH RECENTLY MORE RESERVED IN HIS PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS, KIRTON'S GENERAL NEGATIVISM COULD BE PROBLEMATIC WHEN THE GMF ISSUE REEMERGES FROM THE ANZFA PROCESS LATER THIS SUMMER. KIRTON HAS BEEN IN OPEN CONFLICT BEFORE WITH OTHER CABINET MEMBERS IN THIS FRAGILE COALITION GOVERNMENT. HE MAY PROVE UNPREDICTABLE IN HIS APPROACH TO THE GMF ISSUE REGARDLESS OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE CONCERNS RAISED BY OTHER MINISTERS. END COMMENT. BEEMAN

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

SSN: 0754
<^SSN>0754

TOR: 970623004121 M2816441
<^TOR>970623004207 M2816442

DIST:

SIT: KYLE LEE TARULLO

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007. cable	Re: [Labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms] (3 pages)	06/23/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[06/04/1997 - 08/28/1997]

2013-0836-F

ke3006

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- 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: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA5639 1761029-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 251029Z JUN 97

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

OSRI: RUEHVI

DTG: 251029Z JUN 97

ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2128
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0088

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0075
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0148

SUBJ: AGREVO TO APPLY FOR GMO FIELO RELEASE: AUSTRIAN
OFFICIALDOM STIFFENS

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 005639

SENSITIVE

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

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, AU

SUBJECT: AGREVO TO APPLY FOR GMO FIELO RELEASE: AUSTRIAN
OFFICIALDOM STIFFENS

REF: VIENNA 5189

STCABLE 728

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE THE HEALTH MINISTER'S APPEAL TO ABSTAIN FROM RELEASING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) INTO AUSTRIAN FIELDS, THE COMPANY AGREVO IS EXPECTED TO CARRY OUT FIELD TESTS WITH HERBICIDE-RESISTANT GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) CORN AFTER IT IS APPROVED BY BRUSSELS. THE SAME COMPANY HAS ALREADY APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION OF THE HERBICIDE TO BE USED WITH THIS CORN. IT IS EXPECTED THAT AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS WILL DENY FIELD RELEASE OF THE NEW GM CORN AS WELL AS REGISTRATION OF THE HERBICIDE IN QUESTION.
END SUMMARY

2. A SUBSIDIARY OF HOECHST AND SCHERING, AGREVO, ANNOUNCED THAT IT INTENDS TO CARRY OUT FIELD TESTS IN AUSTRIA WITH GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN IN 1998. PLANTING FIELDS WILL BE IN THE FEDERAL PROVINCES OF STYRIA, LOWER AUSTRIA, AND UPPER AUSTRIA BUT THE PRECISE LOCATIONS ARE STILL NOT FIXED. THE

TESTS WILL BE MADE WITH A NEW TYPE OF GM CORN WHICH AGREVO EXPECTS TO BE APPROVED BY BRUSSELS BEFORE THE CORN PLANTING PERIOD BEGINS. THE NEW GM CORN IS RESISTANT TO A TOTAL HERBICIDE CALLED "LIBERTY" ESPECIALLY DEVELOPED FOR THIS CORN.

3. LEGALLY, TESTS WITH THE NEW GM CORN CAN BE CARRIED OUT IN AUSTRIA IF IT IS APPROVED BY BRUSSELS AND NOT BANNED BY AN AUSTRIAN ORDINANCE, AS HAPPENED WITH THE NOVARTIS GM CORN. AGREVO INTENDS TO DO FIELD TESTS, ALTHOUGH AT THE BEGINNING OF JUNE, CONSUMER PROTECTION MINISTER BARBARA PRAMMER WROTE LETTERS TO ALL AUSTRIAN COMPANIES INVOLVED IN GENE TECHNOLOGY (INCLUDING AGREVO'S REPRESENTATIVE IN AUSTRIA) REQUESTING THEM TO POSTPONE POTENTIAL FIELD RELEASES UNTIL PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING GMOS ARE FINISHED.

4. AGREVO ARGUES THAT IT NEVER RECEIVED PRAMMER'S LETTER AND IN ADDITION, IT DOES NOT INTEND A "RELEASE". IN THEIR OPINION, THEIR INTENDED TEST IS NOT A "RELEASE" BUT A "PLANTING" BECAUSE AT THE TIME OF PLANTING THE GM CORN WILL HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY BRUSSELS.

5. A SPOKESWOMAN FOR PRAMMER'S OFFICE STATED THAT AGREVO'S DISTINCTION BETWEEN "RELEASE" AND "PLANTING" IS A LEGAL NICETY AND THAT PRAMMER CERTAINLY MEANT ANY KIND OF CORN GROWTH IN OPEN FIELDS. SHE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE POPULATION HAS NO SYMPATHY FOR GMO FIELD RELEASE AND THAT THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC NECESSITY FOR SUCH TESTS. A NEGATIVE REACTION CAME ALSO FROM THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY. IN THEIR OPINION SUCH TESTS SHOULD ONLY BE CARRIED OUT IF CERTAIN CONDITIONS, PARTICULARLY QUESTIONS OF LIABILITY, ARE RESOLVED.

6. GREENPEACE AND GLOBAL 2000 REACTED ANGRILY, STATING THAT ANY FIELD RELEASE OF GMOS IS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE GENE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE SIGNED BY MORE THAN 1.2 MILLION AUSTRIANS.

7. THE HERBICIDE "LIBERTY" HAS NOT YET BEEN REGISTERED IN AUSTRIA AND THUS AGREVO HAS APPLIED FOR APPROVAL. HOWEVER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS WILL REFUSE REGISTRATION OF THIS SPECIAL HERBICIDE. ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN OF THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, IF GM CORN CANNOT BE PLANTED, REGISTRATION OF AN HERBICIDE, WHICH CAN ONLY BE USED ON GM CORN CROPS, IS NOT NECESSARY. (NOTE: THE AUSTRIAN LAW REQUIRES FOR REGISTRATION OF ANY NEW HERBICIDE THAT THE APPLYING COMPANY INDICATE THE EFFECTS OF THE HERBICIDE AND FOR WHICH CROPS IT IS INTENDED.)

8. COMMENT: THE FRUSTRATED AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH GROUPS INVOLVED IN GENE TECHNOLOGY WILL CERTAINLY OBSERVE WITH GREAT INTEREST THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THIS RELEASE/PLANTING INTENTION. HOWEVER, THERE IS LITTLE HOPE FOR A QUICK AND POSITIVE OUTCOME. FIELD RELEASE OF CERTAIN GMOS, TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE UNDER EU REGULATION, MAY STILL BE BLOCKED BY LEGAL OBSTACLES THROWN UP BY AUSTRIA'S INVENTIVE

OFFICIALS. WHEN LEGAL BARRIERS TO FIELD PLANTING ARE EXHAUSTED, HEALTH MINISTER BARBARA PRAMMER AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER MARTIN BARTENSTEIN SEEMINGLY WILL BE READY TO PRESS A LEGAL CASE IN THE EUROPEAN COURT. ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD NOT RESULT IN A PERMANENT BAN ON RELEASE, IT WOULD POSTPONE FIELD RELEASE CONSIDERABLY. IN PARTICULAR, PRAMMER GIVES THE IMPRESSION UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 005639

SENSITIVE

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

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: AGREVO TO APPLY FOR GMO FIELD RELEASE: AUSTRIAN
OFFICIALDOM STIFFENS

REF: VIENNA 5189

OF BEING MORE IN LINE WITH THE GREENS THAN PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED. AGRICULTURE MINISTER WILHELM MOLTERER BASICALLY FAVORS AGRICULTURAL GENE TECHNOLOGY BUT IN THE CASE OF AGREVO CORN, HE HAS ALSO STRONG RESERVATIONS BASED ON GENERAL RESERVATIONS ABOUT HERBICIDE RESISTANT GMOS. HUNT

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

SSN: 5639
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TOR: 970625064024 M2820348
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DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHSMA3776 1821448-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: P 011448Z JUL 97

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

OSRI: RUEHSM

DTG: 011448Z JUL 97

ORIG: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9501

INFO: RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0014

RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 1842

RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 0890

RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN 1560

RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA 0113

RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE

RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 9176

SUBJ: NORWAY'S CONTRACTS WITH CANADIAN
PRODUCERS OF NON-GMO SOYBEANS DENY U.S.
SUPPLIERS A DOLS 45 MILLION MARKET

TEXT:

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 003776

STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAS/ITP/EA&MED,
CMP/COT&SD AND FS&TSD AND FAA/EUROPE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, NO, SENV

SUBJECT: NORWAY'S CONTRACTS WITH CANADIAN
PRODUCERS OF NON-GMO SOYBEANS DENY U.S.
SUPPLIERS A DOLS 45 MILLION MARKET

1. SUMMARY: UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE LOCAL FOOD INDUSTRY AND RETAIL FOOD TRADE, NORWAY'S SOLITARY OILSEED CRUSHER (DENOFA) HAS REPORTEDLY CONTRACTED WITH CANADIAN PRODUCERS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF MOST OF ITS 1997/98 SOYBEAN DELIVERIES. THESE PURCHASES WILL COME AT SUBSTANTIAL PRICE PREMIUMS AND LARGELY, IF NOT ENTIRELY, AT THE EXPENSE OF U.S.-ORIGIN SUPPLIES. SALES OF U.S. SOYBEANS TO NORWAY IN 1994-95 RANGED BETWEEN DOLS 43-45 MILLION. END SUMMARY.

2. DENOFA A/S - NORWAY'S SOLE CRUSHER OF SOYBEANS - HAS REPORTEDLY CONTRACTED WITH CANADIAN PRODUCERS FOR THE 1997/98 DELIVERY OF NON-GMO SOYBEANS. DENOFA'S PURCHASING DECISION FOLLOWS A YEAR WHEN SOME 86,000 METRIC TONS OF IMPORTED BEANS WERE SOURCED FROM NON-U.S. SUPPLIERS (MAINLY CANADA AND ARGENTINA) DUE TO LOCAL SENSITIVITIES

ABOUT THE INTRODUCTION OF AG BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS INTO THE NORWEGIAN FOOD CHAIN. CONSIDERING THE ROUGHLY 172,000 METRIC TONS SOURCED FROM THE U.S. LAST SEASON, POTENTIAL SALES BY CANADIAN SUPPLIERS COULD APPROXIMATE 250,000-260,000 METRIC TONS. DENOFA'S ACTION ALSO STEMS FROM THE PREDOMINANCE OF SOYBEAN OIL (SOME 95 PERCENT) IN THE COUNTRY'S OVERALL OIL CONSUMPTION (NOTE: RAPESEED OIL AND MEAL MAKE UP PROPORTIONATELY LARGE SEGMENTS OF THESE MARKETS IN NEIGHBORING SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES - WHERE GMO RAPESEED IS ONLY NOW UNDER DEVELOPMENT).

3. WHILE OPENLY STATING THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING AGAINST GMO SOYBEANS OR AG BIOTECHNOLOGY IN GENERAL, DENOFA OFFICIALS MAINTAIN THEY HAD LITTLE CHOICE GIVEN THE HEIGHTENED PREOCCUPATION OF CONSUMER GROUPS AND FOOD INDUSTRY REPS WITH SUCH PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, THEIR MOTIVATIONS ALSO INCLUDE THE FACT THAT EXPANSIONS IN CRUSHING CAPACITY (FROM 300,000 TO 375,000 METRIC TONS) ARE UNDERWAY LARGELY DUE TO THE DEMANDS FOR NON-GMO SOYBEAN MEAL AND SALMONELLA FREE MEAL FROM THE SWEDISH MARKET. WHILE CONTRACTS FOR NON-GMO SOYBEANS WILL COME AT A SUBSTANTIAL PRICE PREMIUM (SURCHARGES OF SOME NOK 10 MILLION HAVE BEEN MENTIONED), THE INDUSTRY AND CONSUMERS GROUPS ARE REPORTEDLY READY TO ABSORB SUCH COSTS. DENOFA'S DECISION ALSO STEMS FROM DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH THE U.S. INDUSTRY PROMOTED NEW GMO SOYBEANS, AND REFLECTS FRUSTRATION OVER AN UNWILLINGNESS TO (AT LEAST INITIALLY) CONSIDER SEGREGATION AS AN INTERMEDIATE STEP TO ALLOW THE EDUCATION AND CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE PROCESS TO BE "WORKED" MORE THOROUGHLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

4. DENOFA HAS TRADITIONALLY IMPORTED BETWEEN 50 TO 60 PERCENT OF ITS SOYBEAN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES. THIS SHARE IN 1995 GREW TO MORE THAN 80 PERCENT AND EXPECTATIONS LAST YEAR WERE THAT DENOFA WOULD CONTRACT EVEN MORE FROM U.S. SUPPLIERS. SALES LAST YEAR DID NOT MATERIALIZE PRIMARILY DUE TO THE FACT THAT CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS AND THE COUNTRY'S PRINCIPAL RETAIL FOOD CHAINS FORCED DENOFA TO SOURCE ITS IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FROM OTHER THAN U.S. SOURCES. THIS WAS ENTIRELY A REACTION TO THE U.S. INTRODUCTION IN 1996 OF THE FIRST ROUNDUP READY (GMO) SOYBEANS; WHICH LOCAL NORWEGIAN GROUPS INSISTED BE SEGREGATED AND LABELED - AN OPTION ECONOMICALLY UNVIAABLE FOR DENOFA.

SIEBERT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3776

TOR: 970701105216 M2829177

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHBSA4781 1831717-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 021717Z JUL 97
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 021717Z JUL 97
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: EU COMMISSION TAKES LEGAL ACTION AGAINST
MEMBERS FOR NOT IMPLEMENTING GMO DIRECTIVES

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 004781

STATE FOR E (CHASE)

STATE ALSO FOR EUR/ERA (ACETO AND ERATH)

STATE PASS USTR FOR AG. AND EUROPE OFFICES

USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK; FAS FOR OA/GALVIN,
ITP/ADA/SHEIKH, IP/EAMED/THORN/CHESLEY/
WHEATLEY/SCHWARTZ, ITP/OFTS/HARBERT,
CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON/HARDY-BASS/MORRISON; APHIS FOR
OA/MEDLEY, TRADE SUPPORT/SHEESLEY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, SENV, EUN

SUBJECT: EU COMMISSION TAKES LEGAL ACTION AGAINST
MEMBERS FOR NOT IMPLEMENTING GMO DIRECTIVES

1. ON JULY 1, THE COMMISSION ANNOUNCED THAT IT
WOULD TAKE SPAIN, PORTUGAL, GERMANY AND LUXUMBOURG
TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OVER THOSE COUNTRIES' FAILURE
TO ADOPT EU LEGISLATION ON GMO'S. WE REPEAT THE
TEXT OF THE COMMISSION'S PRESS RELEASE BELOW.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF COMMISSION PRESS RELEASE:

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS DECIDED TO MAKE
APPLICATIONS TO THE COURT OF JUSTICE SPAIN, PORTUGAL
AND LUXEMBOURG FOR THEIR FAILURE TO ADOPT AND SEND
TO THE COMMISSION NATIONAL LEGISLATION NEEDED TO
COMPLY WITH EUROPEAN UNION (EU) DIRECTIVES ON
GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. THE DIRECTIVES SET
OUT ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS ON THE USE OF GENETICALLY
MODIFIED ORGANISMS.

THE DECISIONS IN RELATION TO SPAIN AND LUXEMBOURG CONCERN TWO DIRECTIVES, COMMISSION DIRECTIVE 94/15/EC ADAPTING TO TECHNICAL PROGRESS COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 90/220/EEC ON THE DELIBERATE RELEASE INTO THE ENVIRONMENT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS; AND COMMISSION DIRECTIVES 94/51/EC ADAPTING TO TECHNICAL PROGRESS COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 90/219/EEC ON THE CONTAINED USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. THE DECISION IN RELATION TO PORTUGAL CONCERNS ONLY THE LATER DIRECTIVE. THE DEADLINE FOR ADOPTING AND SENDING TO THE COMMISSION NATIONAL LEGISLATION FOR DIRECTIVE 94/15/EC WAS MAY 1994; FOR DIRECTIVE 94/51/EC IT WAS APRIL 1995.

THE TWO DIRECTIVES CONCERNED MAKE AMENDMENTS TO THE TWO EU FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVES WHICH SET OUT ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS ON THE USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. THESE CONTROLS AIM TO ENSURE THAT SUCH USE IS SUBJECT TO ADEQUATE PRIOR CHECKS AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE.

THE COMMISSION ALSO DECIDED TO MAKE AN APPLICATION TO THE COURT AGAINST GERMANY FOR THE FAILURE OF THE GERMAN LEGISLATION TO FULLY REPECT THE REQUIREMENTS OF DIRECTIVE 90/219/EEC. IN PARTICULAR, THE GERMAN LEGISLATION DOES NOT MAKE ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR EMERGENCY PLANS IN THE EVENT OF ACCIDENTS.

(DRAFTED:ECON:KMERTEN)

WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4781

TOR: 970702122255 M2831215

DIST:

SIT: PETERS

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 111238Z JUL 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
OSRI: RUEHTC
DTG: 111238Z JUL 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6264
INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0404
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: SURVEY OF GMO'S IN ORGNAIC
FARMING

TEXT:
UNCLAS THE HAGUE 002926

STATE PASS USDA FOR
ITP/CTHORNE/MCHESLEY/ITP/OFSTS/
AUDREY TALLEY//FAA/PLETARTE/

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, NL
SUBJECT: SURVEY OF GMO'S IN ORGNAIC
FARMING

REF: FAS WASHINGTON 26722

1. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN THE NETHERLANDS, INCLUDING ORGANIC PRODUCTION, IS GOVERNED BY THE DUTCH AGRICULTURAL ACT PASSED IN 1993. THE LANGUAGE IN THE LEGISLATION DOES NOT DIRECTLY ADDRESS GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. HOWEVER, EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE ADVISORY BOARD OF SKAL, A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION AUTHORIZED BY THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO INSPECT AND MONITOR DOMESTIC ORGANIC PRODUCTION, PROVIDED AN INTERPRETATION OF THE EXISTING LANGUAGE THAT BECAME OFFICIAL DUTCH POLICY. UNDER THE NEW SKAL REGULATION, ANY PRODUCT CONTAINING GMO'S OR GMO DERIVED PRODUCTS CANNOT CARRY THE EKO QUALITY SYMBOL THAT IDENTIFIES A PRODUCT AS ORGANIC. THE ADVISORY BOARD INCLUDES 25 REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS GROUPS INCLUDING PRODUCER, CONSUMER AND BUYING GROUPS. BECAUSE EXISTING EU ORGANIC REGULATIONS DO NOT COVER ANIMAL AND ANIMAL DERIVED PRODUCTS, SKAL HAS

DEVELOPED THEIR OWN SET OF REGULATIONS
GOVERNING PRODUCTION OF THESE PRODUCTS.
THE NEW REGULATION GOVERNING THE USE OF
GMOS IS ALSO EXTENDED TO ANIMAL AND ANIMAL
DERIVED ORGANIC PRODUCTS.

2. POST IS NOT AWARE OF ANY DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN DUTCH ORGANIC STANDARDS/
ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES AND THOSE OF OTHER
MEMBER STATES. DORNBUSH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2926

TOR: 970711083417 M2843492

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHSMA3995 1951512-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 141512Z JUL 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
OSRI: RUEHSM
DTG: 141512Z JUL 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO: RUCLRFA/FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9589
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GMO'S IN ORGANIC FARMING IN SWEDEN
TEXT:
UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 003995
E.O. 12958: N/A
FOR ITP/OFSTS/AUDREY TALLEY
TOFAS 016
SUBJECT: GMO'S IN ORGANIC FARMING IN SWEDEN
REF: FASTO 26722
1. SWEDEN BECAME A MEMBER OF THE EU AS OF JANUARY
1, 1995, AND THUS, SWEDEN ADHERES TO THE EU

REGULATION 2092/91 (FROM JUNE 24, 1991) WITH
AMENDMENTS THAT GOVERN THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH
ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND FOODSTUFFS MAY
BE PRODUCED AND MARKETED. EU REGULATION 2092/91
DOES NOT YET PROHIBIT THE USE OF GMO PRODUCTS. IN
ADDITION, ORGANICALLY CERTIFIED PRODUCTS ARE
REGULATED BY SWEDISH AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION
SJVFS 1995:551 AND SJVFS 1995:702.

2. IN ORDER TO MARKET AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AS
ORGANICALLY PRODUCED, THE GOS REQUIRES THAT
PRODUCTION IS APPROVED BY A RESPONSIBLE
ORGANIZATION THAT IS OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZED.
CERTIFICATION IS NOT RESTRICTED TO SWEDISH
PRODUCTS, IMPORTS CAN ALSO OBTAIN CERTIFICATION.

3. IN SWEDEN, THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE HAVE
AUTHORIZED TWO CONTROL ORGANIZATIONS FOR ORGANIC
PRODUCTION;
I) "KONTROLLFORENINGEN FOR EKOLOGISK ODLING
(KRAV)" AND II) "SVENSKA DEMETERFORBUNDET". THESE
CONTROL ORGANIZATIONS OFFER INSPECTIONS ACCORDING
TO EU MINIMUM STANDARDS OR ALTERNATIVELY,
ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN STANDARDS. THE LATTER FORM
OF INSPECTION DOMINATES AS THE "KRAV" OR "DEMETER"
CONSUMERS. IN ADDITION, SWEDISH PRODUCERS ARE NOT
YET SO FAMILIAR WITH THE EU STANDARDS. IN

PRACTICE THEREFORE, "KRAV" STANDARDS (KRAV BEING BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT CONTROL ORGANIZATION) ARE CRITICAL TO SUCCESSFUL MARKETING OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS.

4. "KRAV" IS A MEMBER OF IFOAM (INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS) AND ADHERES TO THEIR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND THUS DOES NOT ALLOW GMO'S IN THE PRODUCTS THEY APPROVE. IN FACT SWEDISH CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS ADVISE CONSUMERS WHO WISH TO AVOID GMO'S IN FOOD THAT THE ONLY WAY TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE IS TO CHOOSE "KRAV" LABELED PRODUCTS.

5. ACCORDING TO KRAV'S OWN STANDARDS, SEED, PLANTS OR OTHER MULTIPLICATION MATERIALS IN CROP PRODUCTION, MAY NOT ORIGINATE FROM GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. IN ORGANIC LIVESTOCK HUSBANDRY, ONLY 5 PERCENT OF YEARLY FEED INTAKE MAY BE FROM NON-KRAV CERTIFIED PRODUCTION, HOWEVER NONE MAY ORIGINATE FROM GMO'S.

6. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR AS TO HOW FAR THIS EFFECTIVE GMO BAN GOES. IN SWEDEN THERE HAS BEEN ONE EXCEPTION REGARDING AMINO ACIDS FOR HENS IN ORGANIC EGG PRODUCTION, WHICH COULD BE PRODUCED BY GMO MICROORGANISMS. KRAV IS AT THE MOMENT WORKING ON DEFINING IN MORE DETAIL WHERE THE LINE IS TO BE DRAWN. MEDICINES, VITAMINS AND CERTAIN ENZYMES PRODUCED WITH THE HELP OF GMO'S ARE LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE IN ORGANIC FARMING IN THE FUTURE.

7. IN ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCTS, "KRAV" STANDARDS ALLOW INGREDIENTS UP TO 5 PERCENT TO BE OF CONVENTIONAL PRODUCTION HOWEVER GMO DERIVATIVES ARE CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDED.

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3995

TOR: 970714220950 M2847354

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008. cable	Re: [Biotechnology] (4 pages)	07/15/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[06/04/1997 - 08/28/1997]

2013-0836-F

ke3006

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- 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: ROUTINE

CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHFRA6116 1981317-CCZZ--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNY CCCZZ ZZH

LINE3: R 171317Z JUL 97

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

OSRI: RUEHFR

DTG: 171317Z JUL 97

ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8004

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE

RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 1566

RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6311

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6578

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 4588

SUBJ: DREE DIRECTOR ON SECTORAL INITIATIVES, BANANAS, LEG-HOLD
TRAPS, GMO'S AND BEEF HORMONES

TEXT:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 016116

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/17/02

TAGS: ETRD USTR WTRO FR EC

SUBJECT: DREE DIRECTOR ON SECTORAL INITIATIVES, BANANAS, LEG-HOLD
TRAPS, GMO'S AND BEEF HORMONES

REF: A: STATE 130933; B: STATE 128850; C: GLOVER-MCCARTHY EMAIL;
D: IVES-SECO TELECONS; E: PARIS 14902; F: PARIS 14877

1. CLASSIFIED BY A/DCM MEDEIROS FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

2. SUMMARY

-- THE NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET TAKEN A POSITION ON THE
QUESTION OF SECTORAL INITIATIVES (REF A).

-- THE OFFICIAL GOF POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED ON BANANAS BUT FRENCH
OFFICIALS WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE INFORMALLY
WITH USTR OFFICIALS IN LATE JULY (REFS B AND D).

-- THE DREE IS UNCERTAIN WHAT POSITION FRANCE WILL TAKE IN
BRUSSELS ON LEG HOLD TRAPS. (AS OF 7/17 A TRADE ADVISER IN THE
PM'S OFFICE SAID THAT FRANCE WAS STILL "REFLECTING" ON ITS
POSITION.)

-- GOF TRADE OFFICIALS STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT LABELLING IS THE BEST
MECHANISM FOR ENSURING MARKET ACCESS FOR GMO'S, GIVEN THE CLIMATE
OF EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION ON FOOD SAFETY.

-- DREE ASSERTS THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET LOOKED AT THE
BEEF HORMONE ISSUE AND BELIEVES THAT THE ISSUE WILL BE DECIDED AT

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VZ NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0524-m (1,63)

THE EU LEVEL. END SUMMARY.

3. ON JULY 16, A/DCM DISCUSSED A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES WITH TRADE DIRECTORATE (DREE) DIRECTOR JACQUES DE LAJUGIE. DAVID APPIA, DE LAJUGIE'S NEW DEPUTY FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS (REPLACING DENIS TERSEN, WHO HAS MOVED UP TO BECOME AN ADVISER ON TRADE ISSUES TO MINISTER OF ECONOMY, FINANCE AND INDUSTRY STRAUSS-KAHN), DESK OFFICER CLAIRE THIRRIOT, AND EMBASSY TRADE POLICY OFFICER ALSO ATTENDED MEETING. SEPTELS COVER DISCUSSION OF BOEING-MCDONNELL DOUGLAS MERGER AND HELMS-BURTON PERNOD-RICARD CASE.

SECTORAL INITIATIVES

4. IN RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHE ON SECTORAL INITIATIVES (REF B), DE LAJUGIE COMMENTED THAT NEITHER THE PREVIOUS JUPPE GOVERNMENT NOR THE CURRENT JOSPIN GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED ON WHAT APPROACH FRANCE SHOULD TAKE TOWARD A NEW URUGUAY-TYPE ROUND OR THE ALTERNATIVE OF SECTORAL INITIATIVES. HE ASKED WHETHER THE USG'S APPARENT PREFERENCE FOR A SECTORAL APPROACH IS DRIVEN BY THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION CAN OBTAIN FAST TRACK AUTHORITY FROM CONGRESS. A/DCM RESPONDED THAT THE USG SIMPLY SEES OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADE LIBERALIZATION VIA A SECTORAL APPROACH AS OBTAINABLE IN THE NEAR TERM. IF WE START A NEW ROUND, TRADE LIBERALIZATION WILL COME TO A HALT FOR A RELATIVELY LONG PERIOD, UNTIL COUNTRIES DECIDE WHAT AND WHEN TO DEAL.

5. DE LAJUGIE ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHAT CANADA'S POSITION IS ON THE SECTORAL APPROACH. HE NOTED THAT NEW NEGOTIATIONS ON CERTAIN SECTORS WERE MANDATED BY THE MARRAKECH AGREEMENT AND THAT FRANCE LOOKED AT THESE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEED TO ADDRESS THE TRADE "ANDS" (ENVIRONMENT, LABOR AND COMPETITION POLICY) IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE SAID THE DREE WILL STUDY OUR SECTORAL SUGGESTIONS AND PROVIDE RESPONSES WHEN AVAILABLE. HE DID NOTE THAT THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR REMAINS AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ONE IN FRANCE. A/DCM RESPONDED THAT NEGOTIATIONS IN THIS SECTOR WERE IN FACT MANDATED AT MARRAKECH. DE LAJUGIE COMMENTED THAT EU ENLARGEMENT WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON THE EU POSITION REGARDING FURTHER LIBERALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT -- WITH CONTINUING RESTRUCTURING OF FRANCE'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND A SECOND REFORM OF THE CAP COMING UP -- THE DEBATE ON MULTILATERAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE LESS INTENSE THAN THAT IN 1993-94.

GMO'S AND LABELLING

6. CONTINUING THE DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES, DE LAJUGIE NOTED THAT FRANCE, LIKE THE U.S., HAS A VERY STRONG AND EFFECTIVE AGRICULTURAL LOBBY. HE MENTIONED HIS MEETING IN JUNE WITH USDA FAS ADMINISTRATOR SCHUMACHER (REF F) AND ASKED WHETHER THE USG CAN BE MORE FLEXIBLE ON THE LABELLING ISSUE FOR GMO'S. HE NOTED THE VERY STRONG CONSUMER PROTECTION SENSITIVITIES IN NORTHERN EUROPE, AND COMMENTED THAT HE VIEWS LABELLING AS THE BEST MECHANISM FOR OBTAINING MARKET ACCESS FOR GMO'S. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THE ISSUE IN FRANCE, HE REFERRED TO FORMER FRENCH AG MINISTER VASSEUR'S DECISION TO APPROVE PLANTING OF BT CORN, AND COMMENTED ON HOW STARTLING IT HAD BEEN WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER OVERTURNED VASSEUR'S DECISION WITHIN THE SPACE OF 24 HOURS, BASED ON POLITICAL CONCERNS.

BEEF HORMONES

7. DE LAJUGIE SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT YET READY TO PROVIDE ITS POSITION ON THE BEEF HORMONE ISSUE. HE SAID HE WAS SURPRISED AT THE VIRULENT EUROPEAN PRESS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE INITIAL PANEL DECISION. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE ISSUE WOULD BE DECIDED AT ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 016116

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/17/02

TAGS: ETRD USTR WTRO FR EC

SUBJECT: DREE DIRECTOR ON SECTORAL INITIATIVES, BANANAS, LEG-HOLD TRAPS, GMO'S AND BEEF HORMONES

THE EU LEVEL.

BANANAS

8. A/DCM PRESENTED REF A DEMARCHE TO DE LAJUGIE. DE LAJUGIE OUTLINED (AS HE HAD IN JUNE - REF E) THE DEPENDENCE OF THE ECONOMY OF MARTINIQUE AND GUADELOUPE ON BANANAS AND THE POTENTIAL FOR SOCIAL UNREST IF THE BANANA TRADE IS SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES HAVE SENT A MESSAGE TO THE WHITE HOUSE ASKING FOR U.S. RESTRAINT ON THE BANANA TRADE ISSUE. AND HE AGAIN MENTIONED THE ECUADORIANS, NOTING THAT THEY WERE TRYING TO BE HELPFUL (NO FURTHER SPECIFICS), UNDERSTANDING THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON BANANA-DEPENDENT CARIBBEAN ECONOMIES. DE LAJUGIE COMMENTED AGAIN ON HOW SENSITIVE THE ISSUE IS POLITICALLY IN FRANCE. HE SAID THE REACTION OF THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP WHEN IT TRIES TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE PANEL DECISION'S IMPLICATIONS MAY NOT BE RATIONAL. HE ADDED THAT IT DOES NOT MATTER HOW RATIONALLY AND LEGALISTICALLY THE ISSUE IS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER: IT WILL BE REGARDED AS A POLITICAL MATTER. HE SAID THAT THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY IS NOT ONLY A QUESTION OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE OFFICIALS ELECTED FROM THE ISLANDS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BUT ALSO THE FACT THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF INFLUENTIAL SENIOR BUREAUCRATS HAVE WORKED IN THE DOM-TOMS AND ARE PROTECTIVE OF THEM.

9. A/DCM RESPONDED THAT FRANCE AND THE EU MUST DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE WITHIN A SET TIMEFRAME. WHAT THE USG SEEKS IS OBVIOUSLY NOT TO UNDERMINE THE ISLAND ECONOMIES BUT RATHER FOR THE EU TO ESTABLISH A NEW BANANA REGIME IN EUROPE THAT IS WTO CONSISTENT AND THAT ALLOWS THE GROWTH OF THE LATIN AMERICAN BANANA TRADE. WE EXPECT THE EUROPEANS TO SET UP SUCH A SYSTEM, WHICH COULD ALSO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE CARIBBEAN BANANA-DEPENDENT STATES.

10. DE LAJUGIE ASKED IF THE USG IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE BANANA CASE INFORMALLY BEFORE THE FINAL PANEL DECISION. A/DCM NOTED THAT DAUSTR IVES IS PREPARED TO MEET WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS IN PARIS IN LATE JULY. DE LAJUGIE WELCOMED IVES' VISIT AND SUGGESTED THAT USTR REPS COME PREPARED WITH IDEAS REGARDING REFORM OF THE EU STRUCTURE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOF WANTED TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE INFORMALLY, AND SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT AFTER THE FINAL PANEL DECISION. (COMMENT. THE FRENCH ARE VERY ANXIOUS ON THIS ISSUE. THE DREE DOES NOT LIKE PANEL DECISIONS FINDING FRANCE AND THE EU IN THE WRONG. DE LAJUGIE APPEARS OPENLY TO BE SEEKING IDEAS OR ADVICE ON HOW THE SYSTEM CAN BE REFORMED IN A WTO-CONSISTENT MANNER. WE SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSION AS TO THE VERY SENSITIVE

POLITICAL POTENTIAL THE ISSUE HAS HERE. THE FACT THAT DE LAJUGIE IS SEEKING DISCUSSIONS IS A GOOD SIGN. WHAT PROGRESS WE CAN MAKE IS ANOTHER QUESTION. END COMMENT)

LEG HOLD TRAPS

11. DE LAJUGIE SAID THAT AN INTERMINISTERIAL MEETING WAS SCHEDULED ON THE ISSUE TODAY (7/16). HE SAID HE REALLY DID NOT KNOW WHAT FRANCE'S POSITION WOULD BE. (MARC BOREL, A FORMER DREE OFFICE DIRECTOR, NOW A TRADE ADVISER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, TOLD US 7/17 THAT THE 7/16 INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING HAD REACHED NO CONCLUSION ON THE ISSUE AND THAT FRANCE WAS STILL "REFLECTING" ON WHAT POSITION IT WOULD FINALLY ADOPT. LAST WEEK HE HAD TOLD US THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THE ISSUE WOULD PLAY OUT BETWEEN THE DREE, MFA AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY.) THE DREE IS TAKING THE POSITION THAT FRANCE AND THE EU MUST CONFORM TO WTO RULES. DE LAJUGIE COMMENTED THAT THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY -- WITH A GREEN PARTY MINISTER -- IS TAKING A VERY STRONG POSITION ON THIS ISSUE AGAINST THE DREE. HE RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO REACH A DECISION BY JULY 22. (COMMENT. IN JUNE WE DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH DREE AND MFA STAFFERS. AT THAT TIME THEY COULD OFFER US ONLY THEIR OWN MINISTRIES' POSITIONS -- BOTH FAVORED A WTO CONSISTENT POLICY AND A QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT INVOLVING THE EU AND ALL THREE PRODUCERS: THE U.S., CANADA AND RUSSIA. IT IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL IN FRANCE FOR MINISTRIES TO OFFER A POSITION THAT HAS NOT BEEN FULLY GOF CLEARED AND ESTABLISHED BY INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION. THIS IS A SIGN OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S INITIAL SETTling-IN DIFFICULTIES. AS A SEPARATE MATTER, THE CANADIAN EMIN TOLD US LAST WEEK THAT HE IS VERY WORRIED THAT CANADA WILL NOT REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE EU AND THAT A TRADE BAN WILL BE PUT IN PLACE BY DEFAULT. END COMMENT)

12. DE LAJUGIE ASKED WHETHER, IF THE EU APPROVES A DEAL WITH RUSSIA AND CANADA, IT IS "CONCEIVABLE" THAT THE USG COULD SIGN ON. A/DCM RESPONDED THAT IN THE U.S. THE STATES, NOT THE USG, WILL HAVE THE FINAL SAY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REASONS. THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO SIGN ON TO THE CANADA/RUSSIA DEAL IF IT INCLUDES A BAN ON LEG HOLD TRAPS. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE U.S. PROBLEM WITH THE CANADA/RUSSIA AGREEMENTS INVOLVES THE BAN ON LG HOLD TRAPS, HOWEVER, NOT THE NEGOTIATED INTRNATIONAL HUMANE TRAPPING STANDARDS.

BUNDLE

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 6116
<^SSN>6116
TOR: 970717092339 M2851669
<^TOR>970717092425 M2851670
DIST:
SIT: PETERS TARULLO
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHWLA0892 2050318-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 240318Z JUL 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
OSRI: RUEHWL
DTG: 240318Z JUL 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5254
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: ////
SUBJ: SURVEY OF GMO'S IN ORGANIC FARMING

TEXT:
UNCLAS WELLINGTON 000892

STATE FOR EAP/ANZ
USDA FOR ITP/SHEIKH, ZEITNER, ITP/FSTS, FAA/MOLSTAD

E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, NZ

SUBJECT: SURVEY OF GMO'S IN ORGANIC FARMING

REF: USDA 26722

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON NEW ZEALAND POLICY FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTS.

2. NEW ZEALAND DOES NOT YET MAINTAIN LEGISLATED STANDARDS FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTS, BUT HAS TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTED INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND SELF-REGULATION. TO PROMOTE TRUTH IN LABELING FOR THE DOMESTIC MARKET, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MAF) CURRENTLY HAS GUIDELINES DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. THIS GUIDELINE REFERS TO THE SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION WHICH MUST BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARDS OF ONE OF A NUMBER OF LISTED OVERSEAS ORGANIZATIONS.

3. AN EFFORT IS NOW UNDERWAY TO PUT OFFICIAL STANDARDS INTO PLACE, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS DECEMBER 1997. DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS FOR THE ORGANIC EXPORT INDUSTRY IS BEING COORDINATED BY THE ORGANIC PRODUCTS EXPORTERS GROUP (OPEG). THE GROUP INCLUDES TRADENZ (NEW ZEALAND'S TRADE DEVELOPMENT BOARD) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FOUNDING MEMBERS WATTIE FROZEN FOODS, THE NEW ZEALAND KIWIFRUIT MARKETING BOARD, AND OTHER NZ STAKEHOLDERS IN THE ORGANIC INDUSTRY.

4. IN THE ABSENCE OF IMPORTING COUNTRIES ACTIVELY

SEEKING OFFICIAL ASSURANCES, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE INDUSTRY HAVE TENDED TO SUPPORT INITIATIVES TOWARDS COMMON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS BY RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING CODEX AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL MOVEMENTS (IFOAM) STANDARDS.

5. HOWEVER, NEW ZEALAND PRODUCERS BELIEVE THEY ARE NOW LOSING OUT ON OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPE TO COUNTRIES WHICH ARE PROVIDING OFFICIAL ASSURANCES. THE NEW ZEALANDERS FEAR THAT WHEN U.S. OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION IS PUT IN PLACE THEY WILL BE AT A TREMENDOUS IMMEDIATE DISADVANTAGE (PARTICULARLY IN THE JAPAN MARKET) AND EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A NZ SYSTEM ARE ACCELERATING.

6. UNDER THE CURRENT SYSTEM, TWO N.Z. ORGANIZATIONS INSPECT AND CERTIFY FARMS AND PROCESSORS ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED STANDARDS - THE NZ BIOLOGICAL PRODUCERS AND PRODUCERS COUNCIL (NZBPCC) AND THE BIODYNAMIC FARMING AND GARDENING ASSOCIATION (BDFGA). BOTH ORGANIZATIONS MEET OR EXCEED MINIMUM IFOAM STANDARDS.

7. THE GNZ DOES NOT HAVE A POSITION ON THE USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S) IN ORGANIC FARMING, BUT MAF AND TRADENZ CONTACTS WERE PESSIMISTIC THAT GMO'S WOULD BE ALLOWED IN ORGANIC FARMING.

8. UNTIL NEW ZEALAND ENACTS REGULATIONS UNDER ITS HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND NEW ORGANISMS ACT (HASNO) ON APRIL 1, 1998, AN INTERIM ASSESSMENT GROUP (IAG) WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT ITS PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATING PROPOSALS TO FIELD TEST OR RELEASE GMO'S. THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE IAG IS ORGANIZED WITHIN THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. SINCE ITS INCEPTION, THE IAG HAS EVALUATED MORE THAN 40 APPLICATIONS INVOLVING THE USE OF GMO'S OUTSIDE CONTAINED FACILITIES. HOWEVER, TO DATE NO GMO HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR FULL RELEASE IN NEW ZEALAND.

9. IN ADDITION TO FIELD TESTING, IAG REVIEW IS ALSO RECOMMENDED FOR THE POSSIBLE IMPORTATION OF TRANSGENIC FOOD PRODUCTS WHICH MAY BE VIABLE IN THE ENVIRONMENT. AT PRESENT THE IAG APPROVAL PROCESS IS VOLUNTARY. HOWEVER, UNDER HASNO, THE REGIME WILL BE COMPULSORY. BEEMAN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0892

TOR: 970723232056 M2860721

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHTGA3763 2062124-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0156
INFO: RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 1487
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5659
SUBJ: RESPONSE TO SURVEY ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS (GMO'S) IN ORGANIC FARMING

TEXT:
UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 003763

FAS FOR ITP/OFSTS/A.TALLEY
FAS ALSO FOR FAA/WHAO/W.WESTMAN
GUATEMALA FOR AG.COUNSELOR/S.HEINEN

E.O.12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR,HO
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO SURVEY ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS (GMO'S) IN ORGANIC FARMING

REF: USDA FAS 26722

1. FOLLOWING IS POST'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTTEL
REGARDING SUBJECT SURVEY.

A. THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS (GOH) HAS NO ORGANIC
LEGISLATION/STANDARDS IN PLACE AND NONE ARE BEING DEVELOPED.

B. THE GOH HAS NO OFFICIAL POSITION ON THE ISSUE OF USING
GMO'S IN ORGANIC FARMING OR IN ORGANIC PROCESSED PRODUCTS.
WHEN ANY CASE ARISES DEALING WITH THIS SORT OF ISSUE, THE
APPROPRIATE GOH MINISTRY EVALUATES ALL THE TECHNICAL
ARGUMENTS RELATED TO THE CASE. BASED ON THIS EVALUATION AND
ON THE PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH LAW (DECREE 157-94, EFFECTIVE
SINCE 01/13/95) AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH CODE (DECREE 65-91,
EFFECTIVE 05/28/91), THE APPROPRIATE MINISTRY MAKES A
DETERMINATION.

C. N/A

D. NONE
CREAGAN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3763

TOR: 970725172922 M2864211

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHEGA7660 2090457-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 280457Z JUL 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
OSRI: RUEHEG
DTG: 280457Z JUL 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8664
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY 0746
INFO: RUCNWTOWORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2527
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
SUBJ: EGYPT ISSUES DECREE REQUIRING THE CERTIFICATION
- OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED COMMODITIES (GMO)

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 O 02 CAIRO 007660

FAS FOR ADMINISTRATOR, DA/ITP AND ITP/OFSTS, DA/CMP, CMP/GF AND
CMP/COTSD, AND DA/EC
STATE FOR EB/TPP AND ALSO USTR ELECTRONICALLY
COMMERCE FOR 4520/MAC/ANE/ONE
GENEVA FOR FAS AND USTR
BRUSSELS FOR FAS/POPE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, WTRD, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPT ISSUES DECREE REQUIRING THE CERTIFICATION
- OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED COMMODITIES (GMO)

1. IN A TOTALLY UNEXPECTED MOVE, THE EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) HAS ISSUED A DECREE REQUIRING THAT ALL AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS BE CERTIFIED AS NOT/NOT HAVING BEEN CULTIVATED OR PRODUCED BY GENETICALLY MODIFIED MEANS. THE DECREE TOOK EFFECT ON JULY 1, 1997, ALTHOUGH IT HAS ONLY RECENTLY BECOME PUBLIC. NEWS OF THE DECREE CREATED IMMEDIATE CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY IN THE MARKET.

2. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY THE MOH FELT COMPELLED TO ISSUE THE DECREE. BIOTECHNOLOGY AND GMO RESEARCH HAS NOT BEEN A HOT ISSUE IN EGYPT. WHATEVER THE REASON, TRADE REACTION TO THE DECREE NOTICE AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH GOE OFFICIALS STRONGLY INDICATE THAT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ACTED ALONE AND WITHOUT INTERNAL CONSULTATION. OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TRADE (MOS) IN PARTICULAR WERE CAUGHT OFF GUARD AND OPENLY AND VISIBLY UPSET AT THE ACTION. THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY IS REPORTED TO HAVE COMPLAINED BITTERLY ABOUT THE DECREE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S CABINET MEETING OF JULY 21. THAT WAS FOLLOWED

BY A QUICK MOVE TO HAVE WHEAT EXCLUDED FROM THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT. BY THE END OF THE WEEK (I.E., JULY 24-25), THE MOH HAD RETREATED SOMEWHAT. IN AN INTERNAL MEMO APPROVED BY THE MINISTER, THE MOH ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS POSTPONING IMPLEMENTING THE DECREE FOR THREE MONTHS AND WAIVING THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR ALL COMMODITIES, EXCEPT SOYBEANS.

3. EMBASSY'S AGCOUNSELOR SPENT THE WEEK OF JULY 20 COMMUNICATING WITH THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IN THE MINISTRY AND HEALTH (BELIEVED TO BE THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ISSUING THE DECREE) AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL AUTHORITY FOR SUPPLY COMMODITIES (GASC) IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TRADE TO ASCERTAIN THE REASON FOR THE DECREE AND TO OBTAIN DETAILS ON HOW THE DECREE WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

A. THE MOH/UNDER SECRETARY DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO THE QUESTION OF WHY THE DECREE WAS NECESSARY, BUT SUGGESTED THAT DISCUSSIONS IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA HAD LEFT THE ISSUE OF THE SAFETY OF GMO COMMODITIES UNRESOLVED. HE DID NOT GET SPECIFIC ON WHICH MEETINGS OR WHICH DISCUSSIONS. HE ASKED FOR A CLARIFICATION ON WHAT THE U.S. WAS PREPARED TO DO TO CERTIFY GMO COMMODITIES. HE WAS TOLD THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT CERTIFY ANY AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY AS "GMO-FREE."

B. THE MEETING WITH THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF GASC GOT TO THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM. HE COMPLAINED THAT THE ACTION HAD TAKEN AWAY HIS FLEXIBILITY TO ENTER THE GRAIN MARKET AT WILL. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN FORCED TO SUSPEND ALL GRAIN PURCHASES PENDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MOH. HE TOO ASKED ABOUT U.S. CERTIFICATION OF GMO COMMODITIES AND WAS TOLD THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT CERTIFY GMO COMMODITY EXPORTS. HE ASKED FOR WRITTEN CONFIRMATION, WHICH HE RECEIVED. WE HAVE GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY REFERRED TO THE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S CABINET MEETING, AND THAT THE MOH ALSO USED IT IN ARGUING WITH THE MOH THAT WHEAT SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE LIST OF BANNED COMMODITIES.

4. CURRENT STATE OF PLAY:

A. THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH AND SUPPLY/TRADE HAVE BEEN ADVISED IN WRITING THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT CERTIFY GMO COMMODITY EXPORTS.

B. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS BEEN GIVEN INFORMATION CONCERNING THE U.S. REGULATORY APPROVAL PROCESS FOR GMO COMMODITIES AND A LIST OF CURRENT APPROVED CROPS IN THE U.S. (AS OF JUNE 1997).

C. BOTH MINISTRIES HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS ABOUT THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DECREE ON U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO EGYPT AND ON TRADE IN GENERAL.

D. AGCOUNSELOR HAS REQUESTED AN URGENT MEETING WITH THE

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, DR. YOUSSEF A. WALLY, TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IS IN THE FOREFRONT OF BIOTECHNIC RESEARCH IN EGYPT. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE MINISTRY IS ALSO INVOLVED IN A HOST OF COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS WITH THE U.S (SOME WITH USAID, OTHERS WITH FAS MARKET DEVELOPMENT COOPERATORS) IN THE AREAS OF POULTRY, DAIRY AND ANIMAL UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 00760

FAS FOR ADMINISTRATOR, DA/ITP AND ITP/OSTS, DA/CMP, CMP/GF AND CMP/COTSD, ANDDA/EC
STATE FOR EB/TPP AND ALSO USTR ELECTROICALLY
COMMERCE FOR 4520/MAC/ANE/ONE
GENEVA FOR FAS AND USTR
BRUSSELS FOR FAS/POPE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, WTRD, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPT ISSUES DECREE REQUIRING THE CERTIFICATION
- OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED COMMODITIES (GMO)

PRODUCTION. ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS DEPEND HEAVILY ON THE UNINCUMBERED IMPORTATION OF CORN, OTHER COARSE GRAINS, SOYBEANS, AND RELATED BY-PRODUCTS. ALL WILL BE SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED IF IMPORTS REMAIN BLOCKED.

E. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT MOS/MOH OFFICIALS WILL TRY TO MEET ON JULY 28-29 TO RESOLVE THE LONGER-TERM PROBLEM (I.E., WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE THREE MONTHS HAVE EXPIRED), AT LEAST AS IT CONCERNS WHEAT. THE MOS ALSO HAS AGREED TO USE THE MEETING TO REINFORCE U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT ON OTHER KEY IMPORTS SUCH AS SOYBEANS.

F. THE MEETING WITH THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (IF IT TAKES PLACE) WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL.

5. FINAL NOTE:

THE THREE MONTH EXTENSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECREE DOESN'T GIVE THE GOE MUCH TIME TO SOLVE THE GROWING CRISIS AND CALM THE MARKET, AND MOST OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN QUICK TO NOTE THAT. WITH NOTICE OF THE THREE MONTH EXTENSION, THE MOS QUICKLY ENTERED THE WHEAT MARKET FOR 450,000 MT, ALL FOR AUGUST DELIVERY. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, ONE SOYBEAN SHIPMENT WAS REJECTED BY IMPORT AUTHORITIES FOR NOT HAVING THE REQUIRED CERTIFICATION, AND AT LEAST TWO OTHER ORDERS, ONE FOR SOYBEANS AND THE OTHER FOR CORN, REPORTEDLY WERE CANCELED BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY. THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THE MOH IS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND FROM TRADERS TO BACK OFF ITS POSITION. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER IT WILL BE ABLE TO FIND A FACE-SAVING WAY TO DO IT. WALKER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 7660
<^SSN>7660

TOR: 970728011549 M2865270
<^TOR>970728010013 M2865247

DIST:
SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
011. cable	Re: [EU's Common Agricultural Policy] (3 pages)	08/07/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[06/04/1997 - 08/28/1997]

2013-0836-F
ke3006

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
012. cable	Re: [EU Meeting] (4 pages)	08/28/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[06/04/1997 - 08/28/1997]

2013-0836-F
ke3006

RESTRICTION CODES

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