

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: EU Commission Wants Austria to Lift Import Ban on Genetically Modified Corn (2 pages)	09/11/1997	P1/b(1) <i>11/26/2019</i>
002. cable	Re: [Labeling Genetically Modified Products] (3 pages)	10/02/1997	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: [EU Meetings] (4 pages)	10/06/1997	P1/b(1)
004. cable	Re: [French Position on Genetically Modified Corn] (3 pages)	10/22/1997	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Re: [European Commission] (5 pages)	11/21/1997	P1/b(1)
006. cable	Re: [French Policy on Genetically Modified Organisms] (3 pages)	11/26/1997	P1/b(1)
007. cable	Re: [GMO Corn Vote] (2 pages)	12/12/1997	P1/b(1) <i>12/3/2020</i>

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[09/11/1997 - 12/31/1997]

2013-0836-F

ke3007

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 RUEHVIA8355 2541623-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 111623Z SEP 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 111623Z SEP 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3092
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0131
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0111
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0185
SUBJ: EU COMMISSION WANTS AUSTRIA TO LIFT IMPORT BAN ON
GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN

STCABLE 735

TEXT:
UNCLAS VIENNA 008355

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: EU COMMISSION WANTS AUSTRIA TO LIFT IMPORT BAN ON
GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN

STCABLE 735

1. ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1997 THE EU COMMISSION AGREED TO DEMAND THAT AUSTRIA LIFT ITS IMPORT BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN. ACCORDING TO THE COMMISSION, AUSTRIA WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVE THAT GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN ENDANGERS HUMAN HEALTH OR THE ENVIRONMENT.

2. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO BOTH NEWSPAPER REPORTS AND UNOFFICIAL INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM SOURCES OF THE MINISTRY FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY, AUSTRIA INTENDS TO MAINTAIN THE GOVERNMENT DECISION ON THE BAN ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN.

3. THE MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, BARBARA PRAMMER, FAVORS ACTIVE STEPS AGAINST THE DECISION AND THEREFORE WILL BRING SUIT IN THE EU COURT.

HOWEVER, IF AUSTRIA WANTS TO BRING THE CASE TO THE EU COURT, IT HAS TO WAIT UNTIL THE DECISION BECOMES OFFICIAL. THIS IS EXPECTED TO TAKE AT LEAST SIX WEEKS. THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL HAS TO PASS FIRST THE ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE, AFTER WHICH THE EU COMMISSION CAN MAKE A FINAL DECISION.

4. PRAMMER EXPRESSED HER DISAPPOINTMENT WITH COMMISSIONER FRANZ FISCHLER, WHOM SHE ACCUSED OF NOT HAVING SUPPORTED AUSTRIA.

5. THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MARTIN BATENSTEIN STATED THAT HE FULLY SUPPORTS HIS COLLEAGUE PRAMMER IN MAINTAINING THE BAN. IN ADDITION, THE LABOR CHAMBER, THE GREEN PARTY AND VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS DEMANDED REJECTION OF THE COMMISSION'S DECISION.

6. COMMENT: AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS EXPECTED THIS KIND OF DECISION BY THE EU COMMISSION. IN ADDITION, THEY ARE CERTAIN THEY WILL ALSO LOSE IN THE EUROPEAN COURT. HOWEVER, IN BRINGING THE CASE TO COURT, AUSTRIANS GAIN TIME AND POLITICIANS CAN PROVE TO THE STRONGLY ENVIRONMENTALLY ORIENTED POPULATION THAT THEY TRIED EVERYTHING TO KEEP GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 8355

TOR: 970911131402 M2926262

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA8712 2651217-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 221217Z SEP 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 221217Z SEP 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3220
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0135
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0192
SUBJ: VISIT TO AUSTRIA BY APHIS GMO SPECIALIST
TEXT:

UNCLAS VIENNA 008712

SENSITIVE

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

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ECON, ETRD, AU, SENV, TBIO
SUBJECT: VISIT TO AUSTRIA BY APHIS GMO SPECIALIST

REF: STCABLE 740

1. (U) SUMMARY: DR. MICHAEL SCHECHTMAN, USDA ANIMAL & PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS) MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST, VISITED VIENNA SEPTEMBER 11-12 TO MAKE PRESENTATIONS ON THE U.S. REGULATORY SYSTEM ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS). SCHECHTMAN MET WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS, LOCAL AND AMERICAN INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, GREENPEACE AND GLOBAL 2000 REPRESENTATIVES, ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE MINISTRY OFFICIALS, PRESS REPRESENTATIVES, AND SEVERAL EU AGRICULTURAL ATTACHES BASED IN VIENNA.

2. (U) SCHECHTMAN PROVIDED MUCH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INSIGHT INTO THE U.S. REGULATORY PROCESS SURROUNDING GMOS. HIS PERSPECTIVE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING TO THOSE WITH TECHNICAL BACKGROUNDS. HE WAS ABLE TO SATISFY MOST TECHNICAL CONCERNS SURROUNDING GMOS, BUT WAS UNABLE TO CONVINCE SKEPTICS SUCH AS GREEN PEACE OR SOME OF THE EU AG ATTACHES THAT U.S./EU APPROVED GMOS THAT ARE NOT LABELED IN THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT REQUIRE LABELING IN THE EU. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) FAS/VIENNA INVITED SCIENTIFIC REPRESENTATIVES FROM GREENPEACE AND GLOBAL 2000 TO MEET WITH SCHECHTMAN FOR A PRIVATE TECHNICAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION. SCHECHTMAN OPENED THE ROUNDTABLE WITH A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF THE U.S. REGULATORY PROCESS. HE PROVIDED MANY EXAMPLES OF HOW THE U.S. SYSTEM HAS EVOLVED AND EXPLAINED THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE VARIOUS U.S. REGULATORY AGENCIES.

4. (U) THE GREENPEACE/GLOBAL 2000 REPRESENTATIVES WERE QUITE CORDIAL AND POLITE AT THE MEETING, BUT RAISED MANY CONCERNS. AS SOON AS SCHECHTMAN WOULD START TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS, THEY WOULD COME BACK AND SAY THEY WERE NOT INTERESTED IN THE TECHNICAL DETAILS. THEY CLAIMED AUSTRIAN CONSUMERS SIMPLY DO NOT WANT GMOS AND SHOULD NOT HAVE TO ACCEPT THEM IN THE MARKETING CHAIN WITHOUT LABELING. ONE OF THE GREENPEACE REPRESENTATIVES COMPLEMENTED SCHECHTMAN FOR HIS CONVINCING SCIENTIFIC ARGUMENTS ON ACCEPTING GMOS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. HOWEVER, THE SAME REPRESENTATIVE ADMITTED THAT HE KNEW ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ABOUT THE U.S. REGULATORY PROCESS FOR GMOS, WHILE CLAIMING THAT THE EU AND AUSTRIAN REGULATIONS ARE QUOTE NOT STRICT ENOUGH UNQUOTE. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS EXPRESSED THAT LABELING WOULD BE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT THEY WOULD NEED IN BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN THE ACCEPTANCE OF GMOS.

5. (SBU) THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE EXPLAINED THAT HIS MINISTRY WAS CAUGHT COMPLETELY OFF-GUARD WITH THE RESPONSE THAT THE GMO REFERENDUM RECEIVED LAST WINTER. HE CLAIMED THAT HIS MINISTRY HAS TRIED TO PLAY AN OBJECTIVE ROLE, BUT ADMITTED THAT PUBLIC SENTIMENT HAS HAD A STRONG POLITICAL IMPACT ON THE WAY THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS APPROACHED THE GMO ISSUES. HIS MINISTRY WAS NOT SURPRISED THAT BRUSSELS RECENTLY REJECTED THEIR ARTICLE 16 ATTEMPT TO BAN IMPORTS OF BT CORN IN AUSTRIA. HE CLAIMED THAT AUSTRIA'S MAIN CONCERN ABOUT BT CORN IS THE LACK OF A PEST RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. BT IS ONE OF THE FEW NATURAL PESTICIDES THAT ORGANIC FARMERS ARE ALLOWED TO USE, SO AUSTRIAN FARMERS ARE CONCERNED OVER ITS USE. HE SAID THAT ITALY IS IN A POSITION SIMILAR TO AUSTRIA'S, BUT HE NOTED THAT THE BT PRODUCER IN ITALY HAD PROPOSED A PEST RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM THAT WOULD PROBABLY SATISFY THE ITALIANS' CONCERN. HE SAID NO SUCH PROGRAMS WERE OFFERED TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT. DETHOMAS

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 8712

TOR: 970922082033 M2941893

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA8721 2651457-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 221457Z SEP 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 221457Z SEP 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3224
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0136
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0121
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0193
SUBJ: AUSTRIA TO BAN GENETICALLY MODIFIED RAPESEED

STCABLE 741

TEXT:
UNCLAS VIENNA 008721

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: AUSTRIA TO BAN GENETICALLY MODIFIED RAPESEED

STCABLE 741

1. ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1997 MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION BARBARA PRAMMER INFORMED PARLIAMENT THAT SHE INTENDS TO BAN EU APPROVED RAPESEED. THE BAN IS INTENDED TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN COORDINATION WITH MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, YOUTH, AND FAMILY AFFAIRS MARTIN BARTENSTEIN.

2. IN ADDITION, PRAMMER SAID THAT SHE REGARDS THE EU REQUEST THAT AUSTRIA LIFT THE BAN ON BT CORN AS A SERIOUS MATTER. AUSTRIA'S ARGUMENTS AGAINST THIS GMO WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BY THE EU, PRAMMER SAID, ADDING THAT BT CORN IS RISKY AND AN IMPORT BAN FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE POPULATION IS NECESSARY. IF THE AUSTRIAN IMPORT BAN ON BT CORN IS LIFTED, SHE INTENDS TO ASK POTENTIAL IMPORTERS TO REFRAIN VOLUNTARILY FROM IMPORTING IT. IN VIEW OF PUBLIC OPINION, SHE REGARDS SUCH IMPORTS AS UNWISE.

3. COMMENT: THE PLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS DIRECTED TO PRAMMER

WERE MADE BY PARTY COLLEAGUES AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF ELECTIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF UPPER AUSTRIA. LIKE ALL PARTIES, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS EAGER TO DEMONSTRATE ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS AND CONSEQUENTLY GAIN VOTES OF THE GENERALLY ECOLOGICALLY ORIENTED POPULATION. HOWEVER, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT PRAMMER WILL PUT HER INTENTION INTO EFFECT. THIS MEANS THAT THE BT CORN MATTER WILL BE REPEATED WITH RAPESEED. THE FINAL ENTRY OF THESE GMOS WILL BE POSTPONED. THE DELAY'S DURATION WILL DEPEND ON HOW INVENTIVE PRAMMER'S LAWYERS ARE AND HOW FLEXIBLE THE COMMISSION IS.DETHOMAS

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 8721

TOR: 970922110510 M2942141

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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002. cable	Re: [Labeling Genetically Modified Products] (3 pages)	10/02/1997	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[09/11/1997 - 12/31/1997]

2013-0836-F
ke3007

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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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.

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- 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: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHTCA4157 2791514-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 061514Z OCT 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
OSRI: RUEHTC
DTG: 061514Z OCT 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0453
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7030
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: COURT OVERTURNS DUTCH GMO LABELING
REQUIREMENT

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 004157

FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/DA/SHEIKH;
ITP/EAMED/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
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: COURT OVERTURNS DUTCH GMO LABELING
REQUIREMENT

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

2. LAST WEEK IN THE HAGUE, A DUTCH APPEALS
COURT OVERTURNED A PREVIOUS COURT FINDING IN
JUNE REGARDING THE LEGALITY AND
APPLICABILITY OF THE GON'S RULE ON LABELING
GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S) IN
THE NETHERLANDS. THE DUTCH COURT DECISION
DEALS NARROWLY WITH THE LEGAL BASIS FOR THE
LABELING REQUIREMENT. IT STATES THAT THE
DUTCH LABELING DECREE CITED BY THE GON AS
THE BASIS FOR THE REQUIREMENT IMPLEMENTED A
1979 EC FOOD LABELING RULE WHICH COVERS
LABELING ONLY WITH RESPECT TO PHYSICAL
PRGCESESSES (E.G- BAKING, PASTEURIZING, ETC.)
ACCORDING TO THE COURT, THIS DECREE CANNOT
BE CONSTRUED TO REFER TO THE CHEMICAL

COMPOSITION OR ORIGIN OF INGREDIENTS. THE COURT NOTED THAT THE "MONSANTO BEAN" IS NOT CURRENTLY COVERED UNDER EU LABELING REQUIREMENTS AS SET FORTH IN 238/97 BUT WILL BE COVERED UNDER THE EUROPEAN SYSTEM TO GO INTO EFFECT NOVEMBER 1.

3. WITH THIS LATEST COURT DECISION, THE GON HAS NO LEGAL BASIS TO REQUIRE LABELING FOOD PRODUCTS REGARDING THEIR CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS OR THEIR DERIVATIVES. (MONSANTO'S ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS WERE SPECIFICALLY STATED IN THE COURT'S BRIEF.). THIS DECISION DOES NOT APPEAR TO AFFECT EVENTUAL DUTCH IMPLEMENTATION OF EU LABELING RULES UNDER REGULATION 238/97/EEC OR OF THE UPCOMING EU GMO LABELING REGIME. THE DECISION EMPHASIZED THAT THE COURT HAD NOT ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF THE DESIRABILITY OF A LABELING REQUIREMENT FOR GMOS.

4. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS COURT RULING APPLIES ONLY NARROWLY TO ROUNDUP SOYBEANS, OR TO ANY AND ALL EU APPROVED GMO'S AND THEIR DERIVATIVES. UP UNTIL NOW, ABOUT 40 PRODUCT LINES AT THE FOOD RETAIL LEVEL HAVE BEEN LABELED AS CONTAINING AN INGREDIENT "PRODUCED WITH THE HELP OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY". OUR FOOD INDUSTRY AND TRADE ASSOCIATION SOURCES REPORT TO US THAT SOME COMPANIES HAVE NOT YET COMPLIED WITH THE DUTCH LABELING REQUIREMENT FOR GMO'S.

5. ALTHOUGH THE DUTCH LABELING RULE FOR GMO'S WAS TO HAVE BECOME EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 1997, ITS IMPLEMENTATION DATE WAS POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE 1 TO GIVE INDUSTRY TIME TO DEVELOP LABELS. UP UNTIL NOW, NO OFFICIAL LABORATORY TEST HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED, BUT RUMORS INDICATE TNO, THE HEALTH MINISTRY'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE MAY ANNOUNCE A PRACTICAL TEST IN THE COMING WEEKS. WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF ANY ENFORCEMENT ACTION OF LABELING RULE AGAINST ANY SPECIFIC COMPANY IN THE NETHERLANDS.

6. INDUSTRY CONTACTS HAVE TOLD US THAT THIS COURT FINDING MAKES ANY FURTHER ENFORCEMENT OF THE CURRENT GMO LABELING RULE IN THE NETHERLANDS HIGHLY UNLIKELY. THE LATEST COURT DECISION EVEN INCLUDED THE STATEMENT THAT FOOD INDUSTRY COMPANIES COULD APPLY FOR COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES INCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE GON'S LABELING RULE ON GMO'S.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE UNDER

SECRETARY'S TALKING POINTS WITH MINISTER VAN
AARTSEN'S MEETING IN THE HAGUE ON FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 10: THE ACTIVE ROLE PLAYED BY THE
DUTCH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IN DEVELOPING
AN EU-WIDE REGULATORY PROCESS IN WHICH
REVIEWS ARE COMPLETED MORE QUICKLY AND WITH
MORE CERTAIN TIMETABLES IS VERY IMPORTANT,
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 THE HAGUE 004157

FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/DA/SHEIKH;
ITP/EAMED/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
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: COURT OVERTURNS DUTCH GMO LABELING
REQUIREMENT

AND THE DUTCH SHOULD BE URGED TO STRENGTHEN
THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT POSITIVE
CHANGES IN THIS REGARD. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH
THE DUTCH MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND
HEALTH, THE EVENTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF NOVEL
FOODS WAS SEEN AS INEVITABLE, INDEPENDENT OF
RISK CONCERNS, AND PART OF A GENERAL
POLITICAL EVOLUTION WITHIN THE EC.
DEVELOPING A COMMON POSITION THAT CAN BE

IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT PREJUDICING PRODUCTS
CONTAINING GMOS IS ONE MAIN CHALLENGE FOR
THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES FROM ALL MEMBER
STATES. CLEAR AND WORKABLE STANDARDS FOR THE
USE OF THE DIFFERENT LABELING OPTIONS
ENVISIONED IN THE "BROAD FRAMEWORK" POSITION
ON LABELING PUT OUT BY THE COMMISSION AT THE
END OF JULY, 1997 ARE NECESSARY. IT IS
IMPORTANT TO STRESS THAT THE ABILITY TO MOVE
PRODUCTS IN COMMERCE ACCORDING TO
ENFORCEABLE STANDARDS WILL REQUIRE THAT "MAY
CONTAIN" LABELING BE ALLOWED FOR MOST, IF
NOT ALL, PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM COMMINGLED
COMMODITY STREAMS. DORNBUSH

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

SSN: 4157
<^SSN>4157

TOR: 971006121140 M2963575
<^TOR>971006121140 M2963576

DIST:
SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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003. cable	Re: [EU Meetings] (4 pages)	10/06/1997	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[09/11/1997 - 12/31/1997]

2013-0836-F
ke3007

RESTRICTION CODES

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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)]

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHDLA5398 2821359-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 091359Z OCT 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
OSRI: RUEHDL
DTG: 091359Z OCT 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0071
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2240
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GMO SUGAR BEET HARVESTED BY SABOTAGE

TEXT:
UNCLAS DUBLIN 005398

FAS FOR ITP/CHESLEY AND WHEATLEY; FAA/AO/NE/LETARTE
DEPT PLEASE PASS USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EI
SUBJ: GMO SUGAR BEET HARVESTED BY SABOTAGE

REF: (A) DUBLIN 5209, (B) DUBLIN 3794

1. WE CONTACTED MONSANTO IRELAND REGARDING THE ATTACK BY ENVIRONMENTAL MILITANTS ON ITS TRIAL PLANTING OF GMO SUGAR BEET (REFTEL A). ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACT, ALTHOUGH THE GAELIC EARTH LIBERATION FRONT (GELF) DESTROYED THE ONE ACRE PLOT OF GMO SUGAR BEETS, MONSANTO HAD TAKEN ALL OF ITS EXPERIMENTAL DATA FROM THE CROP BEFORE THE ATTACK. BY SABOTAGING THE CROP, GELF "SAVED US THE TROUBLE OF HARVESTING," OUR MONSANTO CONTACT SAID.

2. LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT GELF. A PERSON CONNECTED WITH THE GROUP CLAIMED IN A SUNDAY NEWSPAPER ARTICLE THAT THE GROUP WAS A LOOSELY-BASED CELL WITH NO CENTRAL LEADER OR COUNCIL. THE GROUP FULLY SUPPORTS THE EARTH LIBERATION FRONT IN THE U.K. AND WHILE THEY HAVE SIMILAR AIMS, GELF IS A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION. GELF HAS VOWED TO CONTINUE ATTACKS ON "ALL CORPORATE EXPLOITING OF THE ENVIRONMENT."

3. MEANWHILE, THE GROUP GENETIC CONCERN (GC) HAS ACCUSED MONSANTO OF "PERCEPTION MANAGEMENT" IN BRINGING A GROUP OF IRISH JOURNALISTS TO THE U.S. (REFTEL B). GC SAID THAT "MONSANTO ARE CLEARLY WORRIED THAT THE MESSAGE THAT GENETIC ENGINEERING IS UNSAFE IS GETTING THROUGH." GC HAS INVITED THE JOURNALISTS TO A PRESS BRIEFING OCTOBER 13 "TO HEAR OUR SIDE OF THE ARGUMENT."
SMITH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5398

TOR: 971009124235 M2969328

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 161437Z OCT 97
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 161437Z OCT 97
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
SUBJ: UPDATE ON GMO APPROVALS

TEXT: UNCLAS BRUSSELS 007229

FAS FOR ITP/ZEITNER/THORN/CHESLEY, OA/GALVIN,
OFSTS/SLUTSKY, CMP/GFD FOR RADLER, USTR/MURPHY, STATE
STATE PASS USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON GMO APPROVALS

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS IN DG XI AND THE EU SECRETARIAT, THREE MORE GMO CORN PRODUCTS HAVE ENTERED THE INTER-SERVICE APPROVAL PROCESS. THEY ARE AGREVO T-14 CORN, MONSANTO CORN, AND NOVARTIS CORN. OFFICIALS EXPECT POSITIVE REPLIES WITHIN TEN WORKING DAYS AND ARE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT GETTING QUALIFIED MAJORITY APPROVAL FROM THE REGULATORY COMMITTEE. IF ALL THEN GOES SMOOTHLY AT THE SUBSEQUENT INTER-CABINET APPROVAL STAGE, FINAL APPROVAL OF THESE PRODUCTS COULD TAKE PLACE IN MID DECEMBER. A PIONEER CORN PRODUCT IS EXPECTED TO GO TO INTERSERVICE REVIEW NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY

2. AGATT ACCOMPANIED TEAM FROM NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSN. AND US FEED GRAINS COUNCIL TO MEETING WITH DG XI (ENVIRONMENT) TO GET UPDATE ON EU APPROVAL OF U.S. GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN PRODUCTS. DG XI OFFICIAL SAID THAT THREE CORN PRODUCTS, MANUFACTURED BY AGREVO, MONSANTO, AND NOVARTIS, HAD MOVED FROM DG XI INTO INTERSERVICE REVIEW WITHIN THE PAST WEEK. REPLIES SHOULD TAKE ABOUT TEN DAYS, AFTER WHICH THE PRODUCTS WILL GO TO

THE REGULATORY COMMITTEE, WHERE DGXI STAFF ARE OPTIMISTIC, THEY WILL GET A QUALIFIED MAJORITY. CONTINUING THE THEORETICAL APPROVAL TIMELINE, IF THE VOTE IS POSITIVE, FINAL APPROVAL OF THESE THREE PRODUCTS BY ALL RELEVANT BODIES COULD BE EXPECTED BY MID-DECEMBER, ALLOWING EU IMPORTS OF 1997 U.S. CORN/CORN PRODUCTS.

3. THE PIONEER PRODUCT IS EXPECTED TO MOVE INTO INTERSERVICE REVIEW NEXT WEEK. REPORTEDLY IT GOT SOMEWHAT LESS ATTENTION THAN THE OTHERS BECAUSE IT WAS LESS WIDELY PLANTED

4. A.DG OFFICIAL SAID THE EU'S QUOTE APPARENT LACK OF MOVEMENT UNQUOTE ON APPROVING PRODUCTS WAS ACTUALLY A TIME OF HARD WORK BY STAFF TO IDENTIFY AND RESOLVE ANY OPPOSITION BEFORE PRODUCTS WERE PRESENTED TO THE REGULATORY COMMITTEE, TO ENSURE OBTAINING A QUALIFIED MAJORITY THE FIRST TIME THROUGH THE SYSTEM.

5. SUBSEQUENTLY AGATT CALLED LARS MITEK OF THE EU SECRETARIAT TO CONFIRM DG XI'S STATEMENTS AND TO ASK ABOUT THE OCTOBER 14 MEETING OF THE BIOTECHNOLOGY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE. MITEK ECHOED DGXI'S VIEW THAT THE SLOW PACE OF APPROVAL WAS QUOTE AN INVESTMENT UNQUOTE IN POLITICAL APPROVAL FOR FUTURE TRANSGENIC PRODUCTS.

6. NEW INFORMATION ON LABELLING OF GMO FOOD PRODUCTS WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL.

WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 7229

TOR: 971016105302 M2978530

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA9629 2891447-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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OSRI: RUEHVI
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3516
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0161
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RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0131
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0239
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0002
SUBJ: GMO PERSPECTIVES OF COMMISSIONER FISCHLER AND
MINISTER PRAMMER

STCABLE 744

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 009629

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: GMO PERSPECTIVES OF COMMISSIONER FISCHLER AND
MINISTER PRAMMER

STCABLE 744

1. SUMMARY: AT A SYMPOSION ON GENE TECHNOLOGY IN VIENNA, AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER FISCHLER POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WARNED FROM EUROPE BEING LEFT FAR BEHIND THE U.S. ALTHOUGH AUSTRIAN, HE SHOWED NO UNDERSTANDING FOR AUSTRIA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE NEW TECHNOLOGY. BARBARA PRAMMER, AUSTRIAN MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION MAINTAINED HER RESERVATIONS TOWARD THE USE OF GENE TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE. SHE BELIEVES THAT SHE HAS TO PROTECT THE POPULATION OF WHICH THE MAJORITY IS DEFINITELY AGAINST GMOS IN FOODS. PRAMMER HAS ORDERED AN EXPERT STUDY TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH SPACE THERE IS FOR INDEPENDENT NATIONAL LEGISLATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EU REGULATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON OCTOBER 13 AND 14, AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ENTITLED "PUTURE OF GENE TECHNOLOGY" TOOK PLACE IN VIENNA. IT WAS ORGANIZED BY THE AUSTRIAN BROADCASTING SYSTEM, THE DAILY PAPER "KURIER", THE VIENNESE ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIALISTS, AND THE REPRESENTATION OF THE EU COMMISSION IN AUSTRIA. AMONG OTHERS, PRANZ FISCHLER, EU AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER, AND BARBARA PRAMMER, MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, MADE PRESENTATIONS.

3. FISCHLER WELCOMED THE EVENT AS A FORUM FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON GENE TECHNOLOGY (GT) AND WITH A VEILED REFERENCE TO PRAMMER'S MEASURES RESTRICTING GMOS, HE SPOKE OF AUSTRIAN POLITICAL KNEE-JERK REACTIONS TRIGGERED BY ACTIVITIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.

4. PISCHLER EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF GT FOR JOB CREATION AND POINTED OUT THAT THE COMPETITIVENESS OF EUROPEAN ECONOMY WILL DEPEND TO A LARGE EXTENT ON USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES. WITH A TONE OF REGRET HE SPOKE ABOUT THE MUCH MORE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN THE U.S. AND CANADA COMPARED TO EUROPE. HE SEEMED PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE LARGE EUROPEAN PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS HAVE ESTABLISHED THEIR RESEARCH FACILITIES IN THE U.S. DUE TO THE "BIOTECH SUPPORTIVE" CLIMATE THERE.

5. ACCORDING TO FISCHLER, IN EUROPE, IRELAND, NETHERLANDS, AND BELGIUM ARE FAVORED BY BIOTECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISES WHEREAS AUSTRIA IS BY FAR IN LAST PLACE. WHILE AUSTRIA IN THE EARLY EIGHTIES WAS A PIONEER ON THE BIOTECH SECTOR, IT IS NOW REJECTED AS A RESEARCH OR PRODUCTION LOCATION IN THIS FIELD.

6. FOR FISCHLER IT IS NOT A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER GENE TECHNOLOGY IS TO BE APPLIED IN EUROPE, BUT RATHER HOW IT CAN BE USED IN A SAFE WAY. POLICY HAS TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR A MODEL TO USE BIOTECHNOLOGY WHICH CAN BE ACCEPTED BY EUROPEAN SOCIETY. THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED, IF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA COULD BE FULFILLED:

7. IN FISCHLER'S OPINION, THE APPROVAL PROCEDURES OF RECENT YEARS TAKE TOO LONG, ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY TRANSPARENT AND SUFFER UNDER HIDDEN POLITICAL INFLUENCE. SPECIFICALLY, FISCHLER SUGGESTED EXPANDING RISK ANALYSIS, CREATING REGULATIONS WHICH ALLOW FOR TEMPORARY APPROVAL OF GMOS, SHORTENING APPROVAL PROCEDURES FROM CURRENT ROUGHLY 24 TO ABOUT 12 MONTHS, AND MAKING PROCEDURES, PARTICULARLY RISK EVALUATION, MORE TRANSPARENT. THE APPROVAL OF A SPECIFIC GMO SHOULD ONLY DEPEND ON THE FULFILLMENT OF THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS, WHILE ETHICAL ASPECTS SHOULD BE ONLY A SECONDARY CONSIDERATION.

8. FISCHLER IS AWARE THAT THE ACCEPTANCE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN EUROPE (COMMENT: PARTICULARLY IN AUSTRIA) IS LOWER THAN IN ANY OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED REGION OF THE WORLD. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT CONSUMERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT THEY EAT AND THUS SUPPORTS EXTENSIVE LABELING.

9. PRAMMER EXPRESSED IN HER SPEECH HER AWARENESS OF THE

RISE IN SIGNIFICANCE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY BUT AT THE SAME TIME SHE POINTED OUT THE TECHNOLOGY'S RISKS AND THE POPULATION'S FEARS AS REFLECTED IN AN ANTI GMO INITIATIVE SIGNED BY 1.2 MILLION PERSONS. AS FURTHER PROOF OF AUSTRIAN SKEPTICISM TOWARD GMOS SHE MENTIONED A POLL WHICH SHOWS THAT 67% OF CONSUMERS WOULD NOT IN ANY EVENT AND 17% MORE THAN LIKELY WOULD NOT BUY GM FOODS. SHE BELIEVES THAT AS A MINISTER FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION SHE HAS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE POPULATION'S CONCERNS.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 009629

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: GMO PERSPECTIVES OF COMMISSIONER FISCHLER AND
MINISTER PRAMMER

10. PRAMMER DOES NOT WANT AUSTRIA DECOUPLED FROM BIOTECH DEVELOPMENT AND UNDERScoreD THE POSITIVE SIDES OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN MEDICINE. HOWEVER, SHE REGARDS THE APPLICATION OF GT IN FOODS AND AGRICULTURE AS A VERY "SENSITIVE" MATTER. IN ADDITION TO ADVANTAGES, SHE MENTIONED THE FOLLOWING RISKS:

- PASSING ON HERBICIDE RESISTANCE
- UNINTENDED CREATION OF NEW PATHOGENIC MICROBES
- POISONING OF MAN AND ANIMALS THROUGH GM PLANTS
- REDUCTION OF BIODIVERSITY
- TRIGGERING OF DISEASES THAT ATTACK PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND HUMANS

11. IN REGARDS TO THE BT CORN BAN WHICH HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY BRUSSELS, SHE EMPHASIZED THAT AUSTRIA'S ARGUMENTS FOR THE BAN ARE JUSTIFIED.

12. PRAMMER'S STRONG ECOLOGICAL ORIENTATION WAS AGAIN EXPRESSED BY HER WISH TO KEEP AUSTRIA'S AGRICULTURE GMO-FREE. SHE MAINTAINED THAT AT LEAST THE CRITERIA FOR "ECOLOGICAL AGRICULTURE" SHOULD INCLUDE FREEDOM FROM GMOS. IN THIS SENSE SHE APPEALED TO THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTER.

13. ON THE LEGAL SIDE, HER MINISTRY IS WORKING ON A DEFINITION OF GM-FREE FOODS, WHICH IS IMPORTANT FOR POSITIVE LABELING. IN ADDITION, SHE ORDERED AN EXPERT STUDY TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH SPACE THERE IS FOR NATIONAL-LEVEL (I.E. INDEPENDENT FROM EU-LEVEL POLICY) STEPS IN REGULATING GENE TECHNOLOGY. FURTHERMORE TWO LABELING REGULATIONS ARE UNDER DISCUSSION IN THE PARLIAMENT. ACCORDING TO PRAMMER, THESE REGULATIONS SHOULD CLOSE A LOOPHOLE IN THE NOVEL FOOD REGULATION.

14. COMMENT: WHILE FISCHLER EXPRESSED HIS CLEAR SUPPORT OF

BIOTECHNOLOGY, PRAMMER HEWED TO HER LINE WHICH DOES NOT DIFFER TOO MUCH FROM THAT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS. THE ONLY IMPORTANT ITEM IN HER SPEECH WAS THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SHE HAD ORDERED AN EXPERT STUDY WHICH SHOULD PROVIDE INFORMATION ON HOW MUCH LEGAL SPACE IS LEFT FOR NATIONAL REGULATIONS. DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME, THIS MAY RESULT IN AUSTRIAN MEASURES WHICH ARE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN EU REGULATIONS.

15. IN THE DISCUSSIONS, NO NEW ASPECTS WERE BROUGHT UP. POLITICAL PARTIES AND INTERESTED GROUPS REPEATED THEIR ALREADY WELL-WORN STANDPOINTS. THIS WAS FINALLY RECOGNIZED AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GREEN PARTY ALLOWED AS HOW AN AGREEMENT CAN NEVER BE REACHED SINCE AT EACH GENE TECHNOLOGY EVENT THE ARGUMENTS REVOLVE AROUND THE SAME PROBLEMS. HUNT

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

SSN: 9629
<^SSN>9629

TOR: 971016105245 M2978525
<^TOR>971016105246 M2978527

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUZZ ZZH
LINE3: R 171539Z OCT 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 171539Z OCT 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0312
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0002
SUBJ: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EU AND U.S.
PERCEPTIONS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS
(GMOS) IN FOODS

TEXT:
UNCLAS PARIS 023364

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIKH;
ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY; OFSTS/LHARBERT;
CMP/DA/JPARKER; FAA/PLETARTE; FSIS/JPRUCHA;
APHIS/TMEDLEY

STATE PASS USTR
STATE PASS FDA
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS ATO
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR
SUBJECT: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EU AND U.S.
PERCEPTIONS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS
(GMOS) IN FOODS

1. SUMMARY: ON OCTOBER 8, 1997, THE FRENCH DAILY NEWSPAPER "LE FIGARO" PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE LISTING THE REASONS WHY GMOS ARE A MORE DIFFICULT CONSUMER ISSUE IN EUROPE THAN IN THE UNITED STATES, STRESSING THE CULTURAL AND LEGAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO REGIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ARTICLE GIVES THREE REASONS WHY U.S. CONSUMERS ARE NOT RESISTING GMO PRODUCTS: (1) FOOD PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN EUROPEAN CULTURE BUT NOT IN AMERICAN CULTURE; (2) IN THE UNITED STATES, U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND COMPANIES PRODUCING GMOS ARE BOTH RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF GMO

PRODUCTS, WHEREAS IN EUROPE, GOVERNMENTS BEAR MOST OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAFETY OF GMOS; (3) U.S. CONSUMERS FOCUS ON THE FINAL PRODUCTS WHERE EUROPEAN CONSUMERS CARE MORE ABOUT THE PROCESSES USED TO PRODUCE THEM.

3. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, GMOS IN THE UNITED STATES DO NOT REQUIRE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS IF THEIR PROTEIN, FAT, AND CARBOHYDRATE CONTENT IS SIMILAR OR EQUIVALENT TO THE CONTENT OF "NON-GMO" FOOD PRODUCTS. THE ARTICLE ADDS THAT GMOS AND PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM GMOS DO NOT REQUIRE SYSTEMATIC LABELING AS SUCH, UNLESS THEY PRESENT POTENTIAL RISKS FOR CONSUMERS (SUCH AS POTENTIAL ALLERGIC REACTIONS).

4. COMMENT: THIS ARTICLE IS ONE OF THE FIRST IN FRANCE TO CONSIDER THE GMO ISSUE FROM A SOCIOLOGICAL AND LEGAL VIEWPOINT. IT IS A POSITIVE BEGINNING FOR THE FRENCH MEDIA TO PROVIDE THE AVERAGE FRENCH CONSUMER WITH MORE NEUTRAL AND BALANCED PERSPECTIVES ON GMOS. END COMMENT.

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3364

TOR: 971017134947 M2981346

DIST:

SIT: NSC

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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004. cable	Re: [French Position on Genetically Modified Corn] (3 pages)	10/22/1997	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[09/11/1997 - 12/31/1997]

2013-0836-F

ke3007

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]

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA0323 3071519-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3756
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RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0141
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0280
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0015
SUBJ: GENETICALLY MODIFIED BEAN PRODUCTS FOUND IN BIO-
SOYBEAN PRODUCT

STCABLE 746

TEXT:
UNCLAS VIENNA 010323

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: GENETICALLY MODIFIED BEAN PRODUCTS FOUND IN BIO-
SOYBEAN PRODUCT

STCABLE 746

1. SUMMARY: AUSTRIAN FOOD INSPECTORS RECENTLY FOUND MATERIAL FROM GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS IN A SOYBEAN PRODUCT INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. THE PRODUCT, PARTLY MANUFACTURED FROM AUSTRIAN, CANADIAN, AND U.S. SOYBEANS MUST BE REMOVED FROM SHOP SHELVES.

2. AUSTRIAN FOOD INSPECTORS HAVE BEEN TESTING VARIOUS FOOD PRODUCTS FOR GMOS FOR QUITE SOME TIME. AT THE END OF OCTOBER 1997, THE LABORATORY FOR GENE TECHNOLOGY OF THE FEDERAL INSTITUTE FOR FOOD TESTING FOUND IN A GRANULATED SOYBEAN PRODUCT MATERIAL ORIGINATING FROM GM SOYBEANS.

3. THE SOYBEAN PRODUCT IS DISTRIBUTED BY A COMPANY SPECIALIZED IN ORGANIC PRODUCTS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. IT

WAS MANUFACTURED IN AUSTRIA - AND ACCORDING TO THE LABEL - MADE FROM CONTROLLED ORGANICALLY GROWN BEANS. IN ADDITION IT WAS LABELED WITH THE "AGRICULTURAL MARKET AUSTRIA" QUALITY LABEL FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTS WHICH MEANS THAT AT LEAST 70 PERCENT OF THE CONTENT IS OF AUSTRIAN ORIGIN (30 PERCENT OF THE RAW-MATERIAL OR ADDITIVES CAN BE IMPORTED BUT MUST ALSO COME FROM CONTROLLED ORGANIC PRODUCTION).

4. ACCORDING TO THE DISTRIBUTOR, A PART OF THE SOYBEAN RAW-MATERIAL PROCESSED IN AUSTRIA CAME FROM CANADA AND THE U.S. HOWEVER, IT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A CERTIFICATE OF THE CANADIAN INSPECTION AGENCY AND BY A GERMAN ATTESTATION THAT THE BEANS WERE GMO FREE AND ORGANICALLY PRODUCED.

5. THE DISTRIBUTOR OF THE SOYBEAN PRODUCT DOUBTS THE RESULT OF THE TESTING AUTHORITY. HOWEVER, THE LATTER MAINTAINS THAT IT COULD FIND THE "TYPICAL GENE CONSTRUCT OF U.S. GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEANS". IN ADDITION, THE TEST WAS REPEATED BY A GERMAN TESTING INSTITUTION WITH THE SAME RESULT.

6. SINCE GMO PRODUCTS ARE NOT PERMITTED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION IN AUSTRIA, THE GM SOYBEAN PRODUCT MUST TO BE REMOVED FROM SHELVES. IN ADDITION, THE DISTRIBUTOR, WHO IS LIABLE, WILL BE SUED.

7. COMMENT: IN THE FRAMEWORK OF GENERAL FOOD TESTING, TESTS ARE REGULARLY CARRIED OUT FOR GMOS IN FOODS. AS SO FAR THERE WERE NO POSITIVE RESULTS, THIS WILL BE THE FIRST CASE. BARBARA PRAMMER, MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BECAUSE THE PRODUCT IN QUESTION BORE THE AUSTRIAN QUALITY LABEL. IT IS EXPECTED THAT AFTER THIS INCIDENT, INSPECTIONS FOR GMOS IN FOODS WILL BE INTENSIFIED. PRAMMER HAS GREAT RESERVATIONS CONCERNING GMOS IN GENERAL AND PARTICULARLY IN FOOD PRODUCTS.
DETHOMAS

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0323

TOR: 971103122019 M3006242

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHOLA3723 3081643-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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ORIG: AMEMBASSY BONN

TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0029
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0028
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 0181
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG 0197

SUBJ: GERMAN PERSPECTIVE ON EU OUTLOOK FOR GMO
APPROVALS

TEXT:

UNCLAS BONN 013723

FAS PASS TO OSEC/SCHUMACHER/DRAZEK, OA/GALVIN,
ITP/SHEIKH, EAMED, FSTS, CMP/G&F
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EU, GM

SUBJECT: GERMAN PERSPECTIVE ON EU OUTLOOK FOR GMO
APPROVALS

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PLEASE PROTECT
ACCORDINGLY.

2. AGRICULTURAL MINISTER-COUNSELOR HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY ON NOVEMBER 3 TO DISCUSS THE EU SITUATION
FOR PENDING GMO APPROVALS WITH ONE OF THE KEY GERMAN
OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE EU PROCESS. THE ASSESSMENT
OF THIS OFFICIAL WAS THAT ONLY MONSANTO'S GENETICALLY
MODIFIED CORN WOULD BE LIKELY TO GET EU APPROVAL BY
THE END OF 1997. HE BASED THIS ASSESSMENT ON WHAT HE
HAS HEARD FROM THE COMMISSION CONCERNING ITS INFORMAL
POLLING OF MEMBER STATE VIEWS REGARDING APPROVALS FOR
THE VARIOUS GMO PRODUCTS. APPARENTLY THE COMMISSION,
IN HIS VIEW, WANTS TO AVOID THE APPROVAL BY DEFAULT
SITUATION WHICH COULD MEAN LATER EU APPROVAL FOR A GMO
DESPITE THE LACK OF A QUALIFIED MAJORITY (AMONG THE
MEMBER STATES) IN THE ARTICLE 21 PROCESS.

3. THE GERMAN OFFICIAL DESCRIBED THE COMMISSION AS

HAVING BECOME VERY CAUTIOUS ON GMO APPROVALS, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE SEVERE CRITICISM RECEIVED FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON THE HANDLING OF THE BSE ISSUE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT FRANCE HAS BECOME MUCH LESS INTERESTED IN MOVING FORWARD WITH THE EU APPROVALS, AND HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE "CHANGES IN THE POLITICAL SITUATION" THERE.

4. WHEN ASKED WHY THE MONSANTO APPLICATION COULD GET THROUGH THE APPROVAL PROCESS IN THE NEAR TERM WHILE THE OTHERS WOULD NOT, THE GERMAN OFFICIAL SAID THAT MONSANTO HAD BEEN "QUICKER" THAN THE OTHERS. (NOTE: PRESUMABLY THIS MEANS THAT THE MONSANTO APPLICATION WAS FILED EARLIER.) ALSO, HE SAID THAT MONSANTO HAD BEEN "LUCKY". HE THEN EXPLAINED THIS BY SAYING THAT HE THINKS "GUIDANCE" CAME DOWN FROM HIGHER LEVELS IN THE COMMISSION TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS ON GMO APPROVALS, BUT THAT MONSANTO'S CORN APPLICATION WAS ALREADY FAR ENOUGH ALONG AT THAT IT WAS NOT SO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED.

KORNBLUM

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3723

TOR: 971104132322 M3008343

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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005. cable	Re: [European Commission] (5 pages)	11/21/1997	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[09/11/1997 - 12/31/1997]

2013-0836-F
ke3007

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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006. cable	Re: [French Policy on Genetically Modified Organisms] (3 pages)	11/26/1997	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[09/11/1997 - 12/31/1997]

2013-0836-F
ke3007

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]

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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]

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHOLA4739 3371219-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 031219Z DEC 97

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BONN

OSRI: RUEHOL

DTG: 031219Z DEC 97

ORIG: AMEMBASSY BONN

TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0039
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2330

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0059
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG 0212

SUBJ: GERMAN VIEWS ON GMO APPROVALS

TEXT:

UNCLAS BONN 014739

FAS FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, ITP/EAMED, FSTS, CMP/G&F
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD GM

SUBJECT: GERMAN VIEWS ON GMO APPROVALS

REFERENCES: SECSTATE 220942

1. AGRICULTURAL MINISTER-COUNSELOR SPOKE ON DECEMBER 2 WITH THE OFFICIAL WHO VOTES FOR GERMANY IN THE ARTICLE 21 PROCESS FOR GMO APPROVALS. THIS OFFICIAL SAID THAT A FINAL DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE BY GERMANY ON THE APPROVAL FOR MONSANTO'S BT CORN, BUT HE INDICATED THAT A POSITIVE GERMAN VOTE IS HIGHLY PROBABLE.

2. THE GERMAN OFFICIAL WOULD NOT COMMENT ON HOW GERMANY MIGHT VOTE ON THE NOVARTIS AND AGREVO GMO CORN VARIETIES BECAUSE HE HAS NOT YET SEEN THE DOSSIERS FOR THEM. HE DID SAY THAT THESE TWO APPLICATIONS MAY HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE NEW EU SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE (SSC), WHILE HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE MONSANTO DOSSIER WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY THIS COMMITTEE. THE GERMAN OFFICIAL ADDED THAT GERMANY HAS EXPRESSED CONCERNS TO THE COMMISSION ABOUT THE USE OF THE SSC IN THE GMO APPROVAL PROCESS, BECAUSE IT IS CLEARLY NOT PRESCRIBED TO BE PART OF THE ARTICLE 21 APPROVAL PROCEDURES.

KORNBLUM

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4739

TOR: 971203072436 M3052363

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHOLA4824 3391405-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 051405Z DEC 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BONN
OSRI: RUEHOL
DTG: 051405Z DEC 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BONN
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0040
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2372
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0060
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG 0214
SUBJ: GERMAN VIEWS ON GMO SWEET CORN

TEXT:
UNCLAS BONN 014824

FAS FOR ITP/EAMED, FSTS, CMP/HTP

STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, GM
SUBJECT: GERMAN VIEWS ON GMO SWEET CORN

1. THIS IS A FOLLOW-UP TO OUR INFORMAL CONTACT WITH FAS/ITP REGARDING AN EXPRESSION OF SERIOUS CONCERN BY THE GERMAN IMPORT TRADE REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SWEET CORN COMING FROM THE U.S. SHOWN BELOW IS THE FAS/BONN TRANSLATION OF A NOVEMBER 6 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE WAREN-VEREIN, ONE OF GERMAN'S MOST IMPORTANT IMPORT ASSOCIATIONS.

2. THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH BELOW MAY BE DISREGARDED, SINCE CECILIA WHEATLEY OF FAS/ITP HAS ALREADY PROVIDED US WITH A QUICK RESPONSE FOR THE WAREN-VEREIN. THE REST OF THE LETTER, HOWEVER, IS WORTH NOTING.

3. BEGIN TRANSLATION:

WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU NOW TO PROVIDE US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH AN FAS COMMENT ON THIS YEAR'S HARVEST AND PLANS FOR THE NEXT YEAR SINCE THE RETAIL TRADE OBVIOUSLY REACTS VERY SENSITIVELY TO THIS TOPIC.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ASK YOU TO POINT OUT STRONGLY TO FAS AND THUS THE AMERICAN PRODUCERS THAT THE AMERICAN MARKET POSITION FOR SWEET CORN IS DIFFERENT FROM THE

ONE FOR "ORDINARY" CORN. WHEREAS AMERICAN SUPPLIERS DOMINATE THE LATTER ONE, THERE ARE NUMEROUS OTHER SUPPLIER COUNTRIES FOR SWEET CORN, AND THEY OFFER SWEET CORN WHICH IS NOT TREATED WITH GENE TECHNOLOGY (E.G., FRANCE, ITALY, ISRAEL, AND HUNGARY).

YOU KNOW WHAT EFFORTS FRANCE, SUPPORTED BY ITALY, HAS RECENTLY AGAIN AND AGAIN UNDERTAKEN IN BRUSSELS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE PROTECTIONISTIC EC MEASURES FOR SWEET CORN AGAINST THIRD COUNTRIES. ONLY BY MEANS OF OUR AND YOUR REPRESENTATIONS IN BRUSSELS AND BONN HAVE SUCH MEASURES BEEN AVOIDED SO FAR. HOWEVER, IF ALSO AMERICAN SWEET CORN IS TREATED WITH GENE TECHNOLOGY, IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT NEW ACTIVITIES ARE TO BE EXPECTED AT LEAST FROM FRANCE. THEN WE ARE AFRAID OF LOSING BONN AS AN ALLY.

MOREOVER WE HEAR FROM OUR MEMBERS THAT IF IT IS GENETICALLY MODIFIED SWEET CORN (COMING FROM THE U.S.), THEY WANT TO SWITCH TO EC GOODS TO PREVENT ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE RETAIL TRADE.

WE CONSIDER THIS TO BE AN ALARMING SITUATION.

(SIGNED)

DR. HANEBUTH,
WAREN-VEREIN DER HAMBURGER BORSE E.V.

END TRANSLATION.

KORNBLUM

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4824

TOR: 971205090731 M3056586

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA8424 3391632-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 051632Z DEC 97

LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS

OSRI: RUEHBS

DTG: 051632Z DEC 97

ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS

TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC

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

SUBJ: COMMISSION APPROVES PROPOSAL FOR LABELING OF GMO
FOODS

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 008424

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN, ITP/ZEITNER/THORN/CHESLEY,
OFSTS/SLUTSKY, CMP/RADLER & BLUM
STATE PASS USTR/MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN

SUBJECT: COMMISSION APPROVES PROPOSAL FOR LABELING OF GMO
FOODS

1. SUMMARY: ON DEC. 3 THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ADOPTED A PROPOSAL FOR LABELING OF FOODSTUFFS DERIVED FROM TWO VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED CORN AND SOYBEANS. THE PROPOSAL WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE STANDING FOOD COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER REVIEW. AS WRITTEN THE PROPOSAL WOULD REQUIRE LABELING OF VIRTUALLY ANY FOOD PRODUCT THAT MIGHT CONTAIN PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM GMO'S. IT PRESUMABLY WILL BE A MODEL FOR FUTURE ALL-ENCOMPASSING NOVEL FOODS REGULATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON DEC. 3 THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ADOPTED A PROPOSAL DEFINING LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR FOODSTUFFS BASED ON GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S). ALTHOUGH THIS PROPOSAL SPECIFICALLY COVERS ONLY PRODUCTS MADE FROM MONSANTO'S ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS AND NOVARTIS BT CORN, IT IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE A MODEL FOR FUTURE DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OMNIBUS NOVEL FOODS LAW PASSED LAST MAY, AND WOULD AFFECT VIRTUALLY ALL PRODUCTS CONTAINING U.S. ORIGIN CORN OR SOY. SOME PRESS REPORTS SAY THAT 60

PERCENT OF PRODUCTS IN EUROPEAN SUPERMARKETS WOULD HAVE TO BE LABELED.

3. THE PROPOSAL WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE STANDING FOOD COMMITTEE, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK, FOR FURTHER REVIEW. IF APPROVED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE, IT WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR DECISION. AS WRITTEN, IT WOULD GO INTO EFFECT FEB. 1, 1998.

4. THE RULES ARE VERY BROAD: IF EITHER DNA OR PROTEIN FROM GENETICALLY-MODIFIED CORN OR SOYBEANS CAN BE DETECTED IN A PRODUCT, OR IF IT CONTAINS AN INGREDIENT DERIVED THEREFROM, IT MUST BE LABELED AS QUOTE PRODUCED FROM GENETICALLY-MODIFIED CORN (OR SOYBEANS) END QUOTE.

5. MAXIMIZING THE REACH OF THE PROPOSAL, IT ALSO STATES THAT THE LABEL MUST STATE MAY CONTAIN OR MAY BE PRODUCED FROM GMO'S QUOTE IF THEIR PRESENCE CANNOT BE EXCLUDED BUT WHERE NO EVIDENCE OF IT IS AVAILABLE ENDQUOTE.

6. COMMENT: THE PROPOSAL AS WRITTEN CLAIMS TO ESTABLISH A SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR DETERMINING WHETHER A GMO MUST BE LABELED. HOWEVER, THE REQUIRMENT FOR THE MAY CONTAIN OPTION EVEN IF NO GENETICALLY-MODIFIED MATERIAL CAN BE DETECTED APPEARS TO DO LITTLE TO ADVANCE THE USE OF SCIENTIFIC METHODS OF ANALYSIS.

KURSCH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 8424

TOR: 971205121945 M3057040

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHTA8934 3461450-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 121450Z DEC 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
OSRI: RUEHTH
DTG: 121450Z DEC 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6310
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0036
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GREECE TO ABSTAIN ON GMO CORN VOTE

TEXT:

UNCLAS ATHENS 008934

FAS FOR ITP/PSHEIKH AND G&F/CRADLER

E.O. 1258: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, GR, EUN

SUBJECT: GREECE TO ABSTAIN ON GMO CORN VOTE

REF: THESSALONIKI 00307 (NOTAL)

1. SOURCES IN THE GREEK BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE AND THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT HAVE REPORTED THAT GREECE WILL ABSTAIN ON THE DEC. 15 VOTE ON THE APPROVAL OF MONSANTO'S BT CORN DOSSIER. IN GREECE, THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR VOTING ON THIS ISSUE.

2. TWO REASONS WERE GIVEN FOR THIS INACTION. THE FIRST, ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT SOURCE, IS THAT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE MADE LITTLE EFFORT TO JUSTIFY A NEED FOR ACCEPTING THIS PRODUCT. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT IF THE MINAG MADE THIS JUSTIFICATION, AND IT WAS STRONG ENOUGH, THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT WOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT NEEDED TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MONSANTO DOSSIER OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF THE GREENS, MOST NOTABLY GREENPEACE. EFFORTS WERE MADE BY THE AGATTACHE TO SEEK A MEETING WITH MINAG OFFICIALS TO TRY TO SECURE THIS JUSTIFICATION BUT POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS WERE NOT AVAILABLE PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE.

3. THE SECOND REASON, ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE THAT EVALUATED THE

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VZ NARA, Date 11/26/06
2016-0529-NA (1.78)

MONSANTO DOSSIER, IS RELATED TO CONCERNS IN THE GREEK SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY OVER THE EU INSECT RESISTANT MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRM). THIS PLAN IS DESIGNED TO EVALUATE OVER TIME WHETHER INSECTS BECOME RESISTANT TO THE INSECTICIDE INCORPORATED INTO THE BT CORN. IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD NO SCIENTIFIC REASON FOR NOT ACCEPTING MONSANTO'S DOSSIER. HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOG NOT VOTE ON ANY GMO PRODUCTS UNTIL THE IRM PROPOSAL IS FINALIZED. THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE'S CONCERNS INCLUDE THE EU'S DELAY IN FINALIZING THE PLAN; FEAR THAT MEMBER STATE FUNDING, AS OPPOSED TO EU, WILL BE REQUIRED; AND THAT THERE WILL BE LITTLE FOLLOW UP AND COORDINATION REQUIRED BETWEEN MEMBER STATES.

4. IN A RELATED EVENT, THE GREEK CHAPTER OF GREENPEACE DISRUPTED UNLOADING OF A SHIPMENT OF U.S. CORN IN THE GREEK PORT OF THESSALONIKI ON DECEMBER 5-6 (REF). GREENPEACE OBJECTED TO THE UNLOADING OF THE "MUTANT" CORN, EVEN THOUGHT ITS FINAL DESTINATION WAS FYROM AND NOT GREECE.

5. COMMENT: THIS INCIDENT, FORTUNATELY MORE OF AN INCONVENIENCE THAN A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE SHIPPER, HIGHLIGHTS THE SENSITIVITY OF A SMALL, BUT VOCAL, GROUP OPPOSED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF GMO'S INTO GREECE. IN 1996, WHEN THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT APPROVED GMO SOYBEANS, GREENPEACE STAGED A LARGE PROTEST IN FRONT OF HIS OFFICE. SINCE THAT TIME HE HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO TAKE ANY ACTION, POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, ON GMO'S. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE COMMENT ON THE LACK OF MINAG SUPPORT FOR BT CORN WAS ONLY AN EFFORT TO SHIFT THE BLAME TO A DIFFERENT MINISTRY. END COMMENT.

BURNS

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 8934

TOR: 971212105840 M3067546

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHMDA2736 3631052-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 291052Z DEC 97
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
OSRI: RUEHMD
DTG: 291052Z DEC 97
ORIG: AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8888
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: SPAIN'S GRAIN TRADERS' VIEWS ON UPCOMING
REDUCEDDUTY CORN TENDERS AND GMO APPROVAL DELAYS

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 012736

STATE PASS USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, SCHUMACHER
FAS FOR GALVIN; ITP/SHEIKH/THORN/CHESLEY;
CMP/G&F/RADLER/SCHATZ

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

SUBJECT: SPAIN'S GRAIN TRADERS' VIEWS ON UPCOMING
REDUCEDDUTY CORN TENDERS AND GMO APPROVAL DELAYS

1. SUMMARY: ON 23 DECEMBER, AGCOUNS, AGATT, AND
AGSPEC MET WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF SPAIN'S GRAIN
IMPORTERS ASSOCIATION AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM
GRAIN TRADING COMPANIES TO DISCUSS THE IMPACT OF
THE EU'S DECISION PROCESS ON GMO APPROVALS AND THE
UPCOMING REDUCED-DUTY CORN IMPORT TENDERS FOR
SPAIN. END SUMMARY

2. ON DECEMBER 23, THE AGCOUNSELOR, AGATT AND
AGSPECIALIST MET WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GRAIN
IMPORTERS' ASSOCIATION AND MEMBERS FROM THE MAJOR
GRAIN COMPANIES. AS EXPECTED, THE IMPORTERS WERE
QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE CONTINUED
DELAYS IN GMO APPROVALS ON THE OPERATION OF THE
200,000 TON CORN IMPORT QUOTA FOR SPAIN. IN FACT,
THEY CONCEDED, AND WE AGREED, THAT APPROVAL FOR
THE THREE PENDING VARIETIES WOULD NOT OCCUR BEFORE
THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST TENDER ARE ANNOUNCED ON
15 JANUARY, AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT OCCUR BEFORE
MID-FEB.

3. WHILE THEY INDICATED THEY WOULD NOT BID ON THIS
FIRST TRANCHE, THEY SAID IT WAS "INEVITABLE" THAT

SOME COMPANIES WOULD. IN THEIR OPINION, SOME 100,000 TONS MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM EASTERN EUROPE. (COMMENT: SEVERAL YEARS AG, THIS SAME SITUATION OCCURRED WITH RESPECT TO CHINA AND FAS/MADRID WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT THE EFFORT TO IMPORT FROM CHINA UNDER THIS AGREEMENT WITH THE ARGUMENT THAT THIS AGREEMENT WAS ESTABLISHED FOR TRADITIONAL GRAIN TRADING COUNTRIES THAT ARE FULL MEMBERS OF THE WTO. CHINA WAS NOT AT THAT TIME AND THEREFORE, IMPORTS WERE NOT ALLOWED UNDER THE AGREEMENT FROM THAT COUNTRY. THIS SAME STRATEGY MAY BE USED WITH THOSE GRAIN EXPORTING COUNTRIES FROM EASTERN EUROPE WHO ARE NOT FULL MEMBERS OF THE WTO.) IN ADDITION, THEY SUGGESTED THE POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF A FEW CARGOS OF LOW-GRADE ARGENTINE CORN, WHICH COULD BE BOUGHT BY THE WET MILLING INDUSTRY.

4. THEY RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPORTING U.S. CORN BEFORE APPROVAL IS GRANTED FOR THE PENDING CORN VARIETIES AS THEY HAD HEARD THAT CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WOULD LET IT PASS. HOWEVER, AGCOUNS POINTED OUT THAT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES HAD RECENTLY BEEN TOLD TO MONITOR CORN IMPORTS AND THAT THIS MESSAGE WOULD SOON GET DOWN TO CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. THEY AGREED THAT THE COSTS OF HAVING A SHIPMENT HELD UP AT PORT INDEFINITELY WAS TOO GREAT A RISK TO RUN.

5. AS SUCH, THEY ALL AGREED THAT THE FIRST 200,000 TON TRANCHE, IF AWARDED IN JANUARY, WOULD NOT BE OF U.S. ORIGIN. AT THIS POINT, THEY ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT CONTINUED DELAYS IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS AND HOW THIS WILL AFFECT THE TIMING OF SUBSEQUENT TENDERS.

6. IF THE VARIETIES ARE NOT APPROVED BEFORE MARCH 1997, THEY SUGGESTED THEY MAY LOSE THE ENTIRE 1998 QUOTA QUANTITY (ABOUT 1.2 MILLION TONS). THEY EXPLAINED THAT ALL THE CORN SHOULD BE IMPORTED BY THE END OF JUNE SO AS NOT TO COMPETE WITH THE LOCAL DOMESTIC WINTER GRAIN HARVEST. AS SPAIN CAN HANDLE ABOUT 400,000 TONS OF CORN IMPORTS PER MONTH, THEY SAID THEY WOULD NEED TO HAVE BIDS APPROVED BY LATE MARCH TO COMPLETE THE SHIPPING PROGRAM BY LATE JUNE. (COMMENT: FROM THE U.S. PERSPECTIVE, THE SOONER THEY CAN BID FOR U.S. CORN THE BETTER. IF TENDERS ARE HELD BEYOND APRIL, U.S. SUPPLIES WOULD HAVE TO COMPETE WITH THE 1998 ARGENTINE HARVEST.)

7. THE GROUP ALSO INFORMED US THAT THEY HAVE BEEN APPLYING PRESSURE BOTH IN MADRID AND BRUSSELS TO EXPEDITE THE GMO APPROVAL PROCESS AND THE CORN TENDER PROGRAM. THEY SAID THEY HAD PRESSURED SPAIN'S DELEGATION TO REQUEST OPENING THE TENDERS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE: 1) THEY WANTED THE COMMISSION TO PUBLISH THE REGULATIONS FOR THE TENDERS BEFORE THE HOLIDAY BREAK, AND 2) THEY

TOUGHT THE GMO ISSUE WOULD BE RESOLVED.

8. IN ADDTION, WE LEARNED THATCARLOS DIAZ AMIL, ONE OF TE THREE SECRETARIES GENERAL IN SPAIN'S MINISTRY F AGRICULTURE, RECENTLY SENT A LETTER TO THE GRAN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REQUESTING THAT THE QUOTABE INCREASED TO 800,000 TONS AS QUICKY AS UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 MADRID 012736

STATE PASS USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, SCHUMACHER
FAS FOR GALVIN; ITP/SHEIKH/THORN/CHESLEY;
CMP/G&F/RADLER/SCHATZ

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

SUBJECT: SPAIN'S GRAIN TRADERS' VIEWS ON UPCOMING
REDUCEDDUTY CORN TENDERS AND GMO APPROVAL DELAYS

POSSIBLE. THE TRADERS SAID THAT SPAIN'S MIN OF AG FIRMLY SUPPORTS RESOLVING THE GMO APPROVALS, SO THAT THE QUOTA CAN BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, THEY ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE POLITICAL SUPPORT FROM THE MIN OF AG WOULD DIMINISH IF OPENING OF THE TENDERS IS DELAYED INTO SPRING 1988.

9. REGARDING THE MARKET, THE TRADERS INDICATED THAT CORN PRICES ARE STILL STABLE, WITH THE RECORD LOCAL CROP AND PLENTIFUL SUPPLIES FROM FRANCE (THEY THOUGHT AS MUCH AS 1 MILLION TONS OF FRENCH CORN MAY BE DESTINED FOR INTERVENTION) CURRENTLY KEEPING A LID ON PRICES. HOWEVER, THEY SPECULATED THAT PRICES WOULD TEND TO INCREASE AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR IF UNCERTAINTY CONCERNING THE TENDERS CONTINUES.

10. COMMENT: IT SEEMS SPAIN'S PRIVATE TRADE IS DOING ALL IT CAN TO APPLY PRESSURE IN BOTH BRUSSELS AND MADRID TO EXPEDITE THE GMO APPROVALS AND CORN TENDERS. AFTER ALL, THEY HAVE A LOT TO LOSE. IN RECENT YEARS, THE IMPORTERS HAVE BEEN WELL "COORDINATED" IN BIDDING FOR THE TENDERS, AND REPORTEDLY HAVE ENJOYED LUCRATIVE MARGINS.

11. UNLIKE THE GRAIN TRADE IN PORTUGAL, SPAIN'S TRADERS ARE NOT PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN DELAYING/CANCELING THE FIRST TENDER. THEY ARE MORE INTERESTED IN ASSURING THAT U.S. SUPPLIES ARE ELIGIBLE WHEN THE 1998 AND FUTURE QUOTAS ARE OPENED. THEY ARE VERY CONCERNED THAT THESE DELAYS WILL OCCUR EACH YEAR UNLESS THE TWO SIDES COME TO AN AGREEMENT OR APPROVALS BY THE EU ARE MADE EARLY DURING THE YEAR. WHILE THE TRADERS MAY HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATING WHEN THEY ALLUDED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE U.S. "LOSING" THE ENTIRE 1998 QUOTA, CLEARLY THE LONGER THE GMO APPROVALS ARE DELAYED, THE LESS LIKELY THE CORN IMPORTED UNDER THE QUOTA WILL BE

U.S. ORIGIN. HOWEVER, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE CORN IS NOT OF U.S. ORIGIN, THE TOTAL VALUE OF U.S. EXPORTS TO SPAIN COULD BE REDUCED BY 20-25%.

12. THOUGH NOT DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING, ANOTHER MAJOR CONCERN STEMMING FROM THE CONTINUED DELAYS IN GMO APPROVALS IS THE POTENTIAL LOSS OF THE U.S. MARKET FOR CORN BY-PRODUCTS. THE VALUE OF U.S. CORN BY-PRODUCT EXPORTS TO THE EU DWARFS THAT OF BULK CORN SHIPMENTS. AS SUCH, IT IS IN OUR BEST INTEREST TO CONTINUE TO PRESSURE THE EU ON THEIR SNAIL'S PACE GMO APPROVAL PROCESS. ROSSIN.

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

SSN: 2736
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7771
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0487
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0024
SUBJ: DUTCH DAIRY INDUSTRY AND GMO CORN

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 005198

STATE PASS USDA FOR
FAS: CMP//COTS/LBLUM//CMP/GFD/RRIEMENSCHNEIDER
//CMP///DLP/JREDDINGTON//
ITP: EAMED/THORN/CHESLEY//OFSTS/LHARBERT//FAA:
MREVELT/PLETARTE//
APHIS: JARNOLDI//STATE PASS TO
USTR/SCHOONOVER//EUR/UBI, EUR/ERA/EB
GENEVA FOR AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH DAIRY INDUSTRY AND GMO CORN

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE DUTCH MIXED FEED INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (FNM-- FEDERATIE NEDERLANDSE MENGVOEDER INDUSTRIE) MET WITH THE DUTCH DAIRY INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES (NZO--NEDERLANDSE ZUIVEL ORGANISATIE) ON DECEMBER 24 REGARDING CORN GLUTEN FEED (CGF). EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS WITH PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING REPORT THAT THE DUTCH DAIRY INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT NO PRODUCT DERIVED FROM, AS YET, UNAPPROVED GMO VARIETIES OF CORN BE INCLUDED IN COMPOUND FEEDS DELIVERED TO THE DUTCH DAIRY FARMERS. FURTHERMORE, DESPITE RIKILT RESULTS PRESENTED AT LAST WEEKS MEETING INDICATING THAT NEW EVENT GMOS INCLUDED IN THE 1998 U.S. CORN HARVEST ARE OKAY FOR CONSUMPTION (HAVE NO

ADVERSE HEALTH RISK PER THIS DUTCH OFFICIAL INSTITUTE), THE DAIRY INDUSTRY WILL ONLY ACCEPT CGF DERIVED FROM GMO VARIETIES ALREADY APPROVED BY EU/BRUSSELS.

2. THE DAIRY INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES (NZO) CLAIM THEY WANT NO UNAPPROVED GMOS IN THE CGF PRODUCT STREAM FLOWING INTO THEIR DAIRY RATIONS. THE MIXED FEED INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES (FNM) HAVE USED ALL THE MATERIAL WE HAVE PROVIDED TO SAY THE PRODUCT IS GOOD AND SHOULD BE INCLUDED. THE FNM ALSO REALIZES THE MAJOR TRADE DISTORTIONS AND THE FINANCIAL LOSSES THEIR MEMBER COMPANIES FACE IF THE CONTRACT PRICES FOR DAIRY FEED THROUGH APRIL 30, 1998 WERE NOT TO INCLUDE CGF.

3. THE DAIRY INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ALSO NOW INCLUDED POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FROM ANY ADDITIONAL UNAPPROVED GMOS THAT MAY BE HARVESTED IN THE 1998 U.S. CROP. THEY RAISE THE STAKES EACH TIME FNM REPRESENTATIVES, WITH THE HELP OF DUTCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM VARIOUS MINISTRIES, HAVE ADDRESSED THEIR CONCERNS.

4. THE DAIRY INDUSTRY STATES THAT THE BASIS FOR THE CGF CONCERNS IS THE GERMAN MARKET. THEY FEAR THAT IF THEY CAN NOT GUARANTEE THAT ALL THEIR FEED IS ONLY FROM APPROVED INGREDIENTS, THEIR PRODUCT COULD BE BOYCOTTED IN GERMANY AND, POSSIBLY, ELSEWHERE.

5. FNM REPORTS TO US THAT THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT HAS ACTIVELY SUPPORTED USE OF THE FOUR NEW-EVENT GMOS WHICH RIKILT HAS NOW TESTED. THESE ARE:

- A. NOVARTIS 19/12
- B. MONSANTO 19/12
- C. DEKALB DLL25 19/12
- D. AGREVO T25 23/12

ALSO, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS PUBLICLY GIVEN THEIR SUPPORT TO USING SUCH GMOS IN LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY FEEDS. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ISSUED RECENT LETTERS SIGNED BY DIRECTOR KAMPSTRA, EXPRESSLY SUPPORTING THE USE OF THE FOUR NEW GMO CORN VARIETIES FROM THE 1997 U.S. CORN HARVEST. NEVERTHELESS, FNM WISHES MIN AG WOULD BE MORE ENGAGED IN AND SUPPORTIVE OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DUTCH DAIRY INDUSTRY.

6. EMBASSY PLANS TO SEND THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO MIN AG THIS WEEK REQUESTING THAT THEY AMPLIFY THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE USE OF CGF IN DAIRY RATIONS:

DEAR MR. JOUSTRA:

I AM TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ASK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN HELPING US TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF U.S. EXPORTS OF CORN GLUTEN FROM GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN. BECAUSE ANOTHER CRITICAL MEETING BETWEEN THE GRAIN MILLERS AND THE DAIRY PROCESSING ASSOCIATION IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 8, URGENT ACTION IS UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 THE HAGUE 005198

STATE PASS USDA FOR
FAS: CMP//COTS/LBLUM//CMP/GFD/RRIEMENSCHNEIDER
//CMP///DLP/JREDDINGTON//
ITP: EAMED/THORN/CHESLEY//OFSTS/LHARBERT//FAA:
MREVELT/PLETARTE//
APHIS: JARNOLDI//STATE PASS TO
USTR/SCHOONOVER//EUR/UBI, EUR/ERA/EB
GENEVA FOR AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH DAIRY INDUSTRY AND GMO CORN

NEEDED DESPITE THE HOLIDAY SEASON. THIS FOLLOWS THEIR MOST RECENT MEETING OF DECEMBER 24. NO SOLUTION HAS YET BEEN FOUND.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM TIMOTHY J. GALVIN OUTLINING U.S. VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE, WHICH MAY POTENTIALLY AFFECT UP TO \$400 MILLION IN U.S. EXPORTS. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT, AS RIKILT HAS GIVEN THE GMO VARIETIES

IN QUESTION A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAS NO OBJECTION ON HEALTH OR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS TO THESE IMPORTS. I WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT VROM (THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT) AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR VIEW TO THE ASSOCIATIONS INVOLVED THAT THE U.S. FEED POSES NO HEALTH OR ENVIRONMENTAL DANGER.

WE FEEL THAT IT COULD HELP RESOLVE THE ISSUE IF THE MINISTRY WOULD REITERATE CLEARLY THE FEED COMPOUNDERS ASSOCIATION (FNM) AND THE DAIRY PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION BEFORE THEIR JANUARY 8 MEETING. YOUR AGREEMENT WITH THE UNANIMOUS SCIENTIFIC CONCLUSIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED THAT THE CORN GLUTEN FEED IN QUESTION POSES NO HEALTH OR ENVIRONMENTAL RISK.

(TO BE SIGNED BY WILLIAM P. POPE-CHARGE)

7. WE ALSO SUGGEST THAT A HIGH-LEVEL USDA OFFICIAL PHONE SECRETARY GENERAL JOUSTRA AT WIN AG, THE HAGUE TO REITERATE OUR CONCERNS AND HOPES ON THIS MATTER. THIS SHOULD BE DONE

AT LATEST ON JANUARY 5. (PHONE NUMBERS AND
POSSIBLE TIMING WILL BE PROVIDED BY CC:MAIL
FROM AGCOUNS YODER).

8. THE CRUX OF THE MATTER IS EU/BRUSSELS
TARDY ACTION ON THIS YEARS GMOS. NOW THE
DAIRY INDUSTRY IS ALREADY ANTICIPATING
PROBLEMS WITH THE 1998 CORN HARVEST AND CGF
DERIVED THEREFROM. THUS, NOT ONLY THE 1997
HARVEST IS CURRENTLY IN JEOPARDY. POPE

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

SSN: 5198
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OSRI: RUEHLI
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0488
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GMO APPROVALS AND CORN TENDER FOR PORTUGAL

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LISBON 006582

USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK; FAS FOR GALVIN;
ITP/WEIAD/THORN/CHESLEY; CMP/G&F/RADLER/SCHATZ;
APHIS/MEDLEY
STATE PASS USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, EAGR, ETRD, USTR, USDA, PO
SUBJECT: GMO APPROVALS AND CORN TENDER FOR PORTUGAL

1. ON 17 DECEMBER, ECONOFF, AGATT, AND AGSPECIALIST MET WITH DR. JORGE FERNANDES, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, TO DISCUSS THE GMO APPROVAL PROCESS IN PORTUGAL AND PROSPECTS FOR APPROVAL OF THE PENDING VARIETIES. LATER THAT DAY, AGATT AND AGSPECIALIST MET WITH GRAIN TRADERS TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING REDUCED-DUTY IMPORT TENDER.

2. DR. FERNANDES WAS TOLD THAT PORTUGAL'S QUICK REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MON 810 WAS APPRECIATED. IN RESPONSE, DR. FERNANDES SHOWED US A COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM BRUSSELS REGARDING THE VOTE ON MON 810, INCLUDING A STATEMENT FROM THE FRENCH REQUESTING AN EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE UNTIL THE SCIENTIFIC COMM. COMPLETES ITS REVIEW. HE COULD NOT SAY WHEN HE THOUGHT THE REVIEW WOULD BE COMPLETED NOR DID THE FRENCH REQUEST APPEAR TO SPECIFY A DEADLINE. HOWEVER, HE DID SAY HE THOUGHT THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WOULD APPROVE MON 810. DR. FERNANDES INDICATED THAT HE HAD BEEN VERY EXASPERATED WHEN HE LEARNED THAT MON 810 HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMM., AS IN HIS OPINION, THE COMMISSION HAD NO AUTHORITY TO DO SO.

3. REGARDING THE OTHER TWO PENDING VARIETIES, HE SAID THE COMMISSION WAS "HOLDING" THEM. CONTRARY TO OUR INFORMATION, HE SAID THEY WERE NOT YET BEING EXAMINED BY SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES. HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY

INFORMATION ON WHEN THEY WOULD BE APPROVED.

4. HE WAS ALSO UNAWARE THAT THE OTHER 3 PENDING APPLICANTS WOULD NOT BE IN U.S. COMMERCIAL SHIPMENTS THIS YEAR.

5. REGARDING THE APPROVAL PROCESS IN PORTUGAL, DR. FERNANDEZ INFORMED US THAT THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT CURRENTLY HAS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR GMO APPROVALS UNDER 90/220. WHEN TOLD THAT HE SHOULD FEEL FORTUNATE AS THE INTER-MINISTERIAL APPROVAL PROCESS IN OTHER MEMBER STATES OFTEN HINDERS APPROVAL, DR. FERNANDES SAID THAT HE IS IN FACT RECOMMENDING THAT A SIMILAR BODY AND PROCESS BE CREATED IN PORTUGAL. HE SAID HE DIDN'T LIKE ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY, THAT THESE ISSUES ARE GETTING "TOO POLITICAL," AND THAT HE WOULD FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE IF OTHER MINISTRIES WERE INVOLVED. DR. FERNANDES TOLD US THAT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH GETS INVOLVED ONLY WHEN IN-COUNTRY GMO RESEARCH IS CONDUCTED.

6. DR. FERNANDES WAS KEENLY AWARE OF THE TRADE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CORN APPROVAL FOR PORTUGAL I.E. THE IMPENDING REDUCED-DUTY IMPORT TENDERS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THE GREENS HAVE BEEN QUIET SINCE LAST SPRING, WHEN GREENPEACE TRIED TO DISRUPT A U.S. CORN SHIPMENT AT THE PORT IN LISBON.

7. IN ADDITION TO GMO APPROVAL, DR. FERNANDES' OFFICE IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING IMPORTS OF GMOS. HE CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT IT WAS MEMBER STATES' RESPONSIBILITY TO REGULATE IMPORTS OF ANY NON-APPROVED VARIETIES. HE SAID HIS LAB "THEORETICALLY" HAD THE ABILITY TO TEST FOR THE PRESENCE OF GMOS IN SHIPMENTS.

8. LATER ON 17 DEC, AGATT AND AGSPECIALIST MET WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF PORTUGAL'S GRAIN IMPORTERS ASSOCIATION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PRIVATE TRADE COMPANIES.

9. THE TRADERS WERE OF THE OPINION THAT THE THREE VARIETIES COULD NOT BE APPROVED BEFORE MID-JAN 1998, WHEN THE TENDERS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE OPENED. THE MEMBERS OF THE IMPORTERS ASSOCIATION CONFIRMED THEY WOULD NOT BID FOR U.S. CORN UNTIL THE VARIETIES ARE APPROVED, REGARDLESS OF HOW LONG THE APPROVAL IS DELAYED. NONETHELESS, THEY INDICATED THEY DIDN'T WANT TO WAIT MUCH PAST APRIL, AS THE SUBSEQUENT SHIPMENTS WOULD COMPETE WITH NEW CROP WINTER GRAIN OUTPUT.

10. HOWEVER, THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT SOME "ADVENTUROUS" IMPORTER WILL BID, CLAIMING TO HAVE SECURED A SHIPMENT OF NON-GMO U.S. CORN, WHICH IS REPORTEDLY BEING OFFERED AT A "PREMIUM." AS SUCH, THEY WOULD LIKE THE COMMISSION TO DELAY OPENING THE TENDERS UNTIL THE PENDING VARIETIES ARE APPROVED.

11. WHEN ASKED ABOUT POTENTIAL SUPPLIES FROM OTHER SOURCES, THE TRADERS SAID THEY HAD ALWAYS BOUGHT FROM THE

U.S. AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. WHEN PRESSED ON THE AVAILABILITY OF E. EUROPE SUPPLIES, THE TRADERS ADMITTED THAT IT "MIGHT WORK." HOWEVER, THEY REITERATED THAT THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN ANYTHING OTHER THAN U.S. CORN, AND THAT NO IMPORTER IN THEIR ASSOCIATION WOULD BID UNTIL THE U.S. VARIETIES ARE APPROVED.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LISBON 006582

USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK; FAS FOR GALVIN;
ITP/WEIAD/THORN/CHESLEY; CMP/G&F/RADLER/SCHATZ;
APHIS/MEDLEY
STATE PASS USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, EAGR, ETRD, USTR, USDA, PO

SUBJECT: GMO APPROVALS AND CORN TENDER FOR PORTUGAL

12. LIKE DR. FERNANDES AT THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, THE IMPORTERS WERE ALSO CONFUSED ABOUT WHICH VARIETIES COULD POTENTIALLY BE IN COMMERCIAL SHIPMENTS THIS YEAR. THEY HAD HEARD THAT USDA OFFICIALS HAD PROVIDED "ASSURANCES" TO THE EU COMMISSION THAT CERTAIN VARIETIES, WHILE PLANTED IN SMALL QUANTITIES IN THE UNITED STATES, WOULD NOT BE IN COMMERCIAL SHIPMENTS. THEY REQUESTED THAT THE EMBASSY PROVIDE A LETTER TO CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AND THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT CLARIFYING WHICH UNAPPROVED VARIETIES WOULD NOT BE IN COMMERCIAL CHANNELS. THE IMPORTERS ARE FEARFUL THAT THEIR SHIPMENTS MAY BE BLOCKED IF/WHEN THEY BEGIN TO ARRIVE IF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS DO NOT RECEIVE SOME CLARIFICATION ON WHICH VARIETIES MAY BE PRESENT. (COMMENT: LAST YEAR FAS/LISBON WROTE A LETTER TO PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES INDICATING THAT MONSANTO'S CORN WOULD NOT BE IN THAT SEASON'S SHIPMENTS.)

MATTSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
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LINE3: R 311106Z DEC 97

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

OSRI: RUEHDL

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ORIG: AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0085
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2655

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE

SUBJ: IRISH OFFICIALS SITTING ON GMO FENCE

TEXT:

UNCLAS DUBLIN 006997

DEPT PASS USTR

FAS FOR O/SEC/DRAZEK; ITP/THORN; FAA/LETARTE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, EI

SUBJECT: IRISH OFFICIALS SITTING ON GMO FENCE

REF: A) DUBLIN 6931 B) DUBLIN 6757 C) DUBLIN 6503

1. DCM SPOKE WITH DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT ASSISTANT SECRETARY GERALDINE TALLON ON DECEMBER 24 REGARDING IRISH ABSTENTION IN THE EU VOTE ON MONSANTO BT-CORN (REF A). ACCORDING TO TALLON, THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WILL REMAIN "STRONGLY PRECAUTIONARY" PENDING THE COMPLETION OF A GOVERNMENT POLICY REVIEW OF GMO'S. TALLON REFERRED TO "POLITICAL AND PUBLIC REALITIES" WHICH APPEAR TO BE GUIDING THE APPROACH OF ENVIRONMENT MINISTER NOEL DEMPSEY, WHO HAD PUT FORWARD A VERY ANTI-GMO STANCE WHILE CAMPAIGNING FOR HIS PARTY IN THE RUN-UP TO ELECTIONS.

2. TALLON INDICATED THAT A GOVERNMENT PAPER ON GMO'S SOLICITING PUBLIC COMMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED FAIRLY EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR. TALLON REITERATED THE DIFFICULT SITUATION IN WHICH THE EU FINDS ITSELF GIVEN THE BANS IMPOSED BY AUSTRIA AND LUXEMBOURG. NOTING THAT COMMISSIONER BJERREGAARD'S RECENT BRIEFING TO THE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL ON AMENDMENT OF THE DIRECTIVE WAS MET WITH A CLEAR DEGREE OF INTEREST, SHE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY REVIEW PROCESS IS EXPECTED TO COINCIDE WITH WORK ON THE AMENDMENT.

3. DCM ASKED TALLON IF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT THUS INTENDED TO VOTE AGAINST OR ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON ALL GMO

APPLICATIONS UNTIL ITS POLICY REVIEW WAS COMPLETED. SHE RESPONDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW A "CASE-BY-CASE" APPROACH. DCM STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPARENCY IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS AND RELIANCE ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE TALLON'S ASSERTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD VIEW EACH APPLICATION ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, THE IRISH GOVERNMENT IS UNLIKELY TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF NEW GMO APPLICATIONS FOR THE TIME BEING. DURING OUR RECENT CALL ON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SECRETARY GENERAL JOHN MALONE AND HIGH LEVEL DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS (REF B), WE LEARNED THAT MINISTER DEMPSEY HAD ASKED AGRICULTURE MINISTER WALSH IF HE COULDN'T MAKE THE GMO PROBLEM GO AWAY. THUS, IT APPEARS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL HIDE BEHIND A PUBLIC POLICY REVIEW WHILE HOPING THE COMMISSION WILL FIND A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO ALL MEMBER STATES. END COMMENT. SMITH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6997

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SIT: NSC