

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: GMOs, Corn Gluten Feed and Agenda 2000 (4 pages)	04/02/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 11/26/2019
002. cable	Re: [Ambassador's Call on Consumer Protection Minister] (5 pages)	04/03/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 4/3/2020
003. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Corn] (2 pages)	04/28/1998	P1/b(1)
004. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Corn] (3 pages)	05/01/1998	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Re: U.S. - Belgian Exchange on AG Trade: GMOs, Hormones (7 pages)	05/17/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 11/26/2019
006. cable	Re: Strategy for Handling GMO Food and Agriculture Issues with the French (5 pages)	05/29/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 4/3/2020

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[04/02/1998 - 05/29/1998]

2013-0836-F

ke3009

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: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHTCA1179 0921630-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 021630Z APR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
OSRI: RUEHTC
DTG: 021630Z APR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8574
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0526
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0069
SUBJ: GMO'S, CORN GLUTEN FEED AND AGENDA
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 001179

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS FOR FAA/PLETARTE;
ITP/PSHEIKH/EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON,
CMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG,
ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT;
APHIS AND FSIS AT USDA
STATE PASS TO USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, NL
SUBJECT: GMO'S, CORN GLUTEN FEED AND AGENDA
2000.

1. SBU: SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.
OFFICIAL SOURCES REPORTED, PLEASE HANDLE
ACCORDINGLY.

2. SUMMARY: DESPITE RECENT POSITIVE
MOVEMENTS ON A NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE
ISSUES, AGRICULTURAL FRICTION POINTS FLOURISH
BETWEEN THE EU AND THE U.S.- AT LEAST FROM
OUR PERSPECTIVE IN THE NETHERLANDS. IN A
RECENT SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH DUTCH
OFFICIALS AND AGRIBUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES,
TOGETHER WITH ALEX THIERMANN FROM USEU, WE
HAVE EXPLORED THEIR VIEWS OF THESE PROBLEM
AREAS. THE MOST URGENT POINT IN THEIR VIEW
IS TO RESOLVE THE GMO ISSUE, PARTICULARLY IN
CONNECTION WITH CORN GLUTEN FEED. THEY ALSO
BLUNTLY TALKED ABOUT CURRENT DISCUSSIONS IN

BRUSSELS TO LINK THE U.S. WHEAT GLUTEN COMPLAINTS WITH THE CORN GLUTEN PROBLEMS.
END SUMMARY.

3. GMO'S AND CORN GLUTEN FEED (CGF):
THE NETHERLANDS IS THE PREMIER MARKET FOR U.S. CORN GLUTEN FEED (ABOUT \$400 MILLION ANNUALLY). GMO-RELATED FRICTION WILL BE GENERATED AGAIN WITH THE AUTUMN 1998 HARVEST UNLESS EU AUTHORITIES APPROVE ALL VARIETIES WHICH COULD BE CONTAINED IN SHIPMENTS TO THE NETHERLANDS. THE GMO ISSUE IS RATHER COMPLICATED AS IT TOUCHES ON INTERACTING DOMAINS RELATED TO TRADE/ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENT, AND CONSUMER PREFERENCES IN THE NETHERLANDS. IF CONSUMERS IN THE NETHERLANDS OR NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES SUCH AS GERMANY WHO RECEIVE (FOR EXAMPLE DUTCH DAIRY PRODUCTS), REFUSE TO PURCHASE FOOD PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM ANIMALS FED WITH SUCH CORN GLUTEN FEED, THEN CORN GLUTEN IMPORTS WOULD LIKELY DECLINE SHARPLY. FOR BOTH THE U.S. SUPPLIERS AND THE DUTCH FEED INDUSTRY, THE GMO ISSUE MUST BE RESOLVED. IF CGF WILL BE EXCLUDED (DUE TO GMO-BELATED ASPECTS) PRICE OF ANIMAL FEED WILL INCREASE BY AT LEAST 1 DFL. PER 100 KILOS (ABOUT \$5.00 PER METRIC TON). THIS WAS REPORTED TO US BY A FEED INDUSTRY SOURCE WHO SAID THE DUTCH DAIRY INDUSTRY IS READY TO PAY THIS IF A SOLUTION IS NOT FOUND SOON FOR THE GMO-CORN PROBLEM IN THE 1998 HARVEST.

4. CORN GLUTEN FEED AND WHEAT GLUTEN:
IF CORN GLUTEN FEED WERE TO BE RECLASSIFIED A COMPOUND FEED, AS IS RUMORED IN BRUSSELS, THEN A LEVY FOR FEED INGREDIENTS WOULD BE IMPOSED AND DISRUPT TRADE. IT SEEMS THAT SOME EU MEMBER STATES ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING SUCH RECLASSIFICATION. ESPECIALLY THE FRENCH (THIBEAULT) AIM AT PROTECTING THEIR MARKET FOR FEED INGREDIENTS ACCORDING TO OUR DUTCH SOURCES WHO ATTEND MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS. WHEN DISCUSSING THE CORN GLUTEN FEED ISSUE, MINAG OFFICIALS BRIEFLY MENTIONED THE WHEAT GLUTEN ISSUE. THEY SUGGESTED THAT A TRADE DEAL COULD BE MADE CONSIDERING WHEAT GLUTEN IMPORTS FROM THE EU TO THE U.S. AND U.S. CORN GLUTEN FEED TO THE EU.

5. GMO'S AND LABELING: ACCORDING TO OUR DUTCH CONTACTS, DUTCH OFFICIALS SUPPORT EU MOVES TOWARD REINFORCED AND MORE DETAILED LABELING OF FOOD PRODUCTS AND SUPPLYING INFORMATION ON THE PRODUCTION PROCESS. AS THE GMO AND HORMONE ISSUES ARE VERY SENSITIVE, THEY ADVOCATE THAT CONSUMERS SHOULD BE INFORMED SO THEY CAN MAKE THEIR OWN

DECISIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, AS AGREED IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN DUTCH CONSUMER
ORGANIZATIONS, INDUSTRY, RETAIL TRADE AND
GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES IN 1994, LABELING
OF ALL FOOD PRODUCTS WHICH CONTAIN
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 THE HAGUE 001179

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS FOR FAA/PLETARTE;
ITP/PSHEIKH/EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON,
CMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG,
ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT;
APHIS AND FSIS AT USDA
STATE PASS TO USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, NL
SUBJECT: GMO'S, CORN GLUTEN FEED AND AGENDA
2000.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEAN PROTEIN, SOYBEAN
FLOUR OR SOYBEAN MEAL WAS REQUIRED AS OF
APRIL 1, 1997. OUR DUTCH FEED INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION CONTACT, H. HEUVER (FNM),
SUGGESTED THAT ONE WAY FOR THE DUTCH FEED
INDUSTRY TO SURVIVE WOULD BE TO BUILD
CONFIDENCE AMONG THEIR CLIENTS, PRODUCERS AND
CONSUMERS. IN THE NETHERLANDS THERE IS A
LARGE AND GROWING EMPHASIS ON HEALTHY FOODS
(SAFETY), CONVENIENCE FOODS, ENVIRONMENTAL
ISSUES AND ORGANIC PRODUCTS.

6. AGENDA 2000: THE KEY ISSUES ARE:
REDUCTION OF PRICES FOR MILK (15%), BEEF
(30%), GRAIN (20%) TO MOVE INTERNAL EU PRICES
TOWARD WORLD MARKET PRICES. HOWEVER, PARTIAL
INCOME SUPPORT TO FARMERS AND DISCUSSIONS
CONCERNING EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES JOINING
THE EU (POLAND, HUNGARY, CZECH. REPUBLIC,
ESTONIA, SLOVENIA) COMPLICATE THE POLICY
ENVIRONMENT. ACCORDING TO OUR DUTCH FEED
INDUSTRY CONTACTS, PRICE REDUCTIONS WILL
ALLOW FOR AN INCREASE IN EU EXPORTS. THUS
FEED MILLERS COULD BE A BENEFICIARY.

7. HORMONE-TREATED BEEF: ACCORDING TO THE
MINAG OFFICIALS, HORMONE-TREATED BEEF REMAINS
A SENSITIVE ISSUE. NEVERTHELESS R. VAN DER
FLIER MENTIONED THAT THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN
RELATIVELY QUIET IN MEMBER STATES OF THE EU
AND THAT THE ACTORS INVOLVED (INCLUDING
POLICY MAKERS) ARE 'THINKING OVER' THE ISSUE.

8. MR. H. HEUVER (FNM) MENTIONED THAT THERE

ARE TENDENCIES AMONG CONSUMERS TOWARD EROSION
OF TRUST IN OFFICIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND
INSTITUTIONS WHO REVIEW AND APPROVE MATTERS
REGARDING FOOD SAFETY. SCIENCE IS NO LONGER
EMBRACED AS THE SINGLE TRUTH; OTHER FACTORS
INFLUENCE DECISION MAKING IN EUROPE.
ACCORDING TO VAN DER FLIER, THERE SEEMS TO BE
SOME DEGREE OF INCOMPATIBILITY IN
INTERPRETATION OF SCIENCE BETWEEN THE U.S.
AND EU. THE SCIENTIFIC APPROACH WAS STRESSED
BY MR. A. THIERMANN (USEU) AND HE MENTIONED
THAT EUROPE IS NOT YET WELL ORGANIZED WITH
REGARD TO ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL.
REGULATIONS, PRODUCTION AND CONTROL SYSTEMS
HAVE NOT YET BEEN STREAMLINED WHICH COULD
LEAD TO LAX DISEASE CONTROL IN THE EUROPEAN
UNION. DORNBUSH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 1179
<^SSN>1179
TOR: 980402103336 M3227334
<^TOR>980402103337 M3227335
DIST:
SIT: USTR
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHVIA3039 0931417-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 031417Z APR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 031417Z APR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5772
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0104
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON CONSUMER PROTECTION MINISTER:
GMO'S, HORMONES, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY, AND
THE UPCOMING EU PRESIDENCY

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By 17 NARA, Date 11/16/2019
2016-0529-m (1,94)

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA KATHRYN WALT HALL FOR

TEXT:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 VIENNA 003039

SECSTATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB, PASS USTR FOR JIM MURPHY,
ALSO PASS FDA

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, ALSO FAS FOR OA/GALVIN,
ITP/SHEIKH, EAMED/THORN, FSTSD/HARBERT,
DLP/REDDINGTON, PASS ALSO APHIS/VS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE, BRUSSELS PASS ALSO APHIS/THIERMANN
GENEVA FOR USTR, PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/3/2018
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, PINR, PREL, SOCI, TBIO, EUN, AU
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON CONSUMER PROTECTION MINISTER:
GMO'S, HORMONES, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY, AND
THE UPCOMING EU PRESIDENCY

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA KATHRYN WALT HALL FOR
REASONS 1.6X5 AND 1.6X6.

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: DURING AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MINISTER OF
WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION BARBARA PRAMMER,
PRAMMER ADVISED THAT

- DURING AUSTRIA'S EU PRESIDENCY, AN "INFORMAL" JOINT
COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT ISSUES WILL BE FORMED BETWEEN
THE COUNCILS SHE AND MINISTER OF LABOR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS HOSTASCH CHAIR;

- AUSTRIA IS MAKING PROGRESS ON THE BIOTECHNOLOGY FRONT,
WITH PREPARATION OF A LIABILITY LAW AND MOVEMENT WITHIN THE
EU ON DEVELOPING REGULATIONS ON LABELLING AND FIELD RELEASE;

AND

- THE HORMONE ISSUE IS "NOT AT THE TOP" OF THE EU'S LIST OF ISSUES TO ADDRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. ~~(C)~~ AMBASSADOR HALL, ACCOMPANIED BY AGCOUN AND ECON SPECIALIST, CALLED ON AUSTRIAN MINISTER OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION BARBARA PRAMMER APRIL 2. PRAMMER WAS JOINED BY KLAUS MEYER OF HER STAFF. AS MINISTER WITH THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO, PRAMMER HAS GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION OVER BIOTECHNOLOGY AND VETERINARY SERVICES IN AUSTRIA, AND INSTRUCTS THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER ON HOW TO VOTE ON THESE ISSUES IN THE EU AGRICULTURE MINISTERS COUNCIL.

EU PRESIDENCY

3. (SBU) PRAMMER OPENED WITH THE COMMENT THAT IT IS AN "INTENSE TIME" IN THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT DUE TO PREPARATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING EU PRESIDENCY. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION, PRAMMER SAID ONE MAJOR IMPACT ON HER MINISTRY WILL BE CREATION OF A SEPARATE, INFORMAL, JOINT COUNCIL WITH THE COUNCIL CHAIRED BY MINISTER OF LABOR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS LORE HOSTASCH TO DEAL WITH WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT ISSUES. THOSE ISSUES ARE NOT DEALT WITH SEPARATELY, SHE SAID, BUT RATHER ARE NORMALLY SUBSUMED INTO THE SOCIAL AND LABOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. PRAMMER SAID ONLY NORTHERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CAN BE COMPARED TO THE U.S. WITH RESPECT TO ACCEPTANCE OF WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE, AND NOTED THAT IT IS STILL QUITE RARE TO FIND FEMALE EXECUTIVES IN EUROPEAN ENTERPRISES, AND SHE NOTED THAT IN AUSTRIA THERE ARE ONLY FIVE MAJOR ENTERPRISES WITH AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLANS. THE JOINT COUNCIL WILL BE FORMED TO GET THESE TOPICS ONTO THE AGENDA, SHE SAID.

GMO'S

4. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER SAID AUSTRIA HAS WORKED HARD AND DONE A GOOD JOB OF COMPLETING WORK ON THE NEW GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM (GMO) LIABILITY LAW (REPORTED SEPTEL), WHICH IS DUE OUT OF PARLIAMENT APRIL 16. NOTING THAT THE U.S. HAS GENERAL LIABILITY LAWS WHICH PROVIDE JURISDICTION OVER GMO'S ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE, PRAMMER SAID THAT SINCE AUSTRIA HAS NO SUCH ALL-ENCOMPASSING LEGISLATION IT WAS NECESSARY TO CREATE LAWS TO ADDRESS GMO LIABILITY SPECIFICALLY. WITH ITS PASSAGE, SHE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO SAY IT ADDRESSED THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE ANTI-GMO INITIATIVE. SMILING, PRAMMER SAID THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL NGO'S AND GENETICS INDUSTRY APPEAR EQUALLY DISPLEASED WITH THE LEGISLATION, WHICH MUST MEAN IT WAS "THE BEST WAY." SHE ASSERTED THAT SHE HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS NECESSARY STEPS WITHOUT PUBLIC FANFARE.

5. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER SAID AUSTRIA IS DEEPLY ENGAGED IN THE EFFORT TO RESOLVE LABELLING IN THE EU. SHE SAID THE SITUATION IS

CURRENTLY INADEQUATE DUE TO THE LACK OF IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS. ONCE LABELLING AND LIABILITY ARE BOTH RESOLVED, SHE SAID, THE ISSUE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY WILL BE "MANAGEABLE". SHE SAID THE AUSTRIAN POSITION IS THAT EACH APPLICATION MUST BE DECIDED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, AND THESE NEW RULES WILL LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR BEING ABLE TO DO THAT.

6. (S) PRAMMER ALSO SAID THE EU IS CURRENTLY DISCUSSING
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 VIENNA 003039

SECSTATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB, PASS USTR FOR JIM MURPHY,
ALSO PASS FDA

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, ALSO FAS FOR OA/GALVIN,
ITP/SHEIKH, EAMED/THORN, FSTSD/HARBERT,
DLP/REDDINGTON, PASS ALSO APHIS/VS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE, BRUSSELS PASS ALSO APHIS/THIERMANN
GENEVA FOR USTR, PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/3/2018
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, PINR, PREL, SOCI, TBIO, EUN, AU
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON CONSUMER PROTECTION MINISTER:
GMO'S, HORMONES, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY, AND
THE UPCOMING EU PRESIDENCY

INSTITUTING EU-WIDE MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT OF FIELD RELEASE OF GMO CROPS IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO U.S. CONTROLS OF CERTAIN GMO'S (SUCH AS BT CORN). SHE SAID THE EU RECOGNIZES IT "STARTED LATE" WITH RESPECT TO DEALING WITH BIOTECHNOLOGY AND IS WORKING HARD TO CATCH UP.

7. (SBU) ON THE NOVARTIS BT CORN BAN, PRAMMER SAID THE DECISION IS PENDING IN BRUSSELS WHETHER THE EU WILL SUE AUSTRIA TO LIFT ITS BAN, OR WHETHER AUSTRIA WILL SUE THE EU. SHE SEES RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE NO EARLIER THAN LATE THIS YEAR AT BEST.

HORMONES

8. (S) PRAMMER SAID THE HORMONE BAN IS "NOT AT THE TOP OF THE LIST" IN THE EU FOR DISCUSSION, AND ASSERTED THAT THE REAL ISSUE IS RESIDUE TESTING. AT PRESENT, SHE SAID, LIABILITY FOR RESIDUE IS GOVERNED BY MEMBER STATE LAW AND SUCH LAWS ARE INADEQUATE IN AUSTRIA, IN PART BECAUSE IN NO CASE CAN A FARMER EVER BE HELD LIABLE FOR UNSAFE FOOD HE MIGHT PRODUCE--UNDER THE LAW, IT IS ALWAYS SOMEBODY ELSE'S FAULT, AND NEVER THE FARMER'S. THAT MAY BE CHANGED LATER THIS YEAR WITH A NEW EU DIRECTIVE ON FOOD SAFETY LIABILITY, SHE NOTED.

9. (S) AGCOUN INTERJECTED THAT FROM THE U.S. PERSPECTIVE THE HORMONE CASE IS STRICTLY POLITICAL, AS BOTH EU AND U.S. SCIENTISTS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE RISKS ARE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME WHETHER ONE EATS ORGANIC BEEF OR BEEF PRODUCED WITH PROMOTANTS, AND THAT SCIENTISTS AGREE THAT COLESTEROL AND

FAT FROM BEEF PRESENT MORE OF A HEALTH RISK THAN DO HORMONES. AGCOUN ALSO NOTED THAT THE EU HAD NINE YEARS TO CONDUCT RISK ANALYSIS, AND IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANYTHING NEW WILL BE TURNED UP BY YET ANOTHER. PRAMMER SMILED DISARMINGLY AND RESPONDED, "IT IS AS YOU SAY, IT IS CLEARLY POLITICAL." SHE SAID IT IS CLEAR THAT IN THE EU THE POSITIONS ON HORMONES ARE NOT CLOSELY LINKED TO SCIENCE. SHE ADDED THAT IN THE EU EACH MEMBER STATE HAS ITS OWN TOPICAL INTERESTS, AND HORMONE USE REALLY ISN'T AN ISSUE IN AUSTRIA. AGCOUN COMMENTED THAT IT IS AN ISSUE WITH SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WTO, PARTICULARLY IF THE EU SEEKS TO AVOID COMPLIANCE WITH THE WTO DECISION. PRAMMER DID NOT RESPOND TO THAT COMMENT, BUT IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION SAID SHE HAS NO IDEA WHEN OR HOW IT WILL BE RESOLVED.

VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY

10. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER WAS NOT WELL BRIEFED ON THE VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY AGREEMENT AND WAS UNABLE TO RESPOND TO OUR POINTS ON LIFTING THE BAN ON POULTRY. SHE DID NOTE HOWEVER THAT DURING AUSTRIA'S EU ACCESSION, NEGOTIATION OF VETERINARY PROTOCOLS WAS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT ASPECTS, IN PART BECAUSE AUSTRIA'S STANDARDS WERE IN SOME CASES MORE STRINGENT THAN THE EU'S.

BIO NOTE

11. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER WAS HER USUAL WARM AND ENGAGING SELF, SMOOTH BUT MORE FORTHCOMING THAN WE EXPECTED. HER ENGLISH HAS IMPROVED MARKEDLY SINCE THE LAST TIME WE HAD A CHANCE TO GAUGE IT. SHE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE MEETING IN GRAMMATICALLY NEARLY FLAWLESS ENGLISH AND RELIED ON AN INTERPRETER ONLY FOR INDIVIDUAL WORDS AND ONE LONE, TECHNICAL STATEMENT ON LIABILITY FOR WHICH SHE LACKED THE TECHNICAL VOCABULARY. WE COULD GUESS HER ENGLISH IS NOW AT ABOUT THE FSI S3 LEVEL.

COMMENT

12. ~~(C)~~ PRAMMER PRESENTS A FAR MORE POSITIVE FACE TO US ON GMO'S THAN SHE DOES TO THE PUBLIC, AND WE TEND TO THINK THAT IN SOME MEASURE IT IS DUE TO AN INSTINCT TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR. OUR INDUSTRY CONTACTS DO NOT REPORT GOOD RELATIONS WITH HER, AND HER PROFESSIONAL STAFF ON BIOTECHNOLOGY ISSUES (STRICTLY PROTECT) HAVE GRUMBLED TO US PRIVATELY ABOUT HER WILLINGNESS TO CAVE IN TO THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS OUT OF POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY WHILE IGNORING SCIENTIFICALLY BASED ADVICE. STILL, HER COMMENTS GIVE US
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 VIENNA 003039

SECSTATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB, PASS USTR FOR JIM MURPHY,
ALSO PASS FDA

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
USDA FOR OSEC/DRAZEK, ALSO FAS FOR OA/GALVIN,
ITP/SHEIKH, EAMED/THORN, FSTSD/HARBERT,

DLP/REDDINGTON, PASS ALSO APHIS/VS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE, BRUSSELS PASS ALSO APHIS/THIERMANN
GENEVA FOR USTR, PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/3/2018

TAGS: EAGR, ETRDPGOV, PINR, PREL, SOCI, TBIO, EUN, AU
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON CONSUMER PROTECTION MINISTER:
GMO'S, HORMONES, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY, AND
THE UPCOMING EU PRESIDENCY

HOPE THAT CONTINUING TO APPLY PRESSURE TO THE AUSTRIAN
GOVERNMENT AND PRAMMER HERSELF TO DO THE RIGHT THING ON
BIOTECHNOLOGY IS NOT A WHOLLY WASTED EFFORT.

13. (S) PRAMMER'S COMMENT ON EU CONSIDERATION OF MONITORING
GMO'S AFTER FIELD RELEASE IS NEWS TO US, AS WAS HER COMMENT
ON A POSSIBLE EU-WIDE LIABILITY DIRECTIVE. PERHAPS WE HAVE
MISSED SOMETHING IN THE TORRENTIAL PAPER FLOW ON EU
REGULATION, AND USEU IS ALREADY FULLY AWARE OF THEM, BUT IT
OCCURS TO US THESE STEPS WOULD APPEAR TO BE ITEMS THE U.S.
HAS AN INTEREST IN INFLUENCING.

14. (S) ON HORMONES, WE WERE FRANKLY A BIT SURPRISED TO HEAR
THAT HORMONES ARE NOT AN ISSUE WITH A HIGHER PROFILE IN THE
EU, GIVEN THE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS WITH RESPECT TO WTO
OBLIGATIONS THE OUTCOME OF THIS CASE CAN HAVE. WE WOULD BE
CURIOUS TO KNOW IF PRAMMER'S COMMENT JIBE WITH OBSERVATIONS
OF OUR COLLEAGUES IN BRUSSELS, OR IF PRAMMER WAS SIMPLY
DODGING THE ISSUE.

15. (S) ON VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY, WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH A
LETTER TO PRAMMER OUTLINING THE U.S. POSITION ON THE POULTRY
ISSUE AND ASKING HER TO LOOK INTO IT. END COMMENT.
HALL

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

SSN: 3039
<^SSN>3039
<^SSN>3039

TOR: 980403103303 M3229535
<^TOR>980403103432 M3229537
<^TOR>980403103432 M3229538

DIST:
SIT: USTR
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHBSA2370 1060525-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 160525Z APR 98
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 160525Z APR 98
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN
SUBJ: NO ACTION ON GMO BANS IN AUSTRIA AND LUXEMBOURG
TEXT: UNCLAS BRUSSELS 002370

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK; FAS FOR OA/GALVIN,
ITP/DA/SHEIKH, ITP/EAMED/THORN, CHESLEY, WHEATLEY,
ITP/OFSTS/SLUTSKY

APHIS FOR SHEESLEY
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: NO ACTION ON GMO BANS IN AUSTRIA AND LUXEMBOURG

1. THERE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FROM MEMBER STATES TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO FORCE AUSTRIA AND LUXEMBOURG TO LIFT THEIR IMPORT BANS ON ROUND-UP READY SOYBEANS AND BT CORN. UNDER THE WRITTEN PROCEDURE OF 90/220 WHICH CLOSED ON APRIL 14, THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL CAME UP SHORT OF THE NECESSARY QUALIFIED MAJORITY OF 62 VOTES. AUSTRIA, LUXEMBOURG AND GREECE VOTED AGAINST THE PROPOSAL. BELGIUM, IRELAND, DENMARK AND FRANCE ABSTAINED. PORTUGAL, ITALY, SPAIN, THE NETHERLANDS, GERMANY, FINLAND, THE UK AND SWEDEN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL.

2. THE PROPOSAL WILL NOW BE FORWARDED TO A COUNCIL MEETING, MOST LIKELY THE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL ON JUNE 16-17, FOR FURTHER ACTION. AT THAT MEETING, IF THERE IS A QUALIFIED MAJORITY SUPPORTING THE COMMISSION, THE

PROPOSAL WILL BE ADOPTED. IF THERE IS NOT A QUALIFIED MAJORITY IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL, IT WILL BE REFERRED BACK TO THE COMMISSION FOR ACTION AND LIKELY APPROVAL. THE COUNCIL CAN ONLY CHANGE THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL WITH UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON AN ALTERNATIVE, WHICH IS EXTREMELY RARE. THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF A BLOCKING MINORITY IN THE COUNCIL VOTE.

3. ON THE COMMISSION WRITTEN PROCEDURE ADOPTING THE APPROVAL OF THE THREE NEW CORN VARIETIES, SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE FINAL DECISION WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON MONDAY, APRIL 20. (DRAFTED:FAS:BRICHEY) WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2370

TOR: 980416013314 M3245587

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHDLA2220 1131539-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 231539Z APR 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
OSRI: RUEHDL
DTG: 231539Z APR 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WKHDC 0114
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3300
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: IRISH EPA APPROVES NEW MONSANTO GMO SUGAR BEET FIELD
TRIALS

TEXT:

UNCLAS DUBLIN 002220

FAS FOR ITP/CHESLEY AND WHEATLEY; OFSTS/HARBERT;
FAS/AO/NE/LETARTE
DEPT PLEASE PASS USTR FOR JMURPHY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EI, EUN
SUBJ: IRISH EPA APPROVES NEW MONSANTO GMO SUGAR BEET FIELD
TRIALS

REFS: (A) DUBLIN 2063, (B) DUBLIN 837, (C) 97 DUBLIN 5398,
(D) 97 DURLIN 5209

1. ON APRIL 22, THE IRISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (IEPA) AUTHORIZED THE U.S. FIRM MONSANTO TO COMMENCE FIELD TRIALS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) BEETS AT FIVE PRIVATELY-OWNED FARMS IN IRELAND. MONSANTO HAD ORIGINALLY APPLIED TO CONDUCT TRIALS ON TWO VARIETIES OF GM SUGAR BEETS AT TEN SEPARATE VENUES IN IRELAND (REF B). HOWEVER, THE IEPA RELEASED THE NAMES OF THE FARMERS AND ADDRESSES OF ALL THE TRIAL SITES. FIVE OF THE FARMERS, FEARING ANTI-GMO ACTIVISTS, OPTED OUT OF PARTICIPATING IN THE TRIAL. MONSANTO THEN MODIFIED ITS APPLICATION TO COVER ONE VARIETY AT JUST FIVE VENUES.

2. THE IEPA MADE CLEAR IN ITS PUBLIC STATEMENT APPROVING THE MONSANTO APPLICATION THAT IT WILL REGULARLY INSPECT AND MONITOR THE TRIALS. THE AGENCY STRESSED AS WELL THAT THE TRIALS WILL CONFORM TO "STRICT NATIONAL AND EU REGULATIONS." THE IEPA, HOWEVER, HAS NOT IMPOSED ANY SPECIFIC CONDITIONS ON THE MONSANTO TRIALS. AS PART OF THE APPLICATION, MONSANTO PLEDGED THAT AFTER THE CROP IS HARVESTED, THE BEETS WILL BE DESTROYED AND NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER ANY PART OF THE ANIMAL OR HUMAN FOOD CHAIN.

3. IN 1997, THE IEPA HAD APPROVED A SMALLER TRIAL OF MONSANTO GM SUGAR BEETS AT A STATE-RUN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FACILITY. MONSANTO'S 1997 TRIAL WAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED JUST BEFORE ANTI-GMO ACTIVISTS SABOTAGED THE CROP (REFS C AND D). THE APPROVAL OF THESE NEW TRIALS PROVOKED PREDICTABLE OPPOSITION FROM IRISH ANTI-GMO GROUPS SUCH AS GENETIC CONCERN. FOLLOWING MONSANTO'S APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO RUN THESE ADDITIONAL TRIALS, THE IEPA HAD RECEIVED 3,400 INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO MONSANTO'S APPLICATION. ACCORDING TO IEPA DIRECTOR, ANN BUTLER, OVER NINETY PERCENT OF THESE COMMENTS WERE FORM LETTERS GENERATED BY ANTI-GMO ACTIVISTS. THE IRISH GREEN PARTY CRITICIZED THE EPA DECISION TO AUTHORIZE THE TRIALS, RELEASING A STATEMENT THAT THE TRIALS JEOPARDIZE IRELAND'S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AS A "CLEAN, GREEN COUNTRY WHICH PRODUCES FOOD THAT HAS NOT BEEN TAMPERED WITH."

4. THE IEPA'S DECISION WAS THE SUBJECT OF CAUTIOUSLY APPROVING EDITORIALS IN BOTH MAJOR IRISH NEWSPAPERS. BOTH PAPERS NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT HAD PLEDGED DURING THE LAST ELECTION CAMPAIGN NOT TO TAKE ACTION ON GMO ISSUES PENDING A COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC POLICY REVIEW OF THE ISSUE. THE PAPERS CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THAT REVIEW AND SAID THERE STILL REMAINS A NEED FOR "OPEN, PUBLIC" DEBATE ON AN ISSUE THAT IS OF SUCH "STRONG INTEREST AND CONCERN" TO IRISH CONSUMERS.

5. COMMENT: IRISH OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED EMBASSY THAT A NEW GOI POLICY PAPER ON GMOS IS IMMINENT (REF A). THE IEPA MAY HAVE GONE AHEAD WITH THIS APPROVAL, BEFORE PUBLICATION OF THE POLICY PAPER, IN ORDER TO AVOID APPEARING INCONSISTENT IN THE FACE OF A JUDICIAL REVIEW, BROUGHT BY ANTI-GMO ORGANIZATIONS, OF THE IEPA'S PREVIOUS DECISION TO ALLOW MONSANTO TO CONDUCT ONE TRIAL AT A STATE-OWNED FACILITY. FAILURE TO APPROVE THIS APPLICATION MIGHT HAVE SUPPLIED A GROUND FOR JUDICIAL OVERTURNING OF THE EARLIER DECISION. END COMMENT.

6. POST WILL REPORT SEPTTEL ON POSSIBLE SECURITY ISSUES INVOLVING MONSANTO AND THE FIVE IRISH PARTICIPANTS.
SPIRNAK

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2220

TOR: 980423134829 M3257277

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA2551 1131550-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 231550Z APR 98
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 231550Z APR 98
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: GMO CROPS PASS NEXT TO LAST HURDLE

TEXT:
UNCLAS BRUSSELS 002551

USDA FOR OSEC
FAS/OAA
FAS FOR ITP/THORN/CHESLEY
FAS/CMP
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: GMO CROPS PASS NEXT TO LAST HURDLE

1. ON APRIL 22 THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION COMPLETED ITS APPROVAL OF FOUR GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS, THREE CORNS AND A RAPESEED. HOWEVER, BEFORE THE PRODUCTS CAN BE PLACED ON THE MARKET, THE MEMBER STATE WHERE THE APPLICATION WAS FIRST SUBMITTED MUST GRANT ITS CONSENT.

2. ONE OF THE CORNS AND THE RAPESEED WERE ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED THROUGH THE UK, AND NO PROBLEMS ARE EXPECTED IN OBTAINING TIMELY UK CONSENT. HOWEVER, THE OTHER TWO CORNS WERE SUBMITTED THROUGH FRANCE, AND DELAYS ARE EXPECTED. ANY DELAY PREVENTS SHIPMENT OF U.S. CORN INTO THE EUROPEAN UNION.

WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 2551
TOR: 980423135043 M3257285

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Corn] (2 pages)	04/28/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[04/02/1998 - 05/29/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3009

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]

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.

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 RUEHCAA8531 1210415-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 010414Z MAY 98
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 010414Z MAY 98
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 8736
SUBJ: USTR BARSHEESKY'S LETTER TO COMMISSIONER BRITTAN
ON GMO DELAYS

TEXT:
UNCLAS STATE 078531

E/O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, WTRO, EUN, USTR
SUBJECT: USTR BARSHEESKY'S LETTER TO COMMISSIONER BRITTAN
ON GMO DELAYS

1. PROVIDED BELOW FOR POSTS' INFORMATION IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER DELIVERED ON APRIL 27 FROM U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY TO EUROPEAN COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIR LEON BRITTAN. THE LETTER NOTES THAT THE EU'S FAILURE TO APPROVE SEVERAL GMO VARIETIES OF CORN HAS CAUSED LOSSES TO U.S. EXPORTERS OF CORN AND CORN PRODUCTS. THE LETTER URGES THE EU TO COMPLETE THE APPROVAL PROCESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PREVENT FURTHER LOSSES. THE LETTER FURTHER NOTES THAT IF THE U.S. IS SHUT OUT OF CORN AND CORN PRODUCT TENDERS IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL BECAUSE OF EU INACTION THE U.S. WILL EXPECT THE EU TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF USTR LETTER TO SIR LEON BRITTAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EU COMMISSION:

DEAR SIR LEON:

AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE SEVERAL U.S. VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED CPRN WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY A

QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MEMBER STATES FOLLOWING REVIEW BY THE EU'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES. DESPITE THESE APPROVALS, U.S. EXPORTS OF CORN AND CORN PRODUCTS MAY BE EXCLUDED FROM ENTERING THE EU DURING THIS MARKETING YEAR. WE CANNOT IGNORE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON ANY OF OUR TRADE CAUSED BY THE DELAYS ASSOCIATED WITH THE VARIOUS APPROVAL PROCESSES.

U.S. CORN EXPORTERS ARE CURRENTLY SUFFERING LOSSES AS A

RESULT OF THE DELAY IN SUCH APPROVALS. LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME, THE UNITED STATES HAD PROVIDED 1 MILLION MT OF CORN UNDER THE IMPORT TENDER FOR SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. ALTHOUGH THE SPANISH TENDER IS SUSPENDED, SPAIN HAS AWARDED 375,000 MT TO NON-U.S. SUPPLIERS AND NONE TO U.S. EXPORTERS THIS YEAR. THE SPANISH QUOTA, AS WELL AS ITS OPENING EARLY IN THE CALENDAR YEAR, WAS NEGOTIATED AS COMPENSATION TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE ACCESSION OF SPAIN TO THE EU, WHERE THE UNITED STATES HAD DEVELOPED A SUBSTANTIAL CORN MARKET. THE COMPENSATION PROVIDED AT THAT TIME WAS ESSENTIAL TO PRESERVE U.S. TRADE INTERESTS, AND IT IS NO LESS ESSENTIAL TODAY. THE PORTUGUESE QUOTA WAS A RESULT OF THE BLAIR HOUSE AGREEMENT OF 1992. THE VALUE OF U.S. CORN SHIPMENTS TO PORTUGAL AND SPAIN IN 1997 WAS \$202 MILLION AND THE AVERAGE FOR THE 1995-1997 PERIOD HAS BEEN \$286 MILLION. ACCORDINGLY, IF THE UNITED STATES IS BARRED FROM PARTICIPATION IN THOSE QUOTA TENDERS BY REASON OF UNJUSTIFIED DELAYS IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS, THE UNITED STATES WILL BE DENIED THE NEGOTIATED COMPENSATION TO WHICH IT IS ENTITLED.

THE DELAYS NOW BEING OCCASIONED ARE ENTIRELY UNRELATED TO HEALTH CONCERNS REGARDING THE TWO CORN VARIETIES UNDER REVIEW ON FEBRUARY 10, 1998, THE EU'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF PLANTS CONCLUDED THAT THESE VARIETIES POSED NO THREAT TO HUMAN OR ANIMAL HEALTH OR THE ENVIRONMENT. ON MARCH 18, 1998, A MAJORITY VOTE BY THE EU MEMBER STATE ARTICLE 21 COMMITTEE ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS ALLOWED THREE BIOTECH CORN VARIETIES TO MOVE FORWARD FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF ACTION IS ENTIRELY UNWARRANTED AND THERE HAS NOT EVEN BEEN ANY PRETENSE THAT IT IS NECESSITATED BY NAY HEALTH OR OTHER LEGITIMATE CONCERN. AT THE SAME TIME, THIS ADDITIONAL DELAY COMES AT A CRITICAL TIME IN THE MARKETING YEAR AND TENDER CYCLE FOR THE CORN

QUOTA. ANY ADDITIONAL DELAY PLACES U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE ENTIRE QUOTA AT RISK. IF THE UNITED STATES WERE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATION, CONCESSIONS MADE TO THE UNITED STATES DURING THE ACCESSION WILL HAVE BEEN NULLIFIED AND U.S. TRADE RIGHTS ABROGATED. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, WE EXPECT THE EU TO RESTORE THE VALUE OF THE CONCESSIONS PROVIDED TO THE UNITED STATES.

THIS SITUATION IS OF SERIOUS CONCERN. YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION IN RESOLVING THIS DELAY SO THAT THE APPROPRIATE APPROVALS MAY BE ISSUED IS CRITICAL AT THIS JUNCTURE.

SINCERELY

CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY

END TEXT OF LETTER.
TALBOTT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 8531

TOR: 980501001535 M3268724

DIST:

SIT: BOONE BUTLER HAINES KYLE LEE

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Corn] (3 pages)	05/01/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[04/02/1998 - 05/29/1998]

2013-0836-F

ke3009

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHFRA0175 1251536-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 051536Z MAY 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 051536Z MAY 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5714
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0393
SUBJ: FRENCH ANTI-GMO LOBBYISTS IN ACTION
TEXT:
UNCLAS PARIS 010175

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE;
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, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH ANTI-GMO LOBBYISTS IN ACTION

1. IN APRIL, SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE PROTESTED AGAINST GMO'S IN A DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZED IN BRITTANY BY THE ASSOCIATION "STOP/OGM BRETAGNE" (STOP GMOS BRITTANY), CONFEDERATION PAYSANNE (FRENCH ACTIVIST FARM UNION), CONSUMER ASSOCIATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. THEY OPPOSED THE DISSEMINATION OF GMO'S, ARGUING THAT THEIR IMPACT ON HUMAN HEALTH, WHICH MAY BE DANGEROUS, HAS NOT BEEN EVALUATED SERIOUSLY AND DEEPLY" ENOUGH. PROTESTERS ALSO ASKED FOR THE LABELING AND TRACING OF THE FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMO'S WHICH ARE CURRENTLY ON THE MARKET. FINALLY, THEY CALLED FOR A MORATORIUM ON GMO DISSEMINATION PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC DEBATE TAKING PLACE ON JUNE 20/21.

2. NOTE: JEAN-YVES LE DEULT IS THE FRENCH PARLIAMENTARIAN ORGANIZING THE JUNE 20/21 PUBLIC DEBATE ON GMO'S. ENTITLED "CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS" OR "CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS," THE PUBLIC DEBATE WILL INCLUDE MEETINGS OF A PANEL OF GMO SPECIALISTS WITH A PANEL OF CITIZENS NOT YET KNOWLEDGEABLE ON GMO'S. END NOTE. THE CONFEDERATION PAYSANNE, UNION, GREENPEACE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS RECENTLY SENT A LETTER TO LE DEULT ASKING THAT THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF SPEAKERS DEBATE THE PANEL OF CITIZENS: ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ASSOCIATIONS, CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS, FARM UNIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, RESEARCHERS, SOCIOLOGISTS, ECONOMISTS, INDUSTRIALS AND PRODUCERS.
ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0175

TOR: 980505115506 M3273138

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA0588 1251551-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O R 051549Z MAY 98
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 051549Z MAY 98
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
INFO: ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0000
SUBJ: DEMARCHE TO UK AND FRANCE ON GMO FINAL CONSENT
TEXT:
UNCLAS STATE 080588

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, USTR
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO UK AND FRANCE ON GMO FINAL CONSENT

REF: 98 STATE 78531

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST FOR PARIS, LONDON AND USEU BRUSSELS; SEE PARAS 7-9 BELOW.
2. ON APRIL 22, AFTER NUMEROUS DELAYS AND SEVERAL SCIENTIFIC REVIEWS, THE EU COMMISSION APPROVED THREE BIOTECH CORN VARIETIES AND ONE RAPESEED VARIETY. THE CORN VARIETIES HAD BEEN UNDER REVIEW IN THE EU FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS.
3. FOLLOWING THE COMMISSION'S APPROVAL, THE ORIGINAL SPONSORING MEMBER STATES MUST NOW GIVE THEIR WRITTEN, FINAL CONSENT BEFORE THE PRODUCTS CAN BE PLACED ON THE MARKET. THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHICH SPONSORED ONE VARIETY, IS EXPECTED TO GIVE ITS CONSENT WITHOUT DELAY. FRANCE, HOWEVER, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL NOT GRANT ITS CONSENT UNTIL AFTER A REFERENDUM ON BIOTECHNOLOGY (CALLED THE "CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS") SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20. IF FRANCE CHOOSES TO DELAY ITS CONSENT UNTIL LATE JUNE, THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SHIP ANY CORN TO SPAIN OR PORTUGAL THIS 1997-98 MARKETING YEAR.
4. THE EU HAS QUOTA COMMITMENTS FOR CORN INTO BOTH SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. AS COMPENSATION TO THE UNITED STATES FOR LOST TRADE WHEN SPAIN ACCEDED TO THE EU, THE EU COMMITTED TO A 2 MILLION MT QUOTA INTO SPAIN (LESS EU IMPORTS OF NON-

GRAIN FEED INGREDIENTS). AS PART OF THE U.S.-EU BLAIR HOUSE AGREEMENT ON OILSEEDS, THE EU COMMITTED TO A MINIMUM ACCESS TARIFF RATE QUOTA FOR CORN IMPORTS TOTALING 500,000 TONS INTO PORTUGAL.

5. THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY LOST A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THIS TRADE THIS YEAR AND STANDS TO LOSE THE REMAINING AMOUNT AS WELL IF ALL THREE CORN VARIETIES ARE NOT APPROVED IMMEDIATELY. TO DATE, THE EU HAS BOUGHT ABOUT \$100 MILLION OF CORN FROM OTHER COUNTRIES UNDER THESE QUOTAS; ABOUT \$120 MILLION IS LEFT IN THE QUOTAS BUT MUST BE PURCHASED SOON IN ORDER TO AVOID THE SPANISH CORN HARVEST.

6. ON APRIL 27, USTR DELIVERED A LETTER TO SIR LEON BRITTAN (REFTEL) WHICH NOTED THAT THE EU'S FAILURE TO APPROVE THE GMO VARIETIES HAS CAUSED TRADE LOSSES, URGED THE EU TO COMPLETE THE APPROVAL PROCESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WARNED THAT THE U.S. WILL EXPECT COMPENSATION FROM THE EU IF IT IS SHUT OUT OF THE EU MARKET.

7. ACTION REQUEST: POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO DETERMINE WHEN THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS WILL ISSUE WRITTEN CONSENT FOR THE BIOTECH CORN VARIETIES TO BE MARKETED IN THE EU. LONDON MAY DRAW ON THE POINTS BELOW.

-- THE UNITED STATES IS ENCOURAGED THAT THE EU COMMISSION, AFTER MANY DELAYS, APPROVED ON APRIL 22, THREE VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED CORN AND ONE VARIETY OF RAPESEED FOR COMMERCIALIZATION IN THE EU.

-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS BEGUN TO PREPARE ITS CONSENT FOR THE VARIETY OF CORN IT ORIGINALLY SPONSORED CAN BE PLACED ON THE MARKET.

-- WE MUST BE ABLE TO MARKET THIS PRODUCT SOON IF WE ARE TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE AT LEAST SOME OF OUR TRADITIONAL EXPORTS TO THE EU THIS YEAR.

-- CAN YOU INDICATE WHEN THE UK WILL COMPLETE ITS CONSENT?

-- HOW WILL THE EU REACT IF FRANCE HOLDS UP ITS CONSENT FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND THUS CREATES A TRADE DISPUTE?

8. PARIS IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH THE GOF AT THE HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL, DRAWING ON THE POINTS BELOW.

-- THE UNITED STATES IS ENCOURAGED THAT THE EU COMMISSION, AFTER MANY DELAYS, APPROVED ON APRIL 22, THREE VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED CORN AND ONE VARIETY OF RAPESEED FOR COMMERCIALIZATION IN THE EU.

-- HOWEVER, FRANCE HAS INDICATED IT WILL NOT IMMEDIATELY GRANT CONSENT FOR THE TWO CORN VARIETIES IT ORIGINALLY SPONSORED TO BE PLACED ON THE MARKET. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL WAIT UNTIL AFTER ITS

CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS ON JUNE 20. THIS MEANS THAT THESE TWO PRODUCTS CANNOT BE PLACED ON THE MARKET UNTIL THEN.

-- IT IS NOW ACCEPTED EVEN BY EU SCIENTISTS THAT THE GMO PRODUCTS IN QUESTION ARE SAFE.

-- ANY FURTHER DELAYS TO THEIR APPROVAL CAN THUS BE DUE ONLY TO POLITICAL OR COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS, AND THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE.

-- I URGE YOU TO GIVE YOUR CONSENT TO THESE PRODUCTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE CAN AVOID AN UNNECESSARY TRADE DISPUTE AND A FURTHER ESCALATION OF THIS ISSUE.

9. FOR USEU BRUSSELS: WASHINGTON AGENCIES WOULD BE INTERESTED TO HEAR OF ANY REACTIONS WITHIN THE COMMISSION TO THE REFTTEL BARSHEFSKY LETTER, AND TO KNOW OF ANY MOVES WITHIN THE COMMISSION OR ITS LEGAL SERVICES TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE LOOMING IMPASSE.

TALBOTT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0588

TOR: 980505115407 M3273133

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHLOA4756 1271639-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 071639Z MAY 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG: 071639Z MAY 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5949
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0234
SUBJ: DEMARCHE TO UK ON GMO FINAL CONSENT

TEXT:
UNCLAS LONDON 004756

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY TO
FAS/OSEC/SCHUMACHER/DRAZEK;
FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/THORN/CHESLEY; FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT;
FAA/AO/NE/LETARTE

STATE PASS USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR AND AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, USTR
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO UK ON GMO FINAL CONSENT

REF: 98 STATE 78531

1. DR. BILL PARISH, BIOTECHNOLOGY UNIT, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (DOE), ADVISED AG MINISTER-COUNSELOR THAT HMG IS "IN THE PROCESS OF WRAPPING UP LEGAL WORK" ON OBTAINING FINAL CONSENT FROM PERTINENT GOVERNMENT BODIES IN THE UK. EVERYTHING IS "PROCEEDING QUITE SMOOTHLY" AND THEY ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEMS.

2. THE DOE IS AIMING FOR A MID-MAY CONCLUSION SO THAT IT CAN GRANT FINAL WRITTEN CONSENT, BUT PARISH CAUTIONED THAT IT COULD DRUG OUT TO THE END OF MAY AT LATEST. AGMINCOUNS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE THE USG IS GIVING TO A RAPID CONCLUSION TO THIS MATTER, WHICH PARISH ACKNOWLEDGED; THEY WERE AWARE OF THE USTR LETTER TO SIR LEON BRITTAN. THE DOE IS GIVING IT PRIORITY AND PARISH SPOKE WITH CONFIDENCE THAT CONSENT WILL BE GRANTED.

3. RE POSSIBLE EU REACTION TO FRANCE HOLDING UP ITS CONSENT, PARISH EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT OUTSTANDING DELAYS. THEY HAVE RAISED THE

MATTER IN BRUSSELS, WHERE, ACCORDING TO CONTACT, INFRACTION PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. NONETHELESS DOE ANTICIPATES THAT THE EU WILL NOT PRESS TOO HEAVILY UNTIL AFTER FRANCE'S "CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS" IN JUNE. THEY HOPE THAT CONFERENCE WILL CLEAR THE WAY FOR PROMPT CONSENT. PARISH SAID THIS POSES A PROBLEM FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, SINCE WITHOUT CONSENT, NO EU COUNTRY CAN IMPORT THE AFFECTED VARIETIES.

4. DR. PARISH AGREED TO KEEP AGMINCOUNS INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS ON PROCEDURES LEADING TO FINAL UK CONSENT. LADER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4756

TOR: 980507124506 M3277162

DIST:

SIT: ANTHOLIS ORFINI SANDALOW

SIT: NSC

PRT: STERN

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHFRA1062 1351054-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 151054Z MAY 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 151054Z MAY 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6042
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0443
SUBJ: CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS ON GMO'S
TEXT:

////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 PARIS 011062

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE; APHIS/
ADMINISTRATOR

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
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, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS ON GMO'S

REF: PARIS 10473

1. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO REFTEL REPORTING ON THE
FRENCH POSITION ON FINAL CONSENT ON APPROVAL OF
GMO CORN, FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY
TRANSLATION OF A DOCUMENT OBTAINED FROM THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OUTLINING DETAILS OF THE
"CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS," ALSO REFERRED TO AS
"CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS", TO BE HELD IN PARIS ON
JUNE 20-21. POST WILL REPORT MORE DETAILS OF THE
CONFERENCE FOLLOWING A MEETING EARLY NEXT WEEK

WITH JEAN-YVES LE DEULT, ORGANIZER OF THE CONFERENCE.

2. BEGIN TRANSLATION: CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS ON THE USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S) IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD:

THE CONFERENCE IS BEING ORGANIZED BY THE PARLIAMENTARIAN OFFICE OF EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHOICES (OPECST), AN ORGANIZATION COMMON TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SENATE IN CHARGE OF CLARIFYING TO THE PARLIAMENT THE IMPACT OF ITS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL DECISIONS. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FRANCE, OPECST HAS DECIDED TO ORGANIZE A PUBLIC CONFERENCE, SO CALLED "CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS" OR "CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS" ON THE ISSUE OF "THE USE OF GMOS'S IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD."

--THE ORIGIN OF SUCH CONFERENCES

3. THE CONCEPT OF SUCH CONFERENCES WAS DEVELOPED BY THE TEKNOLOGIRADET, AN ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS A ROLE SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE DANISH PARLIAMENT AS THAT OF OPECST TO THE FRENCH PARLIAMENT. THE TEKNOLOGIRADET HAS ORGANIZED MORE THAN FIFTEEN CONFERENCES OF THIS TYPE ON VARIOUS TOPICS. THEY ALL CONCERNED THE ADVANTAGES AND THE RISKS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR CITIZENS.

4. THE PARLIAMENTARIAN OFFICES OF SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE GROUPED IN A NETWORK CALLED THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT (EPTA), AND THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FRENCH OFFICE HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE PROCEDURES OF THE DANISH OFFICE FOR QUITE SOME TIME. SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, I.E., THE NETHERLANDS, GREAT-BRITAIN, AND SWITZERLAND, HAVE ALSO CONDUCTED THIS NEW TYPE OF PUBLIC DEBATE.

--WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT THIS PROCEDURE

5. WHEN POLITICIANS FACE A MUCH DEBATED SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL ISSUE, WHICH IS OR MAY BECOME A REAL POLITICAL OR SOCIAL STAKE, THEY ASK A GROUP OF FIFTEEN TO EIGHTEEN CITIZENS, WHO ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE, TO GIVE ADVICE, AFTER THEY HAVE RECEIVED COMPLETE INFORMATION OF THE ISSUE AND APPROACHED EXPERTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS INTERESTS INVOLVED.

6. CONFERENCES OF CONSENSUS, THEREFORE, DIFFER FROM POLLS OF PUBLIC OPINION, BECAUSE THE PANEL OF CITIZENS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION, AND BECAUSE THE MEMBERS OF THE PANEL HAVE THE POSSIBILITY TO BE INFORMED OF AND THINK OF THE QUESTIONS WHICH THEY ARE ASKED, PRIOR TO EXPRESSING THEIR OPINION. THIS PROCEDURE, WHICH TARGETS BASIC CITIZENS, ALSO DIFFERS FROM THE CONSULTATIONS OF EXPERTS, WHICH

OPECST CONDUCTS, ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND PRESS
AND ARE CONTRADICTORY.

--OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE

7. THE PEOPLE CONCERNED CONSIDER THAT TRADITIONAL
DEBATES AMONG EXPERTS AND DECISION MAKERS ARE NOT
SUFFICIENT TO DISCUSS THE DISRUPTIONS CAUSED BY
SOME SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL INNOVATIONS. WHEN IT
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 06 PARIS 011062

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE; APHIS/
ADMINISTRATOR

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
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, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS ON GMO'S

REF: PARIS 10473

IS A MATTER OF TOTALLY NEW SUBJECTS, SUCH AS
TRANSGENIC PLANTS, THE ADVICE OF EXPERTS CAN ONLY
BE ONE OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE DEBATE, BECAUSE
EXPERT ADVICE OFTEN INCREASES THE PERPLEXITY OF
POLITICIANS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ECONOMY.

8. IN THAT CASE, A DEBATE IS MUCH MORE COMPLEX
BECAUSE IT CONSISTS OF BUILDING NEW SOCIAL
STANDARDS OF ACCEPTABLE RISKS AND STIMULATING THE
PUBLIC COMPREHENSION OF THE STAKE OF TECHNOLOGICAL
DEVELOPMENT. KNOWING THE LIMITS OF THE SOCIAL
ACCEPTABILITY OF INNOVATIONS IS FROM NOW ON AN
UNAVOIDABLE NECESSITY. HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM IS TO
PROVOKE A DEBATE WHICH MAY ENLIGHTEN THE PUBLIC
OPINION.

9. CONFERENCES OF CONSENSUS CANNOT RESOLVE THIS
DILEMMA BY THEMSELVES BECAUSE THE ADVICE OF
FIFTEEN CITIZENS CANNOT REPLACE PUBLIC DEBATE.
HOWEVER, CONFERENCES OF CONSENSUS CAN MAKE A
BEGINNING AND LAUNCH A PUBLIC DEBATE ON A SECURE
BASIS. THE CONFERENCE DOES NOT REPLACE THE PUBLIC
DEBATE BUT CONTRIBUTES TO ITS PREPARATION. THE
ROLE OF THE PRESS IN THIS PROCESS IS, THEREFORE, A
DETERMINING FACTOR, BECAUSE THE PRESS WILL
TRANSMIT TO A LARGE PUBLIC THE DISCUSSIONS, THE

QUESTIONS, AND THE CONTROVERSIES INITIATED DURING THE CONFERENCE.

10. CONSEQUENTLY, THE OBJECTIVE OF CONFERENCES OF CONSENSUS/CITIZENS IS TO CREATE A REAL SPACE FOR PUBLIC DEBATE ON TOPICS FOR WHICH TOO OFTEN ONLY CERTAIN GROUPS, DEFENDING SPECIFIC INTERESTS, ARE THE ONLY ONES HAVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND SPEAK OUT ON IT.

11. CONFERENCES OF CONSENSUS CAN BE INTEGRATED INTO DECISIONMAKING PROCEDURES, THROUGH PUBLIC DEBATE. THE OBJECTIVE OF CONFERENCES OF CONSENSUS IS NOT TO INSTALL A PSEUDO DIRECT DEMOCRACY WHERE THE WILLINGNESS OF THE PUBLIC OPINION WOULD SUBSTITUTE POLITICAL DECISIONS. ONE SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT, SOMETIMES, IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS WAS MADE DESPITE A VERY SHARP PUBLIC REACTION.

12. IN A REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY, POLITICIANS MUST OFTEN HAVE THE TASK OF CLARIFYING ISSUES FOR THE REST OF THE POPULATION, PROVIDED THAT POLITICIANS ARE THEMSELVES CLEARLY INFORMED OF THE REAL REPERCUSSIONS OF THEIR DECISIONS. POLITICIANS MUST REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE AND THE COMPLEXITY OF SOME OF THEIR DECISIONS THANKS TO THE CONFERENCES OF CONSENSUS/CITIZENS AND THE PUBLIC DEBATE WHICH IN PRINCIPLE MUST START AFTERWARDS.

--DIFFICULTY OF THE PROCEDURE

13. GIVEN THE POTENTIAL REPERCUSSION OF THE ADVICE OF THE PANEL OF CITIZENS, ONE CAN BE TEMPTED TO INFLUENCE THEM TOWARD SOME DECISION. THERE IS A RISK TO DIVERT THE PROCEDURE FROM ITS OBJECTIVE AND IT BECOMES AN ADDITIONAL MEANS TO MANIPULATE PUBLIC OPINION TO CONVINCE IT OF EITHER THE INELUCTABLE CHARACTERISTIC OF SOME TRENDS, OR OF THE INEVITABLE DANGER OF ANY SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL PROGRESS.

14. CONSEQUENTLY, ALL PRECAUTIONS ARE NECESSARY SO THAT THE GROUP OF CITIZENS EXPRESS THEIR ADVICE INDEPENDENTLY, AFTER THEY RECEIVED OBJECTIVE INFORMATION THAT IS AS DIVERSIFIED AS POSSIBLE. THIS EXPLAINS WHY CONFERENCES OF CONSENSUS HAVE BEEN PARTIALLY OR TOTALLY ORGANIZED IN ALL COUNTRIES BY OFFICES OF EVALUATION WHICH ONLY DEPEND ON PARLIAMENTS AND, THEREFORE, PERFECTLY UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 06 PARIS 011062

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY; OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER; CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE; APHIS/ ADMINISTRATOR

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
 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, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS ON GMO'S

REF: PARIS 10473

THE CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, PANEL MEMBERS WILL BE FREE TO INVOKE ANY RELATED QUESTIONS WHICH THEY CONSIDER NECESSARY FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MAIN TOPIC.

--ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

21. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE, IN ORDER TO BE AS NEUTRAL AND TRANSPARENT AS POSSIBLE, WAS CONFIDED TO AN INDEPENDENT STEERING COMMITTEE WHICH WILL COLLECTIVELY TAKE ALL THE INDISPENSABLE DECISIONS WITHOUT REFERRING TO THE SUPERVISING AUTHORITY. THE COMMITTEE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

- THREE RESEARCHERS AND SPECIALISTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES CONTROLLING THE METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONFERENCE. THEY ARE DANIEL BOY, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR IN THE CENTER FOR STUDIES OF THE FRENCH POLITICAL LIFE, OF THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR POLITICAL SCIENCES; DOMINIQUE DONNET-KAMEL, RESEARCH ENGINEER, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DIVISION OF PROSPECTIVE IN COMMUNICATION IN THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH (INSERM); AND PHILIPPE ROQUEPLO, FORMER RESEARCH DIRECTOR IN SOCIAL SCIENCES OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (CNRS);
- FOUR RESEARCHERS SPECIALIZING IN THE USE OF GENETIC ENGINEERING ON PLANTS. THEY ARE FRANCINE CASSE, PROFESSOR OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTPELLIER II; MARIE-ANGELE HERMITTE, RESEARCH DIRECTOR IN CNRS SPECIALIZING IN BIOTECHNOLOGY LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS I; ANTOINE MESSEAN, PROJECT MANAGER AT THE NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF AGRONOMY (INRA) AND SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR OF THE OILSEED TECHNICAL CENTER (CETIOM); AND GERARD PASCAL, RESEARCHER IN INRA AND SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR IN HUMAN NUTRITION AND FOOD SAFETY.

22. TWO STATE EMPLOYEES ARE IN CHARGE OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE. THEY ARE MAURICE

LAURENT, DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION AND

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF OPECST IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND JACQUES BERNOT, ADVISOR AND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF OPECST IN THE SENATE.

23. THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF MEDIA RELATIONS IS MARIE-BENEDICTE DE MAIGRET, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SERVICES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

24. THE STEERING COMMITTEE NOMINATED GUY AMOUREUX, CONSULTANT IN HUMAN RESOURCES AND PROFESSOR AFFILIATED AT THE PARIS SCHOOL OF COMMERCE, AS THE COORDINATOR OF THE PANEL OF CITIZENS. HE IS A SPECIALIST IN GROUP FACILITATING AND HAS NO PARTICULAR CONNECTION WITH THE GMO ISSUE. HIS ROLE WILL BE TO ENSURE THE QUALITY OF EXCHANGES WITHIN THE PANEL AND THE BALANCED PARTICIPATION OF ALL THE MEMBERS, TO CREATE A CLIMATE OF OPENNESS AND OF CONSTRUCTIVE "CONFRONTATION," AND TO HELP FORMALIZE INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE POSITIONS DURING THE WRITING OF THE FINAL REPORT.

--PANEL SELECTION

25. IN CONTRAST WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, THE PANEL OF CITIZENS WILL NOT BE RECRUITED THROUGH A PRESS RECRUIT, BUT WILL BE SELECTED BY A POLL INSTITUTE. ONE HOPES THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO PREJUDICES ON THE ISSUE AND WHO DON'T REPRESENT PARTICULAR INTERESTS WILL, THEREFORE, BE SELECTED FOR THE UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 06 PARIS 011062

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY; OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER; CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE; APHIS/ ADMINISTRATOR

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
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, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS ON GMO'S

REF: PARIS 10473

PANEL. NEITHER OPECST NOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL INTERVENE IN THE PANEL SELECTION PROCESS

CONFIDED TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLL (IFOP), WHICH COMMITTED ITSELF TO RECRUIT FIFTEEN PEOPLE REPRESENTING@DRENCH DIVERSITY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BUT NOT BEING A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF THE FRENCH POPULATION.

26. THE PANEL WILL HAVE TO BE AS DIVERSIFIED AS POSSIBLE, AND IFOP WAS ASKED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT A MAXIMUM OF CRITERIA INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING: SEX, AGE, JOB, HOUSING, RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICE, SUPPORTER PROXIMITY, AND LEVEL OF INTEREST FOR NEWS AND SCIENCE. THE WHOLE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE PANEL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE A COMBINATION OF THE METHODS WHICH IFOP USES IN QUALITATIVE SURVEYS THROUGH SEMI-DIRECTIVE INTERVIEWS AND "CASTING" METHODS, WHICH ARE USED TO SELECT PARTICIPANTS FOR SOME TV SHOWS, FOR EXAMPLE.

27. IFOP WILL FIRST MAKE A PRE-SELECTION OF THIRTY POTENTIAL CANDIDATES THROUGH ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEWS AT THE CANDIDATES' RESIDENCES. SECOND, A PSYCHOLOGIST WILL CONDUCT A PHONE INTERVIEW WITH EACH OF THE PRESELECTED PEOPLE TO TEST THEIR LEVEL OF MOTIVATION AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ENTIRE CONFERENCE. THIS INTERVIEW WILL ALSO EVALUATE HOW PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE, SO THAT THOSE WHO HAVE A PARTICULAR INTEREST OF DEFENSE WILL BE ELIMINATED FROM THE PANEL.

28. IFOP WILL FINALLY SELECT FIFTEEN PARTICIPANTS FROM THE THIRTY PEOPLE PRE-SELECTED AND WILL SEND THEM A LETTER PREPARED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE. THE LETTER WILL SPECIFY THE CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE AND WILL ASK THE PARTICIPANTS FOR A COMMITMENT IN WRITING. SEVEN TO TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST MEETING, IFOP WILL MAKE A FINAL PHONE CALL TO THE PARTICIPANTS TO ULTIMATELY CONFIRM THEIR PARTICIPATION. THE PHONE NUMBER OF THE PANEL COORDINATOR WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE PANEL SO THAT THEY CAN ASK COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION AND BE REASSURED AT ANY TIME. THE OPERATIONS OF SELECTION WILL BE TERMINATED ON APRIL 5, 1998.

29. IFOP, THE STEERING COMMITTEE, AND THE COORDINATOR COMMITTED THEMSELVES NOT TO REVEAL THE IDENTITY AND ADDRESSES, ETC., OF THE PANEL MEMBERS UNTIL THE LAST STEP OF THE CONFERENCE, TO AVOID ANY EXCESSIVE PRESSURE. FOR THEIR PART, PARTICIPANTS COMMIT THEMSELVES TO KEEP THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THEIR WORK UNTIL THE PUBLIC STEP OF THE CONFERENCE.

--TWO WEEKENDS OF TRAINING

30. THE MAIN SPECIFICITY OF THE CONFERENCES OF CONSENSUS/CITIZENS IS TO INITIATE A DIALOGUE AMONG

EXPERTS AND CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN WELL INFORMED ON THE DEBATED QUESTION. PANEL MEMBERS WILL GATHER DURING TWO TRAINING WEEKENDS WHERE THEY WILL LISTEN TO SPEAKERS SELECTED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE OR THE PANEL MEMBERS THEMSELVES. FIRST, THE TRAINER S WILL PROVIDE THE PANEL OF CITIZENS WITH THE MAIN BASIC INFORMATION SO THAT THEY CAN UNDERSTAND ALL THE ASPECTS OF THE DEBATE. DURING THE SECOND WEEKEND, THE VARIOUS EXISTING THESIS WILL BE PRESENTED SO THAT THEY ARE AS DIVERSIFIED AS POSSIBLE, EVEN THOUGH IN FRANCE THE MULTIPLICITY OF CONCERNED ORGANIZATIONS MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO SELECT SPEAKERS.

31. BETWEEN THE VARIOUS PRESENTATIONS, LONG

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 06

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 06

<^SECT>SECTION: 04 OF 06

<^SECT>SECTION: 05 OF 06

SSN: 1062

<^SSN>1062

<^SSN>1062

<^SSN>1062

TOR: 980515070714 M3289335

<^TOR>980515070816 M3289337

<^TOR>980515070922 M3289340

<^TOR>980515071012 M3289341

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHFRA1062 1351054-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 151054Z MAY 98
LINE4: AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 151054Z MAY 98
ORIG: ////
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6044
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0445
SUBJ: CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS ON GMO'S
TEXT:

////////////////////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////////////////////

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 06 PARIS 011062

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE; APHIS/
ADMINISTRATOR

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
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, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS ON GMO'S

REF: PARIS 10473

ABLE TO RESIST SOLICITATIONS FROM ALL SOURCES.

15. OPECST IS A PARLIAMENTARIAN ORGANIZATION
COMPOSED OF SIXTEEN "DEPUTES" (CONGRESSIONAL
REPRESENTATIVES) AND SIXTEEN SENATORS,
REPRESENTING ALL THE POLITICAL GROUPS AT THE
NATIONAL LEVEL, AND IS THUS FREE FROM ANY OTHER
SUPERVISION. THE SECRETARY BRANCH OF OPECST, IN
CHARGE OF THE PRACTICAL OPERATIONS INCLUDES ONLY

PARLIAMENTARIAN STATE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE ONLY UNDER THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SENATE. ALTHOUGH TAKING ALL THESE PRECAUTIONS, OPECST IS AWARE THAT IT IS BEGINNING A TOTALLY NEW PROCESS, HENCE DIFFICULT, AND WHICH WILL LIKELY BE CRITICIZED. THIS FIRST ATTEMPT MUST, THEREFORE, BE CONSIDERED AS AN EXPERIENCE WHICH CAN BE IMPROVED IN THE FUTURE.

--WHY OPECST ADOPTS THE CONFERENCE OF CITIZEN PROCEDURE

16. ON MAY 29, 1996, THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ASKED OPECST, AN ORGANIZATION WHICH IS COMMON TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SENATE, TO STUDY THE SCIENCE ON GENES AND THEIR USE. CONGRESSMAN JEAN-YVES LE DEULT IS THE PRESIDENT OF OPECST AND THE RAPPORTEUR OF THIS STUDY. BECAUSE THIS IS A WIDE SUBJECT, HE DECIDED TO LIMIT HIS STUDY TO THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE USE OF GMO'S IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

17. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IN LATE 1997 TO AUTHORIZE THE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF A GMO CORN VARIETY EXACERBATED THE DEBATE BETWEEN PROS AND CONS OF THE USE OF GENETIC ENGINEERING IN AGRICULTURE. FACING THE WIDE SCOPE OF THE CONTROVERSY, WHICH BECAME INCREASINGLY PASSIONATE, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT A LARGE PUBLIC DEBATE WOULD BE ORGANIZED ON THE USE OF GMO'S IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, TO BETTER KNOW THE POPULATION'S SENTIMENTAL FEELINGS ON THE SUBJECT.

18. DURING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION OF DECEMBER 3, 1997, THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT SUGGESTED THAT OPECST ORGANIZE THE DEBATE. OPECST AGREED THAT THE DEBATE WOULD BE CONDUCTED AS A SEGMENT OF LE DEULT'S STUDY, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PARTS:

- THE STUDY ITSELF WHERE THE RAPPORTEUR WOULD EXAMINE MORE THAN A HUNDRED PEOPLE, IN ADDITION TO MISSIONS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES;
- A PUBLIC AND CONTRADICTIONARY DEBATE WHERE EXPERTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS AFFECTED INTERESTS GROUPS WOULD PRESENT THEIR VIEWS;
- A FORUM ON THE INTERNET BEGINNING IN APRIL 1998;
- AND
- A CONFERENCE OF "CITIZENS."

19. THE WORDING "CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS" WAS PREFERRED TO "CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS" BECAUSE IT BETTER CORRESPONDS TO THE FRENCH POLITICAL TRADITION. SEARCHING FOR A CONSENSUS AMONG ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PANEL OF CITIZENS AND ON THE ENTIRE ISSUE, AS IS DONE IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES, MAY SEEM DESIRABLE, BUT IT IS NOT A MAJOR OBJECTIVE,

AS DIFFERING OPINIONS MAY BE EXPRESSED AND
CONSIDERED.

20. THE THEME OF THIS FIRST CONFERENCE, I.E.,
"THE USE OF GMO'S IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD," WAS
VOLUNTARILY RESTRICTED TO THE PART CONCERNING THE
PROBLEMS WHICH MAY BE CAUSED BY GMO'S. IN
PRINCIPLE, GENETIC THERAPY AND ITS USE IN THE
INDUSTRY AND IN FOOD PROCESSING IS EXCLUDED FROM

SECT: SECTION: 03 OF 06

SSN: 1062

TOR: 980515070907 M3289339

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHFRA1062 1351054-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 151054Z MAY 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 151054Z MAY 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6047
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0448
SUBJ: CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS ON GMO'S
TEXT:

////////////////////////////////////// DUPLICATE SECTION //

UNCLAS SECTION 4 OF 06 PARIS 011062

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE; APHIS/
ADMINISTRATOR

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
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, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS ON GMO'S

REF: PARIS 10473

PERIODS WILL BE DEDICATED TO DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE
PANEL MEMBERS, AND THE COORDINATOR WILL BE THE
ONLY PERSON ALLOWED TO BE PRESENT DURING THESE
INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS. IN ADDITION, PANEL MEMBERS
WILL BE GIVEN DOCUMENTS AND PRESS ARTICLES
SELECTED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE SO THAT THEY
COMPLETE AT HOME THE INFORMATION RECEIVED IN
PARIS. BOTH INFORMATION SESSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. HOWEVER, THEY WILL BE

INTEGRALLY RECORDED AUDIOVISUALLY. AFTER THE SECOND TRAINING WEEKEND, WITH ONLY THE HELP OF THE COORDINATOR, THE PANEL MEMBERS WILL FORMALIZE THE QUESTIONS WHICH THEY CONSIDER TO BE DETERMINED AND WILL DEFINE THE PROFILES OF THE PEOPLE THEY WANT TO QUESTION DURING THE CONFERENCE (SUCH AS EXPERTS, REPRESENTATIVES OF SOCIAL FORCES, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS). TO FACILITATE THE CHOICE OF SPEAKERS, THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL ANNOUNCE THROUGH THE PRESS THAT ALL THE PEOPLE WILLING TO BE HEARD DURING THE CONFERENCE WILL BE ABLE TO SEND TO OPECST A SHORT TEXT INTRODUCING THEMSELVES OR THEIR ORGANIZATION, AS WELL AS A SUMMARY OF THE ARGUMENTS WHICH THEY FAVOR.

--PUBLIC CONFERENCE O SATURDAY, JUNE 20, AND SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 998

32. THE CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS WILL OCCU OVER TWO DAYS. ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MORNIN, THE INVITED SPEAKERS WILL ANSWER THE QUESTIOS PREPARED BY THE PANEL. A PRESIDENT OF THESESSION, CHOSEN BY THE STEERING CO KEY FIGURES KNOWN FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE, WILLENSURE THE PROPER COURSE OF TH R THE REQUEST OF THE SECRETARIAT OF OPECST AND UNDER THE LIMITE SEATING), AND IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS, WHICH WILL NOT HAVE THE POSSIBILITY TO INTERVENE OR ASK QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL MEMBERS AND TO THE SPEAKERS.

33. BEGINNING SUNDAY AFTERNOON, PANEL MEMBERS, ACCOMPANIED BY THE COORDINATOR, WILL WITHDRAW TO WRITE THE FINAL REPORT WHICH WILL PRESENT THE CONCLUDING ADVICE OF THEIR WORK. THE FINAL DOCUMENT WILL BE PRESENTED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 22. THE ADVICE OF THE PANEL OF CITIZENS WILL BE IMMEDIATELY TRANSMITTED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT AND THEN WIDELY DISTRIBUTED.

--ROLE OF THE MEDIA

34. THE ORGANIZERS OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS ORGANIZED IN FRANCE ARE AWARE THAT A LARGE PART OF ITS SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON THE COVERAGE WHICH THE MEDIA WILL PROVIDE TO THE EVENT. IN ADDITION, THE DEBATE INITIATED BY THE CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS WILL BE ABLE TO REACH ITS REAL DIMENSION FOR THE PUBLIC OPINION THANKS TO THE MEDIA. CONSEQUENTLY, EVERYTHING WILL BE DONE TO FACILITATE THE ACCESS FOR PRESS GROUPS TO ALL THE OPEN PARTS OF THE DEBATE.

35. PRESS RELEASES SPECIFYING THE DATES AND THE MODES OF THE COURSE OF THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS WILL BE PUBLISHED REGULARLY. THE SECRETARIAT OF OPECST IS AT THE

DISPOSAL OF JOURNALISTS FOR PROVIDING THEM
INFORMATION. JOURNALISTS ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT
MRS. MARIE-BENEDICTE DE MAIGRET, OPECST, ASSEMBLEE
NATIONALE, 75355 PARIS CEDEX 07 SP. PHONE: (33-1)
40 63 88 06. FAX: (33-1) 40 63 88 08. END

TRANSLATION.

ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 04 OF 06

SSN: 1062

TOR: 980515071027 M3289342

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable PREC: ROUTINE CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA3047
1371535-UUUU--RHEHAAX. LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH LINE3: R 171535Z MAY 98 LINE4: FM
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS OSRI: RUEHBS DTG: 171535Z MAY 98 ORIG: AMEMBASSY
BRUSSELS TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8368 RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0247 INFO:
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0124
SUBJ: U.S.-BELGIAN EXCHANGE ON AG TRADE: << GMO'S>>, HORMONES, TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 BRUSSELS 003047 SENSITIVE STATE FOR EUR/UBI, EUR/ERA,
EB/DCT STATE PASS TO USTR - SCHOONO-ER FAS FOR ITP/DA/SHEIKH
FAA/PLETART/ITP.EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER,
CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON COMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG, ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT
GENEVA FOR USTR E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, TBIO, EUN, BE SUBJECT:
U.S.-BELGIAN EXCHANGE ON AG TRADE: << GMO'S>>, HORMONES, ANTIBIOTICS,
VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY RESIDUES, BANANAS, RICE REF: (A) BRUSSELS 0748, (B)
BRUSSELS 1688, (C) BRUSSELS 2845 SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PLEASE HANDLE
ACCORDINGLY. ----- SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION ----- 1.
(SBU) SUMMARY: DURING A MAY 7 MEETING WITH FAS INTERNATIONAL TRADE
POLICY DIRECTOR CRAIG THORN, TOP BELGIAN TRADE AND AGRICULTURE
POLICYMAKERS: (A) EXPRESSED THEIR FRUSTRATIONS ABOUT INADEQUATE
INFORMATION FROM -- AND INSUFFICIENT COORDINATION WITHIN -- THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION (EC) ON AG TRADE ISSUES; (B) VOICED THE CONCERNS THEY SHARE
WITH THE U.S. AND MANY MEMBER STATES ABOUT DELAYS AND POLICITIZATION OF
EU APPROVALS OF PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM ENETICALLY << MODIFIED>>
ORGANISMS (<< GMO'S>>); (C) EMPHATICALLY STATED THEIR OPPOSITION TO
IMPORTS OF HORMONE-TREATED BEEF, EVEN WITH LABELING; (D) OUTLINED THE
SCIENTIFIC AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES OF ARRIVING AT APPROPRIATE COMMON
POLICIES ON THE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS; (E) RECEIVED AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF
THE U.S.-EU AGREEMENT ON VETERINARY EQUIVALENCE, PARTICULARLY WITH
REGARD TO ONGOING DISCUSSIONS ON MONITORING OF RESIDUES IN ANIMAL
PRODUCTS; (F) CONFIRMED BELGIUM'S INITIAL PREFERENCE FOR A TARIFF-BASED
SCHEME FOR EU BANANA IMPORTS, BUT THEIR WILLINGNESS AS A PRACTICAL
MATTER TO SETTLE FOR A TARIFF-RATE QUOTA ALTERNATIVE; AND (G) WERE
BRIEFED ON POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE CUMULATIVE RECOVERY SYSTEM FOR
RICE. END SUMMARY 2. (U) AS PART OF AN OVERALL EFFORT TO ENHANCE DIALOGUE
WITH EU MEMBER STATES AND TO IMPROVE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF MAJOR U.S.-
EU AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES, CRAIG THORN, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL TRADE
POLICY DIVISION, HAD TWO MEETINGS WITH KEY BELGIAN OFFICIALS ON MAY 7.
AMONG THE ISSUES DISCUSSED WERE THE STATUS OF << GMO>> APPROVALS, <<
GMO>> LABqLING, BEEF HORMONES, THE VETERINARY EQUIVALENCE AGREEMENT,
RESIDUE TESTING IN MEAT, THE BANANA REGIME, AND THE CUMULATIVE RECOVERY
SYSTEM FOR RICE. THE FIRST MEETING WAS AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE; THE
BELGIANS PRESENT WERE PIET VANTHEMSCHE (AG MINISTER'S CHIEF OF STAFF),
XAVIER DE CUYPER (DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF), HARRY ARIJS (ATTACHE IN THE
MINISTER'S CABINET), AND G. YSEBAERT (AG MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
DIVISION). THE SECOND MEETING TOOK PLACE AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE (MFAT), WHERE THORN MET PHILIPPE
HARVENGT (ACTING HEAD OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE OFFICE), FRANCE
CHAINAYE (ACTION OFFICER FOR AG TRADE ISSUES), GERARD COCKX (ACTION
OFFICER FOR BANANA TRE, INTER ALIA), AND, (AGAIN) G. YSEBAERT. THORN WAS
ACCOMPANIED TO BOTH MEETINGS BY AG ATTACHE SCANDURRA AND ECONOMIC
OFFICER BRAKEL. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR DERSE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE
MEETING AT MFAT. 3. (SBU) THORN BEGAN BOTH MEETINGS BY STRESSING THE U.S.

DESIRE FOR BETTER COMMUNICATION WITH THE EU ON PENDING AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES. HE NOTED THAT ON THESE ISSUES THE U.S. WAS DEALING WITH 15 MEMBER STATES AS WELL AS THE COMMISSION, AND THAT WE WANTED TO BE CERTAIN THAT OUR VIEWS WERE GETTING THROUGH TO BOTH THE FORMER AND THE LATTER. AT THIS POINT AGRICULTURE CHEF DE CABINET VANTHEMSCHE INTERJECTED WITH SOME EMPHASIS THAT "YOU'RE DEALING WITH THE COMMISSION, AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED," SEEKING TO UNDERScore THE COMMISSION'S COMPETENCE IN THESE MATTERS. THORN REPLIED THAT THE USG WAS NOT TRYING TO CIRCUMVENT EU PROCEDURES, BUT NEVERTHELESS SAW THE NEED TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH MEMBER STATES SINCE, IN OUR EXPERIENCE, OUR MESSAGE DID NOT ALWAYS GET TRANSMITTED FULLY BY THE COMMISSION. 4. (SBU) AT THE MFAT, HARVENGT RESPONDED TO THORN'S OPENING PITCH BY POINTING OUT THAT AG TRADE ISSUES TENDED TO BE VERY TECHNICAL AND THAT THESE WERE GENERALLY UNDER THE COMMISSION'S SCOPE OR COMPETENCE; THE MFAT MULTILATERAL TRADE OFFICE THEREFORE ONLY DEALT "A LITTLE" WITH THESE AGRICULTURAL MATTERS. HE ADMITTED TO HIS OWN DIFFICULTIES IN WORKING WITH THE EC: "THE COURSE OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION IS NOT ALWAYS CLEAR TO US." YSEBAERT ADDED THAT HIS MINISTRY OFTEN LACKED DATA IT NEEDED FROM THE COMMISSION. UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 06 BRUSSELS 003047 SENSITIVE STATE FOR EUR/UBI, EUR/ERA, EB/DCT STATE PASS TO USTR - SCHOONOVER FAS FOR ITP/DA/SHEIKH FAA/PLETART/ITP.EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON COMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG, ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT GENEVA FOR USTR E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, TBIO, EUN, BE SUBJECT: U.S.-BELGIAN EXCHANGE ON AG TRADE: << GMO'S>>, HORMONES, ANTIBIOTICS, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY RESIDUES, BANANAS, RICE REF: (A) BRUSSELS 0748, (B) BRUSSELS 1688, -----

----- BELGIANS SHARE U.S. CONCERNS ON << GMO>> APPROVALS -----
----- 5. (SBU) THORN NOTED THAT "PRESSURES ARE BUILDING" BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EU OVER BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND SPECIFICALLY << GMO>> APPROVALS. IN HIS VIEW THERE WAS A TRANSITION OCCURRING IN EUROPE REGARDING THE REGULATION OF THESE NEW AND CONTROVERSIAL TECHNOLOGIES. HE NOTED THAT THE POLICIES BELGIUM 'AD PURSUED IN THIS REGARD HAD BEEN "ENLIGHTENED" AND SCIENTIFICALLY BASED. THORN SAID THAT THE INITIAL U.S. ATTITUDE ON EUROPEAN APPROVALS OF U.S. << GMO>> PRODUCTS HAD BEEN TO GIVE THE EU TIME TO DEVELOP ITS OWN PROCEDURES; BUT "OUR PATIENCE HAS BEEN TESTED" WITH NUMEROUS UNANTICIPATED DELAYS IN THE APPROVAL OF NEW MAIZE VARIETIES. THERE WAS STRONG PRESSURE ON THE USG TO ACT, PARTICULARLY WITH THE RECENT NEWS THAT FRANCE, AS RAPPORTEUR FOR ONE NEW VARIETY, WOULD DELAY FINAL APPROVAL UNTIL AFTER A JUNE 20 "CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS." APPROVAL DECISIONS MUST BE TIMELY, TRANSPARENT AND SCIENCE-BASED, THORN STRESSED. NOW, HE SAID, << GMO>> APPROVALS HAVE BECOME A TRADE ISSUE. 6. (SBU) ARIJS RESPONDED THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY EXPLANATION OF FRANCE'S LATEST POSITION. YSEBAERT MUTTERED IN AN ASIDE TO HIS COLLEAGUES IN DUTCH ABOUT "THE FRENCH PROBLEMS," THEN CONTINUED IN ENGLISH WITH, "IF ONE MEMBER STATE PICKS UP ARGUMENTS THAT GO BEYOND THE REAL (SCIENTIFIC) ARGUMENTS, IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND IT." HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT EU APPROVAL PROCESSES WERE LENGTHY AND NEEDED TO BE STREAMLINED, BUT WHEN A PROBLEM AROSE IN ONE MEMBER COUNTRY OTHER MEMBER STATES HAD NO ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THE PROCESS. VANTHEMSCHE CONCURRED THAT "FRANCE CREATES A PROBLEM FOR THE FOURTEEN OTHERS." YSEBAERT ADDED THAT, "BECAUSE IT'S NOW A COMMERCIAL PROBLEM, THIS

SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE 113 COMMITTEE." 7. (SBU) THORN SAID HE WANTED THE BELGIANS TO UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND THE NEXT STEPS THE USG WOULD BE TAKING. HE REITERATED THAT THE CURRENT EU APPROVAL PROCESS FOR << GMO'S >> CONTAINED TOO MANY STEPS THAT COULD BE POLITICIZED. THE PROBLEM WOULD ONLY GET WORSE IN THE FUTURE, SINCE THE NUMBER OF VARIETIES SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL -- THREE THIS YEAR -- WAS LIKELY TO TRIPLE NEXT YEAR. VANTHEMSCHE TOOK THE POINT, NOTING THAT "YOUR POSITION IS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM NOW." 8. (SBU) AT THE MFAT, THORN STRESSED THAT THE USG CONCERN WAS WITH AN EU APPROVAL PROCESS FOR << GMO'S >> THAT WAS SLOW, COULD BE POLITICIZED, AND THAT, BECAUSE OF DELAYS, HAD ALREADY COST U.S. FIRMS SOME \$100 MILLION IN LOST TRADE; "THOSE COUNSELING PATIENCE IN THE U.S. ARE LOSING THEIR CREDIBILITY." YSEBAERT, MORE VOCAL IN THE MFAT SETTING THAN PREVIOUSLY WITH HIS POLITICAL BOSSES AT THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, SAID THAT THE 113 COMMITTEE HAD DISCUSSED THE APPROVAL PROCESS AND "RECOGNIZED THAT THE PROCESS TAKES TOO LONG -- THERE IS BROAD CONSENSUS (AMONG MEMBER STATES) ON THAT." HE ADDED THAT PUBLIC OPINION IS VERY SENSITIVE ON << GMO'S >>, WITH SOME 60PPERCENT OF THE FRENCH POPULACE HAVING CONCERNS ABOUT THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY, AND WITH THE BELGIAN PUBLIC SPLIT ABOUT 50-50. THORN CONCURRED THAT PUBLIC OPINION COULD NOT BE IGNORED, BUT ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT POLITICAL LEADERS COULD INDEED LEAD, AND NOT JUST FOLLOW, PUBLIC OPINION. YSEBAERT SAID HE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THIS TO HIS OWN MINISTRY, BUT "IT IS HARD TO INTRODUCE THIS INTO SOME MINDS ... I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO CONVINCE THOSE CLOSER TO THE TOP." 9. (SBU) MFAT OFFICER CHAINAYE TURNED TO THORN, SAYING "OUR CONCERNS ARE THE SAME AS YOURS." SHE THEN ASKED WHAT PROGRESS THE TRANSATLANTIC BUSINESS DIALOGUE HAD MADE IN THIS AREA. THORN SAID THAT UNILEVER AND MONSANTO HAD MET TWICE TO SKETCH OUT AREAS FOR COOPERATION ALONG THE LINES OF A MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT FOR << GMO >> PRODUCT APPROVALS. AMONG THE FEATURES OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIMULTANEOUS SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS, HARMONIZED DATA REQUIREMENTS, TRANSPARENCY, PREDICTABILITY, AND FIXED TIME LIMITS. 10. (SBU) MFAT'S HARVENGT COMMENTED THAT THE 113 COMMITTEE UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 06 BRUSSELS 003047 SENSITIVE STATE FOR EUR/UBI, EUR/ERA, EB/DCT STATE PASS TO USTR - SCHOONOVER FAS FOR ITP/DA/SHEIKH FAA/PLETART/ITP.EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON COMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG, ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT GENEVA FOR USTR E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, TBIO, EUN, BE SUBJECT: U.S.-BELGIAN EXCHANGE ON AG TRADE: << GMO'S >>, HORMONES, ANTIBIOTICS, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY RESIDUES, BANANAS, RICE REF: (A) BRUSSELS 0748, (B) BRUSSELS 1688, COULD PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE TO AVOID THE "VERY EMBARRASSING DELAYS" AND POSSIBLE RECOURSE TO PROTECTIONIST MEASURES. BUT, HE, ADDED, ENVIRONMENTALISTS HAVE PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN THE GO APPROVAL ISSUE, AND "THEY ARE ALSO PART OF THE COMMUNITY." CHAINAYE ADDED THAT THE 113 COMMITTEE NEEDS TO SORT OUT THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF DG-I (EXTERNAL RELATIONS), DG-XI (ENVIRONMENT) AND DG-XXIV (CONSUMER POLICY) IN THIS FIELD. THERE IS A GENERAL PROBLEM OF COORDINATION AT THE COMMISSION, ACCORDING TO CHAINAYE, AND "WE SUFFER FROM THIS." ----- LABELING << GMO'S >> ----- 11. (SBU) AT THE AG MINISTRY, THORN RAISED THE SUBJECT OF LABELING FOR << GMO >> PRODUCTS IN SOME DETAIL. HE SAID THE U.S. SAW NO NEED FOR IT, BUT UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE LABELING IN EUROPE. FROM THE USG PERSPECTIVE, SUCH A LABELING SCHEME, IF DONE RIGHT, WOULD NOT NECESSARILY HAVE

NEGATIVE COMMERCIAL CONSEQUENCES. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THE USG HAS INFORMED THE COMMISSION THAT, EXCEPT ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, THE SEGREGATION OF << GMO>> AND << NON-GMO>> PRODUCTS IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES. IN THE CASE OF SOYBEANS, FOR INSTANCE, SOME 40 PERCENT OF NEXT YEAR'S U.S. CROP WILL BE << GENETICALLY MODIFIED>>. ALSO, FOR PRACTICAL REASONS RELATING TO TESTING OF PRODUCTS, THE U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT A NEGATIVE LABEL ("DOES NOT CONTAIN << GMO'S>>"), BUT NOT A POSITIVE ("DOES CONTAIN << GMO'S>>") LABELING SCHEME. 12. (SBU) VANTHEMSCHE ASKED HIS COLLEAGUES WHERE BELGIUM STOOD ON THE LABELING QUESTION. NONE RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY, BUT DE CUYPER OFFERED THAT THIS WAS A MATTER FOR THE MINISTRIES OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT. -----

----- HORMONES IN BEEF PRODUCTION: BELGIUM OPPOSED -----
----- 13. (SBU) THORN SAID THAT THE USG SAW LABELING AS A POSSIBLE WAY TO RESOLVE THE U.S.-EU DISPUTE OVER HORMONES IN BEEF. USDA SECRETARY GLICKMAN HAD PROPOSED THIS TO EU AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER FISCHLER AT THE OECD IN MARCH, ACCORDING TO THORN, BUT FISCHLER HAD NOT WANTED TO DISCUSS THIS. THORN SAID THE U.S. WAS DISAPPOINTED OVER THE LACK OF EU FLEXIBILITY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WTO APPELLATE BODY'S DECISION. THE POTENTIAL MARKET FOR U.S. BEEF IN EUROPE THAT IS CURRENTLY BEING BLOCKED IS LARGE, HE NOTED; U.S. MEAT, WITH ITS REPUTATION FOR QUALITY AND ITS BSE-FREE STATUS, ALREADY SELLS WELL IN SWITZERLAND. THORN ASKED THAT BELGIUM ENCOURAGE THE COMMISSION TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE. 14. (SBU) VANTHEMSCHE RESPONDED, "YOU KNOW THE SENSIBILITY (HE MEANT SENSITIVITY) OF THIS ISSUE; EVENTUALLY WE WILL HAVE TO COME TO TERMS ON THIS, BUT UNDER YOUR CONDITIONS OR OURS? AND HOW?" THORN COMMENTED THAT THE HORMONE ISSUE HAD IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE WTO'S SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) RULES. LATER IN THE CONVERSATION, VANTHEMSCHE RETURNED TO THE SUBJECT, SAYING, "ON HORMONES, OUR POSITION IS CLEAR; WE ARE AGAINST THE USE OF HORMONES -- EVEN WITH LABELING ... MEAT THAT DOES NOT MEET OUR STANDARDS DOES NOT ENTER (BELGIUM)." 15. (SBU) AT THE MFAT, THORN NOTED THAT THE U.S. AND EU DIFFERED ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE WTO APPELLATE BODY REPORT, STRESSING THE U.S. VIEW THAT THE EU'S BAN HAS TO BE REMOVED, AND THAT THE EU RESPONSE CALLING FOR A DELAY OF ANOTHER FOUR YEARS FOR FURTHER RISK ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION WOULD MAKE A MOCKERY OF THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCESS. THORN ALSO RAISED AGAIN SECRETARY GLICKMAN'S PROPOSAL ON LABELING AND FISCHLER'S FAILURE TO TAKE UP A DISCUSSION ON THIS. YSEBAERT RESPONDED THAT FISCHLER HAD TO HAVE THE BACKING OF THE AG MINISTERS BEFORE AGREEING TO SUCH A PROPOSAL, WHICH HE DID NOT HAVE AT THE TIME. HE THOUGHT THE LABELING OPTION WOULD BE DISCUSSED SUBSTANTIVELY WITHIN THE EU AT SOME FUTURE OCCASION. -----

----- PRESSURE BUILDING TO RESTRICT USE OF ANTIBIOTICS UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 06 BRUSSELS 003047 SENSITIVE STATE FOR EUR/UBI, EUR/ERA, EB/DCT STATE PASS TO USTR - SCHOONOVER FAS FOR ITP/DA/SHEIKH FAA/PLETART/ITP.EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON COMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG, ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT GENEVA FOR USTR E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, TBIO, EUN, BE SUBJECT: U.S.-BELGIAN EXCHANGE ON AG TRADE: << GMO'S>>, HORMONES, ANTIBIOTICS, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY RESIDUES, BANANAS, RICE REF: (A) BRUSSELS 0748, (B) BRUSSELS 1688, -----
----- 16. (SBU) VANTHEMSCHE, A VETERINARIAN BY TRAINING, BROUGHT UP THE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS AS GROWTH PROMOTERS IN CATTLE, STATING THAT IN EUROPE

THERE WAS A STRONG TENDENCY TO RESTRICT THIS PRACTICE. HE POINTED TO CONCERNS ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF MICROBIAL RESISTANCE TO ANTIBIOTICS -- NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROBLEM MIGHT DIFFER FROM CONTINENT TO CONTINENT; IT MIGHT THEREFORE BE NECESSARY, STRICTLY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY REASONS, TO FIND DIFFERENT SOLUTIONS IN DIFFERENT PLACES. VANTHEMSCHE PREDICTED THAT THE ANTIBIOTICS QUESTION WOULD BE A BIG PROBLEM BECAUSE IT AFFECTED BOTH DAIRY AND MEAT PRODUCTION, HAD A SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON EFFICIENCY OF PRODUCTION (ON THE ORDER OF 10-15 PERCENT), AND BECAUSE PUBLIC PRESSURE TO RESTRICT THE PRACTICE WAS BUILDING UP. DE CUYPER ADDD THAT SWEDEN HAD ALREADY ADOPTED A TOTAL BAN AND THAT DENMARK WAS DOING SO ON A PRODUCT-BY-PRODUCT BASIS, AND THAT THIS WOULD TEND TO DRIVE THE DEBATE WITHIN THE EU. HE THOUGHT THIS ISSUE WOULD BE "VERY, VERY DIFFICULT TO HANDLE." EVENTUALLY, HE SAID, THERE WILL BE AN EU DIRECTIVE -- "IN MY FEELING, SOME KIND OF RESTRICTION."

17. (SBU) THORN REPLIED THAT U.S. SCIENTISTS HAD ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT WIDESPREAD USE OF ANTIBIOTICS; THE ANTIBIOTICS QUESTION WAS A MORE LEGITIMATE ISSUE THAN HORMONES, IN HIS VIEW. HE NOTED THAT, UNDER THE SPS RULES, A COUNTRY COULD INSTITUTE RESTRICTIONS, PROVIDED THEY WERE BASED ON SOUND SCIENCE. AN ANTIBIOTICS CASE COULD TEST AND STRENGTHEN THE SPS AGREEMENT. VANTHEMSCHE COMMENTED THAT THE REAL DISCUSSION WOULD THEN BE AROUND WHAT CONSTITUTES A SOUND RISK ASSESSMENT. HE THOUGHT A KEY DIFFICULTY WOULD BE TO DEMONSTRATE SCIENTIFICALLY THE LINKS BETWEEN THE HUMAN AND ANIMAL POPULATIONS. ----- VETERINARY EQUIVALENCE -----

18. (SBU) ON VETERINARY EQUIVALENCE, THORN MENTIONED AT THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY THAT SECRETARY GLICKMAN HAD SENT A LETTER IN MARCH OUTLINING PROPOSED U.S. REGULATIONS. ORN WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE RULES WOULD BE PUBLISHED BY THE END OF MAY, OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER. THE USG IS ANXIOUS TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE, AND HOPES FOR EXPEDITIOUS AGREEMENT BY THE EU COUNCIL OF AG MINISTERS, HE ADDED. HE ATTRIBUTED PART OF THE DELAYS IN FINALIZING A VETERINARY EQUIVALENCE ACCORD TO THE FACT THAT THE COMMISSION WAS UNDERSTAFFED, AND WAS NOT ABLE TO RELAY NEEDED DATA THAT, IT LATER TURNED OUT, ALREADY EXISTED IN THE MEMBER STATES. VANTHEMSCHE CONCURRED THAT THE COMMISSION WAS UNDERSTAFFED IN THE AREA OF ANIMAL HEALTH. DE CUYPER SAID HE DID NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE A PROBLEM GETTING THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF FRANCE. ----- RESIDUES -----

19. (SBU) THORN SAID THAT THE USG HAD WANTED TO INCLUDE A VETERINARY EQUIVALENCE AGREEMENT (VAE) ON RESIDUES IN ANIMAL PRODUCTS, BUT THAT THE COMMISSION HAD DEMURRED LARGELY ON THE BASIS OF A NEGATIVE REPORT BY DG-XXIV ON ANIMAL MONITORING IN THE U.S. THE USG HAD SENT A WRITTEN REBUTTAL TO THE DG-XXIV REPORT ON MARCH 6, AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT THIS DOCUMENT HAD NOT RECEIVED WIDE DISTRIBUTION WITHIN THE COMMISSION (DG-VI, INTER ALIA, DID NOT HAVE IT UNTIL RECENTLY).

20. (SBU) THORN EXPLAINED THAT PART OF THE PROBLEM ON A RESIDUES VAE WAS A DIFFERENCE IN THE APPROACH TO ANIMAL MONITORING ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC: THE U.S. APPROACH WAS BASED MORE ON RISK FACTORS, WHILE THE EUROPEANS TOOK A MORE PRESCRIPTIVE STANCE. QUICKLY GRASPING THORN'S POINT, VANTHEMSCHE INTERJECTED, "FOR EXAMPLE, YOU DON'T SCREEN FOR THINGS YOU NEVER FIND?" THORN SAID YES, CITING DIETHYL SYLVESTROL (DES) AS AN EXAMPLE. MOREOVER, HE CONTINUED, THE DG-XXIV TEAM HAD ONLY OBSERVED RANDOM TESTING,

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 06 BRUSSELS 003047 SENSITIVE STATE FOR EUR/UBI, EUR/ERA,

EB/DCT STATE PASS TO USTR - SCHOONOVER FAS FOR ITP/DA/SHEIKH
FAA/PLETART/ITP.EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER,
CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON COMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG, ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT
GENEVA FOR USTR E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, TBIO, EUN, BE SUBJECT:
U.S.-BELGIAN EXCHANGE ON AG TRADE: << GMO'S>> , HORMONES, ANTIBIOTICS,
VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY RESIDUES, BANANAS, RICE REF: (A) BRUSSELS 0748, (B)
BRUSSELS 1688, NOT THE TARGETED TESTING THAT THE USG ALSO CARRIES OUT. HE
SAID THE EMBASSY WOULD PROVIDE THE BELGIANS WITH A COPY OF THE U.S.
RESPONSE TO DG-XXIV. IN JUNE THERE WILL BE A FOLLOW-UP VISIT TO THE U.S. BY
DG-XXIV, AND IN SEPTEMBER THERE WILL BE A MEETING TO COMPARE DOCUMENTS
AND RESOLVE ANY REMAINING DIFFERENCES. -----

-- BANANAS: BELGIANS INCLINED TO SUPPORT C TARIFF-RATE QUOTA -----
----- 21. (SBU) THORN ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY
AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES THAT THE BELGIANS WANTED TO RAISE.
VANTHEMSCHE AND HIS COLLEAGUES COULD THINK OF NOTHING, APART FROM THE
WTO BANANA CASE WHICH THEY PROCEEDED TO DISCUSS BRIEFLY, ALTHOUGH IT IS
NOT IN THORN'S PORTFOLIO. DE CUYPER OBSERVED THAT THERE HAD BEEN
SURPRISINGLY LITTLE DISCUSSION OF THE BANANA CASE AT THE LAST AG COUNCIL
MEETING. VANTHEMSCHE CONFIRMED BELGIUM'S INITIAL INTEREST IN A TARIFF-
BASED SYSTEM (SEE REF C), BUT NOTED THAT "BELGIANS ARE VERY PRACTICAL."
SEEING THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH SUPPORT FOR THEIR VIEW WITHIN THE EU, THE
BELGIANS ARE NOW INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH THE EC- PROPOSED TARIFF-RATE
QUOTA SOLUTION AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE, ALTHOUGH VANTHEMSCHE
WONDERED ALOUD IF IT WOULD BE WTO- CONSISTENT. 22. (SBU) THE BANANA
REGIME WAS ALSO DISCUSSED AT THE MFAT MEETING. COCKX, THE MINISTRY'S
EXPERT ON THIS, RESTATED BELGIUM'S INITIAL VIEW THAT A TARIFF-ONLY SYSTEM
WOULD BE THE IDEAL SYSTEM TO SUPPLANT THE EXISTING WTO-INCONSISTENT
REGIME. AT THIS POINT, ACCORDING TO COCKX, THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL WAS
STILL ON THE TABLE. HE SAID IT WAS NOT CLEAR THAT THERE IS MAJORITY SUPPORT
FOR THIS PROPOSAL. ASKED ABOUT A DUTCH-PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE, COCKX SAID
CAREFULLY THAT "WE MUST START FROM THE BASIS OF THE COMMISSION'S
PROPOSAL." SEVEN COUNTRIES HAD BEEN INVITED TO DISCUSS AN ALTERNATIVE, HE
ADDED, "BUT TO SAY WE ARE ALL IN AGREEMENT WOULD BE GOING TOO FAR."
HARVENGT SAID HE THOUGHT THE MATTER WOULD BE DECIDED AT THE END OF THE
UK PRESIDENCY, AT THE JUNE AG COUNCIL MEETING. ----- RICE
CUMULATIVE RECOVERY SYSTEM (CRS) ----- 23. (SBU) AT EACH
OF THE TWO MEETINGS, THORN BRIEFLY RAISED THE RICE CRS THAT THE EU
DEVELOPED FOR HUSKED RICE UNDER THE 1995 GRAINS AGREEMENT, A MATTER HE
SAID COULD BECOME A SIGNIFICANT TRADE ISSUE. HE NOTED U.S. INDUSTRY
CONCERNS ABOUT DELAYS IN THE REQUIRED EU REVIEW OF THE CRS, BUT THAT
OPINION AMONG BELGIAN RICE MILLERS ON THE REBATE SYSTEM APPEARS TO BE
MIXED. VANTHEMSCHE APPEARED TO BE UNAWARE OF THIS ISSUE, SAYING THAT
THERE WAS NO BELGIAN COMMENT FOR NOW. ----- COMMENT ----- 24. (SBU) THE
BELGIAN AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS THORN MET WITH APPEARED TO BE VERY
KNOWLEDGEABLE ON VETERINARY AND TECHNICAL ISSUES RELATED TO THEIR
PORTFOLIOS, BUT SEEMED LESS INFORMED ABOUT THE STATUS OF POLICY
DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EU -- A GAP THAT THORN'S BRIEFING FILLED
ADMIRABLY. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH BRIEFINGS OF MEMBER STATES BY VISITING
WASHINGTON POLICY EXPERTS ARE EXTREMELY VALUABLE, PARTICULARLY IN UP-
AND-COMING AREAS WHERE EU POSITIONS HAVE NOT YET SOLIDIFIED {ND WHERE
WE STILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE DECISIONMAKING WITH

INFORMATION TARGETED AT EXPERTS AND OFFICIALS BASED IN THE FIFTEEN CAPITALS. THE ANTIBIOTICS ISSUE THAT THE BELGIANS THEMSELVES RAISED WITH US STRIKES US AS ONE WHERE TIMELY, PROACTIVE DIPLOMACY MIGHT YET HELP AVERT OR REDUCE A POTENTIAL TRANSATLANTIC CONFLICT. 25. (SBU) WE THINK THAT EARLY INTERVENTION ON OUR PART WITH SOLID, PEER-REVIEWED, SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION CAN BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN STRENGTHENING THE HAND OF MEMBER-STATE TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN THEIR OWN INTERNAL BATTLES WITH THEIR MORE POLITICALLY INCLINED BOSSES. (DURING THORN'S CALLS WE UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 06 BRUSSELS 003047 SENSITIVE STATE FOR EUR/UBI, EUR/ERA, EB/DCT STATE PASS TO USTR - SCHOONOVER FAS FOR ITP/DA/SHEIKH FAA/PLETART/ITP.EAMED/THORN & CHESLEY CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER, CMP/DLP/REDDINGTON COMP/COTS/BLUM, CMP/FFPD/YOUNG, ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT GENEVA FOR USTR E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, TBIO, EUN, BE SUBJECT: U.S.-BELGIAN EXCHANGE ON AG TRADE: << GMO'S>>, HORMONES, ANTIBIOTICS, VETERINARY EQUIVALENCY RESIDUES, BANANAS, RICE REF: (A) BRUSSELS 0748, (B) BRUSSELS 1688, CAUGHT AN INKLING OF THE TENSION BETWEEN THESE TWO CAMPS IN THE INTERACTION BETWEEN CAREER CIVIL SERVANT YSEBAERT AND THE POLITICALLY APPOINTED STAFFERS IN THE MINISTER'S CABINET.) IN THE AREA OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, WHERE WE ARE ADVOCATING A SCIENCE-BASED, TRANSPARENT APPROACH TO REGULATION, GETTING OUR VIEWS ACROSS TO THE NATIONAL EXPERTS -- BE IT THROUGH VISITS OF U.S. EXPERTS OR DELIVERY NON-PAPERS AND FACT SHEETS -- MAY HELP THEM OVERCOME THE LESS RATIONAL ARGUMENTS THAT THE POLITICIANS ARE HEARING FROM OTHER CONSTITUENCIES. 26. (U) CRAIG THORN DID NOT CLEAR THIS CABLE. BLINKEN SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 06 <^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 06 <^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 06 <^SECT>SECTION: 04 OF 06 <^SECT>SECTION: 05 OF 06 <^SECT>SECTION: 06 OF 06 SSN: 3047 <^SSN>3047 <^SSN>3047 <^SSN>3047 <^SSN>3047 <^SSN>3047 TOR: 980517113605 M3291795 <^TOR>980517113651 M3291796 <^TOR>980517113737 M3291797 <^TOR>980517113823 M3291798 <^TOR>980517113910 M3291799 <^TOR>980517113910 M3291800 DIST: SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA3949 1480829-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 280829Z MAY 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 280829Z MAY 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3643
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0160
INFO: RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 1098
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: ITALY ON GMO LABELING
TEXT:
UNCLAS ROME 003949

STATE FOR USDA FOR FAS FOR FAA/PLETARTE
ITP/PSHEIKH/EAMED/THORN AND CHESLEY
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER
CMP/COTS/BLUM
ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT
APHIS AT USDA
STATE PASS TO USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
MILAN FOR ATO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, IT
SUBJECT: ITALY ON GMO LABELING

REF: SECSTATE 87451

SENSITIVE

1. THE DEMARCHE ON THE EU LABELING PROPOSAL (REF) WAS DELIVERED TO DIRECTOR GENERAL DR.ROMAN MARABELLI OF THE MINISTRY OF (MOH) ON MAY 18. IN A PHONE CONVERSATION FROM THE OIE MEETING IN PARIS, DR. MARABELLI INDICATED TO FAS THAT ITALY'S POSITION IN BRUSSELS WAS NOT PREDICATED ON MOH CONSIDERATIONS AS MUCH AS "EXTREME SENSITIVITIES" IN THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT. (THIS MESSAGE IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT BERNICE SLUTSKY, FAS/ITP WAS TOLD IN HER MAY 4 MEETING WITH MOH UNDERSECRETARY, SENATOR VISERTA. DURING THE MEETING, DR. SLUTSKY DISCUSSED THE U.S. POSITION ON GMO LABELING. THE SENATOR INDICATED THAT WHILE MOH WANTED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

TO SUPPORT BIOTECH INITIATIVES TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WITHIN THE EU FRAMEWORK, EXTREME CAUTION HAD TO BE EXERCISED IN DEALING WITH THE PARLIAMENT ON THIS ISSUE.) DR. MARABELLI EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ITALY COULD FIND A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY TO IMPLEMENT EU GUIDELINES ON BIOTECH LABELING, AND OFFERED TO DISCUSS HIS IDEAS IN MORE DETAIL THE WEEK OF JUNE 1. A CABLE ON THAT DISCUSSION WILL FOLLOW.

2. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS OF MAY 27 NOTED THAT ITALIAN AGRICULTURAL MINISTER MICHELE PINTO JOINED DENMARK AND SWEDEN IN VOTING AGAINST THE GMO LABELING PROPOSAL. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, ITALIAN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSAL WAS OVER THE POTENTIAL COST TO SMALL AND MEDIUM COMPANIES WHO WOULD HAVE TO PROVE THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF GMO'S IN THEIR PRODUCT; AND THIS WAS THE REASON THE GOI PREFERRED THE PREVIOUS EU PROPOSAL, WHICH LEFT OPEN THE POSSIBILITY TO LABEL PRODUCTS AS "MAY CONTAIN GMOS". FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3949

TOR: 980528044814 M3307689

DIST:

SIT: BANDLER BUTLER

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHFRA2080 1491440-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 291440Z MAY 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 291440Z MAY 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6317
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 9277
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6521
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0461
SUBJ: STRATEGY FOR HANDLING GMO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ISSUES WITH
THE FRENCH

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By 72 NARA, Date 11/26/2017
2016-0579-M (1.99)

CLASSIFIED BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION W. ROBERT PEARSON FOR REASON

TEXT:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 012080

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER, ESSERMAN, NOVELLI AND MURPHY
STATE PASS USDA FAS WASHDC
GENEVA FOR USTR AND AGRICULTURE

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, U/S SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR
OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEAID/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE;
APHIS/ADMINISTRATOR

E.O. 12958: DECL:05/29/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PREL, US, FR, EUN
SUBJECT: STRATEGY FOR HANDLING GMO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ISSUES WITH
THE FRENCH

CLASSIFIED BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION W. ROBERT PEARSON FOR REASON
1.5(B)

SUMMARY

1. ~~(C)~~ THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE FINAL
FOLLOW-UP TO THE APRIL 22 EU COMMISSION DECISION TO APPROVE TWO
ADDITIONAL VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN HAS DELAYED
ADMITTANCE OF THESE CORN PRODUCTS INTO THE EU, COST U.S. FARMERS
MAJOR LOST OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE CORN
TENDERS, AND CREATED ENORMOUS FRUSTRATION IN WASHINGTON. WE
UNDERSTAND THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE LOOKING AT POSSIBLE OPTIONS
FOR RETALIATION TO EITHER PRESSURE THE GOF TO QUICKLY APPROVE THE

GMO CORNS OR TO PUNISH THEM FOR THE DAMAGE DONE TO U.S. TRADE INTERESTS BY THE LOSS OF THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE TENDER OPPORTUNITIES. AS WASHINGTON DECISIONMAKERS WEIGH NEXT STEPS, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REVIEW THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN FRANCE ON GMO ISSUES.

2. ~~(C)~~ THIS ISSUE IS A HIGHLY POLITICAL ONE FOR THE JOSPIN GOVERNMENT, HIGHLY DEPENDS FOR ITS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY ON THE SUPPORT OF THE GREEN PARTY. IT IS ALSO A QUESTION WITH GREAT RESONANCE; FOOD AND FOOD SAFETY ARE SENSITIVE ISSUES IN THIS COUNTRY. AS RECENTLY SEEN IN THE MAI NEGOTIATIONS, SENSITIVE FRENCH ISSUES CAN BLOW UP, AND ESCAPE FROM THE CONTROL OF THE TECHNOCRATS. OUR PRINCIPAL GOAL IS THE LONGER-TERM ONE OF WINNING ACCEPTANCE FOR FOOD PRODUCTS BASED ON GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES, AS WELL AS ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE RATIONAL EU-WIDE APPROVAL POLICIES. TO THAT END WE SUGGEST A STRATEGY THAT DIVIDES OUR ACTIONS INTO SHORT-TERM AND MEDIUM TERM COMPONENTS. THE OPTION OF RETALIATION SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN FOR THE MEDIUM TERM, BUT IN THE SHORT TERM WE SUGGEST PRESSING FOR POLITICAL AGREEMENT AT HIGH LEVELS IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO OPEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. EXPORTERS. END SUMMARY.

BACKGROUND

3. ~~(C)~~ THIS IS A TOUGH POLITICAL ISSUE FOR THE JOSPIN GOVERNMENT, WHICH RELIES FOR ITS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY ON THE VOTES OF THE GREEN PARTY. THE ISSUES OF FOOD QUALITY AND FOOD SAFETY ARE HIGH-PROFILE ONES IN THIS COUNTRY. SOME OF THIS IS DUE TO THE CULTURAL EMPHASIS ON FOOD. THE RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT NEW TECHNOLOGIES ALSO STEMS FROM THE REPEATED BUNGLES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN THE BSE AND TAINTED BLOOD SCANDALS. WHATEVER THE REASON, THERE IS A HIGH PROPENSITY AMONG FRENCH VOTERS TO SEE GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES AS THREATENING AND UNWELCOME. U.S. INDUSTRY, WITH MONSANTO IN THE LEAD, IS MOUNTING A PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO OBTAIN GREATER PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE. MONSANTO'S EXECUTIVES HAVE TOLD US THEY BELIEVE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL MOVE TO APPROVE THE TWO NEW CORN VARIETIES FOLLOWING THE JUNE CONFERENCE ON CONSENSUS. (THIS WOULD MESH WITH THE INTERESTS OF FRENCH AGRICULTURE, WHICH HOPES TO BE ABLE TO USE GMO SEEDS TO PLANT IN THE NEXT GROWING SEASON, AS THE CURRENT SEASON'S PLANTINGS ARE ALREADY IN THE GROUND.)

4. ~~(C)~~ THE GOF'S SO-CALLED "CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS ON THE USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD" WILL TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 20-21. THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN ORGANIZED BY THE PARLIAMENTARIAN OFFICE OF EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHOICES (OPECST), AN ORGANIZATION (MUCH LIKE THE FORMER U.S. OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT) WHICH PROVIDES SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVICE TO THE FRENCH SENATE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON MAJOR POLICY ISSUES.

5. ~~(C)~~ THE PUBLIC CONFERENCE IS SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT THE CULMINATION OF CONSIDERABLE DEBATE WITHIN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND IN THE GENERAL PUBLIC, FUELED BY MEDIA REPORTS ON ALL SIDES OF THE ISSUE. AS LONG AGO AS 1996, OPECST WAS REQUESTED BY THE PARLIAMENT TO STUDY THE SCIENCE OF GENES AND THEIR USE. PARLIAMENTARIAN (AND RAPPORTEUR OF THE STUDY) JEAN-YVES LE DEAUT DECIDED TO LIMIT THE STUDY TO THE USE OF GMO'S IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. NEVERTHELESS, THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IN LATE 1997 TO

AUTHORIZE DOMESTIC PLANTING OF ONE GMO CORN VARIETY ONLY HEIGHTENED THE LEVEL OF SENSITIVITY TO THIS ISSUE WITHIN THE ENVIRONMENTAL, TRADE, AND AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES. THIS FORMED THE BASIS FOR A JOINT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT DECISION TO ORGANIZE THE PUBLIC CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO EDUCATE POPULAR SENTIMENT ON THE MATTER.

6. ~~(C)~~ AT THE SAME TIME, TESTIMONY OF GMO EXPERTS BEFORE THE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 PARIS 012080

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER, ESSERMAN, NOVELLI AND MURPHY
STATE PASS USDA FAS WASHDC
GENEVA FOR USTR AND AGRICULTURE

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, U/S SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR
OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEAID/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE;
APHIS/ADMINISTRATOR

E.O. 12958: DECL:05/29/03

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PREL, US, FR, EUN

SUBJECT: STRATEGY FOR HANDLING GMO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ISSUES WITH THE FRENCH

FRENCH PARLIAMENT CONTINUES. CONGRESSMAN LE DEAUT HAS TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT HE HAS BEEN PROCEEDING TOWARD CONCLUSION OF A REPORT THAT IS LIKELY TO BE GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO GMO'S. HOWEVER, HE IS NOW CONSTRAINED BY THE NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC DEBATE. WE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT HE WILL PROVIDE AN INTERIM REPORT TO THE PRIME MINISTER WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER THE JUNE CONFERENCE (WHICH MIGHT PROVE SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW QUICK GOF ACTION TO APPROVE THE PENDING GMO CORNS). HIS FINAL REPORT IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE, HOWEVER, UNTIL OCTOBER.

POLICY VOLATILITY -- THE MAI/CULTURE EXAMPLE

7. ~~(C)~~ WE RECENTLY WITNESSED AN EXPLOSION OF PUBLIC/PRESS/POLITICAL SENTIMENT ABOUT A "TECHNICAL" INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATING ISSUE: FRENCH GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES TOWARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT NEGOTIATIONS WERE SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERED BY THE MAJOR PUBLIC FLAP THAT RESULTED FROM THE CULTURE LOBBY'S PUBLIC FOCUS ON THE ALLEGED EFFECT OF AN MAI ON LANGUAGE AND CULTURE POLICIES. THE OVERHANG FROM THAT SPECIFIC ISSUE AFFECTED FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE NTM/TEP PROPOSAL AT THE LAST US-EU SUMMIT, AND WILL CONTINUE TO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR OUR EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE TRADE LIBERALIZATION WITH EUROPE. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE FUTURE EFFORTS TO WIN ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. FOOD PRODUCTS MADE WITH GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES SIMILARLY HANDICAPPED BY A LOUD PUBLIC SPAT OVER THE CURRENT GMO CORN APPROVALS. IT WILL NOT DO U.S. AGRICULTURE OR THESE PRODUCTS ANY GOOD TO BE IDENTIFIED IN THE PUBLIC MIND WITH EFFORTS TO "FORCE" ACCEPTANCE OF PRODUCTS ON RELUCTANT FRENCH CONSUMERS. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT EU MEMBER STATES RECOGNIZE THE CLUMSINESS AND INEFFICIENCY OF THEIR 90-220 APPROVAL PROCESS, AND ARE WORKING TO CHANGE IT. SUCH EFFORTS COULD BE DERAILED BY A PUBLIC SPAT OVER RETALIATION.

PROPOSED STRATEGY

8. (G) WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT WHILE PUSHING FOR FRANCE TO FINALIZE EU ACCEPTANCE OF THE TWO CORN VARIETIES OVER THE MEDIUM TERM, WASHINGTON EMBARK ON A SHORT-TERM COURSE OF ACTION DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE THE CHANCE FOR A MAJOR PUBLIC DISPUTE, WHILE OBTAINING SOME RELIEF FOR U.S. FARMERS. PUBLIC THREATS OF RETALIATION -- EVEN IF IN THE END THE ACTION IS NOT TAKEN -- ARE A SURE WAY TO GENERATE A BACKLASH. RETALIATION WOULD NOT ONLY BE SEEN AS COUNTER TO WORLD TRADING RULES (SINCE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES HAVE NOT YET BEEN TRIED), BUT WOULD STIFFEN FRENCH RESISTANCE TO THE VERY PRODUCTS WHOSE APPROVAL WE ARE SEEKING. MOREOVER, A PUBLIC FOCUS ON RETALIATION BEFORE THE "CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS" COULD COLOR THAT EVENT'S OUTCOME AND JEOPARDIZE THE APPROVAL OF THESE PRODUCTS EVEN FOR THE NEXT GROWING SEASON.

9. (G) WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH AND EU OFFICIALS, WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY HAVE FLOATED THE IDEA THAT FRANCE COULD TAKE "HALF-MEASURES" SHORT OF FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THE GMO CORN VARIETIES IN THE FRENCH MARKET, BUT WHICH WOULD OPEN THE DOOR FOR U.S. IMPORTS TO SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND OTHER EU MEMBERS. WE SUGGEST THAT OUR EFFORTS IN THE SHORT TERM SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO PRESS FOR ACCEPTANCE AT THE TOP OF THE GOF OF THIS IDEA. ACTIONS THAT WE CAN -- AND SHOULD -- TAKE, INCLUDE:

-- AN INSTRUCTED DEMARCHE TO BE MADE BY THE AMBASSADOR DESCRIBING THE PROBLEM, ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S., THE COSTS FRENCH INACTION ARE IMPOSING ON OUR FARMERS, THE GROWING FRUSTRATION AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES THIS IS CREATING IN WASHINGTON, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A PROPORTIONATE RESPONSE (WHICH COULD BE AIMED AT FRENCH PRODUCTS) TO RETALIATE FOR CONCRETE TRADE BENEFITS WE ARE LOSING. THE DEMARCHE SHOULD INDICATE UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES THIS ISSUE CAUSES THE JOSPIN GOVERNMENT, AND SHOULD OFFER THE "HALF-MEASURES" AS A POSSIBLE WAY OUT THAT WOULD MEET JOSPIN'S POLITICAL NEEDS AND OUR COMMERCIAL ONES.

-- A COORDINATED APPROACH TO OTHER EU MEMBERS, OMITTING SOME OF THE DETAILS, BUT STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE TO THE U.S., AND ASKING FOR THEM TO PRESSURE THE GOF TO GET WITH THE PROGRAM. (PAST EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT UNITED PRESSURE FROM THEIR EU COLLEAGUES IS ONE OF THE FEW LEVERS THAT SOMETIMES WORKS ON THE GOF.)

-- CONTINUED CONSULTATION WITH MAJOR U.S. AND EUROPEAN GENETIC TECHNOLOGY FIRMS ON THEIR PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE CAMPAIGN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 PARIS 012080

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER, ESSERMAN, NOVELLI AND MURPHY
STATE PASS USDA FAS WASHDC
GENEVA FOR USTR AND AGRICULTURE

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, U/S SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR
OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEAID/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;

CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE;
APHIS/ADMINISTRATOR

E.O. 12958: DECL:05/29/03

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PREL, US, FR, EUN

SUBJECT: STRATEGY FOR HANDLING GMO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ISSUES WITH
THE FRENCH

-- RAISING THIS ISSUE FIRMLY -- IN PRIVATE AND WITHOUT DESCRIPTIVE
REPORTS TO THE PRESS -- IN UPCOMING MEETINGS WITH JOSPIN, FOREIGN
MINISTER VEDRINE AND ECONOMY MINISTER DOMINIQUE STRAUSS-KAHN BY
THEIR USG COUNTERPARTS. THEY SHOULD BE WARNED THAT RETALIATION IS
A VIABLE OPTION, BUT ONLY IF WASHINGTON DETERMINES -- AFTER
CONSULTING WITH U.S. INDUSTRY THAT WE WOULD REALLY BE PREPARED TO
PROCEED WITH SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION.

-- BEGINNING A PROCESS OF WTO CONSULTATIONS DESIGNED TO OBTAIN
COMPENSATION FOR WHATEVER COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE LOST IN THIS
YEAR'S SPANH AND PORTUGUESE TENDERS

-- CLOSE MONITORING AND REPORTING BY THE EMBASSY OF THE
"CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS." ONCE THAT EXERCISE IS CONCLUDED,
WASHINGTON CAN EVALUATE THE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER MOVEMENT BY THE
FRENCH, AND DETERMINE NEXT STEPS ACCORDINGLY.

10. (U) THIS MESSAGE BENEFITTED FROM INTELLECTUAL INPUT FROM USEU
AND EMBASSY LONDON, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT CLEARED BY THEM.

ROHATYN

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

SSN: 2080
<^SSN>2080
<^SSN>2080

TOR: 980529120352 M3310596
<^TOR>980529120518 M3310598
<^TOR>980529120518 M3310599

DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHFRA2116 1491525-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 291525Z MAY 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 291525Z MAY 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6323
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0464
SUBJ: MEETING WITH ORGANIZER OF THE GMO
CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS/CONSENSUS

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 012116

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHERQFOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE; APHIS/
ADMINISTRATOR

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
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, TBIO, KSCA, QR
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ORGANIZER OF THE GMO
CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS/CONSENSUS

REF: (A) PARIQ2; (B) 1997 PARIS 27009; (C)
PARIS 5735; (D) PARIS 4796

1. SUMMARY: ON MAY 19, 1998, AGMIN COUNSELOR,
AGECON AND SCI COUNSELOR MET WITH JEAN-YVES LE
DEAUT, PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN OFFICE OF
EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHOICES
(OPECST), AND THE ORGANIZER OF THE UPCOMING
CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS ON THE USE OF GMO'S IN FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE (WEF A) ON JUNE 20-21. LE DEAUT'S
FRANK COMMENTS FOCUSED ON THE CONFERENCE OF
CITIZENS AND A REPORT ON GMO'S SCHEDULED FOR AN
OCTOBER RELEASE, THE CONCERNS OF FRENCH CONSUMERS

ABOUT GMO'S, AND LE DEAUT'S OPINIONS ON LABELING AND ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE GENES. END SUMMARY.

CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS:

2. REF A PROVIDES A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNED JUNE CONFERENCE CONCERNING GMO'S. IN PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE, THE SELECTED PANEL OF CITIZENS ATTENDED TWO WEEKEND SESSIONS OF TRAINING ABOUT GMO ISSUE IN APRIL AND MAY, AND THE GROUP HAS ASKED FOR AN ADDITIONAL SESSION ON JUNE 5. THE CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS ON JUNE 20-21 WILL OPEN TO ABOUT 150 PEOPLE OF THE FRENCH PUBLIC AND WILL BE VIDEO RECORDED. LE DEAUT SAID THAT THE REPORT DRAFTED BY THE PANEL OF CITIZENS AFTER THE CONFERENCE AND LE DEAUT'S SEPARATE REPORT ON GMO USE IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE WILL BE USED BY THE FRENCH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE TO REFINE FRENCH GMO POLICY.

LE DEAUT'S REPORT ON GMO'S IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE:

3. LE DEAUT'S REPORT ON GMO USE IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD WILL INCLUDE: (1) INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM MEETINGS WITH SPECIALISTS IN FRANCE AND ABROAD (NOTE: LE DEAUT RECENTLY TRAVELED TO THE UNITED STATES TO MEET WITH USDA, EPA, AND PRIVATE COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES. END NOTE.); (2) RESULTS OF PUBLIC HEARING IN THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON MAY 27-28; AND (3) THE WORK OF THE "BIO-VIGILANCE PROGRAM" LAUNCHED ON NOVEMBER 1997 (REF B). LE DEAUT WILL PROVIDE AN INTERIM REPORT TO THE FRENCH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ON JUNE 30 AND THE FINAL REPORT IS SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE IN OCTOBER.

CONSUMER CONCERNS:

4. LE DEAUT INDICATED THAT FRENCH CONSUMER GMO CONCERNS WERE ABOUT AVERAGE AMONG EUROPEAN CONSUMERS. HE SAID THAT THEIR MAIN CONCERNS WERE ALLERGENIC POTENTIAL AND POSSIBLE GENE TRANSMISSION OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE TO OTHER LIVING BEINGS. FRENCH CONSUMERS SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THE INTEREST OF FARMERS AND BIOTECH COMPANIES IN GMO'S BUT THEY DO NOT SEE HOW GMO'S WILL BENEFIT THEM. LE DEAUT UNDERLINED THE CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF FOOD IN FRANCE, WHERE CONSUMERS DO NOT WANT TO ENCOUNTER ANY RISKS IN EATING FOOD. FINALLY, LE DEAUT INDICATED THAT THE FRENCH GROUPS OPPOSING GMO'S BLAME THE UNITED STATES FOR PRESSURING THE EUROPEAN UNION TO ACCEPT GMO'S.

LABELING AND ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE:

5. ON LABELING, LE DEAUT SUPPORTS THE "CONTAINS"

AND "DOES NOT CONTAIN" LABELS, PROVIDED THAT A THRESHOLD IS SET FOR THE "CONTAINS" LABEL. HE OPPOSES THE "MAY CONTAIN" LABEL. HE ADDED THAT THE ONGOING DISCUSSION AT THE EU LEVEL ON GMO LABELING IS MOVING TOWARD THE FRENCH PROPOSAL (REF C AND D). IN LE DEAUT'S OPINION, THE USG SHOULD NOT OPPOSE GMO LABELING BECAUSE HE EXPECTS THE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 012116

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY; OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER; CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/PLETARTE; APHIS/ADMINISTRATOR

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
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, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ORGANIZER OF THE GMO
CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS/CONSENSUS

REF: (A) PARIS 11062; (B) 1997 PARIS 27009; (C) REQUIREMENT WILL BE DROPPED IN A FEW YEARS. LE DEAUT CHARACTERIZED THE PRESENCE OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE GENES IN GMO'S AS A "DIRTY" GENETIC CONSTRUCTION. HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH HE IS FOR MAINTAINING SUCH GMO'S ON THE FRENCH MARKET IN THE SHORT TERM, HE FAVORS THEIR BAN IN THE LONG RUN.

ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 2116
<^SSN>2116
TOR: 980529133546 M3310845
<^TOR>980529133547 M3310847
DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA3326 1491556-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 291556Z MAY 98
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 291556Z MAY 98
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: EU PASSES GMO LABELING REGULATION

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 003326

FAS FOR ITP/THORN/CHESLEY/SHEIKH
FAS FOR OAA/GALVIN
FAS FOR OFSTS SLUTSKY
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: EU PASSES GMO LABELING REGULATION

REFERENCES: STATE 087451 5/15/98

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT THE MAY 26 AGRICULTURE COUNCIL, THE EU ADOPTED A REGULATION ON LABELING OF FOODSTUFFS CONTAINING OR DERIVED FROM TWO GENETICALLY-MODIFIED (GMO) CROPS: ROUND-UP-READY SOYBEANS AND BT-CORN. THE VERSION ADOPTED IS BASED ON A PROPOSAL BY THE UK WHICH DIFFERS FROM AN EARLIER COMMISSION PROPOSAL IN SEVERAL WAYS, INCLUDING ELIMINATION OF THE "MAY CONTAIN" OPTION. THE RULE WILL GO INTO EFFECT 90 DAYS FROM FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT THE IMPACT OF THIS MEASURE ON U.S. TRADE, IF ANY, NOR IS IT POSSIBLE TO SPECIFY WHAT STEPS A COMPANY MUST TAKE TO COMPLY, AS THE DETAILS REMAIN EXTREMELY VAGUE. END SUMMARY.

2. REGULATION APPROVED: AFTER A LENGTHY DEBATE IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S COREPER, ON MAY 26 THE AGRICULTURE

COUNCIL APPROVED A REGULATION ON LABELING OF FOODSTUFFS DERIVED FROM TWO GENETICALLY-MODIFIED CROPS GROWN IN THE UNITED STATES: MONSANTO'S ROUND-UP READY SOYBEANS, AND NOVARTIS (EX CIBA-GEIGY) BT-CORN. THESE TWO CROPS WERE APPROVED FOR SALE IN THE EU LAST YEAR.

3. BACKGROUND: IN MAY 1997 THE EU'S NOVEL FOODS REGULATION WENT INTO FORCE, WHICH CALLED FOR LABELING OF PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM GMO'S. HOWEVER, IT PROVED NECESSARY TO CREATE ADDITIONAL LAW TO COVER PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM THE TWO GMO CROPS ALREADY APPROVED FOR SALE, MONSANTO'S RR SOY AND NOVARTIS (THEN CIBA) BT-CORN. ,IIS LAW (1813/97) WAS PASSED IN SEPTEMBER, BUT WITHOUT IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS. A DECEMBER 1997 COMMISSION PROPOSAL ON IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS WAS REJECTED BY THE STANDING FOOD COMMITTEE IN FEBRUARY. IN THE EU REGULATORY JUNGLE, A REJECTED PROPOSAL NEVERTHELESS GOES INTO EFFECT UNLESS THE COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY REJECTS IT. MORE BACKGROUND AVAILABLE IN REF.

4. THE LEAST POPULAR REQUIREMENT OF THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL WAS THAT PRODUCTS MUST BE LABELED AS "MAY CONTAIN GMO'S" EVEN IF MODIFIED PROTEIN OR DNA COULD NOT BE DETECTED. THE EUROPEAN FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION DISLIKED "MAY CONTAIN" SAYING THAT CONSUMER SURVEYS SHOWED A NEGATIVE RESPONSE, AS THE LACK OF SPECIFICITY REDUCED CONSUMER CONFIDENCE. AT THE SAME TIME, ANTI-GMO GROUPS IN THE PARLIAMENT DISLIKED THE "MAY CONTAIN" OPTION. THE COMMISSION, AS WELL AS SEVERAL OTHER GROUPS, SUPPORTED "MAY CONTA" AS THEY BELIEVED THIS WOULD ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR EXPENSIVE TESTING.

5. THE UK PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES DEVELOPED AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL; CONSIDERABLE DEBATE AND MODIFICATION TOOK PLACE IN COUNCIL. ALTHOUGH THE UK PROPOSAL FAILED TO GET UNANIMOUS SUPPORT, A QUALIFIED MAJORITY OF MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES PREFERRED THE UK PROPOSAL, AND THE COMMISSION AGREED TO ADOPT IT.

6. THE UK PROPOSAL DIFFERS FROM THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL IN SEVERAL RESPECTS: ELIMINATION OF THE "MAY CONTAIN" OPTION, AND INTRODUCTION OF THE CONCEPT OF A THRESHOLD LEVEL AND A "NEGATIVE LIST" OF PRODUCTS WHICH WOULD NOT NEED TO BE LABELED. THE COUNCIL WAS UNABLE TO AGREE ON EITHER A THRESHOLD OR A NEGATIVE LIST, BUT BY ESTABLISHING THE CONCEPT IN THE REGULATION THE DETAILS CAN BE WORKED OUT IN FUTURE STANDING FOOD COMMITTEE MEETINGS WITHOUT REWORKING THE ENTIRE REGULATION. THE ORIGINAL UK PROPOSAL'S NEGATIVE LIST INCLUDED VEGETABLE OILS AND STARCHES.

7. NEXT STEP: ALTHOUGH THE STANDING FOOD COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET ON JUNE 17, AT THIS TIME GMO LABELING IS NOT ON THE AGENDA. ACCORDING TO A UK REP, MEMBER STATES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON NEGATIVE LISTS AND THRESHOLDS TO THE COMMISSION BY THE END OF JULY, IN WHICH CASE FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE FORTHCOMING

NO EARLIER THAN THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE STANDING FOODS COMMITTEE.

8. ALTHOUGH THIS REGULATION APPLIES ONLY TO PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM THE TWO GMO'S ALREADY APPROVED FOR SALE IN THE EU, PRESUMABLY IT WILL BE A PRECEDENT AND MODEL FOR IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS OF THE MORE COMPREHENSIVE NOVEL UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 003326

FAS FOR ITP/THORN/CHESLEY/SHEIKH
FAS FOR OAA/GALVIN
FAS FOR OFSTS SLUTSKY
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: EU PASSES GMO LABELING REGULATION

FOODS LAW.

9. COMMENT: AT THIS TIME THE REGULATION REMAINS SO VAGUE THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WHAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO COMPLY. IT IS EQUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT THE TRADE EFFECT. SEVERAL MEMBER STATES ALREADY HAVE RULES OR VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS ON GMO LABELING; WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY DEFINITIVE REPORT ON CO+SUMER REACTION. IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE TO SURVEY MEMBER STATE AUTHORITIES TO ASK HOW THEY INTEND TO ENFORCE THIS REGULATION. END COMMENT. (DRAFTED: RGIFFORD)

WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 3326
<^SSN>3326
TOR: 980529152755 M3311149
<^TOR>980529152043 M3311129
DIST:
SIT: NSC