

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Corn] (3 pages)	06/04/1998	P1/b(1) <i>✓ 4/3/2020</i>
002. cable	Re: [French] (4 pages)	06/04/1998	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: [GMO Approvals] (4 pages)	06/04/1998	P1/b(1) <i>✓ 4/3/2020</i>
004. cable	Re: Demarche on GMO Corn Approval (4 pages)	06/05/1998	P1/b(1) <i>✓ 4/3/2020</i>
005. cable	Re: U.S. Position on GMO Corn Approval (2 pages)	06/12/1998	P1/b(1) <i>✓ 4/3/2020</i>
006. cable	Re: [GMO Trials] [incomplete message] (3 pages)	06/26/1998	P1/b(1) <i>✓ 4/3/2020</i>
007. cable	Re: [GMO Trials] [incomplete message] (2 pages)	06/26/1998	P1/b(1) <i>✓ 4/3/2020</i>
008. cable	Re: GMO: Where Does France Stand? (3 pages)	06/26/1998	P1/b(1) <i>✓ 4/3/2020</i>

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[06/04/1998 - 06/26/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3010

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]
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- 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: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHCAA9873 1550205-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 040203Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 040203Z JUN 98
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO: ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN: DEMARCHE SEEKING
FRENCH APPROVAL FOR TWO NEW VARIETIES

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VJ NARA, Date 11/26/2014
7016-0524 - M (2.00)

TEXT:
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE 099873

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/3/08
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN: DEMARCHE SEEKING
FRENCH APPROVAL FOR TWO NEW VARIETIES

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY EUR PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY E. ANTHONY WAYNE. REASON 1.5(D)
2. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA 6.
3. ~~(S)~~ FRANCE IS WITHHOLDING MARKETING CONSENT FOR TWO U.S. VARIETIES OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED CORN UNTIL AFTER ITS BIOTECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE ON JUNE 20-21. IT SEEMS THAT U.S. EXPORTERS WILL LOSE OUT ON ALL OPPORTUNITIES TO BID ON THE REMAINING SPANISH CORN IMPORT CONTRACTS, WHICH POSSIBLY EXCEED USD 120 MILLION, WITH SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. EU TRADE.
4. ~~(S)~~ THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION APPROVED THREE GMO VARIETIES ON APRIL 22 AFTER AN EXTENDED PROCESS. FRANCE INTRODUCED TWO OF THE PRODUCTS INTO THE EU APPROVAL PROCESS AND THE UK THE THIRD. BEFORE THE PRODUCTS CAN BE MARKETED, HOWEVER, THE SPONSORS OF THE VARIETIES MUST GRANT THEIR FINAL CONSENT. KRENCH OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THEY WILL DO THIS ONLY OFFICIALS ADMIT THAT THE DELAY IN GRANTING CONSENT IS NOT BASED ON SCIENTIFIC GROUNDS, BUT CONCERN OVER NEGATIVE POLITICAL REACTION FROM FRENCH CONSUMER GROUPS AND CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE GREEN PARTY. THE UNITED STATES CANNOT ACCEPT SUCH A LARGE AND UNWARRANTED LOSS IN TRADE.

FRANCE 'S INACTION IS ELEVATING THIS TRADE DISPUTE INTO AN URGENT BILATERAL MATTER GIVEN THE INTENSE INDUSTRY AND POLITICAL PRESSURE IN THE U.S. TO RESPOND. THE UK HAS ALSO NOT GRANTED PERMISSION, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THAT APPROVAL WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

5. ~~(C)~~ WE ARE URGING THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES TO RECONSIDER THEIR DECISION TO DELAY APPROVING THE CORN VARIETIES SO THAT U.S. EXPORTERS STILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BID ON REMAINING CONTRACTS BEFORE THE CORN IMPORT SEASON CLOSES IN JUNE. IF WE DO NOT HAVE INDICATIONS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS THAT THIS WILL OCCUR, WE WANT THE FRENCH AND OTHER EU MEMBERS TO KNOW THAT THE U.S. WILL CONSIDER OPTIONS TO PROTECT ITS TRADE INTERESTS.

6. ~~(C)~~ ACTION FOR PARIS AND LONDON: AMBASSADOR OR DCM IN PARIS SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING KEY POINTS IN EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE TRADE DISRUPTION. POINTS SHOULD BE MADE TO APPROPRIATE SENIOR-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN THE FOREIGN AND AGRICULTURAL MINISTRIES AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SECRETARIES ALBRIGHT AND GLICKMAN AND USTR BARSHEFSKY WILL SEND LETTERS TO THEIR FREEH COUNTERPARTS TO UNDERSCORE U.S. VIEWS. EMBASSY LONDON SHOULD DELIVER RELEVANT POINTS TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS.

KEY POINTS:

- THE UNITED STATES IS DEEPLY TROUBLED BY THE PROSPECT OF THE LOSS OF U.S. CORN EXPORTS TO THE EU THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF DELAYS IN GRANTING APPROVAL TO THREE GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN VARIETIES.
- ALTHOUGH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION GRANTED FINAL MARKETING CONSENT TO THESE CORN VARIETIES ON APRIL 22, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS STILL BEEN BLOCKING THEIR IMPORTATION INTO THE EU. SCIENTIFIC REVIEWS BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAVE SHOWN THESE PRODUCTS TO BE SAFE. CONTINUING DELAYS APPEAR TO BE MOTIVATED BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONCERNS, RATHER THAN SCIENTIFIC CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR SAFETY. THIS RAISES

QUESTIONS OF GOOD FAITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU DECISION TO GRANT FINAL MARKETING CONSENT.

- THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN VERY PATIENT WITH THE EU DURING THE EXTREMELY LENGTHY APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THESE PRODUCTS.
- WE HAVE RESPECTED THE RIGHT OF THE EU TO CONDUCT ITS OWN SCIENTIFIC REVIEWS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE ALWAYS EXPECTED THAT, ONCE THE REVIEWS WERE COMPLETED AND THE PRODUCTS FOUND TO BE SAFE, THEY WOULD BE ALLOWED INTO THE EU.
- AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THE LOSS OF 220 MILLION DOLLARS IN CORN EXPORTS THIS YEAR (OVER USD 120 MILLION SINCE THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION GRANTED ITS APPROVAL ON APRIL 22) IS AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ISSUE IN THE UNITED STATES. IT

IS GENERATING INTENSE PRESSURE FROM OUR FARMERS AND OUR CONGRESS TO RESPOND STRONGLY.

- THE UNITED STATES IS CONSIDERING OPTIONS TO PROTECT ITS TRADE INTERESTS.
- WE WANT TO AVOID HAVING THIS BECOME AN ISSUE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY ON THE EVE OF PRIME MINISTER JOSPIN' 5 VISIT TO THE U.S. WE HOPE THAT FRANCE WILL APPROVE THE TWO VARIETIES OF CORN BEFORE THE VISIT SO THAT U.S. EXPORTERS STILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BID ON CONTRAC(S BEFORE THE IMPORT SEASON ENDS IN JUNE, OR, FAILING THAT, MAKE A BINDING DECISION TO ADD THIS YEAR'S QUOTAS TO NEXT YEAR'S.
- THERE ARE ALSO A NUMBER OF GMO VARIETIES STILL IN THE EU APPROVAL PROCESS, WHICH ARE ALREADY APPROVED IN THE U.S. WE THUS WOULD LIKE FRANCE'S ACTIVE LEADERSHIP IN ESTABLISHING AN ACCELERATED U.S.-EU (AND BILATERAL) DIALOGUE ON HOW TO ASSURE THAT THE EU APPROVAL PROCESS FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS WORKS ON A TIMELY FASHION AND AVOIDS FUTURE TRADE DISRUPTION.

END TALKING POINTS.

7. ~~(c)~~ ACTION FOR OTHER EU POSTS. IF POSTS BELIEVE THAT A DEMARCHE WOULD BE HELPFUL, THEY SHOULD FIND AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. IN MAKING YOUR PRESENTATION, YOU CAN NOTE THAT CONSEQUENCES OF TRADE DISRUPTION COULD AFFECT BROADER EU INTERESTS AND NOT JUST THOSE OF FRANCE.
TALBOTT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 9873

TOR: 980603220718 M3318760

DIST:

SIT: ANTHOLIS MCELDFOWNEY ORFINI SANDALOW
SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

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002. cable	Re: [French] (4 pages)	06/04/1998	P1/b(1)

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NSC Cables
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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA4969 1551502-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 041502Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 041502Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6538
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0268
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA 0575
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0521
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0421
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 0311
RUEHSF/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 0239
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0068
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1572
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0138
SUBJ: GMO SEMINARS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA,
AND HUNGARY

STCABLE 821

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 VIENNA 004969

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; USTR/JIM MURPHY, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS PASS OSEC/DRAZEK, ALSO FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
OFSTS/HARBERT AND SLUTSKY, EAMED/THORN, ICD/RSED/BECK,
COMMODITY DIVISIONS, FAA/LETARTE
USDA PASS APHIS FOR PAYNE AND SCHECHTMAN,
BRUSSELS FOR USEU, PASS AGRICULTURE AND APHIS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, HU, EZ, PL, LO
SUBJECT: GMO SEMINARS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA,
AND HUNGARY

STCABLE 821

(U) THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

1. (U) SUMMARY:THE FAS AND APHIS REGIONAL OFFICE IN VIENNA
ORGANIZED AND SPONSORED GMO SEMINARS IN PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC;
BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA; AND BUDAPEST, HUNGARY MAY 18-20 WITH
REPRESENTATIVES FROM APHIS/WASHINGTON, APHIS/BRUSSELS AND

HEALTH CANADA/OTTAWA PRESENT. THE MEETINGS WERE WELL ATTENDED BY THE HOST COUNTRIES' GMO REGULATORY AGENCIES, RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND INDUSTRY. THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES WERE TO PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE REGULATORY PROCESS IN THE US AND CANADA AND TO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE PENDING GMO LEGISLATION IN COUNTRIES WHICH WILL FOLLOW GENERAL EU REGULATIONS. THE TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE THREE COUNTRIES REALIZE THAT THE CURRENT EU DIRECTIVES ARE GENERALLY CONFUSING AND NOT RESPONSIVE TO EITHER THE PUBLIC OR THE INDUSTRY. A STRONG INTEREST WAS EXPRESSED IN CONTINUING A DIALOGUE WITH THE US AND CANADA TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRANSPARENT BUT PRACTICAL REGULATORY SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

GMO SEMINARS

2. (U) USDA REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDED AGATT KEITH SCHNELLER; NICHOLAS GUTIERREZ, APHIS PLANT ATTACHE IN BRUSSELS; JOHN PAYNE, APHIS/WASH DC DIRECTOR OF PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES; AND PAUL MYERS, DIRECTOR OF FOOD BIOTECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN OTTAWA. DRS. PAYNE AND MEYERS WERE THE FEATURED SPEAKERS AND ENTITLED THEIR PRESENTATIONS, "THE NORTH AMERICAN EXPERIENCE WITH GMO'S AND THE REGULATORY SYSTEM." THE PRESENTATIONS FOCUSED ON THE REGULATORY/APPROVAL PROCESS USED IN EACH COUNTRY AND HOW PUBLIC CONFIDENCE/ACCEPTANCE WAS GAINED CONCERNING THE PLANT PEST, FOOD SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SURROUNDING THE NEW TECHNOLOGY. ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION/ANSWER PERIODS WERE SOMEWHAT SUBDUED BY US AND CANADIAN STANDARDS, THE QUESTIONS WERE VERY TECHNICAL AND THE PARTICIPANTS EXTREMELY INTERESTED.

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

3. (SBU) DR. JAROSLAV DROBNIK OF CHARLES UNIVERSITY WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN COORDINATING THE PRAGUE SEMINAR WHICH INCLUDED A FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY 15-20 REPORTERS FROM LEADING CZECH NEWSPAPERS AND TELEVISION NEWS. DR. DROBNIK IS VERY WELL RESPECTED WITHIN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND IS A LEADING PROPONENT OF GMO'S IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC. HE HAS BEEN WORKING TIRELESSLY DURING THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS TO PROMOTE THE BENEFITS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TO EDUCATE REGULATORS, POLITICIANS, THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.

4. (SBU) THE CONFERENCE WAS HELD AT THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES WITH APPROXIMATELY 50 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE. BESIDES THE US AND CANADIAN PRESENTATIONS, OTHER PRIMARY SPEAKERS WERE DRS. JULIAN KENDERLERER AND DESMOND MAHON OF THE UK, ING. ELISA BARAHONA OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN SPAIN AND DR. FERNANDO REGEATIERO OF A UNIVERSITY IN PORTUGAL. DR. MAHON COVERED THE STATE OF NEGOTIATION ON A BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL UNDER THE CONVENTION OF BIODIVERSITY WHILE DR. REGEATIERO GAVE A VERY ENTERTAINING AND PSEUDO-PHILOSOPHICAL PRESENTATION ON THE USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES (NOT ONLY GMO'S) AROUND THE WORLD.

5. (SBU) THE MORE INTERESTING ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE CENTERED ON DR. KENDERLERER AND DR. BARAHO NA'S PRESENTATIONS. DR. KENDERLERER DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS THE GMO EXPERT ADVISOR TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND A MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN LEGISLATION TO THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (MAFF). HIS PRESENTATION WAS BASICALLY UNCONTROVERSIAL AND COVERED THE CURRENT EXISTING EU LEGISLATION AND PROPOSAL TO MODIFY DIRECTIVE 90/220. HOWEVER, DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING HIS PRESENTATIONS, KENDERLERER ATTACKED THE US FOR TRYING TO CIRCUMVENT THE EU REGULATORY PROCESS BY "IGNORING" SAFETY ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS. THE CRITICISM CAME WITHOUT WARNING AND WE LATER LEARNED THAT HE WAS AGITATED BY HIS INTERPRETATION UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 VIENNA 004969

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; USTR/JIM MURPHY, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS PASS OSEC/DRAZEK, ALSO FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
OFSTS/HARBERT AND SLUTSKY, EAMED/THORN, ICD/RSED/BECK,
COMMODITY DG VISIONS, FAA/LETARTE
USDA PASS APHIS FOR PAYNE AND SCHECHTMAN,
BRUSSELS FOR USEU, PASS AGRICULTURE AND APHIS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, HU, EZ, PL, LO
SUBJECT: GMO SEMINARS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA,
AND HUNGARY

OF COMMENTS MADE BY FAS/W REPRESENTATIVE SAIG THORN DURING A GMO SEMINAR HELD IN BRUSSELS IN APRIL AND REPORTED IN THE MAY 1 EDITION OF AGRA EUROPE. THE PRESS VIRTUALLY IGNORED THE COMMENT AND CAME BACK BY ASKING HIM IF HE FELT THE CURRENT EU POLICY ON GMO'S WAS A DISGUISED NON-TARIFF TRADE BARRIER.

6. (SBU) DR. ELISA BARAHONA EXPLAINED HOW SPAIN WORKED WITHIN THE EU FRAMEWORK TO ESTABLISH A MORE FLEXIBLE AND TIMELY REGULATORY AND APPROVAL PROCESS. SHE ADDED THAT THERE WERE STILL MANY PROBLEMS WITH THEIR CURRENT SYSTEM AND WERE UNDER CONTINUAL PRESSURE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL/CONSUMZR GROUPS AND THE INDUSTRY. DR. DROBNIK LATER STATED THAT HE HAD INVITED SPAIN TO THE CONFERENCE BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THE SPANIARDS ARE MORE FLEXIBLE AND ACCEPTING OF GMO'S IN COMPARISON TO OTHER EU MEMBER COUNTRIES SUCH AS FRANCE, AUSTRIA, AND LUXEMBOURG.

7. (SBU) COMMENT: PAYNE AND MAYERS BOTH COMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE EU, THE SPANISH SYSTEM MOST CLOSELY RESEMBLES THE SYSTEMS USED IN NORTH AMERICA AND WOULD BE A GOOD MODEL FOR CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW IN IMPLEMENTING EU REGULATIONS. END COMMENT.

BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

8. (SBU) DR. LUOMIR HORVATH OF THE CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INSPECTION AND TESTING IN AGRICULTURE (UKSUP) COORDINATED THE CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY 25 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE INSTITUTE, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, AND INDUSTRY REPS (PIONEER SEED AND MONSANTO). DR. HORVATH IS THE HEAD OF A NEW BIOTECH DIVISION AT THE INSTITUTE AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING TOGETHER A SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SLOVAK GOVERNMENT ON BIOTECHNOLOGY. HE WILL PLAY A LEAD ROLE IN PREPARING LEGISLATION FOR PARLIAMENT ON THE

REGULATION OF GMOS.

12. (U) NEARLY HALF OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE BRATISLAVA SEMINAR. DRS. PAYNE AND MYERS WERE THE ONLY SPEAKERS AND THE MEETING WENT VERY WELL. A SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION FOLLOWED REGARDING THE REGULATORY PROCESS, FOOD SAFETY/ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, LABELING, LEGAL LIABILITY AND CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE IN EACH OF THE COUNTRIES.

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

13. (U) PROFESSOR JANOS DOHY AND DR. DENES DUDITS OF THE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ORGANIZED THE CONFERENCE WITH APPROXIMATELY 25 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE. REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, RESEARCHERS FROM SZEGED AND GODOLLO UNIVERSITIES, THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR (PIONEER SEED AND MONSANTO). AS IN PRAGUE AND BRATISLAVA, THE MEETING WENT VERY WELL WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS EXTREMELY INTERESTED AND RECEPTIVE TO THE PRESENTATIONS BY DRS. PAYNE AND MAYERS

14. (SBU) THE TIMING OF THE VISIT WAS CRITICAL IN HUNGARY BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF GMO LEGISLATION. DR. ROBERT LUPOCZ AND MS. AGNES SZABO OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE MET PRIVATELY WITH THE GROUP BEFORE THE PRESENTATIONS AND EXPLAINED THAT THEY HAD SPENT NEARLY THREE YEARS WORKING ON THE BIOTECH LEGISLATION RECENTLY PASSED BY THE PARLIAMENT. LUPOCZ INDICATED THAT HE IS NOW BUSY DEVELOPING REGULATIONS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE LEGISLATION. HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE HUNGARIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE APPLICATIONS FOR FIELD TRIALS NEXT SEASON. MS. AGNES SZABO OF THE MINAG CONFIDED THAT THEY ARE LOOKING TO MAKE THEIR REGULATORY SYSTEM PRACTICAL AS WELL AS FLEXIBLE WITHIN THE EU FRAMEWORK BUT ALSO STATED THAT GENERAL ELECTIONS WOULD BE OCCURRING WITHIN THE NEXT WEEKS WHICH COULD AFFECT THE PROCESS. MS. SZABO ALSO ADDED THAT VARIOUS RESEARCHERS WERE ALREADY CONDUCTING GMO TESTING UNDER LABORATORY CONDITIONS.

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 VIENNA 004969

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; USTR/JIM MURPHY, FDA AND EPA
USDA FAS PASS OSEC/DRAZEK, ALSO FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
OFSTS/HARBERT AND SLUTSKY, EAMED/THORN, ICD/RSED/BECK,
COMMODITY DIVISIONS, FAA/LETARTE
USDA PASS APHIS FOR PAYNE AND SCHECHTMAN,
BRUSSELS FOR USEU, PASS AGRICULTURE AND APHIS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, HU, EZ, PL, LO
SUBJECT: GMO SEMINARS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA,
AND HUNGARY

15. (SBU) COMMENT. ALL THREE COUNTRIES EXPRESSED A DEEP INTEREST IN COLLABORATING FURTHER WITH THE US AND CANADA TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REGULATORY PROCESS IN EACH COUNTRY. TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE CONTINUITY TO THE SEMINARS, THE US/CANADA TEAM FELT THAT KEY DECISION MAKING REGULATORS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM THE THREE COUNTRIES AND THE SURROUNDING REGION SHOULD BE INVITED TO THE US AND/OR CANADA WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS AND MEET WITH THE PERTINENT REGULATORY AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF UTILIZING CANADA VERSUS THE US FOR THE PROPOSED VISIT TO DEFLECT POSSIBLE CRITICISM FROM THE EU. POST WILL EXPLORE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THE TRAVEL OF A REGIONAL GROUP OF REGULATORS TO NORTH AMERICA IN THE NEXT MONTHS. END COMMENT.

16. (SBU) THIS CABLE INCLUDES INPUT FROM THE APHIS DELEGATION MEMBERS BUT WAS NOT CLEARED BY THEM. HALL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03

<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 4969

<^SSN>4969

<^SSN>4969

TOR: 980604111148 M3319676

<^TOR>9806041111315 M3319679

<^TOR>9806041111331 M3319682

DIST:

SIT: BRADEN DAVIDSON FLANAGAN MCELLOWNEY

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHLOA5756 1551657-CCCC--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH

LINE3: R 041657Z JUN 98

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

OSRI: RUEHLO

DTG: 041657Z JUN 98

ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6658

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0264

SUBJ: UK TO PROD ON GMO APPROVALS; TROIKA MAY PLAY ROLE ON
TEP IMPLEMENTATION

TEXT:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 005756

USTR FOR NOVELLI, MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR
USDA FOR FAS/ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/04/08
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, UK
SUBJECT: UK TO PROD ON GMO APPROVALS; TROIKA MAY PLAY ROLE ON
TEP IMPLEMENTATION

REF: A). STATE 99873

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY: ECONOMICS MINISTER-COUNSELOR CHARLES P.
RIES. REASON: 1.5(D)

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: UK TRADE DG HUTTON TOLD EMIN 6/4 THAT:

-- UK WILL PROD FRENCH ON GMO APPROVAL AT 6/5 113 DEPUTIES;
-- UK'S OWN DELAY IN FINALIZING APPROVAL IS PROBABLY RELATED
TO 6/4 MINISTERIAL MEETING ON BIOTECH; HUTTON EXPECTS QUICK
ACTION BUT WILL FOLLOW-UP WITH AGRICULTURE MINISTRY;
-- COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING HAVING EU TROIKA (UK, AUSTRIAN
AND GERMAN PRESIDENCIES) BE INVOLVED IN "TRANSATLANTIC
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP" (TEP) IMPLEMENTATION;
-- HIS OFFICE IS AWARE OF SERIOUSNESS OF U.S. POSITION ON
BANANAS.

SEPARATELY, HUTTON'S STAFF TOLD ECOUNS:

-- EU WILL LIKELY PURSUE WTO CASE AGAINST FSC, DESPITE OUR
REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS ON EU PRACTICES. END SUMMARY.

GMO CORN

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/16/2019
2016-0524-00 (2.03)

3. (U) EMIN AND ECOUNS DELIVERED REFTTEL TALKING POINTS (EXPRESSING USG CONCERNS ABOUT DELAYS IN GMO CORN APPROVALS) TO UK DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSY (DTI) TRADE POLICY AND EUROPE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TONY HUTTON AND NORTH AMERICA OFFICE DIRECTOR JOHN FOGGO ON JUNE 4. AT THE SAME TIME, EMIN EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS THAT THE UK HAD NOT FINALIZED ITS OWN GMO APPROVAL, DESPITE HMG ASSURANCES A FEW WEEKS AGO (LONDON 4756).

4. (C) HUTTON UNDERSTANDS THE U.S. CONCERN ABOUT THE DELAY IN THE FRENCH APPROVAL OF THE GMO CORN, AND AGREED THAT THE JUNE 20 CONFERENCE IN PARIS COULD EASILY MAKE APPROVAL MORE DIFFICULT. HE IS AWARE THE EU IS OBLIGED TO IMPORT THE CORN AS PART OF THE XXIV:6 COMPENSATION FOR THE SPAIN/PORTUGAL ENLARGEMENT, AND ACCEPTS THAT THE OPTIONS ARE IMMEDIATE FRENCH APPROVAL, SOME OTHER "QUICK FIX" TO LET SPAIN AND PORTUGAL IMPORT THE CORN, OR ROLL-OVER OF THE QUOTA TO NEXT YEAR. HE AGREED TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH FRENCH TRADE D-G DELAJUGIE AT NEXT WEEK'S MEETING OF EU TRADE DIRECTORS-GENERAL, AND INSTRUCTED FOGGO TO HAVE THE U REPRESENTATIVE TO THE 113 DEPUTIES RAISE IT WITH THE FRENCH AT 6/5 MEETING OF THAT GROUP.

5. (C) HUTTON WAS UNAWARE OF THE DELAY IN THE UK "FINAL CONSENT" FOR THE GMO CORN VARIETY IT SPONSORED. HE PROMISED TO FOLLOW-UP WITH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTUD, FOOD AND FISHERIES (MAFF). RECALLING THE UK'S GENERALLY FAVORABLE PRE-DISPOSITION TO BIOTECHNOLOGY, HE DOUBTED THE DELAY REPRESENTED ANY PRINCIPLED PROBLEM. INSTEAD, HUTTON SPECULATED THAT THE CONSENT HAD BEEN PUT OFF UNTIL AFTER A MINISTERIAL MEETING ON BIOTECHNOLOGY SCHEDULED FOR THIS AFTERNOON (JUNE 4). AGRICULTURE MINISTER CUNNINGHAM, MAFF JUNIOR MINISTER ROOKER, SCIENCE MINISTER BATTLE AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER MEACHER ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING. HUTTON PROMISED TO GET BACK TO EMIN ON THIS AS SOON AS HE HAD HAD WORD FROM MAFF. (NOTE: PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTTEL, AG MINCOUNS HEARD FROM UK ENVIRONMENT OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPROVALS THAT MAFF -- WHICH IS STILL SMARTING FROM THE FALLOUT FROM BSE -- IS THE ONE MINISTRY THAT HAS NOT YET SIGNED OFF.)

TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

6. (C) THE UK SHARES US CONCERN ABOUT THE SLOWNESS OF FOLLOW-THROUGH ON THE "TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP" (TEP) ANNOUNCED AT THE MAY 18 US-EU SUMMIT. NOTING THAT PAUL MADDEN OF THE UK EMBASSY HAD DISCUSSED THIS WITH AUSTR NOVELLI ON JUNE 3, HUTTON SAID HE CALLED EU COMMISSN DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL GERARD DEPAYRE ABOUT IT EARLIER TODAY. DEPAYRE REPORTED THE COMMISSION SERVICES ARE STILL DEBATING NEXT STEPS. DEPAYRE ALSO SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE COMMISSION IS CONSIDERINHAVING THE EU TROIKA (THE CURRENT, PREVIOUS AND NEXT EU PRESIDENCIES, IN THIS CASE THE UK, AUSTRIA AND GERMANY) PLAY A PART IN FOLLOW-UP, GIVEN THE PROMINENT ROLE THE UK PRESIDENCY PLAYED IN NEGOTIATING THE ACCORD AFTER THE FRENCH REACTED SO NEGATIVELY TO SIR LEON BRITTAN'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. HUTTON, NOTING THE VERY AGGRESSIVE POSITION THE

GERMANTOOK AGAINST THE FRENCH IN THE MAY 17 113 MEETING JUST BEFORE THE SUMMIT, SPECULATED THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE REASSURING TO WASHINGTON; EMIN AGREED IT WOULD.

BANANAS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 005756

USTR FOR NOVELLI, MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTRUSDA FOR FAS/ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/04/08
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EUN, UK
SUBJECT: UK O PROD ON GMO APPROVALS; TROIKA MAY PLAY ROLE ON
TEP IMPLEMENTATION

REF: A). STAT99873

7. ~~(S)~~ HUTTON ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF A COPY OF USTR AMBASSADOR SCHER'S MAY 28 LETTER TO EU COMMISSION AGRICULTURE DIRECTOR-GENERAL GUY LEGRAS, WHICH REITERATES OUR BELIEF THAT THE COMMISSION BANANAS PROPOSAL IS NOT WTO-CONSISTENT AND WHICH UNDERLINES OUR WILLINGNESS TO "EXERCISE OUR FULL RIGHTS UNDER THE WTO" IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED AS IS. (ECOUNS FORWARDED THE LETTER TO HUTTON'S OFFICE ON JUNE 2.) ALTHOUGH PRPFESSING HE DID NOT WANT TO TALK ABOUT BANANAS, HUTTON SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE USG'S POSITION, WHICH WE HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY AND CLEARLY, MOST RECENTLY BY USTR BARSHEFSKY DURING THE MAY 18 US-EU SUMMIT. THE CONCERNED HMG DEPARTMENTS MEET ON BANANAS TOMORROW (JUNE 5) AFTERNOON, HUTTON SAID, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT EXPRESS ANY HOPE HMG WOULD CHANGE ITS STANCE OF SUPPORTING THE COMMISSION APPROACH. (NOTE: ALL THE KEY PARTICIPANTS IN THS MEETING HAVE ALSO RECEIVED A COPY OF THE SCHER LETTER, INCLUDING MARTIN DONNELLY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN SECRETARIAT IN THE CABINET OFFICE, WHO IS LIKELY TO CHAIR THE MEETING. ECOUNS IS SCHEDULED TO SEE DONNELLY MONDAY AFTERNOON.)

BARLEY/WHEAT GLUTEN

8. ~~(S)~~ HUTTON DID NOT RAISE THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO PROVIDE IMPORT RELIEF FOR U.S. WHEAT GLUTEN PRODUCERS, BUT DID JOIN IN THE GENERAL LAUGHTER OVER EMIN'S PROFESSED ASTONISHMENT THAT A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN WOULD CHARACTERIZE OUR EEP-SUBSIDY OF BARLEY EXPORTS TO NORWAY, CYPRUS AND ALGERIA AS "A TOTALLY DISPROPORTIONATE RESPONSE" TO THE EU'S SALE OF SUBSIDIZED BARLEY INTO THE UNITED STATES.

FSC

9. ~~(S)~~ IN A SEPARATE MEETING, FOGGO AND MARY GREW, HEAD OF DIT'S WTO POLICY SECTION, REPORTED TO ECOUNS THEY EXPECT THE EU WILL GO AHEAD WITH ITS WTO CASE AGAINST THE U.S.'S FOREIGN SALES CORPORATION (FSC) SCHEME. THEY REPORTED THAT THIS HAD RECENTLY BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE 113 DEPUTIES COMMITTEE, AND,

WHILE THE EU HAD NOT FOUND ANY SNIFICANT USE OF THE FSC FOR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS, MEMBER STATES WERE STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROGRAM. THE U.S. REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS ON TAX-DISTORTING PRACTICES IN FIVE EU MEMBER STATES, THEY SAID, WAS CONSIDERED INCONSEQUENTIAL. ALTHOUGH THE UK HAD NOT YET FORMALLY DETERMINED ITS POSITION ON THIS, FOGGO AND GREW IMPLIED LONDON WILL SUPPORT GOING TO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT. THE FACT THAT NY LARGE UK-OWNED COMPANIES BASED IN THE UNITED STATES ALSO MAKE USE OF THE PROGRAM IS NOT DISSUASIVE (AND INDEED COULD WORK THE OTHER WAY), AND A CHALLENGE TO "U.S. SUBSIDIES" WILL BE "DIFFICULT TO TURN DOWN." LADER

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

SSN: 5756
<^SSN>5756

TOR: 980604130615 M3319891
<^TOR>980604130631 M3319892

DIST: SIT: BANDLER BOONE BROWN BUTLER DAVIDSON HAINES KYLE LEE MCELLOWNEY SAPIRO
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHFRA2551 1561547-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 051547Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 051547Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6494
INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0565
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 3591
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 1102
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 1595
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0474
SUBJ: DEMARCHE ON GMO CORN APPROVAL

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VR NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2016-0529-m (2.04)

TEXT: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 012551

STATE PASS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 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

USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR AND FOR RESSLER

EU POSTS FOR ECON AND AGR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/5/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, FR, US, EUN
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON GMO CORN APPROVAL

REF: STATE 99873

CLASSIFIED BY EMIN JOHN MEDEIROS FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

1. ~~(e)~~ SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR AND DCM MADE REFTEL DEMARCHE JUNE 5 TO
JEAN-MAURICE RIPERT, THE PRIME MINISTER'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER,
EMPHASIZING THE POLITICAL NATURE OF THE GMO APPROVAL PROBLEM AND
UNDERSCORING OUR POSITION THAT IT BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE PRIME
MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON JUNE 17-19. RIPERT SAID HE WAS
UNCERTAIN IT COULD BE RESOLVED THAT QUICKLY. IN A SEPARATE
MEETING, CLAUDE CHEREAU, THE PM'S AGRICULTURE ADVISER, TOLD EMIN
AND AGMINCOUNS THAT A FINAL FRENCH DECISION TO ACCEPT GMO CORNS WAS
HIGHLY UNLIKELY BEFORE THE CONFERENCE ON CONSENSUS ON JUNE 19-20.
HOWEVER, HE DID ALLUDE TO EFFORTS IN BRUSSELS TO OPEN THE SPANISH

TENDER TO AMERICAN CORN EVEN BEFORE FORMAL FRENCH FORWARDING OF THE DOSSIERS ACCEPTING THE GMO CORN VARIETIES, AND SAID THAT SEEMED LIKE AN IDEA WORTH SUPPORTING. HE ALSO TOOK NOTE OF OUR REQUEST (REFTEL) FOR CARRYOVER OF THIS YEAR'S QUOTA TO NEXT YEAR, AND OBSERVED THAT PRECEDENTS EXIST FOR SUCH A MOVE. END SUMMARY.

2. ~~(C)~~ AMBASSADO8AND DCM TOLD RIPERT THAT THE GMO APPROVAL ISSUE IS SERIOUS AND COULD THREATEN THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE JOSPIN VISIT. DCM EMPHASIZED THAT AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES ARE RECEIVING GREAT ATTENTION IN WASHINGTON, AND CITED THE EDITORIAL REACTION ACROSS THE U.S. MIDWEST TO THE BARLEY SUBSIDY ISSUE AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW VOLATILE AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES CAN BE IN THE U.S. WITH REGARD TO GMOS, THE U.S. CANNOT UNDERSTAND FRANCE'S PROBLEM; FRANCE IS A LEADER IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND UNDERSTANDS FULL WELL THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THIS TECHNOLOGY. WE UNDERLINED THE NEED TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE TWO GMO CORN APPROVALS BEFORE PRIME MINISTER JOSPIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON THIS MONTH - NOTING THAT THIS IS REALLY A POLITICAL, NOT AN ECONOMIC OR SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM.

3. ~~(C)~~ RIPERT RESPONDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE BUT SAID HE WAS NOT CERTAIN IT COULD BE RESOLVED BEFORE JOSPIN'S VISIT. HE ASKED THAT EMBASSY DISCUSS THE ISSUE IN GREATER DETAIL WITH CLAUDE CHEREAU, THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISER FOR AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS. HE SAID HE WOULD BRIEF CHEREAU ON OUR DEMARCHE. DCM TOLD RIPERT THAT WE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH CHEREAU RIGHT AWAY.

4. ~~(C)~~ EMIN AND AGMIN MET WITH CHEREAU LATER THE SAME DAY. THEY PRESENTED A NON-PAPER DRAWN FROM REFTEL, AND REITERATED THAT -- WITH MAJOR LOSSES NOW BEING INCURRED BY U.S. EXPORTERS -- THIS ISSUE HAD GONE FROM THE REALM OF THE TECHNICAL TO THE HIGHLY POLITICAL. CHEREAU (WHO KNOWS THE DOSSIER WELL), SAID HE TOOK THE ISSUE VERY SERIOUSLY, AND OBSERVED THAT OUR DEMARCHE INDICATED WE WERE GIVING IT NEW IMPORTANCE, A FACTOR ALSO UNDERLINED IN MEETINGS LAST WEEK BY FRENCH EMBASSY AGCOUNS PAILLE AND AMB SCHER.

5. ~~(C)~~ CHEREAU OUTLINED THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS THIS ISSUE POSED FOR THE JOSPIN GOVERNMENT. THE GREENS, AS WELL AS A PART OF THE SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, JOINED NGOS LIKE GREENPEACE WHICH WERE OPPOSING AUTHORIZATION FOR GMO VARIETIES. THE GOVERNMENT HAD DESIGNED ITS LATE JUNE "CONFERENCE ON CONSENSUS" WITH THE IDEA THAT IT WOULD GIVE A CLEAR VISION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE TECHNOLOGIES -- TO PROVIDE REASONS WHY THEY ARE ACCEPTABLE. THE PROBLEM IS TO CONVINCE CONSUMERS AND POLITICIANS TO SUPPORT EVENTUAL POSITIVE DECISIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE READY BEFORE THE END OF JUNE, WITH A MORE COMPLETE REPORT LATER IN THE FALL. HOWEVER, CHEREAU SAID, IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO MAKE DECISIONS ON THE GMO CORN VARIETIES. "I CANNOT TELL YOU IT WILL HAPPEN BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT. THAT SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY."

6. ~~(C)~~ EMIN AND AGMIN OBSERVED THAT THE ISSUE WAS NOW CREATING POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN THE UNITED STATES AS WELL. IF IT WERE NOT ON THE ROAD TO RESOLUTION BEFORE THE JOSPIN VISIT, WE COULD NOT RULE OUT POSSIBLE NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS, SUCH AS DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRONT OF BLAIR HOUSE AND ATTENDANT PUBLICITY THAT WOULD ATTRACT EVEN MORE NEGATIVE ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE.

7. ~~(C)~~ EMIN ASKED ABOUT REPORTS FROM BRUSSELS THAT SOME SORT OF SOLUTION OPENING THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE TENDERS TO U.S. PARTICIPATION WAS BEING CONSIDERED. CHEREAU CONFIRMED THAT THE EU COMMISSION IS WORKING ON AN ATTEMPT TO ALLOW IMPORTS OF U.S. CORN EVEN WITHOUT FORMAL FRENCH APPROVAL OF THE PORTFOLIO. PERSONALLY, ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 012551

STATE PASS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 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

USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR AND FOR RESSLER

EU POSTS FOR ECON AND AGR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/5/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, FR, US, EUN
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON GMO CORN APPROVAL

REF: STATE 99873

HE THOUGHT THIS WAS SOMETHING FRANCE COULD SUPPORT. BeU THIS WAS ALSO A COURSE WITH SOME RISK: IF GROUPS (NGOS?) OPPOSED TO GMOS IN SPAIN OR PORTUGAL DECIDED TO MAKE A FUSS, IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW THE LEGAL SITUATION WOULD SORT OUT. IT WAS ALSO LATE IN THE YEAR, AS THE SPANISH HARVEST WOULD BE ON THE MARKET RELATIVELY SOON. SO HE WAS NOT SURE HOW MUCH CORN COULD BE IMPORTED THIS YEAR UNDER THIS SOLUTION. BUT IT WAS WORTH CONSIDERING, AND THE PROCESS HAD BEGUN DURING YESTERDAY'S GRAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING IN BRUSSELS.

8. ~~(C)~~ CHEREAU ALSO NOTED THE LANGUAGE IN OUR DEMARCHE WHICH ASKED FOR A ROLLOVER OF THIS YEAR'S QUOTA TO THE NEXT YEAR. HE NOTED THERE WAS PRECEDENT FOR THIS. (APPARENTLY, IN THE MID-80S DURING THE PHASE-IN OF EU ENLARGEMENT THE COMMISSION WAS SLOW IN ORGANIZING THE TENDERS, AND ONE YEAR'S QUOTA WAS ROLLED OVER TO THE NEXT.)

9. ~~(C)~~ BUT THIS WAS NOT THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION. HE NOTED THAT EVEN THE GMO CORN WHICH WAS APPROVED FOR ENTRY INTO FRANCE (NOVARTIS') WAS HAVING PROBLEMS; IMPORTERS WERE AFRAID TO ACCEPT IT BECAUSE THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT POPULAR REACTIONS -- BOYCOTTS, ETC. AS A RESULT OF THIS SAME CONCERN, LESS THAN 1,000 HECTARES IN FRANCE HAD BEEN SOWN WITH NOVARTIS' CORN, SINCE FARMERS WERE WORRIED THAT NGOS WOULD S@GE ATTEMPTS TO UPROOT IT. THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION HAD TO PERSUADE THE PUBLIC THESE PRODUCTS WERE ACCEPTABLE. (HE ALSO NOTED THAT SPANISH FARMERS HAD SOWN MUCH MORE GMO CORN THAN WAS THE CASE IN FRANCE, AND THAT THIS WOULD ADD TO THE PROBLEMS IN THE COMING MONTHS.)

10. ~~(C)~~ EMIN REITERATED THE HIGH POLITICAL PROFILE OF THIS ISSUE, AND ASKED CHEREAU IF HE THOUGHT LETTERS FROM USG CABINET SECRETARIES TO GOF MINISTERS WOULD BE HELPFUL. CHEREAU RESPONDED THAT -- IN LIGHT OF THE POLITICS OF THE ISSUE AND THE UPCOMING JOSPIN KSIT -- LETTERS TO MINISTERS WOULD NOT MAKE MUCH

DIFFERENCE. WHAT MIGHT BE USEFUL WOULD BE A LETTER DIRECTLY TO THE
PRIME MINISTER. EMBASSY IS PREPARING SUCH A LETTER FROM THE
AMBASSADOR (BASED ON REFTEL POINTS) AND WILL TRANSMIT IT SHORTLY.

ROHATYN

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

SSN: 2551
<^SSN>2551

TOR: 980605121844 M3322070
<^TOR>980605121934 M3322071

DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHLOA5873 1591657-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 081657Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG: 081657Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6746
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0266
SUBJ: THE?PRINCE OF WALES REAFFIRMS HIS
OPPOSITION TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS)

TEXT:
UNCLAS LONDON 005873

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR
FAS/ITP/SHEIKH; FAS/ITP/EAME/THORN/CHESLEY;
FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT; FAA/AO/NE/LETARTE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETD, EUN, UK
SUBJECT: THE?PRINCE OF WALES REAFFIRMS HIS
OPPOSITION TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS)

1. THE PRINCE OF WALES, WHO IS AN ORGANIC FARMER AND A VOCAL OPPONENT OF GMOS, WROTE AN ARTICLE IN TODAY'S DAILY TELEGRAPH REAFFIRMING HIS OPPOSITION TO GM CROPS. THE ARTICLE WAS WIDELY REPORTED IN OTHER BRITISH NEWSPAPERS. THE PRINCE SAID THAT HE WILL NOT EAT FOOD MADE FROM GM PRODUCTS NOR WOULD HE KNOWINGLY GIVE IT TO HIS FAMILY OR GUESTS.

2. PRINCE CHARLES WARNED OF THE DANGERS IN EMBRACING GM CROPS. THE PRINCE BELIEVES THAT GENETIC ENGINEERING "TAKES MANKIND INTO REALMS THAT BELONG TO GOD AND GOD ALONE." HE POINTED OUT THAT SCIENCE DOES NOT KNOW THE LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF GMOS AND THAT GM CROPS COULD CAUSE NEW FORMS OF QUOTE POLLUTION UNQUOTE THAT WOULD BE SELF PERPETUATING AND DIFFICULT TO CLEAN UP. HE USED THE EXAMPLE OF BSE AS A MAN MADE DISASTER CAUSED BY THE SEARCH FOR CHEAP FOOD.

3. PRINCE CHARLES RAISED SEVERAL CONCERNS IN HIS ARTICLE ABOUT GMOS: (1) GM CROPS ARE CAPABLE OF INTERBREEDING WITH THEIR WILD RELATIVES, CREATING NEW WEEDS WITH BUILT-IN RESISTANCE TO WEEDKILLERS THAT COULD CONTAMINATE OTHER CROPS; (2) GM CROPS THAT CONTAIN THEIR OWN PESTICIDES COULD CAUSE THE

RAPID APPEARANCE OF RESISTANT INSECTS. MOREOVER,
SUCH GM CROPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SHOWN TO KILL
BENEFICIAL PREDATOR INSECTS AS WELL AS PESTS; AND
(3) THERE IS NO OFFICIAL REQUIREMENT TO MONITOR
GMOS TO SEE WHAT EXACTLY IS HAPPENING.

4. PRINCE CHARLES REINTERATED HIS SUPPORT FOR
SEGREGATING GMOS AND FOR A COMPREHENSIVE LABELING
SCHEME THROUGHOUT THE FOOD CHAIN. LADER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5873

TOR: 980608130030 M3324942

DIST:

SIT: BUTLER

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 091514Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 091514Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3935
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0181
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0389
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG 0007
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 1212
SUBJ: ITALIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH ON GMO
LABELING REG, BSE, AND PORK EXPORTS

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 004267

STATE PASS OES/ETC/FOR ANRIGHT;
WE/EUR FOR PIERANGELO
STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS FOR
ITP/THORN/CHESLEY/SHEIKH
FAS FOR OAA/GALVIN
FAS FOR OFSTS SLUTSKY
USDA FOR APHIS
FDA FOR IA/BATTS AND P/HORTON
BRUSSELS ALSO APHIS
VIENNA ALSO APHIS
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
MILAN FOR AGROFFICE

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EUN, ETRD, TBIO, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH ON GMO
LABELING REG, BSE, AND PORK EXPORTS

REF: A) ROME 03949 B) STATE0087451
C) BRUSSELS 03326

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

1. SEE PARA 4 FOR ACTION REQUESTED.

G'S

2. IN A MEETING WITH THE AGMINCOUNS ON JUNE 2, DR. ROMANO MARABELLI, DIRECTOR GENERAL, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, EXPOUNDED ON ITALY'S POSITION ON GMO LABELING (REF A). AS MENTIONED IN A PREVIOUS DISCUSSION, ITALY'S RECENT VOTE ON THE GMO LABELING PROPOSAL REFLECTED A NEED TO ADDRESS POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES IN THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT, AS OPPOSED TO REFLECTING THE GENERALLY PRO-GMO VIEWS OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. MARABELLI STRESSED THAT MINISTER OF HEALTH BINDI IS VERY INTERESTED AND SUPPORTIVE OF SUCH TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES AS GMO'S. HOWEVER, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE BIOTECH ISSUE IS A VERY SENSITIVE ONE AND THE MINISTRY HAS TO TAKE CARE TO NOT MOVE TOO FAR, TOO FAST, OUT OF DEFERENCE TO THE CONCERNS OF CERTAIN FACTIONS IN THE PARLIAMENT. IN VOTING AGAINST THE UK AMENDMENT WHICH REMOVED THE "MAY CONTAIN" OPTION, THE GOI WAS ABLE TO REASSURE THESE FACTIONS THAT IT WAS TAKING A "CONTROLLED" APPROACH TO GMO APPROVALS, WHILE NOT AFFECTING THE FINAL OUTCOME SINCE IT WAS KNOWN THAT THERE WOULD BE A QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSAL.

3. WHEN ASKED HOW ITALY PLANNED TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW REG, AND WHETHER SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION PROVIDED AS PART OF THE FDA REVIEW PROCESS COULD BE USED TO TRUNCATE ITALY'S INTERNAL REVIEW PROCESS, MARABELLI INVITED THE USG TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE EU REG TO HIS MINISTRY FOR REVIEW. THIS INFORMATION WOULD ALSO BE SHARED WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE SUPERIOR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, WHICH HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PERFORMING ALL SCIENTIFIC REVIEWS OF FOOD PRODUCTS. MARABELLI PROMISED THAT WHATEVER INFORMATION IS PROVIDED BY THE USG WOULD BE CAREFULLY AND STUDIED, AND WOULD PROVIDE USEFUL BACKGROUND FOR THEIR SCIENTISTS TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE CONSIDERING ALL OF THE ISSUES RELEVANT TO APPROVAL AND LABELING OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: FAS/W IS REQUESTED TO COORDINATE WITH FDA IN GATHERING, AND FORWARDING TO ROME, INFORMATION THAT WOULD HELP ITALY DEVELOP A REASONABLE PROTOCOL FOR THE REVIEW AND LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN AND SOY-BASED PRODUCTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW THE GOI AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO ABSORB THE MATERIAL BEFORE

THEY HAVE TO IMPLEMENT THEIR OWN LEGISLATION
IN MID-SEPTEMBER.

BSE

5. MARABELLI INFORMED THE AG MINCOUNS THAT
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAD COMPLETED ITS
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 004267

STATE PASS OES/ETC/FOR ANRIGHT;
WE/EUR FOR PIERANGELO
STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS FOR
ITP/THORN/CHESLEY/SHEIKH
FAS FOR OAA/GALVIN
FAS FOR OFSTS SLUTSKY
USDA FOR APHIS
FDA FOR IA/BATTS AND P/HORTON
BRUSSELS ALSO APHIS
VIENNA ALSO APHIS
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
MILAN FOR AGROFFICE

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EUN, ETRD, TBIO, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH ON GMO
LABELING REG, BSE, AND PORK EXPORTS

REF: A) ROME 03949 B) STATE 087451
SUBMISSION TO APHIS DEMONSTRATING ITS BSE-
FREE STATUS. MARABELLI REPEATEDLY STRESSED
THAT THIS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR
ITALY AND THAT A POSITIVE EVALUATION BY APHIS
WAS VERY MUCH DESIRED. (NOTE: ITALY IS A NET
BEEF IMPORTER, SO ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN BSE-
FREE STATUS ARE MORE ORIENTED TOWARD CONSUMER
CONFIDENCE-BUILDING THAN TO TRADE CONCERNS.
END NOTE.) HE ALSO STRESSED THAT SUCH A
RESULT WOULD ALSO PUT ITALY IN A STRONGER
POSITION TO SUPPORT THE U.S.'S CLAIMS TO BSE-
FREE STATUS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION
AND THE
OIE.

MEAT EXPORTS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

6. MARABELLI ALSO RAISED THE ISSUE OF MOH'S
REQUEST THAT APHIS APPROVE ITALIAN EXPORTS OF
MORTADELLA (A TYPE OF PROCESSED MEAT) INTO
THE UNITED STATES. HE STRESSED THAT THE
PRODUCT IS PASTEURIZED AND PRODUCED IN A
PLASTIC CASING THAT PROVIDES EXTRA SANITARY
PROTECTION. MARABELLI OFFERED TO PROVIDE ANY
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION APHIS MIGHT REQUIRE IN

THEIR REVIEW OF THIS PRODUCT. FOGLIETTA

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

SSN: 4267
<^SSN>4267

TOR: 980609112110 M3326624
<^TOR>980609112601 M3326632

DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHLOA5936 1610956-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 100956Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG: 100956Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6796
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0274
SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO THE PRINCE OF WALES
OPPOSITION TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS)
TEXT:
UNCLAS LONDON 005936

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR
FAS/ITP/SHEIKH; FAS/ITP/EAME/THORN/CHESLEY;
FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT; FAA/AO/NE/LETARTE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK
SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO THE PRINCE OF WALES
OPPOSITION TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS)

REF: LONDON 05873

1. PRESS REPORTING ON PRINCE CHARLES' OPPOSITION TO GM CROPS REPORTED IN REFTEL HAS BEEN GENERALLY BALANCED, WITH INTEREST GROUPS MAKING THEIR PREDICTABLE RESPONSES.

2. PRINCE CHARLES HAS LONG BEEN A CRITIC OF GMOS BUT THE ARTICLE HE WROTE SIGNIFIES A MORE PUBLIC STANCE ON THE ISSUE. THE ARTICLE, WHICH WAS WIDELY REPORTED IN THE BRITISH MEDIA, APPEARED JUST TWO DAYS AFTER MONSANTO LAUNCHED A ONE-MILLION POUND (USD 1.65 MILLION) ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN TO CONVINCE CONSUMERS OF THE SAFETY OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD.

3. AS ONE WOULD EXPECT, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SUPPORTED THE PRINCE'S COMMENTS, PARTICULARLY THE VIEW THAT THERE IS AN UNKNOWN RISK TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH WITH GMOS. MANY OF THESE GROUPS CALL FOR LABELING OR EVEN A BAN OF GM PRODUCTS.

4. WHILE THE UK GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE AN

OFFICIAL POSITION ON GMOS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE REPORTED TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROPERLY REGULATED USE OF GM CROPS. ACCORDING TO JEFF ROOKER, FOOD SAFETY MINISTER FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD (MAFF), QUOTE PRINCE CHARLES IS ENTITLED TO HIS VIEW LIKE ANYONE ELSE. WE HAVE VERY STRICT AND RIGOROUS REGULATORY CONTROLS OVER GENETIC MODIFICATION, WHETHER IT IS IN TERMS OF FOOD OR MEDICINE. UNQUOTE

5. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IS GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF GMOS AND ARE OPEN TO A DEBATE ON THEIR USE. FOR INSTANCE, BEN GILL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES SAID QUOTE SOME OF THE CONCERNS RAISED BY PRINCE CHARLES ARE VALID BUT TO SUGGEST THAT THE WHOLE TECHNOLOGY IS WRONG IS NOT RIGHT. THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS FOR FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE THIRD WORLD ALONE ARE IMMENSE. UNQUOTE

6. IN DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH KEY EMBASSY CONTACTS, MOST FELT THAT THE PRINCE'S COMMENTS WOULD PROVOKE LITTLE ADDITIONAL OPPOSITION TO GMOS. LADER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5936

TOR: 980610061807 M3328192

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: PTTUZYUW RUEKJCS6634 1611002-UUUU--RHEHAAA.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU

LINE3: P 101002Z JUN 98

LINE4: FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC

OSRI: RUEKJCS

DTG: 101002Z JUN 98

ORIG: JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC

TO: ////

INFO: RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC

RUEADWD/PTC WASH DC

RHEHAAA/WHITEHOUSE

P 100956Z JUN 98

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6796

INFO RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0274

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO THE PRINCE OF WALES
OPPOSITION TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS)

TEXT:

UNCLAS LONDON 005936

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR
FAS/ITP/SHEIKH; FAS/ITP/EAME/THORN/CHESLEY;
FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT; FAA/AO/NE/LETARTE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO THE PRINCE OF WALES
OPPOSITION TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS)

REF: LONDON 05873

1. PRESS REPORTING ON PRINCE CHARLES' OPPOSITION
TO GM CROPS REPORTED IN REFTEL HAS BEEN GENERALLY
BALANCED, WITH INTEREST GROUPS MAKING THEIR
PREDICTABLE RESPONSES.

2. PRINCE CHARLES HAS LONG BEEN A CRITIC OF GMOS
BUT THE ARTICLE HE WROTE SIGNIFIES A MORE PUBLIC
STANCE ON THE ISSUE. THE ARTICLE, WHICH WAS
WIDELY REPORTED IN THE BRITISH MEDIA, APPEARED
JUST TWO DAYS AFTER MONSANTO LAUNCHED A ONE-
MILLION POUND (USD 1.65 MILLION) ADVERTISING
CAMPAIGN TO CONVINCE CONSUMERS OF THE SAFETY OF
GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD.

3. AS ONE WOULD EXPECT, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL
GROUPS SUPPORTED THE PRINCE'S COMMENTS,

PARTICULARLY THE VIEW THAT THERE IS AN UNKNOWN RISK TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH WITH GMOS. MANY OF THESE GROUPS CALL FOR LABELING OR EVEN A BAN OF GM PRODUCTS.

4. WHILE THE UK GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE AN OFFICIAL POSITION ON GMOS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE REPORTED TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROPERLY REGULATED USE OF GM CROPS. ACCORDING TO JEFF ROOKER, FOOD SAFETY MINISTER FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD (MAFF), QUOTE PRINCE CHARLES IS ENTITLED TO HIS VIEW LIKE ANYONE ELSE. WE HAVE VERY STRICT AND RIGOROUS REGULATORY CONTROLS OVER GENETIC MODIFICATION, WHETHER IT IS IN TERMS OF FOOD OR MEDICINE. UNQUOTE

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6. IN DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH KEY EMBASSY CONTACTS, MOST FELT THAT THE PRINCE'S COMMENTS WOULD PROVOKE LITTLE ADDITIONAL OPPOSITION TO GMOS. LADER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6634

TOR: 980610060511 M3328164

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHLOA5952 1611459-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 101459Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG: 101459Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6805
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0275
SUBJ: PROTESTS OVER GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS (GMOS) INTENSIFY

TEXT:
UNCLAS LONDON 005952

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR
FAS/ITP/SHEIKH; FAS/ITP/EAME/THORN/CHESLEY;
FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT; FAA/AO/NE/LETARTE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK
SUBJECT: PROTESTS OVER GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS (GMOS) INTENSIFY

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTESTORS CALLING THEMSELVES THE LINCOLNSHIRE LOPPERS DESTROYED A PLOT OF THE UK'S FIRST FIELD-GROWN GENETICALLY MODIFIED SPRING WHEAT. THE GM WHEAT WAS PART OF AN EXHIBITION BY THE INSTITUTE OF ARABLE CROP RESEARCH AT THE CEREALS 98 EVENT IN SLEAFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE.
2. THERE HAS BEEN AN ESCALATION IN THE DESTRUCTION OF GM TEST PLOTS SINCE A LIST OF GM CROP TRIAL SITES IN THE UK WAS PUBLISHED ON THE INTERNET. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THESE ACTIONS WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.
3. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CEREALS 98 WHEAT IS THE EIGHTH ATTACK ON GM CROP SITES SINCE LAST FRIDAY. SEVEN GM CROPS WERE DESTROYED IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS LAST WEEKEND. IN LATE MAY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTESTORS COMPLETELY DESTROYED AN ENTIRE TEST PLOT OF GM SUGAR BEETS IN NORWICH. EARLIER IN MAY, PROTESTORS TRAMPLED A CROP OF GM OILSEED RAPE IN SCOTLAND.
4. POST WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AND

REPORT ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. LADER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5952

TOR: 980610110130 M3328658

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 111029Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 111029Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6631
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0487
SUBJ: PUBLIC HEARINGS ON GMO'S

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 012959

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: PUBLIC HEARINGS ON GMO'S

REF: PARIS 11062

1. SUMMARY: JEAN-YVES LE DEAUT (THE
PARLIAMENTARIAN ORGANIZING THE JUNE CONFERENCE OF
CONSENSUS, SEE REFTTEL) COORDINATED TWO-DAY PUBLIC
HEARINGS IN THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOCUSING
ON THE USE OF GMO'S IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD.
HEARINGS INCLUDED (1) FOUR ROUND TABLES ON THE
STAKE OF GMO'S IN ECONOMY, RESEARCH, ENVIRONMENT,
HEALTH AND REGULATION, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION;
AND (2) HEARINGS OF FIVE FRENCH MINISTERS. THEY
WERE LOUIS LE PENSEC, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND
FISHERIES; MARYLISE LEBRANCHU, MINISTER FOR SMALL
AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND CONSUMPTION; BERNARD
KOUCHNER, JUNIOR MINISTER FOR HEALTH; CLAUDE

ALLEGRE, MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY; AND DOMINIQUE VOYNET, MINISTER OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT. THE FIVE MAIN ISSUES DEBATED DURING THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WERE THE FOLLOWING: (1) SPEED OF THE EUROPEAN APPROVAL PROCESS OF GMO'S; (2) PRESENCE OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE GENES IN GMO'S; (3) GMO'S OF THE SECOND GENERATION; (4) NEW EU REGULATION ON GMO LABELING; AND (5) DEVELOPMENT OF A GMO-FREE MARKET SEGMENT.
END SUMMARY

2. EUROPEAN GMO APPROVAL PROCESS:

SEVERAL SPEAKERS (SUCH AS JEAN-MARIE PELT FROM ECOROPA-EUROPEAN CONSUMER ASSOCIATION, AND CONFEDERATION PAYSANNE-FRENCH ACTIVIST FARM UNION), BELIEVED THAT GMO APPROVAL IS GOING TOO FAST, AND THAT MORE TIME IS NEEDED TO OBSERVE GMO'S IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN/ANIMAL HEALTH.

IN CONTRAST, OTHER SPEAKERS (SUCH AS MARCEL CAZALE, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION-AGPM AND PIERRE PAGESSE, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH LEADING SEED COMPANY- LIMAGRAIN) OPINED THAT THE PROCESS IS TOO SLOW AND THAT FRANCE AND EUROPE ARE LOSING TIME IN THEIR ECONOMIC AND RESEARCH COMPETITION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

3. ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE GENES IN GMO'S:

MINISTERS LE PENSEC AND VOYNET, AS WELL AS JUNIOR MINISTER KOUCHNER, CLEARLY STOOD AGAINST THE PRESENCE OF SUCH GENES IN GMO'S. ALSO, PROFESSOR PATRICE COURVALIN (PASTEUR INSTITUTE) EMPHASIZED THE DANGER OF POTENTIAL MUTATIONS OF GENES OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE, WHICH COULD CONFER RESISTANCE TO OTHER ANTIBIOTICS COMMONLY USED WORLD WIDE TO CURE HUMAN ILLNESSES. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT NO NEW ANTIBIOTICS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED DURING THE PAST 20 YEARS, AND THAT MAKING BACTERIA RESISTANT TO SUCH ANTIBIOTICS WOULD BE, THEREFORE, VERY DANGEROUS. LE DEAUT ALSO OPPOSED ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE GENES IN GMO'S AND IS LIKELY TO PROPOSE THAT THE GOF NOT APPROVE SUCH GMO'S IN THE FUTURE.

4. SECOND GENERATION OF GMO'S:

THERE WAS A LOT OF CRITICISM (COMING PRINCIPALLY FROM JEAN-MARIE PELT-ECOROPA, PIERRE-HENRI GOUYON, PROFESSOR IN THE FRENCH CENTER OF RESEARCH IN SCIENCE-CNRS, AND ARNAUD APOTEKER-GREENPEACE) AGAINST GMO'S WHICH ARE CURRENTLY ON THE MARKET BECAUSE OF (1) THE RISK OF TRANSFER OF HERBICIDE RESISTANCE GENES (ESPECIALLY THOSE TARGETING THE TOTAL HERBICIDES GLYPHOSATE AND GLUPHOSINATE) TO WEEDS; AND (2) THE RISK THAT INSECTS WHICH

NATURALLY KILL CROP PESTS ARE KILLED BY BT GMO'S
IN ADDITION TO PESTS.

IN CONTRAST, OTHER SPEAKERS WELCOMED THE SECOND
GENERATION OF GMO'S WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE
APPROVED IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. FOR EXAMPLE,
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 012959

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: PUBLIC HEARINGS ON GMO'S

REF: PARIS 11062

PHILIPPE TILLOUS-BORDES, DIRECTOR O
F THE FRENCH
OILSEED PRODUCERS FEDERATION (FOP), REFERRED TO
OILSEEDS CONTAINING A MODIFIED RANGE OF AMINO
ACIDS WHICH WOULD BE GOOD FOR ANIMAL FEED. PIERRE
PAGESSE, PRESIDENT OF LIMAGRAIN, GAVE THE EXAMPLES
OF GMO OILSEEDS WITH A COMPOSITION OF FATTY ACIDS
USEFUL FOR THE BIODIESEL INDUSTRY, AND FOR THE OIL
USED TO FRY FRENCH FRIES.

MINISTER LE PENSEC UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF
THE USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY "TO IMPROVE FOOD
NUTRITIONAL PROPERTIES FOR CONSUMERS, AS
CONTRASTED TO ONLY INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY."

5. THE NEW EU REGULATION ON GMO LABELING:

NOTE: ON MAY 26, THE EU COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL
MINISTERS ADOPTED A NEW EUROPEAN REGULATION ON GMO
LABELING. END NOTE. DIDIER MARTEAU (FNSEA)
WELCOMED THE DEFEAT OF THE "MAY CONTAIN" LABEL
INITIALLY PROPOSED BY THE EU COMMISSION AND
SUPPORTED THE CREATION OF A NEGATIVE LIST OF
PRODUCTS WHICH WOULD NOT NEED TO BE LABELED.
SEVERAL SPEAKERS (SUCH AS DIDIER MARTEAU, FNSEA)
IN THE PUBLIC HEARINGS FAVORED THE CREATION OF A
THRESHOLD FOR THE "CONTAIN" AND "DOES NOT CONTAIN"
LABEL. LE DEAUT NOTED THAT WITHOUT ANY THRESHOLD,
ALL FOOD PRODUCTS WOULD BE LABELED WITH "CONTAIN
GMO'S."

HOWEVER, TWO PEOPLE (MINISTER MARYLISE LEBRANCHU AND LECLERC SUPERMARKET DIRECTOR MICHEL-EDOUARD LECLERC) OPPOSED A THRESHOLD. THEY ARGUED THAT THRESHOLD IN A FOOD PRODUCTS CONTENTS IN A CERTAIN COMPONENT IS REQUIRED ONLY WHEN THIS COMPONENT IS DANGEROUS FOR HUMAN HEALTH AT A HIGHER CONTENT IN FOOD PRODUCTS, AND THAT, SINCE GMO'S DO NOT AFFECT HUMAN HEALTH, NO THRESHOLD IS REQUIRED.

6. TOWARD A GMO-FREE MARKET SEGMENT:

THERE WAS A CONSENSUS AMONG SEVERAL SPEAKERS REPRESENTING THE FRENCH AGRICULTURAL SECTOR (PIERRE PAGESSE IN LIMAGRAIN AND DIDIER MARTEAU IN FNSEA), THE FOOD INDUSTRY (NESTLE AND DANONE), AND DISTRIBUTERS (FRENCH SUPERMARKET CHAIN LECLERC) ON THIS ISSUE. THEY ALL FORECAST THAT A MINOR MARKET SEGMENT OF GMO-FREE PRODUCTS WILL DEVELOP, WHERE THESE PRODUCTS WILL HAVE HIGHER RETAIL PRICES THAN IN THE GMO MARKET SEGMENT. SPEAKERS COMPARED THE GMO-FREE MARKET TO THE ORGANIC MARKET, AND SAID THAT THIS SEGMENTATION WOULD ALLOW CONSUMERS TO CHOOSE THEIR FAVORITE PRODUCTS.
ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 2959

<^SSN>2959

TOR: 980611070401 M3330404

<^TOR>980611070452 M3330405

DIST:

SIT: BUSBY DAVIDSON JORDAN MCELDOWNEY NAPLAN RAGAN SCHWARTZ
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHFRA3205 1631543-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 121543Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 121543Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6671
INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0593
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 3606
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 1105
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 1604
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0489
SUBJ: U.S. POSITION ON GMO CORN APPROVAL
TEXT:
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ PARIS 013205

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
7016-0529-um (2.05)

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

USTR FOR SCHER & MURPHY
GENEVA FOR USTR RESSLER

EU POSTS FOR ECON & AGR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/12/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, FR, US, EUN
SUBJECT: U.S. POSITION ON GMO CORN APPROVAL

REFS: A) PARIS 12551 & B) STATE 99873

CLASSIFIED BY W. ROBERT PEARSON FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

1. ~~(c)~~ REF A PROVIDED A SUMMARY OF POST INTERACTIONS WITH GOF
OFFICIALS CONCERNING REF B DEMARCHE ON GMO CORN APPROVAL.
AMBASSADOR, DCM, AND OTHER EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES EMPHASIZED THE
SERIOUSLY NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF FRENCH FAILURE TO PROVIDE
FINAL MARKETING CONSENT TO THESE CORN VARIETIES. MOREOVER, EMBASSY
REPS DREW ON REF B DEMARCHE TO UNDERScore OUR DETERMINATION TO
RESOLVE THIS MATTER IN ADVANCE OF THE JUNE 17-19 VISIT OF PM JOSPIN
TO WASHINGTON.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, POST UNDERSTANDS THAT THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON RECEIVED FROM USTR OFFICIALS A FORMULATION OF U.S.
OBJECTIVES THAT DIFFERED IN SOME WAYS FROM THOSE IN REF B,
INCLUDING OPTIONS TO RESOLVE THE MATTER IN A TIMEFRAME THAT EXTENDS

INTO THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAS ASKED USTR OFFICIALS TO RECONCILE APPARENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MESSAGES PASSED BY THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN USTR AND THE FRENCH EMBASSY REPS. THE FACT THAT THE GOF SEEKS THIS CLARIFICATION SUGGESTS THAT FRENCH OFFICIALS SHARE THE U.S. DESIRE TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER IN A FASHION THAT AVOIDS DIVISIVE EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE LEADERS DURING THE JOSPIN VISIT -- THEY WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE REALLY WANT. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT, WHILE THE ULTIMATE U.S. OBJECTIVE HAS NOT CHANGED, FRENCH OFFICIALS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS ARE NOT RECEIVING A CONSISTENT U.S. MESSAGE ON HOW WE WOULD LIKE THEM TO MOVE TO MEET OUR GOALS.

4. POST RECOGNIZES THAT WE ARE IN A PERIOD OF CONTINUOUS NEGOTIATION ON THIS ISSUE. POST REPRESENTATIVES ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE ENGAGING THE FRENCH ON THIS ISSUE, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER TO PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS -- PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RAPIDLY APPROACHING JOSPIN VISIT -- ALL USG INTERLOCUTORS (INCLUDING STATE, USDA, THE EMBASSY, AND USTR) NEED TO PRESENT A CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE USG NEGOTIATING POSITION. AS THE DIALOGUE WITH THE GOF SHIFTS TO WASHINGTON (MINISTERS VEDRINE AND STRAUSS-KAHN WILL BOTH BE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER), WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT A RANGE OF SENIOR USG OFFICIALS WILL WANT TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH THEIR FRENCH COUNTERPARTS. THEY, AND WE AT POST, MUST ENSURE THAT WE ARE WORKING FROM A COMMON NEGOTIATING STANCE. ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3205

TOR: 980612184550 M3333641

DIST:

SIT: BANDLER HAINES LEE MCELLOWNEY

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA5407 1681241-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 171241Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 171241Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6700
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0276
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0428
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0530
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0146
SUBJ: AUSTRIAN BAN ON APPROVED GENETICALLY MODIFIED
RAPESEED?

STCABLE 824

TEXT:
UNCLAS VIENNA 005407

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB, PASS EPA, FDA
USDA FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/FSTSD/HARBERT, COTS/BLUM,
PASS APHIS FOR MICHAEL SCHECHTMAN
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN BAN ON APPROVED GENETICALLY MODIFIED
RAPESEED?

STCABLE 824

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY: THE AUSTRIAN MINISTRY FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION INTENDS TO BAN GENETICALLY MODIFIED RAPESEED, RECENTLY APPROVED BY BRUSSELS, FROM THE DOMESTIC MARKET. IT IS EXPECTED THAT AS WITH BT CORN, AUSTRIA WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP THIS GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR A LONG TIME. END SUMMARY.
2. AFTER BRUSSELS' APPROVAL OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGREVO RAPESEED FOR MARKETING IN ALL EU COUNTRIES, MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION BARBARA PRAMMER IS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN IMPORT BAN BY AUSTRIA.

3. ACCORDING TO A SPOKESWOMAN FOR PRAMMER, THE RAPESEED IS NOT APPROVED FOR SOWING BUT ONLY FOR FURTHER PROCESSING. HOWEVER, DURING TRANSPORTATION THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED RAPESEEDS MAY UNINTENTIONALLY COME INTO THE ENVIRONMENT WHERE THEY COULD GROW AND MULTIPLY. THUS, OUTCROSSING MIGHT OCCUR WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HERBICIDE-RESISTANT WILD RAPESEED VARIETIES.

4. FOR THESE REASONS, GREENPEACE HAS ALREADY DEMANDED AN IMPORT BAN FROM PRAMMER. THE SECOND, INDIGENOUS AUSTRIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION "GLOBAL 2000" WILL PROBABLY SOON BLOW THE SAME HORN IF NO ACTION CONCERNING AN IMPORT BAN IS TAKEN QUICKLY.

5. COMMENT: GIVEN THE AUSTRIAN SITUATION ON THE GENE TECHNOLOGY SECTOR AND OUR EXPERIENCE WITH PRAMMER SO FAR, WE ARE PRETTY SURE THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION WILL USE EVERY AVAILABLE ARGUMENT AND OPPORTUNITY TO "PROVE" THE "RISK" OF THE PRODUCT AND CONSEQUENTLY IMPLEMENT AN IMPORT BAN AS IT DID WITH EU APPROVED BT CORN. ALTHOUGH THE BAN ON RAPESEED IMPORT MAY NOT BE PERMANENT, IT WILL CERTAINLY CAUSE A LONG TERM MARKETING DELAY IN AUSTRIA.
HALL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 5407

TOR: 980617085155 M3338732

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHFRA3937 1701548-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 191548Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 191548Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6927
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0497
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6538
SUBJ: GREENPEACE RAIDS FRENCH SUPERMARKETS TO
PROTEST GMO PRODUCTS

TEXT: UNCLAS PARIS 013937

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDEQMACHER; 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
ONGEN MILAN PASS ATO
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: GREENPEACE RAIDS FRENCH SUPERMARKETS TO
PROTEST GMO PRODUCTS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: GROUPS OF GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS
RAIDED THREE FRENCH SUPERMARKETS IN PARIS,
STRASBOURG, AND CHERBOURG ON JUNE 17 TO PROTEST
THE SALE OF FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS#WITHOUT
A SPECIFIC LABEL SO INDICATING. IN SMALL GROUPS,
THEY EMPTIED THE SHELVES OF FOOD PRODUCTS, SOME OF
THEM U.S. ORIGIN, ALLEGEDLY CONTAINING
GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYBEAN AND CORN. THEY
CLAIMED THAT THE PRODUCTS WERE NOT PROPERLY
LABELED AND ASKED FOR A MANDATORY LABELING OF ANY
FOOD PRODUCT CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED RAW
MATERIALS OR INGREDIENTS. END SUMMARY.
2. AT THE AUCHAN HYPERMARKET IN PARIS/LA DEFENSE

(ONE OF THE LARGEST IN FRANCE), GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS TARGETED SIX PRODUCTS WHICH A FRENCH CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION HAD LISTED AS CONTAINING GMO'S. U.S. PRODUCED "OLD EL PASO" TORTILLA CHIPS WAS ONE OF THE PRODUCTS, WHICH GREENPEACE MAINTAINS CONTAINS GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN. THE SUPERMARKET'S MANAGER DECIDED TO REMOVE THE PRODUCTS FROM THE SHELVES UNTIL AN ADEQUATE LABEL IS DEVELOPED. AT THE AUCHAN SUPERMARKET IN STRASBOURG, GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS REPLACED PRODUCTS WHICH THEY HAD REMOVED FROM THE SHELVES AFTER THE MANAGER PROMISED TO PLACE SPECIFIC STICKERS IN FRONT OF EACH IDENTIFIED PRODUCT. AUCHAN LOCAL AND REGIONAL MANAGEMENT HAVE ALSO ASKED THEIR NATIONAL MANAGEMENT TO SET GUIDELINES ON THE GMO ISSUE.

3. COMMENT: SEVERAL FRENCH CONSUMERS' GROUPS HAVE ALREADY CLAIMED THAT AS MUCH AS 60 PERCENT OF ALL FRENCH FOOD PRODUCTS CURRENTLY CONTAIN GMO'S OR INGREDIENTS PRODUCED WITH GMO RAW MATERIAL. ACCORDING TO AUCHAN REPRESENTATIVES, GREENPEACE'S ACTION, ONLY TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS, TAKING PLACE IN PARIS (JUNE 20-21), IS PROBABLY NOTHING MORE THAN AN ATTEMPT TO DRAW PUBLIC AND MEDIA ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE SOCCER WORLD CUP. SO FAR, IT HAS NOT BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL. ONLY LOCAL NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THESE ACTIONS AND THE FRENCH TELEVISION REPORTED IT ONLY IN ITS LATE NIGHT NEWS. THEY ALSO SAID THAT THIS ISSUE COULD HURT SALES OF U.S. FOOD PRODUCTS IN THEIR STORES, PARTICULARLY TEX-MEX TYPE PRODUCTS.

4. POST WILL BE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JUNE 20-21, FOLLOWED BY A PRESS CONFERENCE ON MONDAY, JUNE 22, AND WILL REPORT ON ALL EVENTS.
PARMLY

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3937

TOR: 980619132141 M3343122

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHDLA3310 1731558-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 221558Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
OSRI: RUEHDL
DTG: 221558Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3617
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0121
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0085
SUBJ: VANDALS ATTACK MONSANTO GMO TRIALS IN IRELAND

TEXT:
UNCLAS DUBLIN 003310

SENSITIVE

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

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR, EI
SUBJECT: VANDALS ATTACK MONSANTO GMO TRIALS IN IRELAND

REF: (A) DUBLIN 2220 (B) 97 DUBLIN 5209

THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE TREAT
ACCORDINGLY.

1. (U) AN ANTI-GMO GROUP IS SUSPECTED OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR SABOTAGE TO MONSANTO'S CROP TRIAL OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED SUGAR BEETS IN COUNTY WEXFORD. MEDIA REPORTS INDICATE THAT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE GAINED ACCESS ON THURSDAY, JUNE 18, TO THE ONE-ACRE PLOT AT THE PRIVATELY-OWNED HILLTOP FARM, WHICH IS FACILITATING THE BIO-TECHNOLOGY TRIALS FOR MONSANTO. IT IS BELIEVED THE PROTESTERS WERE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP STYLED GAELIC EARTH LIBERATION FRONT (GELF), WHICH ATTACKED ANOTHER TRIAL PLOT AT THE TEAGASC RESEARCH CENTER IN OLDPARK, CARLOW, LAST SEPTEMBER. MONSANTO HAS INDICATED THAT THE VANDALS USED BLADES TO CUT DOWN THE STEMS OF THE GMO CROP.
2. (SBU) MICHAEL PARKER, MONSANTO PUBLIC RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE IN DUBLIN, INDICATED THAT MONSANTO'S REACTION TO THE VANDALISM WILL BE RELATIVELY LOW KEY. THE COMPANY DOES NOT WANT TO GIVE GELF ANY MORE PRESS COVERAGE THAN IT ALREADY HAS RECEIVED. THE TRIALS AT ALL FIVE SITES WILL CONTINUE AND THE INTERFERENCE AT THE WEXFORD

SITE WILL HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON THE OVERALL PROGRAM.

3. (SBU) MONSANTO HAS ALERTED THE GARDA (POLI) TO THE VANDALISM, BUT DOES NOT PLAN TO FILE A FORMAL COMPLAINT. THE GARDA STRENGTHENED ITS SECURITY AT AN ANTI-GMO TESTING RALLY THIS PAST SUNDAY, JUNE 21, IN DUNCANNON NEAR ONE OF THE TRIAL LOCATIONS. HOWEVER, THE RALLY TOOK PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT.
4. (SBU) NEITHER DEATH THREATS WHEN THE TRIALS WERE FIRST APPROVED BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT NOR THIS RECENT VANDALISM HAVE DETERRED THE FARMERS WHO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED BY MONSANTO TO CONDUCT THESE GMO TRIALS ON THEIR FARMS. IN FACT, PARKER SAID THE VANDALISM MAY HAVE MADE FARMERS MORE DETERMINED TO SEE THE TRIALS THROUGH TO COMPLETION. THE PRINCIPLE OF "NO TRESPASSING ON ANOTHER'S LAND" IS A STRONGLY HELD BELIEF, AND THE VANDALS' ACTIONS HAVE REPORTEDLY AROUSED ANGER AMONG THE FARMERS.

COMMENT

5. (SBU) REFLECTING THE STRONGLY FELT PASSIONS THE GMO ISSUE PRODUCES IN IRELAND, MR. QUENTIN GARGAN, A SPOKESMAN FOR . GENETIC CONCERN, THE MAIN IRISH ANTI-GMO INTEREST GROUP, SAID HE "NEITHER CONDEMNED NOR CONDONED THE VANDALISM." GARGAN REPEATED THIS STATEMENT AT THE ANTI-GMO RALLY THIS PAST SUNDAY. SIMILARLY, MS. NUALA AHERN, A GREEN PARTY MEP, ACCUSED MONSANTO OF ENGAGING IN A POLICY OF CONFRONTATION BY PROCEEDING WITH THE TRIALS. WHILE SHE SAID SHE DID NOT SUPPORT THE SABOTAGE, SHE DID NOT CONDEMN THE VANDALISM; RATHER, SHE SAID IT WAS A RESULT OF FRUSTRATION AMONG MANY PEOPLE AT THE WAY IN WHICH MONSANTO @!ENGAGED IN A "POLICY OF CONFRONTATION BY PROCEEDING WITH THE TRIALS."
6. STATEMENTS LIKE THESE, IN WHICH A "MAINSTREAM" ANTI-GMO GROUP AND AN IRISH POLITICIAN REFRAIN FROM UNAMBIGUOUSLY CONDEMNING AN ACT OF VANDALISM AND TRESPASS MAY PROVE TO BE A MORE DAMAGING THREAT TO GMOS THAN THE ACTUAL SABOTAGE OF THE TRIALS.

SMITH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3310

TOR: 980622140405 M3345648

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA4730 1771508-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH (CCY ADX 4E061C/AMG3643)
LINE3: R 261508Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 261508Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4384
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0200
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0437
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: SUBJECT: GMO TRIALS IN PROGRESS IN
TEXT:

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

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 004730

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA MARKINGS)

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
USDA FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR, FDA AND EPA
USDA FOR FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
OFSTS/HARBERT, EAMED/THORN, G&F/RADLER
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE
GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - NOT FOR PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION

E.O. 1295B: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, IT
SUBJECT: SUBJECT: GMO TRIALS IN PROGRESS IN
ITALY

REF: ROME 1997 08523

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: DESPITE THE FACT THAT THERE WAS
A BAN IN PLACE ON PLANTING GMO CORN BETWEEN
MARCH AND SEPTEMBER 1997, ITALY HARVESTED
15,0p3 MT OF BT CORN LAST YEAR BASED ON
TESTING PERMITS ISSUED PRIOR TO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAN. THE CORN WAS
THEN SOLD INTO THE NORMAL MARKETING CHANNELS
WITH NO SPECIAL LABELING OR SEGREGATION.
(IT IS NOT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS CORN
IS BEING MARKETED, PRESUMABLY FOR FEED USE.)
ONCE SEED TRIALS ARE COMPLETE, BT CORN COULD

BE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL SEED REGISTRY BY THE YEAR 2000. IN THE MEANTIME, FARMERS CAN USE SEED FROM COUNTRIES WITH A FASTER APPROVAL PROCESS, BUT LIMITED SUPPLIES ARE EXPECTED TO KEEP PRODUCTION TO NO MORE THAN 40,000 HECTARES. EXPERIMENTAL TRIALS ARE BEING DONE ON GMO SOYBEANS, BUT OFFICIAL TRIALS WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL EU APPROVAL IS GIVEN FOR PLANTING GMO SOYBEAN VARIETIES. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) AGATTACHE AND AGSPECIALIST MET WITH MR NORBERTO PUGNA, DIRECTOR OF THE GRAIN EXPERIMENTAL INSTITUTE TO DISCUSS THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND CURRENT STATUS OF EXPERIMENTAL TRIALS FOJ, GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN VARIETIES. THE INSTITUTE IS PART OF THE ITALIAN MINAG BUT ALSO SUPPORTS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS. IN RECAPING THE SHORT HISTORY OF GMO ACTIVITIES IN ITALY, MR PUGNA SAID THAT IN 1997, DESPITE HE BAN ON PLANTING BT CORN IN ITALY, (REF) NOVARTIS WAS ALLOWED TO CONDUCT SEED TRIALS OF BT CORN AT 250 FARMS. PERMISSION FOR THE TRIALS WAS GIVEN BY THE ITALIAN MINISTER OF HEALTH IN MARCH, 1997, BASED ON APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE BAN. (THE BAN WAS IMPLEMENTED MARCH 4, 1997 IN RESPONSE TO CONCERNS OVER BT CORN'S EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT. FOLLOWING A RESOLUTION OF THESE CONCERNS, AND PRESSURE FROM THE EU, THE BAN WAS REMOVED THE LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER, 1997.) IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 15,000 MT OF BT CORN WAS HARVESTED (BASED ON CURRENT YIELDS AND AN AVERAGE FARM SIZE OF ABOUT 6 HECTARES). ACCORDING TO PUGNA, THIS CORN WAS SOLD INTO THE NORMAL MARKETING CHANNELS, WITH NO SPECIAL LABELING OR SEGREGATION.

3. (SBU) DESPITE THE TRIALS MADE LAST YEAR, PUGNA BELIEVES THAT THE COMMERCIAL PLANTING OF GM CORN IN ITALY WILL NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE 2000. ITALIAN LAW REQUIRES TWO YEARS OF TRIALS BEFORE A VARIETY CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER. FOR POLITICAL REASONS, LAST YEAR'S TRIALS MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED VALID FOR TESTING PURPOSES, HOWEVER, A FINAL DECISION ON THIS MATTER HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED. TO BE ACCEPTED, THE REGIONAL AUTHORITIES MUST AGREE THAT THE TESTING WAS VALID AND IN SOME REGIONS. OPPOSITION FROM THE GREEN PARTY OR ANTI-GMO ORGANIZATIONS MAY ME THIS DIFFICULT.

4. (SBU) IN 1997, ACCORDING TO PUGNA, 64 VARIETIES OF GM CORN WERE TESTED, MAINLY VARIETIES FROM MONSANTO, NOVARTIS AND AGREVO, AS WELL

AS CROSSES WITH TRADITIONAL VARIETIES. IT IS NORMAL FOR THE INSTITUTE TO TEST CORN VARIETIES PRIOR TO THEIR APPROVAL BY THE EU IN ORDER TO SPEED UP THE AVAILABILITY OF NEW VARIETIES. IN COMPARING BT CORN TO TRADITIONAL VARIETIES, THE TESTS SHOWED HIGHER YIELDS FOR BT CORN OF 1.6 PERCENT TO 28.2 PERCENT, WITH AN AVERAGE RATE OF 11.1 PERCENT. THE WIDE RANGE IS BECAUSE OF DIFFERENT CORN BORER INFESTATION RATES IN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02

SSN: 4730

TOR: 980701215723 M3360362

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA4730 1771508-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH (CCY ADX 4E0623/AMG3644)
LINE3: R 261508Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 261508Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4385
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0201
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0438
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: SUBJECT: GMO TRIALS IN PROGRESS IN
TEXT:

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

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 004730

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA MARKINGS)

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
USDA FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR, FDA AND EPA
USDA FOR FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH,
OFSTS/HARBERT, EAMED/THORN, G&F/RADLER
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE
GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - NOT FOR PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION

E.O. 1295B: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, IT
SUBJECT: SUBJECT: GMO TRIALS IN PROGRESS IN
ITALY

REF: ROME 1997 08523

THE 5 DIFFERENT AREAS IN WHICH TESTING WAS
PERFORMED.

5. (SBU) THEORETICALLY, ADDED PUGNA, THE ITALIAN
FARMERS DO NOT NEED TO WAIT FOR 2000 BEFORE
PLANTING GM CORN, AS THEY COULD USE SEEDS OF
VARIETIES ALREADY INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL
REGISTERS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, LIKE SPAIN AND
FRANCE, WHERE THE REGISTRATION PROCESS IS
SHORTER. HOWEVER, SEED AVAILABILITY OF
THESE VARIETIES IS LIMITED AND IT IS

EXPECTED THAT NO MORE THAN 40,000 HECTARES
COULD BE PLANTED IN ITALY.

6. (SBU) IN A LATER PHONE CONVERSATION WITH MR
RANALLI, DIRECTOR OF THE INDUSTRIAL CROP
EXPERIMENTAL INSTITUTE, THE CORRESPONDING
AGENCY FOR OILSEEDS, SUGAR BEETS AND
POTATOES, IT WAS REPORTED THAT, TO DATE, NO
OFFICIAL TRIALS HAVE TAKEN PLACE FOR GMO
SOYBEANS. RANALLI SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR
INSTITUTE IS "HOSTING" SOME EXPERIMENTAL
TRIALS FOR MONSANTO ON "ROUND-UP READY"
SOYBEANS. THESE TESTS ARE BEING PERFORMED
UNDER STRICT SECURITY MEASURES AND IN
ISOLATION FROM OTHER PLANTS. OFFICIAL
TRIALS WOULD NOT BE PERFORMED UNTIL EU
APPROVAL IS GIVEN FOR PLANTING OF GMO
VARIETIES.
FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 4730

TOR: 980701055345 M3358812

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA4731 1771509-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 261509Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 261509Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4386
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0202
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0439
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: MIN HEALTH ON BEEF HORMONE BAN AND
GMO LABELING

TEXT:
UNCLAS ROME 004731

SENSITIVE

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER,
USDA FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR, FDA AND EPA
USDA FOR FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN,
ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/HARBERT, EAMED/THORN,
G&F/RADLER, DLP/REDDINGTON
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE
GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGR

NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, IT

SUBJECT: MIN HEALTH ON BEEF HORMONE BAN AND
GMO LABELING

REF: (A) ROME 01091 (B) BERRY/SLUTSKY
TELCON OF 6/23

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

1. SUMMARY: FAS MET WITH MOH DG MARABELLI
TO PROBE HIM ON TOPICS TO BE RAISED ON JUNE
30 AT AMBASSADOR FOGLIETTAS INTRODUCTORY
MEETING WITH MOH MINISTER ROSY BINDI. ON
THE BEEF HORMONE BAN ISSUE, RABELLI SAID
HE BELIEVED GOI WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO

MAINTAIN THE BAN.

ON GMO LABELING, HE THOUGHT THAT THE USDA IDEA THAT ITALY SHOULD ACCEPT VOLUNTARY LABELING DECLARING THE PRESENCE OF GMOS IN LIEU OF LABORATORY TESTING SEEMED REASONABLE.

2. AGMINCOUNS ASKED MARABELLI HOW ITALY WOULD RESPOND TO RECENT RULING BY ARBITRATION PANEL DIRECTING THE EU TO PUT INITIAL WTO DECISION INTO EFFECT BY MAY 1999. HE RESPONDED THAT GIVEN ITALIAN CONSUMER SENTIMENTS LINKED TO BSE AND THE WIDELY-PUBLICIZED 1979 ISSUE (HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF HORMONES FROM TURKEY NECKS IN BABY FOOD), THE GOI WOULD TRY TO MAINTAIN THE BAN AT ALL COSTS. HE APPEARED TO BE OPERATING UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT PAYING COMPENSATION COULD BE A VIABLE OPTION. HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT FRANCE, ENGLAND, SPAIN, AND MAYBE THE NETHERLANDS WOULD LIKE TO USE GROWTH HORMONES THEMSELVES BECAUSE THEY ARE MORE PRODUCTION ORIENTED THAN ITALY, WHICH IS A NET MEAT IMPORTER. THIS RESPONSE WAS CONSISTENT WITH MINAG OFFICIALS' RESPONSE TO EMBASSY DEMARCHE OF FEBRUARY 1998 (REFA).

3. WITH REGARD TO GMO'S, AGMINCOUNS RAISED FAS IDEA (REF B) THAT ITALY SHOULD CONSIDER WAIVING ANY REQUIREMENT FOR LABORATORY TESTING OF CORN AND SOY-BASED PRODUCTS IF THE MANUFACTURER HAS POSITIVELY LABELED THE PRODUCT I.E. "CONTAINS GMO'S", ADDING THAT THIS APPROACH SHOULD REPRESENT A COST SAVINGS FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES. MARABELLI'S INITIAL RESPONSE TO THE IDEA WAS FAVORABLE.

4. EMPHASIZING HIS POSITIVE ORIENTATION TOWARD GMO'S, MARABELLI STATED THAT HE RECOGNIZED THE CHALLENGE OF EDUCATING CONSUMERS.

HE ADDED THAT NOW THAT BRUSSELS HAD ISSUED GUIDELINES ON THE LABELING OF CORN AND SOY-BASED PRODUCTS, HE THOUGHT THAT THIS EFFORT WOULD GET UNDERWAY IN ITALY.

NOTE: A THIRD BIOTECH GROUP, CONCERNED WITH ETHICS AND CONSUMER EDUCATION WAS FORMED SOME MONTHS AGO (UNDER PROFESSOR SANTI, A HIGHLY-REGARDED CANCER RESEARCHER), BUT THERE IS NOT YET ANY VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF THEIR WORK. THE OTHER TWO GROUPS ARE THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE, UNDER DR. D'AGNOLO, SUPERIOR INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, AND THE NEW

NOVEL FOODS GROUP UNDER DG MARABELLI. END
NOTE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON WHY ITALY
CHOSE NOT TO CHALLENGE THE CONTINUED BAN ON
PLANTING BT CORN AND RR SOYBEANS BY AUSTRIA
AND LUXEMBOURG, MARABELLI RESPONDED THAT
ITALY TOOK THIS POSITION IN ORDER TO PLACATE
CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN PARLIAMENT.
FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4731

TOR: 980627142209 M3354384

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: PAACZYUW RUEHFRA4579 1771617-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: P 261617Z JUN 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 261617Z JUN 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7142
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0518
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6541
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 9293
SUBJ: GMO'S: WHERE DOES FRANCE STAND?
TEXT:
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ PARIS 014579

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By RL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
7016-0529-m (2.08)

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MU@PHY
STATE PASS USDA FOR GLICKMAN, SCHUMACHER, DRAZEK AND GALVIN
STATE PASS FDA FOR COMMISSIONER
GENEVA FOR USTR, AGRICULTURE AND RESSLER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/24/03
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, EUN, FR, KSCA
SUBJECT: GMO'S: WHERE DOES FRANCE STAND?

REF: PARIS 14245

CLASSIFIED BY DCM W. ROBERT PEARSON FOR REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

1. ~~(C)~~ INITIAL CONTACTS WITH THE GOF AFTER THE JUNE 21-22 CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS ON GMO'S SUGGEST THAT IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A FEW DAYS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO SORT OUT ITS PLAN OF ACTION WITH REGARD TO THE PENDING APPROVAL OF THE TWO GMO CORN VARIETIES AND A LONGER TIME TO DETERMINE A MORE GENERAL GMO POLICY. WE ANTICIPATE THAT DECISIONS ON THE CORN APPROVALS WILL ONLY OCCUR AFTER HIGH LEVEL INTER-MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS, PROBABLY INVOLVING THE PRIME MINISTER. THE KEY INTER-MINISTERIAL PLAYERS ARE FINANCE (TRADE), AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT. (ACCORDING TO A DREE CONTACT, THE FIRST OF THESE DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE JUNE 24.) THE PM WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT HIS DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON, THE MIXED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS (REFTEL), FRENCH ECONOMIC INTERESTS (INCLUDING THE DESIRE OF MANY FARMERS TO USE GMO'S), AND THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF THE COALITION, ESPECIALLY THE POSITION OF THE "GREEN" ENVIRONMENT MINISTER AND HER PARTY.

2. ~~(C)~~ BOTH TRADE AND AGRICULTURE CONTACTS HINT THAT A DECISION ON THE TWO CORNS MAY HAPPEN IN JULY, BUT FOR NOW NO ONE IS PREDICTING ANY SPECIFIC DATES. HOWEVER, THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISER TO THE PRIME MINISTER IS HOPEFUL THAT THE ISSUE CAN BE RESOLVED BY MID-JULY. HE ALSO OPINED, PERSONALLY, THAT THE MATTER WILL LIKELY BE RESOLVED FOR IMPORTS BEFORE A FULL DECISION ON DOMESTIC COMMERCIALIZATION, SUCH AS WAS DONE FOR NOVARTIS' BT CORN. HE BELIEVES THAT IT WILL BE EASIER TO RESOLVE THE CORN APPROVALS THIS WAY THAN BY WAITING TO RESOLVE ALL THE DOMESTIC ASPECTS. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE U.S. WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO EXPORT CORN TO THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS OF THIS YEAR'S MARKETING SEASON. HOWEVER, THE GOF WILL NOT/MOVE ON ANYTHING BEFORE RECEIVING INQ (INTERIM) GMO REPORT ON JUNE'S LQ NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S OFFICE OF EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHOICES.

TRANSATLANTIC DISCUSSION: TEP OR BILATERAL OR BOTH

3. ~~(C)~~ A MINAG CONTACT HAS TOLD EMBASSY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER INTENDS TO TRY TO ESTABLISH A U.S.-FRENCH GROUP OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO STUDY THE GMO ISSUE. THE PRIME MINISTER'S AGRICULTURAL ADVISER CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY AGMINCOUNS 6/26 THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING A GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT EXPERTS GROUP TO DISCUSS THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF GMO'S AS WELL AS LABELLING ISSUES. THE PM'S ADVISER STATED THAT SUCH A DIALOGUE WOULD NOT INVOLVE TRADE ASPECTS OF GMO'S AND WOULD COMPLEMENT, NOT INTERFERE WITH, U.S.-EU POLICY DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT. TRADE POLICY OFFICER RAISED THIS MATTER WITH A SENIOR DREE OFFICIAL, NOTING THAT WHAT THE U.S. HAS IN MIND IS THE PROPOSED U.S.-EU TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (TEP) DISCUSSION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY (INCLUDING GMO) APPROVAL PROCESSES, NOT A BILATERAL U.S.-FRENCH DIALOGUE. DREE ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS INTERESTED IN A SEPARATE, COMPLEMENTARY (TO TEP) BILATERAL APPROACH.

4. ~~(C)~~ THE DREE OFFICIAL REITERATED THE GOF AND FRENCH PUBLIC'S CONCERNS ABOUT FOOD AND HEALTH SAFETY IN THE AFTERMATH OF VARIOUS SCANDALS OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, ESPECIALLY THOSE INVOLVING TAINTED BLOOD AND BSE. HE CITED THESE SCANDALS AND DIMINISHED PUBLIC TRUST IN EUROPEAN REGULATORS AND GOVERNMENTS AS REASONS FOR THE GOF'S CURRENT COURSE OF ACTION.

5. ~~(C)~~ WE TOLD THE DREE OFFICIAL THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST ON A SCIENCE-BASED APPROVAL PROCESS. NOTING THAT THE CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS PANELISTS (ALL NON-SCIENTISTS) HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOF NOT APPROVE GMO'S WITH ANTIBIOTIC GENE MARKERS OR THOSE THAT CAN SPREAD THEIR GENE CHARACTERISTICS TO OTHER PLANT VARIETIES, WE REMINDED HIM THAT CERTAIN GMO'S WHICH HAVE MET THE SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL IN THE U.S. HAVE THESE CHARACTERISTICS. WE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOF BEAR OUR CONCERNS ON SCIENCE-BASED APPROVAL IN MIND AS IT MAKES DECISIONS.

ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4579

TOR: 980626123918 M3353155

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