

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Final Authorization for Genetically Modified Corn Varieties] (3 pages)	08/04/1998	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: [France] (3 pages)	08/12/1998	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: [U.S. Position on Labelling Requirements] (4 pages)	08/19/1998	P1/b(1)
004. cable	Re: [Biosafety] (3 pages)	08/25/1998	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Re: New Deadline for GMO Cotton Vote (1 page)	12/09/1998	P1/b(1) v2 11/27/2016

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[08/03/1998 - 12/23/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3012

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA6589 2151246-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 031246Z AUG 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 031246Z AUG 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7481
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: DEMARCHE: LIVING GENETICALLY MODIFIED
TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 006589

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SENV, ETRD, EAGR, EUN, AU
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE: LIVING GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS (LMOS)

REF: STATE 138835

1. WHILE POST WAS LISTED AS AN INFO ADDRESSEE FOR SUBJECT DEMARCHE, GIVEN THE HIGH PROFILE THAT LMOS HAVE ASSUMED WITHIN AUSTRIA, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO GET AN OFFICIAL REACTION FROM THE GOA TO REPTEL TALKING POINTS. THE TALKING POINTS WERE TRANSMITTED TO THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTRIES AS WELL AS THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL CHANCELLERY. DR. HELMUT GAUGITSCH, WHO IS AN LMO SPECIALIST AT THE AUSTRIAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, THE RESEARCH ARM OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT AUSTRIA WOULD SUPPORT THE EU POSITION ON THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL (BSP), ESSENTIALLY A BROAD-BASED PROTOCOL THAT COULD TRIGGER LENGTHY NOTIFICATION AND ADVANCE INFORMED AGREEMENT (AIA) PROCEDURES.

2. FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF THE EU'S MOST RECENT POSITION ON THE SUBJECT, AS PROVIDED TO US BY DR. GAUGITSCH. (BEGIN TEXT:)

OUTLINE OF THE EU PROPOSAL FOR THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL

THE EU IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL AND WISHES TO SEE ITS COMPLETION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JAKARTA MANDATE. GLOBAL MEASURES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE OR, THE TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS (LMOS) ARE URGENTLY NEEDED AS AN INCREASING NUMBER OF LMOS ARE MOVED BETWEEN COUNTRIES FOR RESEARCH OR TRADE. THE PROTOCOL SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE SAFE USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, ON THE

BASIS OF SCIENTIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT AND THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE, THEREBY COMPLEMENTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8(G), RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND THE UNEP INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY IN BIOTECHNOLOGY.

SCOPE: THE SCOPE OF THE PROTOCOL SHOULD BE BROAD, PROVIDING A SAFETY-NET. IT SHOULD COVER ALL TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF LMOs RESULTING FROM MODERN BIOTECHNOLOGY WHICH MAY HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, TAKING ALSO INTO ACCOUNT RISKS TO HUMAN HEALTH. EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PROTOCOL SHOULD BE CASES AGREED BY THE PARTIES EITHER BECAUSE THEY ARE JUDGED NOT TO POSE A RISK, OR BECAUSE THEY ARE OR CAN BE MORE ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS. WHILE MANY TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES, THESE PROCEDURES SHOULD NOT APPLY TO LMOs DESTINED FOR CONTAINED USE, OR TO LMOs IN TRANSIT.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES: UNLESS THE PARTY OF IMPORT HAS, WITH JUSTIFICATION, IDENTIFIED CASES FOR WHICH SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES COULD APPLY, THE FOLLOWING KEY POINTS SHOULD APPLY WITH RESPECT TO NOTIFICATION AND THE ADVANCE INFORMED AGREEMENT PROCEDURE:

- PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF AN INTENDED TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT TO THE PARTY OF IMPORT
- AND RESPONSE WITHIN 30 DAYS, ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT AND INFORMING THE NOTIFIER WHETHER TO PROCEED ACCORDING TO THE PROTOCOL PROCEDURES, OR TO PROCEDURES UNDER ITS REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR BIOSAFETY PROVIDED THEY DO NOT RESULT IN A LOWER LEVEL OF PROTECTION THAN THE ONE PROVIDED BY THE PROTOCOL

IF THE PROTOCOL PROCEDURES APPLY, THE RESPONSE SHOULD STATE EITHER THAT THE MOVEMENT MAY PROCEED AFTER 150 DAYS UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED BY THE PARTY OF IMPORT, OR THAT A KNOWN DECISION, CONSENTING TO THE MOVEMENT, POSSIBLY WITH CONDITIONS, OR REFUSING THE MOVEMENT, WITH JUSTIFICATION, WILL BE SENT WITHIN 150 DAYS. FAILURE TO RESPOND NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROTOCOL.

IN ADDITION, THE PROTOCOL SHOULD INCLUDE A SAFEGUARD CLAUSE TO ENABLE PARTIES TO REVIEW, AND POSSIBLY CHANGE, THEIR DECISION WHEN NEW INFORMATION RELEVANT TO RISK BECOMES AVAILABLE.

INFORMATION: NOTIFICATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE LMO AND THE INTENDED USE, AND A RISK ASSESSMENT. LMOs SUBJECT TO TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS COVERED BY THE PROTOCOL SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A MOVEMENT DOCUMENT AND/OR BE LABELLED. THE PROTOCOL SHOULD MAKE APPROPRIATE PROVISION FOR ENSURING CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMERCIAL INFORMATION. A DATABASE, ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARIAT, SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED

AND INCLUDE INFORMATION RELATED TO SPECIFIC
TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS AS WELL AS MORE GENERAL
INFORMATION.

RISK ASSESSMENT SHOULD BE BASED ON SCIENTIFIC GROUNDS
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 006589

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: SENV, ETRD, EAGR, EUN, AU
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE: LIVING GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS (LMOS)

REF: STATE 138835

AND EXPERIENCE AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE ORGANISMS INVOLVED, OF THE INTENDED APPLICATION
AND OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT.

MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS: A PARTY SHOULD BE ABLE TO
ENTER INTO MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS, BUT ONLY IF THOSE
AGREEMENTS DO NOT RESULT IN A LOWER LEVEL OF PROTECTION
THAN THAT IN THE PROTOCOL.

APPLICATION OF THE PROTOCOL TO TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT
WITHIN THE EC: FOR THE EC, WHICH HAS COMPREHENSIVE
INTERNAL LEGISLATION FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY SAFETY, THE
PROTOCOL WOULD APPLY TO TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS BETWEEN
THE EC, OR ONE OF ITS MEMBER STATES, AND THIRD COUNTRIES
BUT NOT TO TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS WITHIN THE EC.
(NOTE: THIS TEXT IS ONLY A NON-TECHNICAL DESCRIPRION OF
WHAT THE EC HAS IN MIND REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF THE
PROTOCOL.)

CAPACITY BUILDING: FOR THE PROTOCOL TO BE EFFECTIVE,
PARTIES MUST HAVE OR DEVELOP THE CAPACITIES TO BE ABLE
TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT PROPOSED TRANSBOUNDARY
MOVEMENTS. RELEVANT ACTIVITIES ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY,
INCLUDING GEF SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNEP
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY IN
BIOTECHNOLOGY. THE PROTOCOL SHOULD REFLECT THESE
POINTS.

HALL

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 6589
<^SSN>6589
TOR: 980803085208 M3403722
<^TOR>980803085345 M3403725
DIST:
SIT: BRADEN DAVIDSON FLANAGAN MCELDOWNEY
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHFRA7390 2161146-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 041146Z AUG 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 041146Z AUG 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8072
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0580
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6559
SUBJ: GOF TO PUBLISH GMO'S APPROVAL ON AUGUST 5
TEXT:
UNCLAS PARIS017390

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

UNCLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: GOF TO PUBLISH GMO'S APPROVAL ON AUGUST 5
REF: PARIS 17062

1. ACORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, THE FINAL AUTHORIZATION OF MONSANTO AND AGREVO GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN VARIETIES IS TO OCCUR ON AUGUST 5. THE DECISION IS EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE FRENCH OFFICIAL JOURNAL (OJ) ON AUGUST 5 IN AN "ARRETE."

2. THE "ARRETE" PUBLISHED IN THE FRENCH OJ WILL BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. ONCE PUBLISHED, WE ARE TOLD THAT THE FRENCH COMPETENT AUTHORITY WILL NOTIFY DG XI (ENVIRONMENT) IN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF ALL OTHER

EU MEMBER STATES. THESE NOTIFICATIONS WILL BE
INFORMATIONAL, NOT PART OF THE AUTHORIZATION
PROCEDURE.

PEARSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 7390

TOR: 980804081159 M3405254

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

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001. cable	Re: [Final Authorization for Genetically Modified Corn Varieties] (3 pages)	08/04/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[08/03/1998 - 12/23/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3012

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHFRA7563 2180717-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 060717Z AUG 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARISTO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8151
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 060717Z AUG 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARISTO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8151
TO: ////
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0583
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6562
SUBJ: GOF OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZES MONSANTO AND
AGREVO GMO CORN VARIETIES

TEXT:
UNCLAS PARIS 017563

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/SEBRANEK; APHIS/CREED

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: GOF OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZES MONSANTO AND
AGREVO GMO CORN VARIETIES

REF: PARIS 17390

1. AS EXPECTED IN REFTTEL, THE GOF OFFICIALLY
AUTHORIZED THE PLACING ON THE MARKET OF MONSANTO
GMO CORN VARIETY MON 810 AND AGREVO GMO CORN
VARIETY T25 IN AN "ARRETE" DATED AUGUST 3
PUBLISHED IN THE FRENCH OFFICIAL JOURNAL DATED
AUGUST 5. A TRANSLATION OF THE "ARRETE" FOLLOWS:

BGIN TRANSLATION:
AUGUST 3, 1998 "ARRETE" PROVIDING WRITTEN CONSENT
UNDER THE TITLE OF THE ARTICLE 13, PARAGRAPH 4 OF
THE DIRECTIVE 90/220/EEC OF APRIL 20, 1990, OF THE
DECISIONS 98/293/CE AND 98/294/CE OF APRIL 22,

1998 CONCERNING THE PLACING ON THE MARKET OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORNS (ZEA MAYS L. T 25 AND MON 810).

2. ARTICLE 1: IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 1 OF THE DECISION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES 98/293/CE OF APRIL 22, 1998, AND IMPLEMENTING ARTILES 6-1 AND 15-1 OF THE MAY 18, 1981 DECREE (NOTE: THIS IS A FRENCH DECREE TO PREVENT FRAUDS ON SEEDS AND CROPS TRADE. ENDw NOTE), PLACING ON THE MARKET IS AUTHORIZED FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED VRN (ZEA MAYS L.), PRESENTING AN INCREASED TOLERANCE TO GLUFOSINATE-AMMONIUM AND DERIVED FROM THE HE/89 CORN LINEAGE, TRANSFORMATION T25, AS DESCRIBED IN THE NOTIFICATION C/F/95/12/07 PRESENTED BY THE COMPANY AGREVO FRANCE. THE BENEFICIARY OF THIS AUTHORIZATION IS THE COMPANY AGREVO FRANCE.

3. ARTICLE 2: IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 1 OF THE DECISION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES 98/294/CE OF APRIL 22, 1998, AND IMPLEMENTING ARTICLES 6-1 AND 15-1 OF THE MAY 18, 1981 DECREE, PLACING ON THE MARKET IS AUTHORIZED FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN LINEAGE MON 810 PROTECTED AGAINST THE CORN BORER AS DESCRIBED IN THE NOTIFICATION C/F/95/12/02 PRESENTED BY THE COMPANY MONSANTO EUROPE SA. THE BENEFICIARY OF THIS AUTHORIZATION IS THE COMPANY MONSANTO EUROPE SA

4. ARTICLE 3: THE PRESENT AUTHORIZATIONS TARGET THE DESCRIBED PRODUCTS AND ALL THE OFFSPRING FROM THESE PRODUCTS OBTAINED BY CROSS BREEDING OF THE PRODUCTS WITH ANY VARIETIES OR LINEAGE OF TRADITIONAL CORN, EXCEPT SEEDS OF THESE VARIETIES FOR WHICH THE AUTHORIZATION OF PLACING ON THE MARKET DEPENDS ON THEIR INSCRIPTION TO THE CATALOGUE OF SEEDS. SIGNED BY LOUIS LE PENSEC.
END TRANSLATION.
PEARSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 7563

TOR: 980806034502 M3408698

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHFRA7714 2190808-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 070808Z AUG 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 070808Z AUG 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8182
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0588
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6566
SUBJ: GMO'S AND THE FRENCH CONNECTION -- WHERE
DO WE GO FROM HERE?

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 017714

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/IAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/SEBRANEK; APHIS/
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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: GMO'S AND THE FRENCH CONNECTION -- WHERE
DO WE GO FROM HERE?

REF: (A) PARIS 17651, (B) PARIS 17245

1. AFTER MONTHS OF NUMEROUS U.S. DEMARCHES, HIGH-LEVEL USG INTERVENTIONS, AND DEALING WITH A RANGE OF DOMESTIC INTERESTS GROUPS, AS WELL AS THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU), THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT FINALLY AGREED TO AUTHORIZE THE APPROVAL OF THE TWO PENDING GMO CORN VARIETIES (MONSANTO AND AGREVO). HOWEVER, DELAY OF FRENCH CONSENT HAD BLOCKED U.S. CORN EXPORTS THAT NORMALLY REACH OVER USD 200 MILLION ANNUALLY. NOW IS THE TIME TO STOP AND REFLECT ON HOW THE USG, THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU),

AND PARTICULARLY FRANCE, CAN WORK IN A MUCH MORE COORDINATED FASHION TO DEAL WITH GMO APPROVALS IN THE FUTURE, ESPECIALLY THOSE CURRENTLY IN THE PIPELINE WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT NOT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION, SUCH AS THE PIONEER CORN VARIETY.

2. WITH THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE BEING THE KEY AGRICULTURAL TRADE PLAYERS IN THE TRANSATLANTIC ARENA, DOMESTIC POLICIES, AGRICULTURAL TRADE, FOOD SAFETY, PUBLIC HEALTH AND CONSUMER CONCERNS, AND ANIMAL HEALTH ISSUES WILL ALWAYS BE OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS AND CONSUMERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, AND, THEREFORE, THEIR GOVERNMENTS. THUS, AS MAJOR COMPETITORS IN MANY AGRICULTURAL TRADE AREAS AND WITH DIFFERENT CONSUMER PERSPECTIVES ON FOOD SAFETY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE USG WILL NEED TO RESHARPEN ITS TOOLS IN TACKLING FUTURE FOOD SAFETY RELATED ISSUES TO AVOID A REPEAT OF THE GMO CORN SAGA OR WORSE.

3. FRANCE, A RATHER LIBERAL, FORWARD`_LOOKING COUNTRY FOR ADVANCEMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING BIOTECHNOLOGY, FACES SEVERE PUBLIC SCRUTINY WITH REGARD TO BIOTECHNOLOGY AND FOOD SAFETY RELATED ISSUES. AS NOTED IN REF A, LAYING OUT GENERAL BACKGROUND ON THE EVOLUTION OF FRANCE'S ATTITUDE ON GMO APPROVAL, FRENCH CONSUMERS AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL HAVE LOST AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMS AND THE HANDLING OF FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTH RELATED ISSUES. THUS, THE GOF, THE PARLIAMENT, AND THE FARM AND FOOD INDUSTRIES HAVE MOVED CAUTIOUSLY TO BING BIOTECHNOLOGY ON THE MAIN STREAM.

4. THE FRENCH FARM INDUSTRY AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ARE GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. HOWEVER, NO ONE ENTITY IS WILLING TO BE THE FRONT RUNNER ON THE ISSUE. THE USG HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY SEVERAL ENTITIES OF THE GOF, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, FOR AN EXCHANGE OF GENERAL SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION WHICH COULD HELP FRANCE PROVIDE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE OVERALL SUBJECT TO THE FRENCH PUBLIC.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL CONCERNED U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (USDA, FDA, EPA, USTR, STATE) TO CAUCUS TO DETERMINE WHAT SHOULD BE THE BEST APPROACH FOR HANDLING FUTURE GMO APPROVALS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY IN GENERAL. WE ALSO STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT A MUCH MORE COORDINATED TEAM EFFORT BETWEEN WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND THE EMBASSIES WILL GO A LONG WAY IN HELPING US TO CARRY OUT OUR OVERALL MISSION AND TO MORE EFFECTIVELY DEFEND U.S. ECONOMIC AND TRADE INTERESTS.

6. AS WE EXPLORE VARIOUS AVENUES OF DEALING WITH FUTURE GMO APPROVALS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY IN GENERAL, WE RECOMMEND THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING APPROACHES:

TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (TEP)
FULLY EXPLORE ALL AVENUES TO ESTABLISH A SERIOUS
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 017714

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/SEBRANEK; APHIS/
CREED

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
STATE PASS FDA
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE FRENCH CONNECTION -- WHERE
DO WE GO FROM HERE?

REF: (A) PARIS 17651, (B) PARIS 17245

DIALOGUE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY, AS WELL AS
BIOTECHNOLOGY RELATED ISSUES, AS A PART OF THE ON-
GOING TEP PROCESS;

U.S./FRENCH BIOTECHNOLOGY GROUP -- WORK WITH
THE GOF TO ESTABLISH SUCH A GROUP TO EXCHANGE
SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AS IT
RELATES TO NEW BIOENGINEERED PRODUCTS ENTERING THE
MARKETPLACE. TOPICS MAY RELATE TO BIOENGINEERED
CROP PRODUCTION AND PERFORMANCE, AS WELL AS
ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, AND FOOD SAFETY CONCERNS.
THE GROUP WOULD CONSIST OF GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS,
ACADEMICIANS, SCIENTISTS, CONSUMER GROUPS, ETC.;

(NOTE: THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE CONTINUES TO
EXPRESS KEEN INTEREST IN SUCH A GROUP, EMANATING
FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
CLINTON IN JUNE. THEY VIEW SUCH A GROUP BEING
HEADED AT THE MID-POLITICAL LEVEL; FOR EXAMPLE, AT
A LEVEL NO LOWER THAN THE USDA ADMINISTRATOR OR
ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR LEVEL. END NOTE)

STRIVE TO DEVELOP A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH
GOF'S NEWLY ESTABLISHED COMMITTEE IN THE MINISTRY
OF HEALTH (SEE PARA 5 OF REF B) TO EXAMINE IN
GREATER DETAIL THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF ANTIBIOTIC
RESISTANCE;

CONTINUE AND EXPAND VISITS OF EXPERTS TO

ADDRESS CONSUMER, RETAIL, FARM AND TRADE ORGANIZATIONS, AND UNIVERSITY AUDIENCES. THESE VISITS HAVE BEEN VERY BENEFICIAL TO ENHANCE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE BENEFITS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND COUNTERACT NEGATIVE PUBLICITY. HOWEVER, IMPROVED COORDINATION AND PLANNING OF THESE EVENTS, BOTH BETWEEN USG WASHINGTON-BASED AGENCIES AND EMBASSIES THROUGHOUT EUROPE, WOULD MAXIMIZE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE PROGRAMS.

(NOTE: WE ARE PLEASED TO SEE THAT USDA/FAS IS IN THE PROCESS OF ORGANIZING A U.S. BIOTECHNOLOGY TEAM OF EXPERTS TO TRAVEL TO EUROPE TO CONDUCT BIOTECHNOLOGY SEMINARS, ETC. END NOTE).

ENCOURAGE MORE CONGRESSIONAL/PARLIAMENTARIAN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY;

WORK TO ESTABLISH MAJOR SCIENTIFIC UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE PROGRAMS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY; AND

REINFORCE AND STRENGTHEN US/FRENCH BILATERAL CONTACTS, BOTH IN WASHINGTON, AT POST, AND DURING VISITS OF HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY IN GENERAL.

7. PFT WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEWS AND THOUGHTS ON THESE APPROACHES.
PEARSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 7714
<^SSN>7714
TOR: 980807052452 M3410743
<^TOR>980807052514 M3410744
DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHFRA7725 2190834-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 070834Z AUG 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 070834Z AUG 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8185
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0590
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6568
SUBJ: GOF AUTHORIZES SEVERAL GMO CORN VARIETIES
SEEDS TO BE PLANTED IN FRANCE

TEXT:

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

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 017725

USDA FOR OSEC FOR DRAZEK, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA/TGALVIN;
ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/CTHORN/MCHESLEY;
OF['GS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: GOF AUTHORIZES SEVERAL GMO CORN VARIETIES
SEEDS TO BE PLANTED IN FRANCE

REF: PARIS 17563
IN THE FRENCH OFFICIAL JOURNAL DATED AUGUST 5,
1998, THE GOF NOT ONLY AUTHORIZED MONSANTO MON810
AND AGREVO T25 GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) CORN
VAIETIES (REFTEL), BUT ALSO AUTHORIZED THE
PLANTING OF 12 GM CORNS SEEDS. CONCERNED
VARIETIES WERE THE FOLLOWING:

NAME	COMPANY	CHARACTERISTICS
BENJI	NOVARTIS SEEDS SA (FRANCE)	GM FORM, DESCRIBED IN THE 97/98/CE DECISION, OF THE DAHIR VARIETY, MORE TOLERANT TO THE CORN BORER THAN THE NORMAL FORM
GARONNA	NOVARTIS SEEDS SA (FRANCE)	GM FORM, DESCRIBED IN THE 97/98/CE DECISION, OF THE BAHIA VARIETY, MORE TOLERANT TO THE CORN BORER THAN THE NORMAL FORM

NAVARES	NOVARTIS SEEDS SA (FRANCE)	GM FORM DESCRIBED IN THE 97/98/CE DECISION, OF THE ANTARES VARIETY, MORE TOLERANT TO THE CORN BORER THAN THE NORMAL FORM
PACTOL CB	NOVARTIS SEEDS SA (FRANCE)	GM FORM DESCRIBED IN THE 97/98/CE DECISION, OF THE PACTOL VARIETY, MORE TOLERANT TO THE CORN BORER THAN THE NORMAL FORM
SEVEN	NOVARTIS SEEDS SA (FRANCE)	GM FORM DESCRIBED IN THE 97/98/CE DECISION, OF THE EDEN VARIETY, MORE TOLERANT TO THE CORN BORER THAN THE NORMAL FORM
ODYSSEE	NOVARTIS SEEDS SA (FRANCE)	GM FORM DESCRIBED IN THE 97/98/CE DECISION, OF THE DARINE VARIETY, MORE TOLERANT TO THE CORN BORER THAN THE NORMAL FORM
BOLSA	PIONNEER HI-BRED (USA)	GM FORM DESCRIBED IN THE 98/294/CE DECISION, OF THE MARISTA VARIE, MORE TOLERANT TO THE CORN BORER THAN THE NORMAL FORM
ELGINA	PIONEER HI-BRED (USA)	GM FORM DESCRIBED IN THE 98/294/CE DECISION, OF THE CECILIA VARIETY, MORE TOLERANT TO THE CORN BORER THAN THE NORMAL FORM
LEVINA	PIONEER HI-BRED (USA)	GM FORM DESCRIBED IN THE 98/294/CE DECISION, OF THE RANDA VARIETY, MORE TOLERANT TO THE CORN BORER THAN THE NORMAL FORM
OLIMPICA	PIONEER HI-BRED (USA)	GM FORM DESCRIBED IN THE 98/294/CE DECISION, OF THE NATALIA VARIETY, MORE TOLERANT TO THE CORN BORER THAN THE NORMAL FORM
NOVELIS	PAU SEMENCES (FRANCE)	GM FORM DESCRIBED IN THE 98/294/CE DECISION, OF THE NOBILIS VARIETY, MORE TOLERANT TO THE CORN BORER THAN THE NORMAL FORM
DK 513	DEKALB (USA)	GM FORM DESCRIBED IN THE 98/294/CE DECISION, OF THE DK 512 VARIETY, MORE TOLERANT TO THE CORN BORER THAN THE NORMAL

SSN: 7725

TOR: 980807063424 M3410867

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
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LINE3: O 070834Z AUG 98
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OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 070834Z AUG 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8186
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0591
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6569
SUBJ: GOFUTHORIZES SEVERAL GMO CORN VARIETIES
SEEDS TO BE PLANTED IN FRANCE

TEXT:

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

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 017725

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/SEBRANEK; APHIS/CREED

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: GOFUTHORIZES SEVERAL GMO CORN VARIETIES
SEEDS TO BE PLANTED IN FRANCE

REF: PARIS 17563

FORM

PEARSON

SECT: SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 7725
TOR: 980807052912 M3410748
DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHLOA7997 2191538-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG: 071538Z AUG 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8337
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0335
SUBJ: THE CONTROVERSY OVER GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS (GMOS) HEATS UP IN THE UK

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 007997

BRUSSELS FOR USEU

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR
USDA/OSEC/DRAZEK;U/S SCHUMACHER;
PAS/OA/HATAMIYA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH;
PAS/ITP/EAME/THORN/CHESLEY; FAS/OPSTS/HARBERT;
FAS/CMP/HTP/PIASON;ERS/WES/MADELL;APHIS/OA;
FSIS/OA; FAA/AO/NE/GEERKEN

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK

SUBJECT: THE CONTROVERSY OVER GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS (GMOS) HEATS UP IN THE UK

1. THIS CABLE SUMMARIZES RECENT EVENTS AND PRESS
REPORTS RELATED TO GMO'S IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

2. ACCORDING TO WIDESPREAD PRESS REPORTS THE WEEK
OF AUGUST 3-7, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT CLASHED WITH
HOUSE OF COMMONS OFFICIALS OVER A BAN ON
GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
RESTAURANTS. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, THE
SENIOR CATERING STAFF BANNED THE USE OF GM FOODS
BECAUSE OF THE NEGATIVE PUBLICITY ABOUT THESE
FOODS WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE COMMONS CATERING
COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, ONE MP WAS
"APPALLED" WHEN HE FOUND OUT ABOUT THE BAN.

3. POST CONTACTED THE HOUSE OF COMMONS CATERING
UNIT AND LEARNED THAT THIS STORY WAS UNTRUE AND
THAT THEY HAD NOT BANNED GM FOOD.

4. THERE ARE SEVERAL PREK REPORTS TODAY THAT STATE THAT THE UK GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO SPEED UP THE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR GM VARIETY SEEDS IN THE FACE OF GROWING OPPOSITION NO GMOS AND AS NEW RESEARCH CALLS INTO QUESTION THEIR SAFETY. AGAIN, THE PRESS IS INCORRECT IN THE CLAIM THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS FOR GM VARIETY SEEDS.

5. TWO WEEKS AGO AN ORGANIC FARMER IN DEVON LOST HIS COURT OF APPEAL BID TO HALT TRIALS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN IN A FIELD NEXT TO HIS FARM. THE COURT, HOWEVER, DID STATE THAT THE LAW CONDUCTING SEED TRIALS HAD BEEN BREACHED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD (MAFF) HAD NOT BEEN FOLLOWING REGULATION 11(3) UNDER THE SEEDS (NATIONAL LISTS OF VARIETIES) REGULATIONS 1982, AS AMENDED. REGULATION 11(3) STATES THAT FOR AN APPLICATION TO BE ACCEPTED ON THE NATIONAL LIST OF PLANT VARIETIES A BREEDER MUST FIRST SUBMIT THE DATA FROM TWO OR MORE REPLICATED TRIALS. SINCE THE MID-1980S, HOWEVER, MAFF HAS GENERALLY NOT REQUIRED THIS INFORMATION BECAUSE THEY DEEMED IT WAS OF LITTLE VALUE TO THE GOVERNMENT SPONSORED TRIALS.

6. YESTERDAY, THE GOVERNMENT BEGAN CONSULTATIONS TO FORMALLY REMOVE REGULATION 11(3) BY SENDING A LETTER TO THE INDUSTRY, WHICH HAS UNTIL OCTOBER 30 TO RESPOND. MAFF HOPES TO OFFICIALLY REMOVE REGULATION 11(3) FROM THE NATIONAL LIST OF VARIETIES ACT BY DECEMBER. THUS, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT SPEEDING UP THE GM REGULATORY PROCESS AS PRESS ARTICLES CLAIM BUT IS ONLY OFFICIALLY PUTTING IN PLACE A PROCESS IT HAS BEEN FOLLOWING SINCE THE 1980S. LIKEWISE, REGULATION 11(3) APPLIED TO ALL VARIETIES OF SEEDS, NOT JUST GM VARIETIES.

7. EARLIER IN THE WEEK, A FIELD OF EXPERIMENTAL CORN IN DEVON HAD BEEN VANDALIZED BY PROTESTORS. TWO WEEKS AGO, A NEIGHBORING ORGANIC FARMER LOST HIS LEGAL BATTLE TO STOP THE GM CORN TRIALS. THIS IS THE LATEST IN A PROTEST CAMPAIGN IN THE UK BY GROUPS FORMED FROM A LOOSE COALITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS. THE DESTRUCTION IS COSTING SEED COMPANIES HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF POUNDS IN LOST RESEARCH AND FUTURE PROFITS.

8. THE REASON FOR THIS INCREASED ACTIVITY IS THAT HMG IS LEGALLY OBLIGATED TO MAKE PUBLIC THE SITES OF GM CROP TRIALS. AN ACTIVIST GROUP HIGHLIGHTED THE TEST PLOT LIST SUPPLIED BY THE UK GOVERNMENT ON THEIR INTERNET HOMEPAGE. THE UK GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS TO MAKE THE LOCATIONS OF GM TEST PLOTS PUBLIC.

9. (SBU) COMMENT: SEVERAL RESPECTABLE UK NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEGUN TO PUBLISH ARTICLES, FULL OF FACTUAL ERRORS, WITH AN ANTI-GMO SLANT. IN ADDITION, OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, THE PRESS HAS GIVEN A LOT OF COVERAGE TO GROUPS VANDALIZING GM TEST PLOTS, PORTRAYING THEM IN A POSITIVE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 007997

BRUSSELS FOR USEU

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR USDA/OSEC/DRAZEK;U/S SCHUMACHER; PAS/OA/HATAMIYA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH; PAS/ITP/EAME/THORN/CHESLEY; FAS/OPSTS/HARBERT; FAS/CMP/HTP/PIASON;ERS/WES/MADELL;APHIS/OA; FSIS/OA; FAA/AO/NE/GEERKEN

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK
SUBJECT: THE CONTROVERSY OVER GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) HEATS UP IN THE UK

LIGHT. THIS TYPE OF COVERAGE CAN ONLY ADD TO THE CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE SAFETY OF GMOS AND TO THE CONTINUED MISTRUST OF THE GOVERNMENT IN LIGHT OF THE BSE CRISIS. END COMMENT.

10. POST WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AND REPORT ON ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS. BRADTKE

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 7997
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TOR: 980807114225 M3411484
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DIST: SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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002. cable	Re: [France] (3 pages)	08/12/1998	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[08/03/1998 - 12/23/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3012

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHKO6479 2260309-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 140309Z AUG 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
OSRI: RUEHKO
DTG: 140309Z AUG 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3007
RUMHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 4796
INFO: /////
SUBJ: MEETING WITH MAFF ON GMO LABELING

TEXT:
UNCLAS TOKYO 006479

STATE PLEASE PASS USTR FOR JIM MURPHY
USDA FOR FAS/ITP/OFSTS/SLUTSKY; FAS/ITP/AAD/DEATON;
FAS/CMP/COTS/BLUM

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, JA
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MAFF ON GMO LABELING

1. ON AUGUST 12, AGMIN MET WITH MR. KAORU YOSHIMURA, DIRECTOR, STANDARDS AND LABELING DIVISION, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (MAFF) REGARDING THE NEW MAFF PROPOSAL ON GMO FOOD LABELING STANDARDS. AGMIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR MAFF'S OPENNESS TO DATE ON ITS DELIBERATIONS ON GMO LABELING.

2. YOSHIMURA MENTIONED THAT THE NEW "TATAKIDAI" PROPOSAL WILL BE USED AS A BASIC DRAFT PROPOSAL IN THE FOOD LABELING COMMITTEE. THE PROPOSAL WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE AT THE NEXT MEETING, NOW SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 27. YOSHIMURA SAID HE COULD NOT REVEAL EVEN THE OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME, AND IMPLIED THAT MAFF IS STILL MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT CRITICAL ELEMENTS.

3. REGARDING THE SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSAL, YOSHIMURA SAID THAT ONCE IT IS ISSUED ON/ABOUT AUGUST 27, THE COMMITTEE WILL ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SOURCES IN JAPAN AND ABROAD, FOR A PERIOD OF 30 - 45 DAYS. YOSHIMURA WELCOMED THE ATTENDANCE OF AN EMBASSY STAFF OBSERVER AT THE AUGUST 27 COMMITTEE MEETING, AND PROMISED TO CONTACT AGMIN DIRECTLY WITH ADDITIONAL DETAILS SHORTLY THEREAFTER. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE AGRICULTURE COUNSELOR AT THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON D.C. WILL CONTACT HS COUNTERPARTS AT USDA ON THIS ISSUE. THE COMMITTEE WILL COMPILE ALL

THE COMMENTS AND THEN RELEASE THEM TO THE PUBLIC AT THE FOLLOW UP MEETING TO THE AUGUST 27 MEETING, WHICH IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY NOVEMBER. THE COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON LABELING REQUIREMENTS AFTER THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

4. SINCE THE GMO LABELING STANDARDS WILL BASICALLY FIT WITHIN THE JAPAN AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS (JAS) LABELING ACT, THE FINAL FOOD LABELING COMMITTEE STANDARDS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE JAS COMMITTEE. THE JAS COMMITTEE WILL INCLUDE THE GMO LABELING STANDARDS IN THEIR MAJOR REVISION OF THE JAS LABELING SYSTEM, CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. YOSHIMURA SAID THIS JAS REVISION PROCESS WOULD TAKE ABOUT A YEAR. THE JAS REVISION, INCLUDING THE WTO NOTIFICATION, WILL TAKE ABOUT 12 MONTHS. ASKED BY AGMIN IF THAT MEANT THAT THE FINAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LABELING PROGRAM WOULD BE AROUND JANUARY 2000, YOSHIMURA AGREED.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: NOT ONLY IS THE CONTENT UNCLEAR AT THIS TIME, BUT ALSO UNCERTAIN IS HOW MAFF WILL IMPLEMENT THE NEW LABELING REGIME. AS AN EXAMPLE, THE USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE TO MAKE AN APPARENTLY VOLUNTARY LABELING PROGRAM DE FACTO A MANDATORY ONE, WOULD SUBVERT THE LABELING SYSTEM. POST WILL CONTINUE TO QUERY GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE TRADE SOURCES AND REPORT AS APPROPRIATE. END COMMENT
LAFLEUR

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6479

TOR: 980813233808 M3421091

DIST:

SIT: BADER GAGNON NORRIS PRITCHARD
SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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003. cable	Re: [U.S. Position on Labelling Requirements] (4 pages)	08/19/1998	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[08/03/1998 - 12/23/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3012

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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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]

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.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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004. cable	Re: [Biosafety] (3 pages)	08/25/1998	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[08/03/1998 - 12/23/1998]

2013-0836-F
ke3012

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 310638Z AUG 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
OSRI: RUEHKO
DTG: 310638Z AUG 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3585
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 4817
INFO: ////
SUBJ: MEETING WITH MAFF DIRECTOR GENERAL ON GMO
- LABELING

TEXT:
UNCLAS TOKYO 006966

STATE FOR EAP/J
STATE PLEASE PASS USTR FOR JIM MURPHY
USDA FOR FAS/ITP/OFSTS/SLUTSKY; FAS/ITP/AAD/DEATON;
FAS/CMP/COTS/BLUM

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MAFF DIRECTOR GENERAL ON GMO
- LABELING

1. ON AUGUST 25, AGMIN MET WITH MR. KEISHIRO FUKUSHIMA, DIRECTOR GENERAL, FOOD AND MARKETING BUREAU, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (MAFF) REGARDING THE MAFF PROPOSAL ON GMO FOOD LABELING STANDARDS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GMO LABELING COMMITTEE ON AUGUST 27. (THE COMMITTEE IS COMPOSED OF GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, AND CONSUMER GROUPS.)

2. AGMIN DISCUSSED THE NEGATIVE TRADE IMPACT OF JAPAN IMPLEMENTING A LABELING POLICY THAT IS SIMILAR TO THAT PROPOSED BY THE EU AND WHICH REQUIRES LABELING OF GMO-PRODUCED FOODS THAT ARE SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO CONVENTIONAL PRODUCTS. SUCH A POLICY IS NOT BASED ON SCIENCE NOR IS IT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF CONSUMERS. A GMO LABEL WOULD RESULT IN A MISLEADING SAFETY IMAGE FOR CONSUMERS, AND FOOD PRODUCT PRICES WOULD LIKELY INCREASE BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR EXPENSIVE VERIFICATION TESTING AND LABELING COSTS. AGMIN CITED, AS EXAMPLES OF POTENTIALLY AFFECTED INDUSTRIES, U.S. FRENCH FRY EXPORTERS AND JAPANESE TOFU MANUFACTURERS. FINALLY, AGMIN STATED THAT IF JAPAN GOES FORWARD WITH A MANDATORY LABELING PROPOSAL, THE USG MAY FOLLOW A SIMILAR WTO ACTION NOW BEING CONSIDERED WITH THE EU, I.E. RAISING

THE ISSUE IN THE TBT COMMITTEE OF THE WTO.

3. FUKUSHIMA RESPONDED THAT MAFF INTENDS, IN THE AUGUST 27 MEETING, TO GO FORWARD WITH A "TATAKIDAI" (DRAFT PROPOSAL) INCLUDING AS OPTIONS BOTH A VOLUNTARY AND A MANDATORY LABELING PROPOSAL. HE ADDED THAT THE MOTIVE FOR GMO LABELING WAS NOT SAFETY CONCERNS BUT CONSUMER GROUP REQUESTS FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FOOD PRODUCTS. FURTHER, MAFF'S PROPOSAL WILL NOT RESEMBLE THE EU GMO LABELING PROPOSAL BECAUSE IT WILL PERMIT THE USE OF "NOT SEGREGATED" AS A LABELING OPTION, THEREFORE NOT (IN EVERY ITANCE) REQUIRING TESTING OF GMO PRODUCTS.

4. REGARDING FUKUSHIMA'S STATEMENT ABOUT ALLOWING "NON-SEGREGATED LABELING", AGMIN RESPONDED THAT CNSUMERS HAVE AN IMAGE PROBLEM WITH THIS APPROACH AND WILL THEREFORE PRESSURE THE FOOD INDUSTRY TO DO MORE, I.E. STATE ON THE LABEL DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT WHETHER THE PRODUCT CONTAINS GMO'S. THIS WILL DE FACTO REQUIRE TESTING, ALONG WITH THE OTHER MANDATORY LABELING OPTIONS OF "CONTAINS GMO" AND "GMO-FREE". AGMIN THEN REQUESTED THAT MAFF PUT FORTH ONLY THE VOLUNTARY LABELING OPTION IN LIGHT OF THE PROVEN SAFETY OF APPROVED GMO PRODUCTS AND ADVERSE EFFECTS OF MANDATORY LABELING.

5. FUKUSHIMA SAID THAT PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL LABELING STANDARDS, MAFF WOULD PERMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM FOREIGN NATIONS, TO THE COMMITTEE'S LABELING PROPOSAL. IN NOVEMBER THE COMMITTEE WILL COMPILE ALL COMMENTS AND RELEASE THEM TO THE PUBLIC. AFTER THE NOVEMBER MEETING THE COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO MAKE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON LABELING REQUIREMENTS.

6. POST COMMENT. AGAFFAIRS WILL SEND AN EMBASSY STAFF OBSERVER TO THE AUGUST 27 COMMITTEE MEETING AND REPORT DETAILS THEREAFTER. PRIOR TO THE MEETING, AGAFFAIRS WILL ALSO SUBMIT A LETTER TO DG FUKUSHIMA OUTLINING THE USG POSITION, SUPPORTED BY CANADA AND HOPEFULLY NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA, ON GMO LABELING. POST WILL APPRECIATE USDA REPORT ON BOTH SENIOR-LEVEL MEETING WITH JAPANESE EMBASSY AND WORKING-LEVEL MEETING WITH VISITING JAPANESE FOOD AGENCY TEAM. END COMMENT.
LAFLEUR

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6966

TOR: 980831031405 M3445235

DIST:

SIT: BADER GAGNON LEE NORRIS PRITCHARD
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHKO A9491 3310226-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 270226Z NOV 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
OSRI: RUEHKO
DTG: 270226Z NOV 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6661
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 5033
INFO: ////
SUBJ: SECRETARY GLICKMAN DISCUSSES GMO LABELING AND
- PQ ISSUES IN MEETING WITH MAFF MINISTER
- NAKAGAWA

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 TOKYO 009491

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR FDA FOR CFSAN/MARYANSKI
USDA FOR FAS/OA/HATAMIYA, GALVIN; FAS/CMP/PARKER,
MOLSTAD, PIASON; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, JA

SUBJECT: SECRETARY GLICKMAN DISCUSSES GMO LABELING AND
- PQ ISSUES IN MEETING WITH MAFF MINISTER
- NAKAGAWA

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.

2. SUMMARY. ON NOVEMBER 19, USDA SECRETARY DANIEL GLICKMAN MET WITH MAFF MINISTER SHOICHI NAKAGAWA TO RAISE SEVERAL ISSUES OF MAJOR CONCERN TO U.S. AGRICULTURE. ON GMO LABELING, THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT MAFF'S PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE LABELING OF GMO FOODS, EMPHASIZING THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE TRADE IMPACTS ON IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES. THE SECRETARY ALSO EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT IN MAFF'S FAILURE TO PROCEED WITH FORMAL APPROVAL OF FIVE APPLE VARIETIES AND TWO CHERRY VARIETIES THAT HAVE PASSED MAFF'S QUARANTINE EFFICACY TESTING REQUIREMENTS. FINALLY, THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED MAFF'S VARIETAL TESTING REQUIREMENT FOR TOMATOES, EMPHASIZING THAT SINCE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT TOMATO FRUIT ARE A HOST TO TOBACCO BLUE MOLD, THERE IS NO NEED TO REQUIRE VARIETY-BY-VARIETY TESTING PRIOR TO ENTRY INTO JAPAN.

IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S CONCERNS ABOUT GMO LABELING, MINISTER NAKAGAWA EMPHASIZED THE PROPOSAL IS IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSUMER'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW, AND THAT

THE ISSUE IS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION BY AN OBJECTIVE THIRD-PARTY COMMITTEE WHICH IS TASKED WITH DECIDING HOW TO LABEL, WEIGHING ISSUES SUCH AS COST AND LOGISTICS, AS WELL AS CONSUMER'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON APPLES, CHERRIES, AND TOMATOES, MINISTER NAKAGAWA EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANT PROTECTION IN JAPAN AND SAID MAFF'S PLANT QUARANTINE EXPERTS ARE STUDYING THE ISSUES.

SENATOR MAX BAUCUS AND REPRESENTATIVE EARL POMEROY ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING AND EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT MAFF'S GMO LABELING PROPOSAL AND OUTSTANDING PLANT QUARANTINE ISSUES.

END SUMMARY.

1. SECRETARY GLICKMAN BEGAN THE MEETING BY THANKING MINISTER NAKAGAWA FOR MAFF'S COOPERATION IN APPROVALS OF GMOS. HE COMMENDED THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN ON ITS THOROUGH, SOUND SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO CONDUCTING SAFETY ASSESSMENTS.

2. HOWEVER, THE SECRETARY SAID THE UNITED STATES IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DRAFT MANDATORY LABELING GUIDELINES FOR FOODS CONTAINING GMOS. THE DRAFT MANDATORY LABELING PROPOSAL, IF IMPLEMENTED, HAS THE POTENTIAL TO DISRUPT TRADE BY MISLEADING CONSUMERS AND REQUIRING SEGREGATION BETWEEN GMO AND NON-GMO CROPS. THE SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT SEGREGATION WOULD BE "IMPOSSIBLE" FOR U.S. PRODUCERS.

3. THE SECRETARY THEN ADDED HE UNDERSTANDS CONSUMER CONCERNS ABOUT THE SAFETY OF BIOTECHNOLOGY CAN ARISE, THAT "WE HAVE THEM IN OUR OWN COUNTRY," AND SO IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS IN A MEANINGFUL, INFORMATIVE WAY. HE SAID HE STRONGLY SUPPORTS EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO ACTIVELY PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT BIOTECHNOLOGY AND ENCOURAGED MAFF TO EXPAND THESE ACTIVITIES.

4. HOWEVER, RETURNING TO THE MAFF LABELING PROPOSAL, THE SECRETARY SAID HE WAS CONCERNED THAT MAFF'S LABELING POLICY IN RESPONSE TO SAFETY-RELATED CONCERNS BY CONSUMERS IS INCONSISTENT, AND DESIGNED, IN PART, TO STIGMATIZE IMPORTED FOODS. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT MAFF'S LABELING POLICY IN RESPONSE TO OTHER CONSUMER CONCERNS, SUCH AS THE USE OF PESTICIDES AND VETERINARY MEDICINES, FOR EXAMPLE, IS VERY DIFFERENT (VOLUNTARY RATHER THAN MANDATORY) FROM THE PROPOSED APPROACH ON GMOS.

5. THE SECRETARY THEN POINTED OUT THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, IMPROVING NOT ONLY FOODS, BUT ALSO LIFE-SAVING MEDICINES. HE URGED MAFF TO POSTPONE ITS DECISION ON LABELING UNTIL ALL THE COMPLICATIONS SURROUNDING THE ISSUE HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT. HE SAID HE FEARS MAJOR TRADE DISRUPTIONS IF MAFF PROCEEDS WITH MANDATORY LABELING.

6. IN RESPONSE, T
HE MINISTER THANKED THE SECRETARY FOR
THE VISIT AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF
MUTUAL INTEREST. ON GMO LABELING, THE MINISTER SAID
MAFF IS CONSIDERING LABELING BECAUSE THERE ARE CONSUMER
CONCERNS, WHICH HAVE ARISEN BECAUSE IT IS A NEW
TECHNOLOGY. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE LABELING PROPOSAL IS
NOT IN RESPONSE TO ANY SAFETY ISSUES, BUT RATHER THE
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STATE PLEASE PASS FOR FDA FOR CFSAN/MARYANSKI
USDA FOR FAS/OA/HATAMIYA, GALVIN; FAS/CMP/PARKER,
MOLSTAD, PIASON; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, JA

SUBJECT: SECRETARY GLICKMAN DISCUSSES GMO LABELING AND
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- NAKAGAWA

CONSUMER'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW. IN RESPONSE TO THE
SECRETARY'S CONCERN THAT MAFF'S LABELING POLICIES ARE
INCONSISTENT, HE SAID THAT MAFF IS ENSURING CONSISTENCY,
EMPHASIZING THAT IMPORTS AND DOMESTIC PRODUCTS WILL BE
TREATED THE SAME.

7. IN PROVIDING ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON CONSUMER
SAFETY WORRIES OVER GMOS, THE MINISTER MENTIONED THERE
IS GROWING CONCERN AMONG CONSUMERS ON FOOD SAFETY ISSUES
OVERALL, POINTING TO THE RISING POPULARITY OF CHEMICAL-
FREE FOODS, AND THAT MAFF WAS SCRUTINIZING GMOS CLOSELY
IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCERNS. HE UNDERScoreD THE
IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING THAT GMOS ARE SAFE, SAYING MAFF
HAS RECEIVED VERY INFORMATIVE ADVICE FROM THE U.S. ON
REGULATORY ISSUES, BUT NOTED THEY ARE CONSULTING WITH
THE EU, REMARKING THAT THE EU HAS ADOPTED A MUCH
STRICTER APPROACH ON APPROVALS. ON LABELING, THE
MINISTER SAID THEY HAVE TURNED THE ISSUE OVER TO AN
OBJECTIVE THIRD-PARTY COMMITTEE, WHICH IS TASKED WITH
DECIDING HOW BEST TO LABEL FOODS CONTAINING GMOS. HE
EMPHASIZED THAT BY FORMING THE COMMITTEE, MAFF IS NOT
REJECTING GMOS; RATHER, THEY SIMPLY WANT AN OBJECTIVE
ANALYSIS ON HOW BEST TO LABEL, WEIGHING ISSUES SUCH AS
COST OF LABELING AND LOGISTICS, IN ADDITION TO
CONSUMER'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW.

8. IN RESPONSE, THE SECRETARY RE-EMPHASIZED THE GROWING
IMPORTANCE OF GENETIC ENGINEERING, PREDICTING THAT IN
THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS, "ALMOST ALL FOODS AND
BEVERAGES, ALMOST ALL PHARMACEUTICALS," WILL INCLUDE
GMOS. HE URGED MAFF TO GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT AND TO WORK
WITH THE UNITED STATES ON LABELING, TO ENSURE THAT
PROGRESS THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY IS NOT DISRUPTED.

9. THE MINISTER THEN REMARKED THAT JUST BECAUSE MAFF IS
STUDYING THE LABELING ISSUE, IT DOES NOT MEAN JAPAN IS
REJECTING BIOTECHNOLOGY. INSTEAD, MAFF IS SIMPLY

CONDUCTING AN "OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS" ON LABELING, ULTIMATELY, TO GIVE CONSUMERS THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE FOR THEMSELVES (BETWEEN GMO AND NON-GMO FOODS). IN CONCLUSION, THE MINISTER MENTIONED, "TO BE FRANK", HE HAS MET WITH MANY OVERSEAS VISITORS WHO HAVE RAISED THE LABELING ISSUE, AND THE MORE PEOPLE HE MEETS WITH ON THE ISSUE, THE MORE HE THINKS INDUSTRY IS TRYING TO RUSH GMOS INTO JAPAN QUICKLY, WITHOUT PROPER SCRUTINY BY REGULATORY AUTHORITIES. THE MINISTER SAYS THIS SOMETIMES MAKES HIM WONDER THAT, PERHAPS, MAFF SHOULD CONSIDER REGULATING GMOS EVEN MORE CLOSELY.

10. TURNING TO PLANT QUARANTINE ISSUES, SECRETARY GLICKMAN SAID HE WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED IN JAPAN'S CONTINUED RELUCTANCE TO PROCEED WITH APPROVAL OF THE FIVE APPLE VARIETIES AND TWO CHERRY VARIETIES THAT HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED MAFF'S QUARANTINE EFFICACY TESTING REQUIREMENTS, NOTING THE TEST RESULTS WERE CONFIRMED BY MAFF. HE SAID USDA HAS BEEN PATIENT, EMPHASIZING THE TEST DATA WERE SUBMITTED OVER ONE YEAR AGO. THE SECRETARY THEN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR A COMMITMENT TO COMPLETE THE PUBLIC HEARINGS AND NOTIFICATION BY EARLY NEXT YEAR, BEFORE THE REQUIRED APPLE ORCHARD INSPECTION IN THE SPRING. THE SECRETARY ALSO RAISED MAFF'S QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS ON TOMATOES, POINTING OUT THAT SINCE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT TOMATO FRUIT ARE A HOST TO TOBACCO BLUE MOLD, THERE IS NO NEED TO REQUIRE VARIETY-BY-VARIETY TESTING TO PROVE THAT TOMATOES ARE NOT A HOST TO THE DISEASE. HE SAID THESE OUTSTANDING PLANT QUARANTINE ISSUES HAVE BEEN GOING ON TOO LONG AND THAT IT IS TIME TO PUT THEM BEHIND US.

11. IN RESPONSE, THE MINISTER SAID MAFF MUST BE CAREFUL ON PLANT QUARANTINE ISSUES, NOTING PAST EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN OF FOREIGN PLANT MATERIAL ENTERING JAPAN AND DESTROYING NATIVE PLANTS. IN REFERENCE TO APPLES, CHERRIES, AND TOMATOES, HE SAID THE

EXPERTS WITHIN MAFF ARE STUDYING THE ISSUES, AND SO IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE THE SECRETARY A "YES" OR "NO" AT THIS TIME. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE TIMING MAY BE A CONCERN FOR THE EXPORTING COUNTRY, THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S PLANT QUARANTINE INTERESTS MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED AND THAT THE MAFF PLANT QUARANTINE EXPERTS MUST BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE ISSUES.

12. THE SECRETARY THEN INTRODUCED SENATOR MAX BAUCUS, AND CONGRESSMAN EARL POMEROY, WHO ARRIVED WHILE THE MEETING WAS IN PROGRESS. SENATOR BAUCUS AND CONGRESSMAN POMEROY BOTH ECHOED THE SECRETARY'S CONCERNS ON MAFF'S GMO LABELING PROPOSAL AND UNNECESSARY PLANT QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS.

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STATE PLEASE PASS FOR FDA FOR CFSAN/MARYANSKI
USDA FOR FAS/OA/HATAMIYA, GALVIN; FAS/CMP/PARKER,
MOLSTAD, PIASON; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, JA

SUBJECT: SECRETARY GLICKMAN DISCUSSES GMO LABELING AND
- PQ ISSUES IN MEETING WITH MAFF MINISTER
- NAKAGAWA

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03

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DIST:

SIT: ARVIZU BADER LIEBERTHAL OSIUS PRITCHARD

SIT: NSC

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PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHWLA1518 3340154-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 300154Z NOV 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
OSRI: RUEHWL
DTG: 300154Z NOV 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO: RUEAEP/EP/EP WASHDC
INFO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0703
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0015
SUBJ: EPA EMPLOYEE'S PUBLIC CRITICISM IN NEW ZEALAND
OF U.S. POLICY AND REGULATORY CAPABILITIES ON
GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS; POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS
OF SECTION 207 OF P.L.96-465 AND USG ETHICS REGULATIONS

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 WELLINGTON 001518

SENSITIVE

EPA FOR ADMINISTRATOR BROWNER FROM AMBASSADOR BEEMAN
STATE FOR L/ETHICS, OIG, AND EAP/ANP
DEPT. PASS TO USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, ASIG, BEXP, ETRD, SENV, NZ

SUBJECT: EPA EMPLOYEE'S PUBLIC CRITICISM IN NEW ZEALAND
OF U.S. POLICY AND REGULATORY CAPABILITIES ON
GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS; POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS
OF SECTION 207 OF P.L.96-465 AND USG ETHICS REGULATIONS

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.
2. I WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN OF A RADIO INTERVIEW (TRANSCRIPT IN PARA 4 BELOW) GIVEN NOVEMBER 26 IN NEW ZEALAND BY EPA EMPLOYEE SUZANNE WUERTHELE, WHO WAS IN NEW ZEALAND WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE OR PERMISSION. MS. WUERTHELE WAS DESCRIBED BOTH AT THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF THE INTERVIEW AS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE EPA, AND, DESPITE A BRIEF DISCLAIMER BY HER THAT SHE WAS SPEAKING OUT AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN, SHE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS BEING HIGHLIGHTED THAT SHE WORKS FOR THE EPA. IN HER INTERVIEW, MS. WUERTHELE CRITICIZED THE U.S. REGULATORY PROCESS, TOOK POSITIONS DIRECTLY AT ODDS WITH U.S. POLICY, AND SIGNIFICANTLY UNDERMINED MY EFFORTS IN NEW ZEALAND TO ADVANCE U.S. POLICY ON FOODS PRODUCED THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY.
3. BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE MS. WUERTHELE HAS DONE TO USG POLICY IN NEW ZEALAND, AND BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF BOTH THE FOREIGN SERVICE ACT (BY REPRESENTING HERSELF IN NEW ZEALAND AS A

USG EMPLOYEE WITHOUT OBTAINING PRIOR CLEARANCE FROM ME) AND USG ETHICS RULES (IN PRESENTING HERSELF AS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE EPA WHILE ACTING FOR PRIVATE PURPOSES), I ASK YOU TO CARRY OUT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION.

4. BEGINNING OF TEXT OF INTERVIEW.

RADIO NEW ZEALAND "KIM HILL" PROGRAM - THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 1998

PRESENTER (HIM HILL): A U.S. SCIENTIST WHO HAS WORKED FOR THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, THE EPA, FOR FOURTEEN YEARS AND IS CONSIDERED AN EXPERT IN TOXICOLOGY AND RISK ASSESSMENT, IS SPEAKING OUT AGAINST GENETIC ENGINEERING. SHE IS IN NEW ZEALAND AT THE MOMENT. SUZANNE WUERTHELE. SHE SAYS HER EXPERIENCE HAS CONVINCED HER THAT THE TECHNOLOGY IS BEING PROMOTED IN THE FACE OF CONCERNS BY SCIENTISTS. PROMOTED BY THE AGENCIES WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE PROTECTING HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT. SHE SAYS THE TECHNOLOGY IS BEING RAPIDLY DEPLOYED, WITH ALMOST NO THOUGHT AS TO ITS CONSEQUENCES AND IN SHORT, WE'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE. SUZANNE WUERTHELE JOINS ME NOW, GOOD MORNING.

SUZANNE WUERTHELE (U.S. SCIENTIST WHO HAS WORKED FOR U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY): GOOD MORNING.

PRESENTER: CAN YOU ... HAS THE EPA GOT AN OFFICIAL POSITION ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD?

WUERTHELE: WELL, BEFORE I ANSWER THAT KIM, I WANT TO MAKE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT I AM SPEAKING OUT AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN.

PRESENTER: I UNDERSTAND THAT.

WUERTHELE: I DON'T REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES.

PRESENTER: BUT NEVERTHELESS, I MEAN IT'S BEEN HIGHLIGHTED, THE FACT THAT YOU DO WORK FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

WUERTHELE: I KNOW.

PRESENTER: IN FACT, YOU'VE HIGHLIGHTED IT YOURSELF, WHICH LEADS ME TO ASK THE QUESTION, WHAT IS THE EPA'S OFFICIAL POSITION?

WUERTHELE: WELL, I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THAT WOULD BE AND I WOULD WANT YOU TO ASK THEM, AND I CAN GIVE YOU REFERENCES AND E-MAILS AND NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO COULD TELL YOU WHAT THAT POSITION IS. I HAVEN'T SEEN ONE ARTICULATED CLEARLY, SO I WOULD REALLY WANT THEM TO SPEAK FOR THAT.

PRESENTER: YOU SAY THEN, THAT THE KIND OF TESTS THAT ARE CARRIED OUT ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SUBSTANCES ARE INADEQUATE?

WUERTHELE: WELL, THEY HAVE BEEN VERY CONTROVERSIAL BECAUSE MANY OF THE ORGANISMS THAT ARE BEING CONSIDERED OR APPROVED, RAISE NEW QUESTIONS THAT WE DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO ANSWER YET. AND FOR EXAMPLE, THE B.T. CORN WHICH WAS APPROVED IN THE UNITED STATES CONDITIONALLY ...

PRESENTER: B.T. STANDS FOR?

WUERTHELE: BACILLUS SPIRINDENSIS (PHON). IT CONTAINS A GENE FROM A BACTERIA THAT PRODUCES A TOXIN THAT IS TOXIC TO DIFFERENT MOTHS THAT ATTACK THE CORN, THE CATERPILLARS. THAT CORN WAS APPROVED BUT THERE WERE MANY SCIENTISTS WHO WERE FAMILIAR WITH BOTANY AND HORTICULTURE, WHO WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT IT AND UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 WELLINGTON 001518

SENSITIVE

EPA FOR ADMINISTRATOR BROWNER FROM AMBASSADOR BEEMAN
STATE FOR L/ETHICS, OIG, AND EAP/ANP
DEPT. PASS TO USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, ASIG, BEXP, ETRD, SENV, NZ

SUBJECT: EPA EMPLOYEE'S PUBLIC CRITICISM IN NEW ZEALAND
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ABOUT THE FACT THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY CREATE RESISTANCE AMONG THE PESTS VERY QUICKLY. SO, THAT'S AN EXAMPLE OF A PRODUCT THAT NOW IS BEING PLANTED ON MANY THOUSANDS OF ACRES BUT REALLY, WE DON'T KNOW YET WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WITH IT. SO, I WOULD HAVE TO AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT THAT WE REALLY ... WE NEED MORE TESTING. BUT THAT CORN AGAIN FOR EXAMPLE, NEVER RECEIVED LONG-TERM TESTING, ANIMAL TESTS, FOR EXAMPLE FEEDING TESTS. SO WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S GOING TO MEAN, TO INTRODUCE INTO THE FOOD SUPPLY OF PEOPLE, LONG-TERM THESE BACTERIAL GENES.

PRESENTER: OUR IMPRESSION OF THE UNITED STATES IS THAT THEY ARE MORE LOATHE TO ALLOW THINGS TO GET ON THE MARKET THAN PERHAPS OTHER COUNTRIES ARE, THAT THERE IS A FAIRLY STRINGENT SERIES OF TESTS THAT THE FDA, IF IT HAS ANY DOUBTS, WILL NOW ALLOW SOMETHING TO BE OUT THERE. IS THIS NOT THE CASE?

WUERTHELE: WELL, I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO ANSWER THAT. WE HAVE THREE AGENCIES THAT ARE AUTHORIZED TO REVIEW DIFFERENT TYPES OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISMS. FDA IS ONE. THEY REVIEW FOODS, DRUGS AND COSMETICS. THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS THE SECOND. THEY REVIEW ANY GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISM WHICH MIGHT BE A PLANT PEST. THE EPA REVIEWS GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISMS THAT ARE CONSIDERED PESTICIDES, OR WHICH MIGHT BE MICRO-ORGANISMS. THEY HAVE DIFFERENT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AS TO WHAT THEY ARE ... HOW THEY EVALUATE THESE, AND THE INFORMAL IN-HOUSE RISK ASSESSMENTS ARE NOT CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT THE THREE AGENCIES. SO, FOR ANY ONE PRODUCT, YOU MIGHT SEE GREATER INTEREST IN REVIEWING IT, OR YOU MIGHT SEE LESS WHEN COMPARING IT TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, AND THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF MY CONCERNS IS, FOR CHEMICALS WE HAVE OVER THE LAST TWENTY YEARS, DEVELOPED WHAT I THINK IS A VERY GOOD WAY TO ASSESS RISKS, THAT OUR FELLOW AGENCIES USE IN A RATHER CONSISTENT FASHION, AND THAT WE HAVE SOME COMFORT WITH. BUT WE HAVEN'T HAD EXPERIENCE YET, WITH THESE ORGANISMS. THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BEHAVE LIKE CHEMICALS AND ...

PRESENTER: DO YOU THINK THERE SHOULD BE A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION SET UP TO ASSESS THE RISKS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS?

WUERTHELE: I DON'T KNOW THAT A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION WOULD BE NECESSARY. I THINK WHAT ... IT ISN'T THE ORGANIZATION SO MUCH THAT IS OF CONCERN TO ME, BUT THE SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGIES. WE REALLY NEED TO GET OUR BEST SCIENTISTS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, AND IN THIS WORLD REALLY I THINK, TO GET TOGETHER AND DECIDE HOW ONE SHOULD EVALUATE THE RISKS OF THESE ORGANISMS.

PRESENTER: BUT GIVEN THAT SCIENTISTS ARE DIVIDED, YOU'LL ACCEPT THAT SOMETIMES SCIENTISTS SAY LOOK, THE RISKS ARE SO MINIMAL THAT THEY ARE VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT, AND THERE ARE OTHER SCIENTISTS WHO SAY, YOU KNOW, WE ARE POISED ON THE EDGE OF ONE OF THE GREAT DISASTERS. HOW CAN YOU GET ANY KIND OF CONSENSUS?

WUERTHELE: WELL, I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO TRY, AND I HAVEN'T SEEN ATTEMPTS AT CONSENSUS, SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS.

PRESENTER: WHAT DO YOU THINK THE MAJOR THREAT MIGHT BE? I MEAN, I REALIZE I'M ASKING YOU A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THREATS TO INDIVIDUAL CONSUMER HEALTH? ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THREATS TO THE ENVIRONMENT? ARE WE TALKING ABOUT POLITICO-ECONOMIC THREATS WAGED BY MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS? I MEAN, ALL THESE THINGS ARE PORTRAYED AS MAJOR CONCERNS BY THE OPPONENTS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS, YEAH?

WUERTHELE: WELL, FROM A SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVE, I THINK THAT THERE IS GOOD REASON TO QUESTION ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CONSIDERATIONS PERHAPS. THE CREATION OF WEEDS THAT WE WOULD NEVER HAVE OTHERWISE.

PRESENTER: SUPER WEEDS AS THEY SAY?

WUERTHELE: THAT'S RIGHT. OR PLANT DISEASES. THERE ARE CONCERNS WITH THE ESCAPE OF EXOTIC ... THESE EXOTIC NEW SPECIES. YOU KNOW, STRAWBERRIES WITH THE ABILITY TO LIVE IN FRIGID CLIMATES. I THINK THERE ARE A NUMBER OF VERY VALID QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIDE. AND CERTAINLY FROM THE HUMAN HEALTH PERSPECTIVE, IF THESE ARE NEW FOODS THAT PEOPLE ARE ALREADY EATING, CREATES SOME TYPE OF A PROBLEM WITHOUT LABELLING AND WITHOUT FURTHER TESTING. I DON'T SEE HOW WE'RE GOING TO TRACE BACK TO FIND THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM. AND EXCELLENT REPUTABLE SCIENTISTS ARE RAISING ISSUES ABOUT HEALTH PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE INSERTION OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE GENES, OR THE INSERTION OF VIRAL GENES, THAT IS GENES FROM VIRUSES, INTO MANY OF THESE FOODS. WE DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND YET, WHAT THE LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES WILL BE.

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 WELLINGTON 001518

SENSITIVE

EPA FOR ADMINISTRATOR BROWNER FROM AMBASSADOR BEEMAN
STATE FOR L/ETHICS, OIG, AND EAP/ANP
DEPT. PASS TO USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, ASIG, BEXP, ETRD, SENV, NZ

SUBJECT: EPA EMPLOYEE'S PUBLIC CRITICISM IN NEW ZEALAND
OF U.S. POLICY AND REGULATORY CAPABILITIES ON
GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS; POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS
OF SECTION 207 OF P.L.96-465 AND USG ETHICS REGULATIONS

PRESENTER: IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THEN, THAT THE CONSEQUENCES, IF
THERE ARE GOING TO BE ANY, COULD WELL BE VERY LONG-TERM, IN WHICH
CASE THERE'S NO WAY THAT ANY REAL RISK ASSESSMENT CAN BE MADE
TODAY OR TOMORROW OR EVEN NEXT YEAR. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A
COMPLETE MORATORIUM ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS, FOR EXAMPLE?

WUERTHELE: WELL, LET ME TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS ONE AT A TIME HERE.
I THINK THAT THE EFFECTS COULD VERY WELL BE LONG-TERM BECAUSE
THESE ARE ORGANISMS, THESE ARE LIVING CREATURES WHICH HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO MULTIPLY AND TO SPREAD. SO YES, THERE COULD BE
LONG-TERM EFFECTS. AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I THINK THAT WE NEED TO
PROCEED VERY SLOWLY AND VERY CAREFULLY AND I THINK THAT'S WHY WE
NEED THIS SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS IN THE BEGINNING, BECAUSE THERE
MIGHT BE SOME KINDS OF PRODUCTS THAT COULD BE CREATED WITH THIS
TECHNOLOGY, THAT WOULD NOT PRESENT THOSE RISKS BUT OTHERS
CERTAINLY COULD. AND THE PROBLEM I SEE IS THAT WE DON'T KNOW HOW
TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THOSE TWO SITUATIONS YET.

PRESENTER: I MEAN THIS WAS, I IMAGINE, A VERY SIMILAR SITUATION
TO SCIENTISTS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN SPLITTING THE ATOM?

WUERTHELE: EXACTLY. AND YOU KNOW WHAT IS VERY INTERESTING TO
ME, IS AFTERWARDS, THOSE VERY SAME SCIENTISTS SAID, WE WISH THAT
WE HAD NOT DONE THIS. WE WISH THAT WE HAD SPOKEN OUT BECAUSE WE
KNEW THAT HOW MOMENTOUS THIS POWER WOULD BE.

PRESENTER: DO YOU NOT THINK ... I MEAN, IT'S ALL VERY WELL TO
WISH IN HINDSIGHT THAT THEY HADN'T DONE IT, BUT IF THINGS WERE AT
A STAGE WHERE IT WAS POSSIBLE, IT WOULD BE DONE. SOMEBODY WOULD
HAVE DONE IT, AS SOMEBODY WILL DO THIS?

WUERTHELE: I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE I UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION.

PRESENTER: WELL, YOU CAN'T STOP THE CLOCK ON SCIENCE?

WUERTHELE: WELL, I THINK THAT THAT'S NOT TRUE. I THINK THAT WE
HAVE THE ABILITY TO SAY YES AND TO SAY NO TO WHAT WE DO. I DON'T
THINK THAT WE'RE HELPLESS AS INDIVIDUALS OR AS COMMUNITIES OR AS
NATIONS. I THINK THAT WE CAN CHOOSE TO DO WHAT WE WANT TO DO.
RIGHT NOW FOR EXAMPLE, THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT
WORLDWIDE, TO CONTROL BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS, TO CONTROL NUCLEAR
WEAPONS, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT NEW ZEALAND CHOSE AS A COUNTRY, TO
BE NUCLEAR FREE. SO I THINK WE DO HAVE CHOICES. WE'RE NOT
HELPLESS AND WE NEED TO LEARN FROM HISTORY THAT BEFORE WE DO
SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DANGEROUS, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE
COSTS ARE GOING TO BE, AND TO DO THIS WITH OPEN EYES AND TO LOOK
AT BOTH THE BENEFITS AND THE COST BEFORE WE DO IT, AND NOT HAVE
TO WORRY ABOUT AFTERWARDS. OH, TOO BAD, WE HAVE DDT ON ALL OF
OUR F ... (UNCLEAR) NOW. GEE, I WISH WE'D THOUGHT ABOUT THIS
EARLIER. IT'S LIKE THE SCIENTISTS LOOKING AT DDT BACK IN THE

FORTIES. THEY WENT RIGHT AHEAD WITH IT, WITHOUT A LOT OF INQUIRY BECAUSE IT LOOKED GOOD ON THE SURFACE. AND THIS TECHNOLOGY PROMISES MANY GOOD THINGS BUT IT'S SO POWERFUL, IT'S SO INCREDIBLY POWERFUL, WE NEED TO LOOK AT THE DOWNSIDE, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY BE UNPLEASANT TO DO THAT.

PRESENTER: ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE'VE BEEN TOLD IS THAT IN THE UNITED STATES, CONSUMERS ARE PARTICULARLY HAPPY WITH BIOTECHNOLOGY AS IT'S KNOWN, THAT THERE HASN'T BEEN A PUSH FOR LABELLING. THIS, AND I SPOKE TO A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MONSANTO YESTERDAY, THIS LED MONSANTO TO ASSUME THAT THEY COULD FAIL TO SEGREGATE SOY BEANS, GENETICALLY MODIFIED FROM NON-GENETICALLY MODIFIED IN EUROPE, AND THERE'S A BACKLASH THERE. IS THERE GOING TO BE ALSO, A BACKLASH IN AMERICA, OR GENUINELY DO AMERICANS NOT CARE?

WUERTHELE: WELL, I THINK YOU'VE BEEN MISINFORMED ON THIS SUBJECT. THE AMERICANS DO NOT KNOW ABOUT GENETIC ENGINEERING. THEY ARE COMPLETELY IN THE DARK. I WAS VERY AMAZED TO SEE HOW WELL AWARE NEW ZEALANDERS ARE ON THIS SUBJECT, THAT SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DEBATING IT ALREADY. THAT DEBATE HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES.

PRESENTER: IT DEPENDS, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, IT DEPENDS WHICH SIDE OF THE FENCE YOU'RE ON, AS TO WHETHER YOU THINK WE'RE WELL INFORMED OR NOT. IF YOU WORK FOR MONSANTO, YOU THINK WE'RE RIDICULOUSLY ILL-INFORMED BECAUSE WE'RE CONCENTRATING ON THE RISKS WHICH ACCORDING TO MONSANTO, ARE VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT. ACCORDING TO YOU, WE'RE VERY WELL INFORMED BECAUSE WE KNOW ALL ABOUT THE RISKS AND VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE BENEFITS AS EXPLICATED BY MONSANTO. DO YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN?

WUERTHELE: WELL, I GUESS WHAT I'M SAYING IS, THAT IT APPEARS TO UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 WELLINGTON 001518

SENSITIVE

EPA FOR ADMINISTRATOR BROWNER FROM AMBASSADOR BEEMAN
STATE FOR L/ETHICS, OIG, AND EAP/ANP
DEPT. PASS TO USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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ME THAT THE DEBATE HAS STARTED IN THIS COUNTRY BUT IT CERTAINLY HAS NOT IN THE UNITED STATES. THERE IS A CAMPAIGN TO GATHER SIGNATURES TO DEMAND THAT THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION LABEL GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS, AND THERE'S EVEN A LAW SUIT AGAINST THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION IN THE UNITED STATES BUT, BY AND LARGE, THE POPULACE IS VERY UNAWARE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN EATING THESE FOODS FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND I BELIEVE PERSONALLY THAT, WHEN PEOPLE FIND OUT THAT THIS HAS BEEN IN THEIR FOOD,

THEY'RE GOING TO BE VERY INTERESTED IN GETTING LABELLING AND TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT. BUT THIS IDEA THAT THE UNITED STATES LIKES GENETIC ENGINEERING IS TOTALLY FALSE.

PRESENTER: EVEN THOUGH THE BENEFITS HAVE BEEN SPELT OUT IN LARGE LETTERS? FOR EXAMPLE, GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD WHICH IS RESISTANT TO PESTS, WILL ALLOW FEWER CHEMICALS TO BE DISTRIBUTED OVER IT, YES?

WUERTHELE: WELL, THAT PARTICULAR STATEMENT OR ARGUMENT, HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED IN THE UNITED STATES. THE GENERAL POPULACE IS TOTALLY UNAWARE OF THE HERBICIDE RESISTANT CROP AND SO ANYONE WHO IS REPRESENTING THAT THE UNITED STATES LIKES THIS, I THINK IS REALLY NOT GIVING YOU THE FULL PICTURE.

PRESENTER: AND WHERE IS RALPH NADER IN ALL THIS?

WUERTHELE: RALPH NADER ACTUALLY HAS MADE A STATEMENT AND I'M SORRY BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS, BUT IT WAS CAUTIONING. IT WAS A CAUTIONARY STATEMENT ABOUT GENETIC ENGINEERING, AND I WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT.

PRESENTER: IT'S NICE TO TALK TO YOU. THANK YOU SUZANNE WUERTHELE.

WUERTHELE: YOU'RE WELCOME.

PRESENTER: WHO'S A U.S. SCIENTIST WHO WORKS WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IN THE UNITED STATES, ALTHOUGH AS I SAID, SHE'S HERE AS AN INDIVIDUAL.

END OF TEXT OF INTERVIEW.

BEEMAN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 04

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 04

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<^SECT>SECTION: 04 OF 04

SSN: 1518

<^SSN>1518

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SIT: NSC

PRT: STERN

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHKO A9543 3340035-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 300035Z NOV 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
OSRI: RUEHKO
DTG: 300035Z NOV 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6716
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 5050
INFO: /////
SUBJ: SECRETARY GLICKMAN DISCUSSES GMO LABELING AND
- PQ ISSUES IN MEETING WITH MAFF MINISTER
- NAKAGAWA

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 TOKYO 009543

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USTR/MURPHY, CUMMINGS
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR FDA FOR CFSAN/MARYANSKI
USDA FOR APHIS/REED, SCHECHTMAN
USDA FOR FAS/OA/HATAMIYA, GALVIN; FAS/CMP/PARKER,
MOLSTAD, PIASON; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, JA

SUBJECT: SECRETARY GLICKMAN DISCUSSES GMO LABELING AND
- PQ ISSUES IN MEETING WITH MAFF MINISTER
- NAKAGAWA

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.

2. SUMMARY. ON NOVEMBER 19, USDA SECRETARY DANIEL GLICKMAN MET WITH MAFF MINISTER SHOICHI NAKAGAWA TO RAISE SEVERAL ISSUES OF MAJOR CONCERN TO U.S. AGRICULTURE. ON GMO LABELING, THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT MAFF'S PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE LABELING OF GMO FOODS, EMPHASIZING THE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE TRADE IMPACTS ON IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES. THE SECRETARY ALSO EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT IN MAFF'S FAILURE TO PROCEED WITH FORMAL APPROVAL OF FIVE APPLE VARIETIES AND TWO CHERRY VARIETIES THAT HAVE PASSED MAFF'S QUARANTINE EFFICACY TESTING REQUIREMENTS. FINALLY, THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED MAFF'S VARIETAL TESTING REQUIREMENT FOR TOMATOES, EMPHASIZING THAT SINCE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT TOMATO FRUIT ARE A HOST TO TOBACCO BLUE MOLD, THERE IS NO NEED TO REQUIRE VARIETY-BY-VARIETY TESTING PRIOR TO ENTRY INTO JAPAN. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S CONCERNS ABOUT GMO LABELING, MINISTER NAKAGAWA EMPHASIZED THE PROPOSAL IS

IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSUMER'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW, AND THAT THE ISSUE IS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION BY AN OBJECTIVE THIRD-PARTY COMMITTEE WHICH IS TASKED WITH DECIDING HOW TO LABEL, WEIGHING ISSUES SUCH AS COST AND LOGISTICS, AS WELL AS CONSUMER'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON APPLES, CHERRIES, AND TOMATOES, MINISTER NAKAGAWA EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANT PROTECTION IN JAPAN AND SAID MAFF'S PLANT QUARANTINE EXPERTS ARE STUDYING THE ISSUES.

SENATOR MAX BAUCUS AND REPRESENTATIVE EARL POMEROY ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING AND EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT MAFF'S GMO LABELING PROPOSAL AND OUTSTANDING PLANT QUARANTINE ISSUES.

END SUMMARY.

1. SECRETARY GLICKMAN BEGAN THE MEETING BY THANKING MINISTER NAKAGAWA FOR MAFF'S COOPERATION IN APPROVALS OF GMOS. HE COMMENDED THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN ON ITS THOROUGH, SOUND SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO CONDUCTING SAFETY ASSESSMENTS.

2. HOWEVER, THE SECRETARY SAID THE UNITED STATES IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DRAFT MANDATORY LABELING GUIDELINES FOR FOODS CONTAINING GMOS. THE DRAFT MANDATORY LABELING PROPOSAL, IF IMPLEMENTED, HAS THE POTENTIAL TO DISRUPT TRADE BY MISLEADING CONSUMERS AND REQUIRING SEGREGATION BETWEEN GMO AND NON-GMO CROPS. THE SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT SEGREGATION WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR U.S. PRODUCERS.

3. THE SECRETARY THEN ADDED HE UNDERSTANDS CONSUMER CONCERNS ABOUT THE SAFETY OF BIOTECHNOLOGY CAN ARISE, THAT WE HAVE THEM IN OUR OWN COUNTRY, AND SO IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS IN A MEANINGFUL, INFORMATIVE WAY. HE SAID HE STRONGLY SUPPORTS EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO ACTIVELY PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT BIOTECHNOLOGY AND ENCOURAGED MAFF TO EXPAND THESE ACTIVITIES.

4. HOWEVER, RETURNING TO THE MAFF LABELING PROPOSAL, THE SECRETARY SAID HE WAS CONCERNED THAT MAFF'S LABELING POLICY IN RESPONSE TO SAFETY-RELATED CONCERNS BY CONSUMERS IS INCONSISTENT, AND DESIGNED, IN PART, TO STIGMATIZE IMPORTED FOODS. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT MAFF'S LABELING POLICY IN RESPONSE TO OTHER CONSUMER CONCERNS, SUCH AS THE USE OF PESTICIDES AND VETERINARY MEDICINES, FOR EXAMPLE, IS VERY DIFFERENT (VOLUNTARY RATHER THAN MANDATORY) FROM THE PROPOSED APPROACH ON GMOS.

5. THE SECRETARY THEN POINTED OUT THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, IMPROVING NOT ONLY FOODS, BUT ALSO LIFE-SAVING MEDICINES. HE URGED MAFF TO POSTPONE ITS DECISION ON LABELING UNTIL ALL THE COMPLICATIONS SURROUNDING THE ISSUE HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT. HE SAID HE FEARS MAJOR TRADE DISRUPTIONS IF MAFF

PROCEEDS WITH MANDATORY LABELING.

6. IN RESPONSE, THE MINISTER THANKED THE SECRETARY FOR THE VISIT AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST. ON GMO LABELING, THE MINISTER SAID MAFF IS CONSIDERING LABELING BECAUSE THERE ARE CONSUMER CONCERNS, WHICH HAVE ARISEN BECAUSE IT IS A NEW TECHNOLOGY. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE LABELING PROPOSAL IS NOT IN RESPONSE TO ANY SAFETY ISSUES, BUT RATHER THE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 TOKYO 009543

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USTR/MURPHY, CUMMINGS
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR FDA FOR CFSAN/MARYANSKI
USDA FOR APHIS/REED, SCHECHTMAN
USDA FOR FAS/OA/HATAMIYA, GALVIN; FAS/CMP/PARKER,
MOLSTAD, PIASON; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, JA

SUBJECT: SECRETARY GLICKMAN DISCUSSES GMO LABELING AND
- PQ ISSUES IN MEETING WITH MAFF MINISTER
- NAKAGAWA

CONSUMER'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S CONCERN THAT MAFF'S LABELING POLICIES ARE INCONSISTENT, HE SAID THAT MAFF IS ENSURING CONSISTENCY, EMPHASIZING THAT IMPORTS AND DOMESTIC PRODUCTS WILL BE TREATED THE SAME.

7. IN PROVIDING ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON CONSUMER SAFETY WORRIES OVER GMOS, THE MINISTER MENTIONED THERE IS GROWING CONCERN AMONG CONSUMERS ON FOOD SAFETY ISSUES OVERALL, POINTING TO THE RISING POPULARITY OF CHEMICAL-FREE FOODS, AND THAT MAFF WAS SCRUTINIZING GMOS CLOSELY IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCERNS. HE UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING THAT GMOS ARE SAFE, SAYING MAFF HAS RECEIVED VERY INFORMATIVE ADVICE FROM THE U.S. ON REGULATORY ISSUES, BUT NOTED THEY ARE CONSULTING WITH THE EU, REMARKING THAT THE EU HAS ADOPTED A MUCH STRICTER APPROACH ON APPROVALS. ON LABELING, THE MINISTER SAID THEY HAVE TURNED THE ISSUE OVER TO AN OBJECTIVE THIRD-PARTY COMMITTEE, WHICH IS TASKED WITH DECIDING HOW BEST TO LABEL FOODS CONTAINING GMOS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT BY FORMING THE COMMITTEE, MAFF IS NOT REJECTING GMOS; RATHER, THEY SIMPLY WANT AN OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS ON HOW BEST TO LABEL, WEIGHING ISSUES SUCH AS COST OF LABELING AND LOGISTICS, IN ADDITION TO CONSUMER'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW.

8. IN RESPONSE, THE SECRETARY RE-EMPHASIZED THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF GENETIC ENGINEERING, PREDICTING THAT IN THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS, ALMOST ALL FOODS AND BEVERAGES, ALMOST ALL PHARMACEUTICALS, WILL INCLUDE GMOS. HE URGED MAFF TO GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT AND TO WORK WITH THE UNITED STATES ON LABELING, TO ENSURE THAT PROGRESS THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY IS NOT DISRUPTED.

9. THE MINISTER THEN REMARKED THAT JUST BECAUSE MAFF IS

STUDYING THE LABELING ISSUE, IT DOES NOT MEAN JAPAN IS REJECTING BIOTECHNOLOGY. INSTEAD, MAFF IS SIMPLY CONDUCTING AN OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS ON LABELING, ULTIMATELY, TO GIVE CONSUMERS THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE FOR THEMSELVES (BETWEEN GMO AND NON-GMO FOODS). IN CONCLUSION, THE MINISTER MENTIONED, TO BE FRANK, HE HAS MET WITH MANY OVERSEAS VISITORS WHO HAVE RAISED THE LABELING ISSUE, AND THE MORE PEOPLE HE MEETS WITH ON THE ISSUE, THE MORE HE THINKS INDUSTRY IS TRYING TO RUSH GMOS INTO JAPAN QUICKLY, WITHOUT PROPER SCRUTINY BY REGULATORY AUTHORITIES. THE MINISTER SAYS THIS SOMETIMES MAKES HIM WONDER THAT, PERHAPS, MAFF SHOULD CONSIDER REGULATING GMOS EVEN MORE CLOSELY.

10. TURNING TO PLANT QUARANTINE ISSUES, SECRETARY GLICKMAN SAID HE WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED IN JAPAN'S CONTINUED RELUCTANCE TO PROCEED WITH APPROVAL OF THE FIVE APPLE VARIETIES AND TWO CHERRY VARIETIES THAT HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED MAFF'S QUARANTINE EFFICACY TESTING REQUIREMENTS, NOTING THE TEST RESULTS WERE CONFIRMED BY MAFF. HE SAID USDA HAS BEEN PATIENT, EMPHASIZING THE TEST DATA WERE SUBMITTED OVER ONE YEAR AGO. THE SECRETARY THEN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR A COMMITMENT TO COMPLETE THE PUBLIC HEARINGS AND NOTIFICATION BY EARLY NEXT YEAR, BEFORE THE REQUIRED APPLE ORCHARD INSPECTION IN THE SPRING. THE SECRETARY ALSO RAISED MAFF'S QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS ON TOMATOES, POINTING OUT THAT SINCE THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT TOMATO FRUIT ARE A HOST TO TOBACCO BLUE MOLD, THERE IS NO NEED TO REQUIRE VARIETY-BY-VARIETY TESTING TO PROVE THAT TOMATOES ARE NOT A HOST TO THE DISEASE. HE SAID THESE OUTSTANDING PLANT QUARANTINE ISSUES HAVE BEEN GOING ON TOO LONG AND THAT IT IS TIME TO PUT THEM BEHIND US.

11. IN RESPONSE, THE MINISTER SAID MAFF MUST BE CAREFUL ON PLANT QUARANTINE ISSUES, NOTING PAST EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN OF FOREIGN PLANT MATERIAL ENTERING JAPAN AND DESTROYING

NATIVE PLANTS. IN REFERENCE TO APPLES, CHERRIES, AND TOMATOES, HE SAID THE EXPERTS WITHIN MAFF ARE STUDYING THE ISSUES, AND SO IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE THE SECRETARY A YES OR NO AT THIS TIME. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE TIMING MAY BE A CONCERN FOR THE EXPORTING COUNTRY, THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S PLANT QUARANTINE INTERESTS MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED AND THAT THE MAFF PLANT QUARANTINE EXPERTS MUST BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE ISSUES.

12. THE SECRETARY THEN INTRODUCED SENATOR MAX BAUCUS, AND CONGRESSMAN EARL POMEROY, WHO ARRIVED WHILE THE MEETING WAS IN PROGRESS. SENATOR BAUCUS AND CONGRESSMAN POMEROY BOTH ECHOED THE SECRETARY'S CONCERNS ON MAFF'S UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 TOKYO 009543

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USTR/MURPHY, CUMMINGS
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR FDA FOR CFSAN/MARYANSKI
USDA FOR APHIS/REED, SCHECHTMAN
USDA FOR FAS/OA/HATAMIYA, GALVIN; FAS/CMP/PARKER,

MOLSTAD, PIASON; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, JA

SUBJECT: SECRETARY GLICKMAN DISCUSSES GMO LABELING AND
- PQ ISSUES IN MEETING WITH MAFF MINISTER
- NAKAGAWA

GMO LABELING PROPOSAL AND UNNECESSARY PLANT QUARANTINE
RESTRICTIONS.

FOLEY

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03
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SSN: 9543
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TOR: 981129195546 M3578843
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DIST: SIT: ARVIZU BADER HAMMONDS LEE LIEBERTHAL OSIUS PRITCHARD USTR
SIT: NSC

Cable

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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHKO A9868 3430703-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
OSRI: RUEHKO
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7170
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 5115
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
INFO: ////
SUBJ: MAFF MANDATORY GMO LABELING PROPOSAL TO BE
- MODIFIED; FINAL RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES MAY BE
- ISSUED IN JANUARY
TEXT:
UNCLAS TOKYO 009868

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR FDA FOR CFSAN/MARYANSKI
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USTR FOR CUMMINGS
USDA FOR FAS/FSTSD/DEREMER; FAS/OA/HATAMIYA;
FAS/CMP/PARKER; FAS/HTP/PIASON; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, DEATON;
FAS/BRUSSELS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, JA

SUBJECT: MAFF MANDATORY GMO LABELING PROPOSAL TO BE
- MODIFIED; FINAL RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES MAY BE
- ISSUED IN JANUARY

1. DESPITE BROAD PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR MAFF'S PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE MANDATORY GMO LABELING, POST DOES NOT EXPECT THE PROPOSAL WILL MOVE FORWARD IN ITS PRESENT FORM. FACING WIDESPREAD CONCERN AT THE MAFF GMO LABELING COMMITTEE OVER THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF REQUIRING LABELING FOR GMOS WHICH ARE EQUIVALENT TO TRADITIONAL VARIETIES, MAFF IS NOW MODIFYING THE PROPOSED LABELING REQUIREMENT IN ORDER TO BUILD SUPPORT.

2. IN A RECENT MEETING WITH YOSHIMURA, DIRECTOR, STANDARDS AND LABELING DIVISION, POST LEARNED THAT MAFF IS CONSIDERING A PROPOSAL (FOR EQUIVALENT GMOS) TO REQUIRE LABELING ONLY FOR PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN UNALTERED FOREIGN DNA OR PROTEIN. PRESUMABLY, THIS WOULD EXCLUDE ANY PROCESSED PRODUCT THAT HAS BEEN HEATED, FERMENTED, OR PRESSURIZED. TO IMPLEMENT, MAFF IS CONSIDERING A POSITIVE LIST OF SPECIFIC PRODUCTS TO BE SUBJECT TO MANDATORY LABELING. THE LIST WOULD INCLUDE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED RAW PRODUCE, SUCH AS

TOMATOES, AS WELL AS MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS, SUCH AS TOFU AND SOY MILK, THAT CONTAIN UNALTERED FOREIGN DNA OR PROTEIN. ALL PRODUCTS NOT ON THE POSITIVE LIST WOULD BE EXEMPT.

3. THIS PROPOSED MODIFICATION, IF PASSED, WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE POTENTIAL SCOPE OF THE MANDATORY LABELING REQUIREMENT FROM THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. IN THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL, MAFF PROPOSED MANDATORY LABELING FOR ALL EQUIVALENT GMOS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PRODUCTS WHOSE (FROM OPTION A OF MAFF'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL): ENGINEERED DNA OR PROTEINS DERIVED THEREFROM ARE REMOVED OR DECOMPOSED DURING PROCESSING AND THEREFORE JUDGED TO BE NO LONGER PRESENT IN THE FOOD STUFF. THE ABSENCE OF A CLEAR THRESHOLD LEVEL IN THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL MEANT ANY PRODUCT CONTAINING DETECTABLE FOREIGN DNA OR PROTEIN COULD BE SUBJECT TO LABELING.

4. MAFF MAY OFFER THE NEW PROPOSAL AT THE NEXT GMO LABELING COMMITTEE MEETING, TO BE HELD DECEMBER 17. IN ANY EVENT, MAFF DOES NOT EXPECT FINAL RECOMMENDED LABELING GUIDELINES WILL BE ISSUED AT THE DECEMBER 17 MEETING. HOWEVER, MAFF OFFICIALS ARE CONFIDENT THAT SUPPORT FOR THEIR MODIFIED PROPOSAL WILL BE SUFFICIENT ENOUGH FOR NEW GUIDELINES TO BE PASSED AT THE FOLLOWING MEETING, TO BE HELD SOMETIME IN JANUARY.
FOLEY

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 9868

TOR: 981209022358 M3594354

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA7493 3430709-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 090709Z DEC 98

LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS

OSRI: RUEHBS

DTG: 090709Z DEC 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: NEW DEADLINE FOR GMO COTTON VOTE

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 007493

USDA FOR OSEC/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, OFSTS/SLUTSKY,
CMP/COTS/BLUM
STATE PASS USTR FOR 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: NEW DEADLINE FOR GMO COTTON VOTE

REF: BRUSSELS 7429

1. ACCORDING TO A SOURCE IN DG XI (ENVIRONMENT) THE NEW DEADLINE FOR THE WRITTEN VOTE BY MEMBER STATES TO APPROVE TWO GENETICALLY-MODIFIED COTTONS IS JANUARY 8, 1999.

2. THE SOURCE CONFIRMED THE INFORMATION IN REF ON WHY THE DEADLINE HAD BEEN RESCHEDULED. WEAVER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 7493

TOR: 981209022003 M3594348

DIST:

SIT: BANDLER BELL BRADEN BROWN FLANAGAN HAMMONDS HURLEY LEE MCELDOWNEY
SAPIRO WITKOWSKY
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHCPA7339 3511701-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 171701Z DEC 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
OSRI: RUEHCP
DTG: 171701Z DEC 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3878
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0086
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: DENMARK IMPOSES A VOLUNTARY GMO MORATORIUM

TEXT:
UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 007339

USDA FOR OSEC, ITP/EAMED, ITP/FSTS/LHARBERT,
FAA/FGEERKEN
STATE PASS USTR
EU POSTS PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, RUN, DA
SUBJECT: DENMARK IMPOSES A VOLUNTARY GMO MORATORIUM

L.SUMMARY. THE DANISH MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE DANISH INDUSTRY HAVE AGREED TO A VOLUNTARY ONE-YEAR MORATORIUM BEGINNING IN 1999 ON THE SALES AND MARKETING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTING SEEDS.

2. THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, TWO INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS (THE DANISH AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL AND THE DANISH INDUSTRY), AND TWO DANISH SEED COMPANIES (DLF TRIFOLIUM AND DANISCO) HAVE AGREED NOT TO COMMERCIALY PRODUCE OR MARKET ANY GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS IN 1999. ALTHOUGH THE AGREEMENT WILL TEMPORARILY BAN THE SALES AND MARKETING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS, IT WILL PERMIT DANISH SEED COMPANIES TO CONTINUE WITH SEVERAL LARGE SCALE FIELD TRIALS FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED FODDER BEETS.

3. AS PART OF THE AGREEMENT, THE INDUSTRY HAS AGREED TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE WITH DANISH CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS. THE AGREEMENT ALSO CALLS FOR THE DANISH

GOVERNMENT AND THE INDUSTRY TO JOINTLY DEVELOP
GUIDELINES GOVERNING FIELD PLANTINGS OF GMO CROPS.

4. THE ONE-YEAR MORATORIUM IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A
"BREATHING PERIOD" IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS OF CONSUMER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND TO KEEP THE ISSUE FROM
SPIRALING OUT OF CONTROL. THE DANISH ENVIRONMENTAL
MINISTER, SVEND AUKEN, HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE
DANISH INDUSTRY IS COMMITTED TO THIS NEW TECHNOLOGY
AND THAT NOW THE FOCUS HAS TO BE ON DIALOGUE WITH
CONSUMERS. THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MINISTRY HAS
INVITED THE DANISH CONSUMER COUNCIL TO A DIALOGUE ON
THE BENEFITS AND ETHICAL ASPECTS OF GMO TECHNOLOGY
IN 1999.

5. COMMENT: THIS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A SERIOUS
ATTEMPT BY THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND THE DANISH INDUSTRY TO ESTABLISH DIALOGUE WITH
CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS. SWETT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 7339

TOR: 981217112809 M3608966

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHKO A0165 3550630-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 210630Z DEC 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
OSRI: RUEHKO
DTG: 210630Z DEC 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7581
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY 5202
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0605
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 9599
RUEHKOS/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 5878
RUEHKOF/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 0086
SUBJ: GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE OF MAFF'S FOOD
- LABELING COMMITTEE MEETS ON DEC. 17, 1998

SENSITIVE

TEXT:

UNCLAS TOKYO 010165

STATE PLEASE PASS USTR FOR CUMMINGS
USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN; FAS/CMP/PARKER, RIEMENSCHNEIDER;
FAS/ITP/HARBERT, SLUTSKY, DEREME, SALMON, SHEIKH;
FAS/GENEVA/ROBERTS
USDA FOR APHIS/SCHECHTMAN
EPA FOR KOUGH
FDA FOR CFSAN/MARYANSKI

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, JA

SUBJECT: GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE OF MAFF'S FOOD
- LABELING COMMITTEE MEETS ON DEC. 17, 1998

SENSITIVE

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.

2. THE GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE OF MAFF'S FOOD LABELING COMMITTEE MET ON DECEMBER 17, 1998. MAFF REPORTED THAT THE INTENDED PURPOSE FOR THE MEETING, THE SECOND SINCE MAFF RELEASED PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THEIR GMO LABELING PROPOSAL, WAS TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON LABELING POLICY IN ORDER TO FINALIZE THEIR POSITION FOR THE NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY. HOWEVER, THE DISCUSSION DID NOT PROCEED AS MAFF EXPECTED BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF LABELING, THUS PREVENTING COMPLETION OF THE AGENDA. THE

COMMITTEE PROPOSED THAT MAFF SET-UP A WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW THE DETAILS OF A LABELING POLICY SUCH AS SCIENTIFIC VERIFICATION. MAFF RESPONDED THEY WOULD DRAFT A DOCUMENT WHICH INCLUDED ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS. POST BELIEVES IT UNLIKELY MAFF WILL REACH A CONSENSUS IN THE NEXT MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR LATE JANUARY BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO DISCUSS ADDITIONAL POINTS ON LABELING. FURTHER, MAFF WAS FORCED TO FACE SOME OF THE MEMBER'S OPPOSITION TO LABELING AND FOCUS ON THE FORMIDABLE TASK OF OVERCOMING TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTING LABELING ON GMO PRODUCTS.

FOLEY

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0165

TOR: 981221013128 M3614535

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHDNA2296 3562105-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 222105Z DEC 98 ZDK ZUI RUEHCB #2775 3571232 SVC
LINE4: FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY
OSRI: RUEHDN
DTG: 222105Z DEC 98
ORIG: AMCONSUL SYDNEY
TO: RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
INFO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0865
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 7866
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 0545
RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH 9760
RUEHNZ/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND 0088
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 2519
SUBJ: IMI: GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD REQUIRES
TEXT: UNCLAS SYDNEY 002296

USDOC FOR 3132/USFCS/OIO/EAP/TFALCO
USDOC FOR 4430/IEP/EAP/OPB/GPAINE
USDOC FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

STATE FOR EAP/ANZ

AUCKLAND FOR FCS
SINGAPORE FOR FCS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: BTIO, EIND, ETRD, TBIO, AS
SUBJECT: IMI: GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD REQUIRES
LABELLING (99/029)

L.SUMMARY: HEALTH MINISTERS DECIDED LAST WEEK THAT GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD WILL HAVE TO BE LABELED AS SUCH BEFORE IT CAN BE SOLD IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. LABELS MUST WARN CONSUMERS OF ANY GENETICALLY ALTERED INGREDIENTS EVEN WHEN THE PRODUCT IS "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT" TO NON-MODIFIED FOOD. IF A MANUFACTURER IS UNCERTAIN OF A FOOD'S CONTENTS, THE PRODUCT MUST CARRY A LABEL SAYING THE PRODUCT "MAY CONTAIN" GENETICALLY MODIFIED MATERIAL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, FOODS PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY IS REGULATED BY A FOOD STANDARD, "FOODS PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY". SAFETY IS ONE KEY CONSIDERATION OF THE STANDARD AND ALL GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD IS SUBJECT TO TWO LEVELS OF SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION BEFORE BEING APPROVED FOR

SALE. IT IS ASSESSED BY THE GENETIC MANIPULATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN AUSTRALIA, THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY IN NEW ZEALAND AND BY THE GOVERNMENT FOOD REGULATOR, THE AUSTRALIAN NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY (ANZFA).

3. UNDER THE STANDARD, ALL FOODS MUST BE LABELED WHERE THEY ARE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM CONVENTIONAL FOODS, THAT IS, WHERE THEY ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE CONVENTIONAL PRODUCT IN TERMS OF PROPERTIES SUCH AS TASTE, NUTRITIONAL QUALITY, OR IN USE. LAST WEEK, HEALTH MINISTERS FROM AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ASKED ANZFA TO AMEND THE STANDARD, ALSO REQUIRING LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD WHERE IT IS SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT AS ITS ESTABLISHED COUNTERPART. THAT IS, THE FUNCTIONAL PROPERTIES OF THESE FOODS SUCH AS TASTE, COLOR, NUTRITIONAL VALUE AND METHOD OF PREPARATION ARE THE SAME AS THEIR CONVENTIONAL COUNTERPARTS.
4. LABELING IS REQUIRED IF THE MANUFACTURER KNOWS THE FOOD CONTAINS GENETICALLY MODIFIED MATERIAL. IF THE MANUFACTURER IS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE FOOD'S CONTENTS, THEY MUST INDICATE THAT THE FOOD MAY CONTAIN GENETICALLY MODIFIED MATERIAL. IF THE MANUFACTURER KNOWS THE PRODUCT TO BE FREE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED MATERIAL THERE WILL BE NO REQUIREMENT TO LABEL THE PRODUCT, HOWEVER, THE MANUFACTURER MAY LABEL IT AS FREE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED MATERIAL.
5. HEALTH MINISTERS HAVE ALSO ASKED ANZFA TO DEVELOP A DEFINITION OF THE TERM "GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD" RECOGNIZING THAT THERE ARE MANY FOOD INGREDIENTS SUCH AS SUGARS AND OILS WHICH CAN BE MADE FROM GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS BUT ARE NOT THEMSELVES GENETICALLY MODIFIED
6. THE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOODS STANDARDS COUNCIL (ANZFSC) WHICH CONSISTS OF AUSTRALIAN HEALTH MINISTERS AND THE NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR HEALTH WILL CONSIDER THE DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE FOOD STANDARDS CODE TO BE DRAWN UP BY ANZFA NEXT YEAR. UPON APPROVAL, THE FOOD INDUSTRY WILL BE GIVEN NINE MONTHS TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW LABELING REQUIREMENTS. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT FULL COMPLIANCE OF THE NEW STANDARD WILL BECOME MANDATORY IN THE YEAR 2000.
7. CURRENTLY, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND HAVE NINETY-THREE FOOD STANDARDS IN PLACE TO ENSURE FOOD IS SAFE AND MEETS STRICT COMPOSITIONAL REQUIREMENTS. THESE STANDARDS ARE SET BY ANZFA AND ENFORCED BY STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENTS. ANZFA IS A STATUTORY AUTHORITY OPERATING UNDER THE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY ACT 1991. ANZFA WORKS WITH THE ANZFCS (COUNCIL OF HEALTH MINISTERS) TO

DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN LAWS AND SYSTEMS WHICH
REGULATE FOOD IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. FOOD
STANDARDS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE FOOD STANDARDS CODE
ONCE THEY ARE APPROVED BY ANZFSC.

ANY COMPANY WISHING TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ON
THE AUSTRALIAN FOOD STANDARDS CODE SHOULD CONTACT:

STANDARDS LIAISON OFFICER
AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY
PO BOX 7186
CANBERRA MAIL CENTER ACT 2610
AUSTRALIA
TEL: &61 2 6271 2258
FAX: &61 2 6271 2278
E-MAIL: SLO(A)ANZFA.GOV.AU

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE BIOTECHNOLOGY
INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA PLEASE CONTACT:

MONIQUE ROOS
COMMERCIAL SPECIALIST
THE COMMERCIAL SERVICE
PSC 280
UNIT 11024
APO AP 96554-0002
TEL: 61 2 9373 9210
FAX: 61 2 9221 0573
E-MAIL: MONIQUE.ROOS(A)CS.DOC.GOV

(DRAFT:FSN:MROOS; APPR:PCO:PWALL)
GREENE

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2296

TOR: 981223202546 M3620589

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHFRA8158 3571310-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 231310Z DEC 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 231310Z DEC 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1992
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6639
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 9364
SUBJ: MONSANTO EXPECTING GMO DECISION SOON
TEXT:
UNCLAS PARIS 028158

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED, NOT FOR THE INTERNET

USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
USDA FOR OSEC FOR GALVIN, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA; ITP/DA/PSHEICK

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, KASC, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: MONSANTO EXPECTING GMO DECISION SOON

REF: A) PARIS 27393, B) PARIS 26901, C) PARIS 21441,
D) PARIS 17725, E) PARIS 17651, F) PARIS 17563

1. SUMMARY. MONSANTO IS FACING A CONSEIL D'ETAT REVIEW OF GOF GMO DECISION-MAKING SIMILAR TO THAT UNDERGONE BY NOVARTIS FOR ITS BT CORN (REFS A-C). IN MONSANTO'S CASE, ALSO BROUGHT BY GREENPEACE, THE CONSEIL D'ETAT IS REVIEWING THE GOF'S AUGUST 1998 DECISION TO APPROVE GMO MON A-10 (REF D) CORN. MONSANTO'S PARIS LAWYER TOLD US DECEMBER 21 THAT HE EXPECTS THE CONSEIL D'ETAT TO RULE QUICKLY ON THE CASE. HE IS UNCERTAIN HOW THE COURT WILL RULE, BUT HOPES THAT TWO KEY DIFFERENCES WITH THE NOVARTIS CASE WILL OPERATE IN MONSANTO'S FAVOR: (1) THE MONSANTO PRODUCT DOES NOT USE AN ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT MARKER GENE AND (2) BECAUSE FRANCE WAS THE RAPporteur FOR MON A-10, OVERTURNING THE GOF MONSANTO APPROVAL WOULD AFFECT EU-WIDE APPROVAL, NOT SIMPLY THAT FOR FRANCE, AS WAS THE CASE FOR THE NOVARTIS PRODUCT. A TRADE ADVISER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND A HIGH LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL REPEATED TO US THIS WEEK A LINE WE HAVE BEEN HEARING MORE FREQUENTLY FROM THE GOF: IT WANTS TO DEAL POSITIVELY WITH GMO'S BUT IS CONSTRAINED BY THE

SENSITIVITIES OF FRENCH CONSUMERS. END SUMMARY.

2. EMIN AND TRADE POLICY OFFICER MET DECEMBER 21 WITH ARNAUD LYON-CAEN, THE ATTORNEY FOR MONSANTO IN THE CURRENT ACTION BEFORE THE CONSEIL D'ETAT. THIS ACTION CONCERNS THE GOF'S APPROVAL OF MON A-10 LAST AUGUST (REF F). GREENPEACE (WHICH ALSO BROUGHT THE NOVARTIS BT CASE) BROUGHT THE ACTION THIS FALL AGAINST THE GOF. MONSANTO BRUSSELS REPS DISCUSSED IT WITH EMBASSY RECENTLY.

3. LYON-CAEN EXPECTS A CONSEIL D'ETAT DECISION SOON, WELL BEFORE THE SPRING PLANTING SEASON. HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE ARE TWO CRUCIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MONSANTO CASE AND THAT OF NOVARTIS BT CORN (WHICH THE CONSEIL REFERRED TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE ON DECEMBER 11, REF A). FIRST, THE MONSANTO GMO CORN DOES NOT CONTAIN AN ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT MARKER GENE. REGARDLESS OF THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE OF THE SAFETY OF THE NOVARTIS VARIETY, THE GOF STATES THAT THERE IS HEIGHTENED ANXIETY IN FRANCE ABOUT ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE AND THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED LAST SUMMER ON A MORATORIUM IN APPROVING SUCH VARIETIES. LYON-CAEN EMPHASIZED THAT THE FACT THAT THE VARIETIES USING MON A-10 DO NOT CONTAIN THIS TYPE OF MARKER GENE SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE CONSEIL D'ETAT TO RULE THAT THE GOF ACTED APPROPRIATELY IN APPROVING MON A-10. SECOND, WHEREAS THE CONSEIL'S DECISION IN THE NOVARTIS CASE AFFECTED ONLY THE APPROVAL STATUS OF THE VARIETY IN FRANCE, A DECISION IN THE MONSANTO CASE WOULD AFFECT THE APPROVAL STATUS FOR THE ENTIRE EU (SINCE FRANCE WAS THE RAPPORTEUR FOR MONSANTO'S MON A-10 AND ITS FINAL APPROVAL (POST-EU APPROVAL) WAS PREREQUISITE TO FINAL EU-WIDE AUTHORIZATION). LYON-CAEN SAID HE THOUGHT THE CONSEIL WOULD BE MUCH MORE RELUCTANT TO OVERTURN A DECISION AFFECTING THE ENTIRE EU THAN IT HAD BEEN TO SUSPEND A MEASURE AFFECTING FRANCE ONLY.

4. ASKED WHETHER THE CONSEIL D'ETAT ACTION IN THE NOVARTIS CASE MIGHT BE A CASE OF THE GOF TRYING TO EXTEND ITS ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT MARKER GENE MORATORIUM AFTER THE FACT, LYON-CAEN DISAGREED, AND SAID THAT THE CASE IS EMBARRASSING FOR THE GOF, ESPECIALLY THE MINAG.

5. WE ASKED A TRADE ADVISER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ABOUT THE CONSEIL D'ETAT CASES ON DECEMBER 22. HE NOTED THAT THE GOF CONSIDERS USE OF GMO'S IMPORTANT FOR AGRICULTURE BUT STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST DEAL WITH VERY SENSITIVE CONSUMER OPINION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT GENE MARKER IN THE NOVARTIS VARIETY WAS THE KEY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NOVARTIS AND MONSANTO CASES. HE NOTED THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT POLICY OF A MORATORIUM ON APPROVAL OF SUCH VARIETIES AS WELL AS ITS MORATORIUM ON VARIETIES SUCH AS CANOLA/RAPESEED WHICH CAN SPREAD THEIR GENE CHARACTERISTICS IN THE WILD. (THE ADVISER HAD JUST RETURNED FROM CANADA WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND NOTED THAT THIS LATTER POINT WAS A MAJOR TRADE ISSUE BETWEEN CANADA AND FRANCE.) A SENIOR QUAI OFFICIAL ALSO TOLD US THIS WEEK THAT THE GOF CONSIDERS GMO'S IMPORTANT TO FRENCH

AGRICULTURE. HE SAID FRANCE IS IN NO WAY BEING
PROTECTIONIST IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD GMO'S, BUT RATHER IS
TRYING TO DEAL WITH CONSUMER SENSITIVITIES WHICH ARE FAR
MORE PRONOUNCED THAN THOSE IN THE U.S..

PEARSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 8158

TOR: 981223081301 M3619117

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA7777 3571605-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 231605Z DEC 98
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 231605Z DEC 98
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GMO LABELING - MEETING WITH DDG-III KECK

IN A RECENT MEETING WITH CHARGE KURSCH AND COMMERCIAL
MINISTER COUNSELOR, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DG-III
(INDUSTRY), JORN KECK, SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WAS

TEXT: UNCLAS BRUSSELS 007777

STATE PASS USTR
FAS FOR ITP/SWARTZ, OFSTS/SLUTSKY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EIND, ECON, EUN
SUBJECT: GMO LABELING - MEETING WITH DDG-III KECK

IN A RECENT MEETING WITH CHARGE KURSCH AND COMMERCIAL
MINISTER COUNSELOR, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DG-III
(INDUSTRY), JORN KECK, SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WAS
CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING A THRESHOLD OF 0.5 PERCENT FOR A
PRODUCT TO BE LABELED "GMO-FREE." HE MAINTAINED THAT THE
THE SWISS HAVE DEVELOPED TESTING METHODS RELIABLE AT THIS
LEVEL. KECK OFFERED THAT PRODUCTS AT A LEVEL OF 0.5 TO
ONE PERCENT WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE LABELED; ABOVE ONE
PERCENT, THE PRODUCT WOULD BE LABELED "CONTAINS GMO."
KECK EMPHASIZED THAT GIVEN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S
"OBSESSION" WITH THE ISSUE, THERE WAS NO WAY THE
COMMISSION COULD SUPPORT HIGHER THRESHOLDS (NOTE: THE AD
HOC COMMITTEE ON LABELING HAS TOLD USEU AG OFFICE THAT
THEY ARE CONSIDERING A RANGE OF 0.2 TO 2 PERCENT).

GALLAGHER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 7777
TOR: 981223132047 M3619826
DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHFRA8180 3571455-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 231455Z DEC 98
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 231455Z DEC 98
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2015
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 6640
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 9365
SUBJ: MONSANTO EXPECTING GMO DECISION SOON
TEXT:
UNCLAS PARIS 028180

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED, NOT FOR THE INTERNET

USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
USDA FOR OSEC FOR GALVIN, UNDER SECRETARY
SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/LHATAMIYA; ITP/DA/PSHEICK

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, KASC, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: MONSANTO EXPECTING GMO DECISION SOON

REF: A) PARIS 27393, B) PARIS 26901, C) PARIS 21441,
D) PARIS 17725, E) PARIS 17651, F) PARIS 17563

1. (U) SUMMARY. MONSANTO IS FACING A CONSEIL D'ETAT REVIEW OF GOF GMO DECISION-MAKING SIMILAR TO THAT UNDERGONE BY NOVARTIS FOR ITS BT CORN (REFS A-C). IN MONSANTO'S CASE, ALSO BROUGHT BY GREENPEACE, THE CONSEIL D'ETAT IS REVIEWING THE GOF'S AUGUST 1998 DECISION TO APPROVE GMO MON A-10 (REF D) CORN. MONSANTO'S PARIS LAWYER TOLD US DECEMBER 21 THAT HE EXPECTS THE CONSEIL D'ETAT TO RULE QUICKLY ON THE CASE. HE IS UNCERTAIN HOW THE COURT WILL RULE, BUT HOPES THAT TWO KEY DIFFERENCES WITH THE NOVARTIS CASE WILL OPERATE IN MONSANTO'S FAVOR: (1) THE MONSANTO PRODUCT DOES NOT USE AN ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT MARKER GENE AND (2) BECAUSE FRANCE WAS THE RAPPORTEUR FOR MON A-10, OVERTURNING THE GOF MONSANTO APPROVAL WOULD AFFECT EU-WIDE APPROVAL, NOT SIMPLY THAT FOR FRANCE, AS WAS THE CASE FOR THE NOVARTIS PRODUCT. A TRADE ADVISER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND A HIGH LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL REPEATED TO US THIS WEEK A LINE WE HAVE BEEN HEARING MORE FREQUENTLY FROM THE GOF: IT WANTS TO DEAL POSITIVELY WITH GMO'S BUT IS CONSTRAINED BY

THE SENSITIVITIES OF FRENCH CONSUMERS. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) EMIN AND TRADE POLICY OFFICER MET DECEMBER 21 WITH ARNAUD LYON-CAEN, THE ATTORNEY FOR MONSANTO IN THE CURRENT ACTION BEFORE THE CONSEIL D'ETAT. THIS ACTION CONCERNS THE GOF'S APPROVAL OF MON A-10 LAST AUGUST (REF F). GREENPEACE (WHICH ALSO BROUGHT THE NOVARTIS BT CASE) BROUGHT THE ACTION THIS FALL AGAINST THE GOF. MONSANTO BRUSSELS REPS DISCUSSED IT WITH EMBASSY RECENTLY.

3. (SBU) LYON-CAEN EXPECTS A CONSEIL D'ETAT DECISION SOON, WELL BEFORE THE SPRING PLANTING SEASON. HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE ARE TWO CRUCIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MONSANTO CASE AND THAT OF NOVARTIS BT CORN (WHICH THE CONSEIL REFERRED TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE ON DECEMBER 1, REF A). FIRST, THE MONSANTO GMO CORN DOES NOT CONTAIN AN ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT MARKER GENE REGARDLESS OF THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE OF THE SAETY OF THE NOVARTIS VARIETY, THE GOF STATES THT THERE IS HEIGHTENED ANXIETY IN FRANCE ABOUT ANIBIOTIC RESISTANCE AND THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED LAT SUMMER ON A MORATORIUM IN APPROVING SUCH VARIEIES. LYON-CAEN EMPHASIZED THAT THE FACT THATTHE VARIETIES USING MON A-10 DO NOT CONTAIN THIS TYPE OF MARKER GENE SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE CONSEIL D'ETAT TO RULE THAT THE GOF ACTED APPROPRIATELY IN APPROVING MON A-10. SECOND, WHEREAS THE CONSEIL'S DECISION IN THE NOVARTIS CASE AFFECTED ONLY THE APPROVAL STATUS OF THE VARIETY IN FRANCE, A DECISION IN THE MONSANTO CASE WOULD AFFECT THE APPROVAL STATUS FOR THE ENTIRE EU (SINCE FRANCE WAS THE RAPPORTEUR FOR MONSANTO'S MON A-10 AND ITS FINAL APPROVAL (POST-EU APPROVAL) WAS PREREQUISITE TO FINAL EU-WIDE AUTHORIZATION). LYON-CAEN SAID HE THOUGHT THE CONSEIL WOULD BE MUCH MORE RELUCTANT TO OVERTURN A DECISION AFFECTING THE ENTIRE EU THAN IT HAD BEEN TO SUSPEND A MEASURE AFFECTING FRANCE ONLY.

4. (SBU) ASKED WHETHER THE CONSEIL D'ETAT ACTION IN THE NOVARTIS CASE MIGHT BE A CASE OF THE GOF TRYING TO EXTEND ITS ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT MARKER GENE MORATORIUM AFTER THE FACT, LYON-CAEN DISAGREED, AND SAID THAT THE CASE IS EMBARRASSING FOR THE GOF, ESPECIALLY THE MINAG.

5. (SBU) WE ASKED A TRADE ADVISER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ABOUT THE CONSEIL D'ETAT CASES ON DECEMBER 22. HE NOTED THAT THE GOF CONSIDERS USE OF GMO'S IMPORTANT FOR AGRICULTURE BUT STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST DEAL WITH VERY SENSITIVE CONSUMER OPINION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT GENE MARKER IN THE NOVARTIS VARIETY WAS THE KEY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NOVARTIS AND MONSANTO CASES. HE NOTED THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT POLICY OF A MORATORIUM ON APPROVAL OF SUCH VARIETIES AS WELL AS ITS MORATORIUM ON VARIETIES SUCH AS CANOLA/RAPESEED WHICH CAN SPREAD THEIR GENE CHARACTERISTICS IN THE WILD. (THE ADVISER HAD JUST RETURNED FROM CANADA WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND NOTED THAT THIS LATTER POINT WAS A MAJOR TRADE ISSUE BETWEEN CANADA AND FRANCE.) A SENIOR QUAI OFFICIAL ALSO TOLD US THIS WEEK THAT THE GOF CONSIDERS GMO'S IMPORTANT TO FRENCH

AGRICULTURE. HE SAID FRANCE IS IN NO WAY BEING
PROTECTIONIST IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD GMO'S, BUT RATHER IS
TRYING TO DEAL WITH CONSUMER SENSITIVITIES WHICH ARE FAR
MORE PRONOUNCED THAN THOSE IN THE U.S..

PEARSON

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

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