

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: Scenesetter for Visit of U/S Loy to France (3 pages)	02/05/1999	P1/b(1) <i>✓ 4/3/2020</i>
002. cable	Re: [GMO Assessment] [incomplete message] (4 pages)	03/05/1999	P1/b(1) <i>✓ 4/3/2020</i>
003. cable	Re: [GMO Assessment] [incomplete message] (2 pages)	03/05/1999	P1/b(1) <i>✓ 4/3/2020</i>
004. cable	Re: [GMO Assessment] [incomplete message] (3 pages)	03/05/1999	P1/b(1) <i>✓ 4/3/2020</i>
005. cable	Re: [GMO Regulations] (5 pages)	03/09/1999	P1/b(1) <i>✓ 4/3/2020</i>
006. cable	Re: [European Commission] (2 pages)	04/01/1999	P1/b(1)
007. cable	Re: [France] (4 pages)	04/01/1999	P1/b(1)
008. cable	Re: GMO Labeling Delayed Again (3 pages)	04/09/1999	P1/b(1) <i>✓ 11/26/2019</i>
009. cable	Re: [Controls on GMO Products] (3 pages)	04/16/1999	P1/b(1) <i>✓ 11/26/2019</i>

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[02/05/1999 - 04/26/1999]

2013-0836-F

ke3013

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHFRA2797 0361418-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH (CCY)
LINE3: O 051418Z FEB 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 051418Z FEB 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3078
INFO: RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 6007
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
SUBJ: SCENESETTER FOR VISIT OF U/S LOY TO FRANCE

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By W NARA, Date 11/26/2015
2016-0529-W (2.31)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING GLOBAL CLIMATE
CHANGE AND TRADE IN GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. SHE HAS
BEEN DESCRIBED BY THE FRENCH PRESS AS ONE OF THE "ANTI-U.S."

TEXT:

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 04 PARIS 002797

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (DECL. DATE ADDED E.O. LINE)

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PLS PASS TO U/S LOY AND NIGEL PURVIS

E.O. 12958: DECL;02/05/2009

TAGS: SENV, PREL, FR

SUBJECT: SCENESETTER FOR VISIT OF U/S LOY TO FRANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING GLOBAL CLIMATE
CHANGE AND TRADE IN GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. SHE HAS
BEEN DESCRIBED BY THE FRENCH PRESS AS ONE OF THE "ANTI-U.S."
FORCES WITHIN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

10. (SBU) AFTER A STRING OF EARLY POLITICAL GAINS--
ATTRIBUTABLE LARGELY TO EASY, PRE-ELECTION CONCESSIONS BY
JOSPIN TO THE GREENS FOR JOINING HIS COALITION--SHE HAS MET
WITH DECIDEDLY MIXED SUCCESS AGAINST THE POWERFUL MINISTRY OF
THE ECONOMY, FINANCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTRY OF
INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT AND HOUSING ON MORE DIFFICULT
ISSUES IN HER PORTFOLIO. SHE IS A FIRM SUPPORTER OF FRENCH
SOCIAL PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE 35-HOUR WORK WEEK.

11. (SBU) IN RECENT WEEKS, MINISTER VOYNET HAS MET WITH
DIFFICULTIES ON SEVERAL FRONTS. THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON
HER PROPOSED BILL ON REGIONAL PLANNING CONTINUES TO DRAG ON
(36 ARTICLES WITH CURRENTLY 1230 AMENDMENTS) AND HER
COMPETENCE AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE ISSUES HAVE BEEN
LOUDLY QUESTIONED BOTH WITHIN THE GOF AND THE OPPOSITION.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS HAS RECEIVED AMPLE PRESS COVERAGE. THE FINAL VOTE ON THE BILL HAS AGAIN BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY 3-9. SHE ALSO HAS BEEN CRITICIZED RECENTLY BY SOCIALIST MEMBERS OF THE COALITION FOR EXPENDING TOO MUCH EFFORT ON THE UPCOMING EUROPEAN ELECTIONS, WHERE HER GREEN PARTY HOPES TO DISPLACE THE COMMUNISTS AS THE SECOND STRONGEST FORCE OF THE MAJORITY. MOREOVER, THIS COULD PROVE TO BE A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD, AS VOYNET FACES THE PROSPECT OF BEING UPSTAGED BY THE MEDIAGENIC GREEN CANDIDATE, DANIEL COHN-BENDIT.

12. (SBU) THE SUCCESS OF THE GERMAN GREEN PARTY IN THE RECENT GERMAN ELECTIONS AND THE NEW GERMAN POLITICAL LANDSCAPE CLEARLY HAVE EMBOLDENED MINISTER VOYNET IN HER BID TO SEEK AN EXPANDED ROLE FOR FRENCH GREENS IN THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. SHE HAS TRIED TO SEIZE THIS "GREEN MOMENTUM" TO RENEW DEBATE IN FRANCE ON ISSUES WITH WHICH SHE HAS KNOWN LITTLE SUCCESS IN THE PAST, SUCH AS FRENCH NUCLEAR AND FUEL TAXATION POLICIES. THE GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO HER RECENT ACTIVISM ON THESE ISSUES, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN MUTED AND, IN SOME WAYS, OVERSHADOWED BY CONTROVERSY OVER HER SHARPLY CONTRARY VIEWS ON NUCLEAR POWER AND IMMIGRATION, AS WELL AS OTHER ASPECTS OF GOF SOCIAL POLICY.

13. (SBU) AT A TIME WHEN THE FRENCH GREEN PARTY IS SEEKING TO EXPAND ITS ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN NON-ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS, SUCH AS FRENCH SOCIAL AND IMMIGRATION POLICY, THE PARTY HAS PREDICTABLY BEEN VOCAL, IF NOT EXTREME, ON ISSUES THAT CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS CLOSE TO THE DAILY CONCERN OF THE PUBLIC. GREEN PARTY AMBITIONS TO INCREASE REPRESENTATION IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEAN THAT THE PARTY IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO BE VOCAL ON TRADITIONALLY STRONG GREEN THEMES AS OPPORTUNITIES ARISE IN ORDER TO GENERATE INCREASED PUBLIC SUPPORT.

14. (SBU) STILL, DOMESTIC ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS, INCLUDING A STUBBORNLY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE SINCE THE MID-NINETIES, MAY READILY SUPPLANT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AS PRIORITIES FOR THE FRENCH PUBLIC. AN ENVIRONMENTAL BURDEN ON CONSUMERS AND INDUSTRY IN FORMS SUCH AS FISCAL ENVIRONMENTAL TAXES ON WASTE, GAS, DIESEL VEHICLES, ETC., WHICH ARGUABLY MIGHT ERODE RECENT ECONOMIC GAINS, ARE UNLIKELY TO BE WELL-RECEIVED. THEREFORE, ADVANCES IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES BY THE FRENCH PUBLIC DO NOT THEMSELVES TRANSLATE INTO WILLINGNESS TO TAKE EXTREME ACTIONS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED TO MEET LOCAL, MUCH LESS GLOBAL, OBLIGATIONS.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT POSITIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

15. (SBU) COMING OUT OF THE NOVEMBER 1998 FOURTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN BUENOS AIRES, THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE REMAIN AT ODDS ON A NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES. VOYNET AND THE GREENS ARE STRONG SUPPORTERS OF EU STRATEGIES TO LIMIT THE USE OF MARKET-BASED, FLEXIBILITY MECHANISMS (EMISSIONS TRADING, JOINT IMPLEMENTATION AND THE CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM FOR

PARTIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS, AS AGREED UNDER THE KYOTO PROTOCOL. THEY SUPPORT STRONG DOMESTIC ACTION PROGRAMS AND ARE VOCAL PROPONENTS OF QUANTITATIVE "CAPS" ON THE PERCENTAGE OF A PARTY'S OBLIGATION THAT CAN BE MET THROUGH EMISSIONS TRADING OR OVERSEAS CREDITS. THERE IS A PREVAILING SENTIMENT IN FRANCE THAT THE U.S. WILL TRY TO MEET ITS OBJECTIVES LARGELY THROUGH USE OF THE FLEXIBILITY MECHANISMS IN LIEU OF DOMESTIC REDUCTION MEASURES.

16. (SBU) FRENCH GREENS AND OTHER EUROPEAN ECOLOGIST GROUPS HAVE SUPPORTED CAPS ON MORAL GROUNDS AS WELL, CITING THE NEED TO ENSURE A SOLUTION TO GLOBAL WARMING BY FORCING ALL INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES (THE PERCEIVED SOURCE OF THE

SECT: SECTION: 02 OF 04

SSN: 2797

TOR: 990214063432 M3694883

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHWRA1234 0401344-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1413
INFO: ////
SUBJ: POLAND'S GMO REGULATIONS TO HAVE TWO WEEK COMMENT PERIOD

THIS MESSAGE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE HANDLE
ACCORDINGLY. NOT FOR INTERNET DISTRIBUTION.

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WARSAW 001234

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/NCE (WOJTASIEWICZ AND PHILIPOT), EB/ATP
STATE PLEASE PASS TO USTR FOR PETER SCHER AND JIM MURPHY
USDA FOR OSEC/UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/GALVIN,
ITP/(MACK, HESSE, AVIDOR, SLUTSKY), FAA/HUETE, ICD/BECK
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE AND ECON

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PL
SUBJECT: POLAND'S GMO REGULATIONS TO HAVE TWO WEEK COMMENT PERIOD

THIS MESSAGE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE HANDLE
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1. (SBU) SUMMARY: USDA UNDER SECRETARY (U/S) AUGUST SCHUMACHER
AND EMBOFFS MET WITH OFFICIALS FROM POLAND'S MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY (MINENVIR) TO DISCUSS
PENDING REGULATIONS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO).
PUBLIC RELEASE OF THE GMO REGULATIONS HAS BEEN DELAYED NEARLY ONE
MONTH. AFTER RECEIVING MINISTERIAL APPROVAL, THE REGULATIONS WILL
BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC FOR A TWO-WEEK PERIOD OF COMMENT.
MINENVIR FORSEES A SIX-MONTH GRACE PERIOD AFTER THE REGULATIONS ARE
RELEASED BEFORE COMPLIANCE BECOMES MANDATORY. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) ON JANUARY 26, U/S SCHUMACHER AND EMBOFFS MET WITH VICE
MINISTER JANUSZ RADZIEJOWSKI OF MINENVIR. MARIAN CIESLAK AND
ZYGMUNT KRZEMENSKI (DIRECTOR AND VICE DIRECTOR, RESPECTIVELY) OF

THE MINENVIR'S DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, NATURE CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPE ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING. U/S SCHUMACHER INQUIRED AS TO THE STATUS OF THE GMO REGULATIONS BEING DEVELOPED BY THE MINENVIR. VICE MINISTER RADZIEJOWSKI RESPONDED THAT DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGULATIONS HAD NOT BEEN EASY AND HAD REQUIRED EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH PRODUCER AND CONSUMER GROUPS. HE ADDED THAT THE REGULATIONS WOULD SOON BE RELEASED, "IN ACCORD WITH EU DIRECTIVES."

3. (SBU) RADZIEJOWSKI ASKED KRZEMENSKI TO BRIEF THE U/S ON WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GMO REGULATIONS. KRZEMENSKI STATED THAT THE LAW REQUIRED ESTABLISHMENT OF GMO REGULATIONS ON 1) THE PROCESS OF APPROVING GMO FOR RELEASE, 2) LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR GMO AND 3) REQUIREMENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS ON GMO RELEASE. ALTHOUGH THE LAW REQUIRED THE REGULATIONS TO BE EFFECTIVE AS OF JANUARY 1, 1999, KRZEMENSKI CONFIRMED THAT THE REGULATIONS STILL ARE NOT FINAL. KRZEMENSKI EXPECTS THE REGULATION ON THE APPLICATION PROCESS AND LABELING REQUIREMENTS TO BE APPROVED BY THE MINENVIR LEGAL DEPARTMENT BY THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY AFTER WHICH THEY WILL BE FORWARDED TO OTHER MINISTRIES FOR APPROVAL.

4. (SBU) KRZEMENSKI STATED THAT THE REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH PRODUCERS, CONSUMERS AND OTHER INTERESTED GROUPS INCLUDING MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY. KRZEMENSKI COMMENTED THAT THE REGULATIONS WILL CLOSELY FOLLOW EU REQUIREMENTS ON GMO.

5. (SBU) U/S SCHUMACHER ENCOURAGED THE MINENVIR TO INTERPRET EU REQUIREMENTS ON GMO WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY ARE IN MANY CASES BASED MORE ON POLITICS THAN ON SOUND SCIENCE. VICE MINISTER RADZIEJOWSKI SAID THAT IDEOLOGY SEEMED TO HAVE PLAYED A LARGER ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GMO REGULATION IN POLAND THAN POLITICS. IN RADZIEJOWSKI'S OPINION, DEVELOPMENT OF THE GMO REGULATIONS SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD ECONOMY (MAFE) BUT WAS INSTEAD PLACED WITH MINENVIR BECAUSE OF "THE IDEOLOGISTS". HOWEVER, RADZIEJOWSKI AGREED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY ASPECTS OF REGULATING GMO SHOULD BE MINENVIR'S RESPONSIBILITY.

6. (SBU) RADZIEJOWSKI STATED THAT HE REALIZES OVER-RESTRICTIVE GMO REGULATIONS COULD RESULT IN A TECHNOLOGY GAP BETWEEN POLAND AND OTHER COUNTRIES (PARTICULARLY THE EU) WHICH COULD IN TURN LEAD TO AN INABILITY OF POLISH PRODUCERS TO COMPETE WITH IMPORTED PRODUCTS BENEFITTING FROM GMO ADVANCEMENTS. FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE, RADZIEJOWSKI EMPHASIZED THAT THE MINENVIR IS ENDEAVORING TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH MAFE AND THE OTHER MINISTRIES TO ENSURE THAT POLAND'S GMO REGULATIONS ARE BASED ON SOUND SCIENCE AND COMMON SENSE.

7. (SBU) AGCOUNSELOR ASKED HOW LONG THE COMMENT PERIOD AND THE GRACE PERIOD WOULD BE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GMO REGULATIONS. KRZEMENSKI REPLIED THAT A TWO-WEEK COMMENT PERIOD WOULD START WHEN THE REGULATIONS WERE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE MINENVIR HOPED TO RELEASE THE REGULATIONS FOR COMMENT VIA INTERNET. REGARDING THE GRACE PERIOD, KRZEMENSKI SAID MINENVIR WAS STUDYING THIS ISSUE BUT HAD NOT REACHED A FINAL CONCLUSION. HE SPECULATED THAT A SIX-MONTH GRACE PERIOD WOULD BE IN EFFECT AFTER THE GMO REGULATIONS ARE RELEASED PUBLICLY BEFORE COMPLIANCE BECOMES

MANDATORY.

8. (SBU) ECONOFF ASKED IF THE FINAL REGULATIONS WOULD REQUIRE APPROVAL FROM THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. KRZEMENSKI REPLIED THAT THE REGULATIONS WOULD NOT REQUIRE SPECIFIC APPROVAL FROM THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. HOWEVER, THE REGULATIONS WILL BE CIRCULATED TO ALL MINISTRIES FOR COMMENT PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION.

9. (SBU) IT APPEARS THAT THE REGULATIONS WILL NOT BE RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT UNTIL IT WILL BE TOO LATE FOR ANY SERIOUS PUBLIC UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 WARSAW 001234

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/NCE (WOJTASIEWICZ AND PHILIPOT), EB/ATP
STATE PLEASE PASS TO USTR FOR PETER SCHER AND JIM MURPHY
USDA FOR OSEC/UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/GALVIN,
ITP/(MACKIE, HESSE, AVIDOR, SLUTSKY), FAA/HUETE, ICD/BECK
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE AND ECON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PL

SUBJECT: POLAND'S GMO REGULATIONS TO HAVE TWO WEEK COMMENT PERIOD

REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS. IN THIS WAY POLISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MAY HOPE TO AVOID ANY CONTROVERSY OVER THE REGULATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ABSENCE OF REGULATIONS WILL DELAY THE REGISTRATION OF GMO VARIETIES. SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES HAVE CONDUCTED FIELD TRIALS WITH LITTLE FANFARE FOR FIELD CROPS OVER THE PAST YEAR, INCLUDING POTATOES, RAPESEED AND SUGAR BEETS. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF CROP PRODUCTION IN POLAND, GMOS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN IMPROVING PRODUCTION IN POLAND AND ITS ABILITY TO COMPETE ON WORLD MARKETS.

10. (SBU) CONSUMER REACTIONS. IN GENERAL, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE NEGATIVE PRESS ON GMOS. IN A RECENT SURVEY, APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF POLES AND 90 PERCENT OF POLISH SCIENTISTS SUPPORT THE USE OF GMOS. A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE POLISH MAGAZINE "POLITIKA" PRESENTED A VERY POSITIVE IMAGE OF GMOS AND NOTED THAT THE LACK OF REGULATIONS PREVENTS A NUMBER OF POSITIVE CHANGES WHICH COULD HELP POLISH AGRICULTURE. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, POLISH OFFICIALS ARE NOT FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPOSING STRICT REGULATIONS ON GMOS. THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE MAKES A CASE FOR NOT REQUIRING MANDATORY LABELING OF GMO PRODUCTS.

11. (SBU) WHILE THERE APPEARS TO BE NO STRONG OPPOSITION TO GMOS OR BIOTECHNOLOGY ON THE PART OF THE POLISH CONSUMER NOW, THERE IS A LACK OF INFORMATION WHICH COULD BECOME AN ISSUE IN THE FUTURE. IN PARTICULAR, FOOD SAFETY HAS BECOME A CONCERN TO POLISH CONSUMERS. PERIODICALLY, ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN THE POLISH PRESS WHICH SHOW A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AS IT RELATES TO FOOD SAFETY. THESE ARTICLES COULD RESULT IN A BACKLASH AGAINST GMO USE. EMBASSY CONTACTS HAVE NOTED THAT SOME IMPORTERS BELIEVE THAT PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE IMPORTED TO POLAND.

12. (SBU) PROCESSED FOODS. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONITORING PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OFFICIALS, THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR

LABELING PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS WHICH CONTAIN GMOS. HOWEVER, POLAND IS WORKING TO ACHIEVE HARMONIZATION WITH EU DIRECTIVES THAT RELATE TO GMOS. UNDER THE GMO LAW, GMO-CONTAINING PRODUCTS RELEASED ON THE POLISH MARKET WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE, "...ADEQUATELY MARKED AND PACKAGED." POST EXPECTS POLISH REGULATORS TO MANDATE SPECIAL LABELING AND PACKAGING FOR TRANSGENIC PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, MINENVIR OFFICIALS NOTED THAT THERE IS NO WAY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO TEST PRODUCTS FOR GMOS AND THAT THE MINENVIR INTENDS TO "RELY ON IMPORTERS AND PRODUCERS TO LABEL THEIR PRODUCTS ACCURATELY". (COMMENT: THERE REALLY IS NO OPTION TO THIS "SELF REGULATION" ALTERNATIVE: IT APPEARS THAT POLISH REGULATORS DO NOT HAVE THE PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT OR EXPERIENCE TO ADEQUATELY MONITOR THIS SITUATION. END COMMENT)

13. (SBU) THE EU. POLISH OFFICIALS HAVE INVARIABLY NOTED THAT POLAND WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE EU AND THEREFORE WILL ADOPT THE APPROPRIATE EU REGULATIONS. HOWEVER, IN THE ABSENCE OF CLEAR DIRECTION FROM THE EU AND IN THE DESIRE TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT, POLISH OFFICIALS SEEM TO BE TAKING THEIR OWN INITIATIVE. POLISH OFFICIALS MAY SEE THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE THE OFFICIAL GOAL FOR EU ACCESSION IN 2003 AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP DOMESTIC INDUSTRY AND INCREASE PRODUCTION LEVELS BEFORE BEING SUBJECT TO EU RULES. AT LEAST SOME POLISH OFFICIALS APPEAR TO RECOGNIZE THAT DELAYING THE INTRODUCTION OF GMO CROPS UNTIL THEY ENTER THE EU COULD PUT THEM AT A DISADVANTAGE TO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION.

CLOUD

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

SSN: 1234
<^SSN>1234

TOR: 990209090857 M3685450
<^TOR>990209090935 M3685453

DIST: SIT: BRADEN BUTLER DAVIDSON FLANAGAN HAMMONDS HOLTZAPPLE LEE
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHFRA3420 0430938-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 120938Z FEB 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 120938Z FEB 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3299
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO: RUEHXP/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0839
RUEHMRE/AMCONSUL MARSEILLE 1509
RUEHSR/AMCONSUL STRASBOURG 0374
SUBJ: FRENCH DISTRIBUTORS WANT CLEAR GMO
LABELING REGULATIONS
TEXT:
UNCLAS PARIS 003420

USDA FOR OSEC, UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR
OA/TGALVIN/CGOLDTHWAIT; ITP/DA/PSHEIK;
ITP/WEIAD/BMACKE; OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/COT&S/BLUM; CMP/G&F/REIMENSCHNEIDER;
FAA/GEERKEN; APHIS/CREED; FSIS/JPRUCHA

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: FRENCH DISTRIBUTORS WANT CLEAR GMO
LABELING REGULATIONS

1. SUMMARY: THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE
FRENCH FEDERATION FOR COMMERCE AND DISTRIBUTION
(FCD) MET ON JANUARY 27 AND EXPRESSED ITS
PERPLEXITY AND CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPOSSIBILITY FOR
THE INDUSTRY TO IMPLEMENT THE EU LEGISLATION ON
GMO LABELING. CARREFOUR, ONE OF FRANCE'S LEADING
SUPERMARKET CHAINS, COMMITTED ITSELF TO PROPOSE
GMO-FREE FOOD PRODUCTS UNDER ITS OWN BRAND, IN THE
FEBRUARY ISSUE OF ITS LEAFLET AVAILABLE FOR
CUSTOMERS. END SUMMARY.
FEDERATION FOR COMMERCE AND DISTRIBUTION:

2. MR. JEROME BEDIER, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH FEDERATION FOR COMMERCE AND DISTRIBUTION (FCD), RECENTLY OPINED THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION ON GMO LABELING WAS "SURREALISTIC." AT FCD'S SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEETING, FCD BROUGHT EU AUTHORITIES' ATTENTION TO THE URGENCY OF DEFINING A THRESHOLD AND METHODS OF ANALYSIS FOR LABELING FOOD PRODUCTS AS CONTAINING (OR NOT CONTAINING) GMO'S.

3. FCD EXPRESSED ITS WISH THAT ARONAS, ADDITIVES AND SOLVENTS BE INCLUDED IN THE GMO LABELING PROCESS. FINALLY, FCD REJECTED THE PRINCIPLE OF A "NEGATIVE LIST" OF PRODUCTS WHICH WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO LABELING. NOTE: THE EU LEGISLATION INCLUDES A NEGATIVE LIST, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN DEVELOPED SO FAR. END NOTE.

4. FCD'S PROPOSAL IS FOR SETTING A THRESHOLD UNDER WHICH THE LABEL "DOES NOT CONTAIN GMO'S" MAY BE USED IN SOME CASES.

CARREFOUR:

5. IN FEBRUARY 1999, CARREFOUR INFORMED ITS CUSTOMERS THAT THE PRODUCTS SOLD UNDER ITS OWN BRAND DO NOT CONTAIN GMO'S. THE SUPERMARKET CHAIN EXPLAINED THAT 516 OF THE 1,783 PRODUCTS SOLD UNDER ITS BRAND MAY HAVE CONTAINED GMO'S. CARREFOUR SAID THEY HAVE SUBSTITUTED PRODUCTS FOR WHICH GENETIC MODIFICATION IS NOT AUTHORIZED IN FRANCE TO INGREDIENTS THAT MAY CONTAIN GMO'S ON 286 OF THE 516 PRODUCTS CONCERNED.

6. FOR 221 REMAINING PRODUCTS WHERE SUCH A SUBSTITUTION IS IMPOSSIBLE, CARREFOUR SAID THAT IT REQUESTS ITS SUPPLIERS TO PROCEED WITH AN ANALYSIS TO DETECT THE PRESENCE OF GMO'S. ACCORDING TO CARREFOUR, THE PRODUCTION OF THE LAST 9 PRODUCTS WAS TERMINATED BECAUSE "NEITHER TRACING NOR SUBSTITUTION WAS POSSIBLE."

ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3420

TOR: 990212043515 M3691853

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHLOA1692 0551454-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 241454Z FEB 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG: 241454Z FEB 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3439
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0542
SUBJ: ANTI-GMO FUROR GRIPS THE UK; HMG STANDS
F I RM

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 001692

BRUSSELS FOR USEU

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/UBI, EB/TPP/ATP, EUR/ERA
DEPT PASS USTR ELECTRONICALLY FOR JMURPHY AND
RIVES
DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR U/S
SCHUMACHER; FAS/OA/GALVIN;
FAS/ITP/SIMMONS/GRUEFF/SHEIKH;
FAS/ITP/EAME/SCHWARTZ/HESSE; FAS/CMP/COTS/BLUM;
FAS/CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER; FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT;
ERS/WES/MADELL; APHIS/OA; FAA/AO/NE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK

SUBJECT: ANTI-GMO FUROR GRIPS THE UK; HMG STANDS
F I RM

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, THERE HAS BEEN A FUROR IN THE UK OVER GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS), INITIATED BY ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS AND THE PRINT MEDIA. THOUGH THESE INSTITUTIONS PROVIDED THE CATALYST, THE CLIMATE IN THE UK IS ALSO RIGHT FOR A GMO FIRESTORM. THE UK GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, HAS CONTINUED TO REJECT CALLS FOR A MORATORIUM AND HAS TAKEN A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN COUNTERING ANTI-GMO RHETORIC, INCLUDING AN OPINION PIECE IN A UK

NEWSPAPER BY TONY BLAIR.

WHILE WE EXPECT THE UK GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN SUPPORTIVE OF THE BIOTECH INDUSTRY, THE PRESSURE IT IS UNDER MAY LIMIT ITS FLEXIBILITY ON ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE USG AND US FIRMS. END SUMMARY

THE FUROR RISES

2. (SBU) THE CATALYSTS THAT IGNITED THE CURRENT GMO FRENZY WERE ENVIRONMENTALLY ORIENTED SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS AND THE PRINT MEDIA. WHATEVER THEIR MOTIVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS ARE WELL ORGANIZED, COMMITTED, EXTREMELY EFFICIENT AND PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP AND DIRECTION TO THE ANTI-GMO MOVEMENT. THE PRINT MEDIA IN THE UK IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE. PAPERS ARE CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR HOT ISSUES TO SCOOP THE COMPETITION AND MANY PAPERS BELIEVE THAT FOOD SAFETY AND THE PERCEIVED RISK OF GMOS ARE IMPORTANT TO THEIR READERSHIP. IN FACT, SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING THE EXPRESS, THE DAILY MAIL, THE MIRROR, THE GUARDIAN AND THE INDEPENDENT, HAVE ACTUALLY STARTED ANTI-GMO CAMPAIGNS.

3. (SBU) THOUGH ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS AND THE PRINT MEDIA PROVIDED THE SPARK TO IGNITE THE GMO FRENZY, THERE IS ENOUGH FUEL IN THE UK TO KEEP A BLAZE GOING. CONSUMERS ARE GENERALLY IGNORANT ABOUT BIOTECHNOLOGY BUT ARE DISTRUSTFUL OF THE UK GOVERNMENT AND ITS REGULATORY SYSTEM AFTER THE BSE CRISIS. FOR MOST OF THE 1990S, THE UK GOVERNMENT DENIED THAT BSE COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO HUMANS. IN 1996, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT SUDDENLY ANNOUNCED THAT THERE PROBABLY WAS A LINK BETWEEN BSE IN CATTLE AND NEW VARIANT CREUTZFELD-JACOB DISEASE (NVCJD) IN HUMANS.

4. (SBU) THE POWERFUL ORGANIC MOVEMENT IN THE UK IS ALSO ANTI-GMO. FOR EXAMPLE, IN JUNE 1998, PRINCE CHARLES, THE UK'S LARGEST ORGANIC FARMER, CAME OUT AGAINST BIOTECHNOLOGY, SAYING THAT THE GENETIC MODIFICATION OF PLANTS WAS "TAKING MAN INTO THE REALMS THAT BELONG TO GOD, AND GOD ALONE."

5. (SBU) THE CONSERVATIVE (TORY) PARTY HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR HOT ISSUES IT CAN USE AGAINST TONY BLAIR AND THE LABOR PARTY. EARLIER THIS MONTH AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, WILLIAM HAGUE, LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY, STATED "THE RELEASE OF GM CROPS SHOULD BE PUT ON HOLD UNTIL WE KNOW A LOT MORE ABOUT THEM. THE FACT THAT SCIENTISTS ARE VERY ALARMED SHOULD WORRY US." IRONICALLY, THE TORY PARTY WAS THE CHAMPION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY WHILE IT WAS IN POWER WHILE THE LABOR PARTY HAD RESERVATIONS. IN ADDITION, NOT ALL LABOR PARTY CABINET MEMBERS ARE PRO-BIOTECHNOLOGY. THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT MICHAEL MEACHER HAS SOUNDED A VERY

CAUTIOUS NOTE TOWARDS BIOTECHNOLOGY AND APPEARS TO HAVE LEFT THE GOVERNMENT MANEUVERING ROOM ON THE MORATORIUM ISSUE.

6. (SBU) THE BRITISH PRIDE THEMSELVES ON CHOICE. HOWEVER, DURING THE EARLY CAMPAIGN OF INTRODUCING GM TECHNOLOGY, BIOTECH COMPANIES WERE PERCEIVED BY MANY BRITISH AS ACTING HEAVY HANDED, WITH UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 LONDON 001692

BRUSSELS FOR USEU

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STATE FOR EUR/UBI, EB/TPP/ATP, EUR/ERA
DEPT PASS USTR ELECTRONICALLY FOR JMURPHY AND RIVES
DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR U/S SCHUMACHER; FAS/OA/GALVIN;
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK

SUBJECT: ANTI-GMO FUROR GRIPS THE UK; HMG STANDS
F I R M

CONSUMERS NOT HAVING ANY SAY WHETHER TO CHOOSE PRODUCTS MADE WITH GM INGREDIENTS. IN ADDITION, GMOS ARE NOT PERCEIVED BY CONSUMERS AS HAVING ANY BENEFIT TO THEM, ONLY TO BIOTECH COMPANIES AND FARMERS. THIS PERCEPTION IS BASED ON BIOTECHNOLOGY'S AGRONOMIC BENEFITS, SUCH AS HERBICIDE TOLERANCE AND INSECT RESISTANCE.

7. (SBU) DAY AFTER DAY NEWSPAPER HEADLINES HAVE DENOUNCED THE POTENTIAL DANGERS OF GM FOODS. THE MOST WIDELY PUBLICIZED PRESS STORY OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS INVOLVES ARPAD PUSZTAI, A BIOCHEMIST FROM THE ROWETT INSTITUTE, WHO INITIALLY SPARKED A STORM IN AUGUST BY APPEARING ON TELEVISION TO WARN ABOUT INADEQUATE TESTING OF GM FOOD. HE CLAIMED THAT GM POTATOES DAMAGE THE IMMUNE SYSTEM OF RATS. THE ROWETT INSTITUTE DISMISSED DR. PUSZTAI SHORTLY AFTER HIS TELEVISION APPEARANCE BECAUSE IT CONCLUDED THAT THE ALLEGATIONS WERE QUESTIONABLE AND HE SHOULD NOT HAVE DISCUSSED HIS FINDINGS PUBLICLY BEFORE PUBLICATION. HOWEVER, ON FEBRUARY 12, TWENTY SCIENTISTS FROM 14 COUNTRIES ACCUSED THE ROWETT INSTITUTE OF BOWING TO POLITICAL PRESSURE IN FIRING PUSZTAI AND HUSHING UP HIS FINDINGS. APPARENTLY, MOST OF THESE SCIENTISTS ARE ACTIVE OPPONENTS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY WITH ASSOCIATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS.

8. (SBU) THE ANTI-GMO MOVEMENT IS ALSO USING DIRECT ACTION TO GAIN PUBLICITY FOR THEIR CAUSE. FOR EXAMPLE, OVER 40 GM FIELD TRIALS HAVE BEEN VANDALIZED BY ANTI-GMO ACTIVISTS IN THE LAST YEAR IN THE UK. ON FEBRUARY 17, IN LIVERPOOL, POLICE ARRESTED SIX GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS WHO HAD ENTERED THE SEAFORTH GRAIN TERMINAL AND WERE TRYING TO PREVENT SHIPS FROM UNLOADING GM FOOD PRODUCTS. ON FEBRUARY 18, GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS DUMPED FOUR TONS OF GM SOYBEANS OUTSIDE 10 DOWNING STREET, PRIME MINISTER BLAIR'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE. ACCORDING TO A GREENPEACE SPOKESWOMEN, "WE ARE TAKING THESE GM SOYA BEANS TO ONE OF THE FEW HOMES IN THE UK WHERE THEY WANT TO EAT IT."

THE UK GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE - STAND FIRM

9. (SBU) THE UK GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO REJECT CALLS FOR A GMO MORATORIUM. IN ADDITION, HMG HAS RECENTLY RAISED ITS PROFILE AGAINST ANTI-GMO PRESSURE GROUPS. ON FEBRUARY 18, FIVE CABINET MEMBERS, INCLUDING JOHN PRESCOTT, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, FRANK DOBSON, THE HEALTH MINISTER, NICK BROWN, THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER, STEPHEN BYERS, THE TRADE SECRETARY, AND JACK CUNNINGHAM, THE CABINET OFFICER ENFORCER, SENT A LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ABOUT THE GMO CONTROVERSY. THE MINISTERS STATED THAT THE GM PRODUCTS NOW ON SALE IN THE UK WERE SAFE AND STATED THAT NO NEW PRODUCTS WOULD BE ALLOWED ON THE MARKET UNTIL RIGOROUS SAFETY CHECKS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT. THE LETTER ALSO REJECTED CALLS FOR A MORATORIUM. HOWEVER, THE MINISTERS EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO COMMERCIAL PLANTINGS UNLESS THE EVIDENCE OF FARM SCALE TRIALS, SET TO BEGIN THIS SPRING, SHOWED THERE WOULD BE NO ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT. THE LETTER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A 50 PAGE FACTFILE ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENTS IN GM FOOD.

10. (SBU) ON FEBRUARY 20, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE DEFENDING BIOTECHNOLOGY BY TONY BLAIR, WHO CALLED IT THE REVOLUTIONARY SCIENCE OF THE 21ST CENTURY. BLAIR STATED "THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT NOT YIELDING TO AN ORCHESTRATED BARRAGE ON AN ISSUE OF LONG-TERM IMPORTANCE" AND RESISTING "THE TYRANNY OF PRESSURE GROUPS." THE UK GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO STARTED A PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON BIOTECHNOLOGY USING THE NO. 10 DOWNING STREET WEBSITE.

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 LONDON 001692

BRUSSELS FOR USEU

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STATE FOR EUR/UBI, EB/TPP/ATP, EUR/ERA

DEPT PASS USTR ELECTRONICALLY FOR JMURPHY AND
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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR U/S
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ERS/WES/MADELL; APHIS/OA; FAA/AO/NE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, UK

SUBJECT: ANTI-GMO FUROR GRIPS THE UK; HMG STANDS
F I RM

11. (SBU) COMMENT: DESPITE THE CURRENT FRENZY, THE
UK GOVERNMENT HAS CLEARLY AND DEFINITELY STAKED
OUT A POSITION IN FAVOR OF A SCIENCE BASED
APPROACH TO GMOS. WHILE WE FULLY EXPECT HMG TO
MAINTAIN ITS POLICY, THE CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL
PRESSURE IT IS UNDER COULD VERY WELL LIMIT THE
GOVERNMENT'S FLEXIBILITY AND AFFECT, ON THE
MARGIN, POLICY DECISIONS OF INTEREST TO THE USG
AND US FIRMS. END COMMENT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
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SSN: 1692
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DTG: 050742Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3061
INFO: RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0461
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 3010
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0727
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0156
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0147
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0079
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 1879
RUEHBD/AMCONSUL PERTH 0157
SUBJ: BIOSAFETY: GMO ASSESSMENT THREATENS TRADE,
COOPERATION
TEXT:

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By RL NARA, Date 11/20/2014
2016-0524-m (2.72)

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 CANBERRA 000718

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
GENEVA PASS USTR
AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/EAP/OPB/GPAINE
USDOC FOR 3132/USFCS/OIO/EAP/TFALCO
USDOC FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/04/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, EAGR, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: GMO ASSESSMENT THREATENS TRADE,
COOPERATION
REF: (A) WELLINGTON 254 (NOTAL); (B) 98 SYDNEY 2296 (NOTAL)

(U) CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR CURTIS STEWART FOR
12958 REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: A FOOD SAFETY STANDARD REQUIRING INDIVIDUAL
RISK ASSESSMENTS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPONENTS AS A
PRECONDITION TO THE SALE OF FOOD PRODUCTS IN AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND IS THREATENING U.S.-AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION ON
BIOSAFETY ISSUES, AS WELL AS U.S. FOOD EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA.

STANDARD A18 PROHIBITS THE SALE OF FOOD CONTAINING BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS AFTER MAY 13, IF THE INDIVIDUAL BIOTECH COMPONENTS HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES. U.S. BUSINESS BELIEVES THAT THE POTENTIAL FOR DISRUPTION TO TRADE COULD BE SIGNIFICANT, DEPENDING IN PART ON HOW STRINGENTLY THE REQUIREMENT IS APPLIED. THE AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY (ANZFA), WHICH ADMINISTERS THE STANDARD, SAYS THAT TO DATE ONLY MONSANTO HAS APPLIED FOR "RISK ASSESSMENTS," FOR ONLY SIX OF ITS PRODUCTS. IN LIGHT OF THE POOR RESPONSE, ANZFA IS NOW ACTIVELY SOLICITING APPLICATIONS. IT IS ALSO CONSIDERING AN INTERIM REGIME UNDER WHICH AN APPLICATION (AS OPPOSED TO A POSITIVE ASSESSMENT) WOULD SUFFICE TO TEMPORARILY CLEAR PRODUCTS FOR SALE. AUSTRALIA'S USE OF SUCH A STANDARD COULD CLOUD THE VERY SUCCESSFUL U.S.-AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION IN BLOCKING UNWORKABLE BIOSAFETY PROVISIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY. END SUMMARY.

2. ~~(C)~~ AN IMPENDING DEADLINE ON A FOOD STANDARD (SEE PARAGRAPH 10 FOR TEXT) THAT WOULD OUTLAW THE SALE OF ALL PRODUCTS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS IF THE UNDERLYING GENE TECHNOLOGY HAS NOT BEEN ASSESSED FOR SAFETY HAS RIVETED THE ATTENTION OF U.S. BUSINESSES IN AUSTRALIA. AMCHAM AUSTRALIA BRIEFED THE AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 3 ON THE AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY'S (ANZFA) STANDARD A18, DUE TO TAKE EFFECT MAY 13. AMCHAM MEMBERS SAID THE THREAT TO U.S. EXPORTS, AS WELL AS POTENTIALLY TO U.S. FOOD INDUSTRY FIRMS MANUFACTURING IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, IS SIGNIFICANT FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES. THEY ASKED FOR EMBASSY HELP IN ALERTING AUSTRALIAN AND U.S. AUTHORITIES TO THE PROBLEM.

3. ~~(C)~~ ACCORDING TO ANZFA, ONLY ONE COMPANY, U.S. BIOTECH FIRM MONSANTO'S AUSTRALIAN SUBSIDIARY, HAS APPLIED TO HAVE ITS PRODUCTS ASSESSED. MONSANTO SUBMITTED SIX OF ITS GENTECH PRODUCTS FOR ASSESSMENT, TWO OF WHICH HAVE SO FAR BEEN CLEARED AS SUITABLE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION (REF A). ANZFA SAYS IT IS HOPING TO AVOID A POTENTIAL DISASTER AFTER MAY 13 BY TEMPORARILY CLEARING PRODUCTS FOR WHICH AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE, PENDING SUBSEQUENT ASSESSMENT. ANZFA MUST SEEK APPROVAL FOR THIS TEMPORARY EXEMPTION APPROACH FROM THE AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL (ANZFSC), CONSISTING OF THE HEALTH MINISTERS OF THE EIGHT AUSTRALIAN STATES AND TERRITORIES, AND THE THOSE OF THE TWO FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS, WHICH HAS STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOOD STANDARDS. IT WAS THE COUNCIL THAT VOTED IN JULY TO REQUIRE THE ASSESSMENTS.

4. ~~(C)~~ ANZFA SAYS THAT, IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF RESPONSE FROM OTHER GENTECH COMPANIES OTHER THAN MONSANTO, IT HAS DECIDED TO ACTIVELY SOLICIT APPLICATIONS FROM COMPANIES IT BELIEVES HAVE PRODUCTS THAT COULD POSSIBLY BE FOUND IN FOOD IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. IN A MARCH 5 LETTER TO THE EMBASSY, ANZFA WROTE THAT "A NUMBER OF IMPORTED FOODS" MIGHT BE AFFECTED AND THAT IT WISHED TO ADVISE POTENTIALLY AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE STANDARD. "IN PARTICULAR, ANZFA WISHES TO ALERT A NUMBER OF US BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANIES THAT MAY BE KEY OWNERS OF PATENTS OR

OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF THE PRIMARY COMMODITIES INVOLVED. THESE COMPANIES INCLUDE: MYCOGEN CORPORATION, NORTHRUP SEED LTD., ASGROW SEED CO., AGRITOPPE, CIBA-GEIGY, ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 04 CANBERRA 000718

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
GENEVA PASS USTR
AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/04/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, EAGR, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: GMO ASSESSMENT THREATENS TRADE, COOPERATION

IN ANY CASE. SINCE ANZFA IS RELYING FOR ITS ASSESSMENTS ON THE SAME, SCIENTIFICALLY RIGOROUS DATA USED BY THE GENTECH COMPANIES FOR THEIR U.S. EVALUATIONS, WE CANNOT FAULT THE SCIENCE EITHER. WE WOULD HOPE TO FOCUS SECONDARILY, BUT EARNESTLY, ON AVOIDING ANY UNNECESSARY NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE CRUCIAL U.S.-AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION ON THE BIOSAFETY FRONT. END COMMENT.

10. (U) FOOD STANDARD A18 APPEARS BELOW:

BEGIN TEXT

FOOD STANDARDS CODE

STANDARD A18 - FOOD PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY

NOTE: TO COMMENCE ON 13 MAY 1999

PURPOSE

THIS STANDARD REGULATES THE SALE OF FOODS AND FOOD INGREDIENTS, OTHER THAN ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS, WHICH ARE PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY. THE STANDARD PROHIBITS THE SALE OF THESE FOODS UNLESS THEY ARE INCLUDED IN THE TABLE TO CLAUSE 2 AND COMPLY WITH ANY SPECIAL CONDITIONS IN THAT TABLE.

THE AUTHORITY WILL ASSESS THE SAFETY FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OF EACH FOOD OR CLASS OF FOOD PRIOR TO ITS INCLUSION IN THE TABLE. THE SAFETY ASSESSMENT WILL BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORITY'S APPROVED SAFETY ASSESSMENT CRITERIA.

ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS WHICH ARE PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY ARE NOT REGULATED IN THIS STANDARD. OTHER STANDARDS IN THIS CODE REGULATING ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS REQUIRE PRE-MARKET APPROVAL FOR THESE SUBSTANCES.

TABLE OF PROVISIONS

1. DEFINITIONS
2. GENERAL PROHIBITION ON THE SALE OF FOOD PRODUCED
USING GENE TECHNOLOGY
3. LABELING

DEFINITIONS

1. IN THIS STANDARD -

A "FOOD PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY" IS A FOOD WHICH HAS BEEN DERIVED FROM AN ORGANISM WHICH HAS BEEN MODIFIED BY GENE TECHNOLOGY, BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY SUBSTANCE REGULATED AS A FOOD ADDITIVE OR A PROCESSING AID.

'GENE TECHNOLOGY' REFERS TO RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNIQUES THAT ALTER THE HERITABLE GENETIC MATERIAL OF LIVING CELLS OR ORGANISMS.

GENERAL PROHIBITION ON THE SALE OF FOOD PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY

2. A FOOD PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY MUST NOT BE SOLD OR USED AS AN INGREDIENT OR COMPONENT OF ANOTHER FOOD UNLESS IT IS LISTED IN COLUMN 1 OF THE TABLE TO THIS CLAUSE AND COMPLIES WITH THE CONDITIONS, IF ANY, SPECIFIED IN COLUMN 2.

LABELING

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 04
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 04

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PREC: IMMEDIATE
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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
OSRI: RUEHBY
DTG: 050742Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3064
INFO: RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0464
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 3013
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0730
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0159
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0150
RUEHSG/AMEBASSY SANTIAGO 0082
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MEBOURNE 1882
SUBJ: BIOSAFETY: GMO ASSESSMENT THREATENS TRADE,
COOPERATION

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VZ NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0524-m (233)

TEXT:

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DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
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COOPERATION

3. A FOOD THAT IS, OR CONTAINS AS AN INGREDIENT OR
COMPONENT, A FOOD PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY THAT --

A. CONTAINS NEW OR ALTERED GENETIC MATERIAL; AND

B. IS NOT SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT IN ANY CHARACTERISTIC OR PROPERTY OF THE FOOD;

MUST INDICATE ON THE LABEL THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE CHARACTERISTIC OR PROPERTY MODIFIED.

EDITORIAL NOTE: NOT SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT IN ANY CHARACTERISTIC OR PROPERTY OF THE FOOD INCLUDES --

A. WHERE THE MODIFICATION RESULTS IN ONE OR MORE SIGNIFICANT COMPOSITIONAL OR NUTRITIONAL PARAMETERS HAVING VALUES OUTSIDE OF THE NORMAL RANGE OF VALUES FOR THE EXISTING EQUIVALENT FOOD OR FOOD INGREDIENT; OR

B. WHERE THE LEVEL OF ANTI-NUTRITIONAL FACTORS OR NATURAL TOXICANTS ARE CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT IN COMPARISON TO THE EXISTING EQUIVALENT FOOD OR FOOD INGREDIENT; OR

C. WHERE THE FOOD CONTAINS A NEW FACTOR KNOWN TO CAUSE AN ALLERGIC RESPONSE IN PARTICULAR SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION; OR

D. WHERE THE INTENDED USE OF THE FOOD OR FOOD INGREDIENT IS DIFFERENT TO THE EXISTING EQUIVALENT FOOD OR FOOD INGREDIENT.

HOLMES

SECT: SECTION: 04 OF 04

SSN: 0718

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DIST:

SIT: NSC

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PREC: IMMEDIATE
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OSRI: RUEHBY
DTG: 050742Z MAR 99
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RUEHC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0462
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 3011
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0728
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0157
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RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0080
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 1880
RUEHBD/AMCONSUL PERTH 0158
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 8346
RUEHWLB/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND 0075
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0463
SUBJ: BIOSAFETY: GMO ASSESSMENT THREATENS TRADE,
COOPERATION

DE KALB AND ZENECA."

TEXT:

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 04 CANBERRA 000718

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
GENEVA PASS USTR
AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/EAP/OPB/GPAINE
USDOC FOR 3132/USFCS/OIO/EAP/TFALCO
USDOC FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/04/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, EAGR, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: GMO ASSESSMENT THREATENS TRADE,
COOPERATION

DE KALB AND ZENECA."

5. (U) FOR ITS PART, THE GOA SAYS EMPHATICALLY IT DOES NOT

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VJ NARA, Date 11/16/2006
2016-0524-m (7.34)

HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO BLOCK THE APPLICATION OF THE STANDARD, SINCE STATE-LEVEL HEALTH MINISTERS CONTROL FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL STATES AND TERRITORIES. STATE AND TERRITORY PLANS FOR ENFORCING THE BAN ON UNAPPROVED FOODS ARE UNCLEAR, AND PROBABLY NOT FAR ADVANCED. ONE GOA AGENCY, THE AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICE (AQIS), WILL, HOWEVER, BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. AGAIN BY STATUTE, IT WILL BE AQIS' RESPONSIBILITY TO ENFORCE THE STANDARD AT THE NATIONAL BORDERS, AS DIRECTED BY ANZFA.

6. ~~(C)~~ ANDREW CARROLL IN AQIS' FOOD INSPECTION SECTION TOLD ESTOFF THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE STANDARD, THOUGH THE ISSUE OF GMOS IN IMPORTS IS OF GROWING INTEREST IN GENERAL. HE SAID THAT SUCH A STANDARD WOULD LIKELY BE "INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE, BECAUSE YOU CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING." UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY ANZFA, HE SAID, AQIS WOULD NOT SUBJECT FOOD IMPORTERS TO QUESTIONING ON THEIR PRODUCTS UNLESS THERE WAS "A VERY GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE" THEY CONTAINED GENTECH COMPONENTS. HOWEVER, IF AN IMPORTED FOOD WERE LABELED AS CONTAINING SUCH PRODUCTS, AQIS WOULD THEN LOGICALLY APPLY THE STANDARD AND ASK IF THE SUBJECT TECHNOLOGY HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ASSESSED.

7. (U) (NOTE: A18 ALSO REQUIRES THAT FOODS CONTAINING GENTECH COMPONENTS AND "IS NOT SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT IN ANY CHARACTERISTIC OR PROPERTY OF THE FOOD" MUST BE LABELED AS CONTAINING SUCH MATERIAL. AS REPORTED REF A AND B, ANZFSC HAS ALSO VOTED TO REQUIRE THE LABELING OF FOODS THAT ARE SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT. THIS "ADDENDUM" TO THE STANDARD IS CURRENTLY BEING DRAWN UP BY ANZFA. END NOTE.)

8. ~~(C)~~ OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE NOTED THAT A DRAFT OF THE STANDARD WAS REPORTED TO THE WTO IN FEBRUARY 1998. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE REGULATION IS FULLY IN CONFORMITY WITH AUSTRALIA'S WTO RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS. NONETHELESS, THEY AGREED THAT IF THE STANDARD RESULTS IN TRADE DISRUPTION, OPPONENTS OF THE US.-AUSTRALIA POSITION ON THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL WILL SEEK TO USE ANY DISCORDANCE TO DISCREDIT THAT POSITION. DFAT OFFICIALS EXPRESSED THEIR SYMPATHY WITH THE CONCERNS OF U.S. BUSINESSES IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENT. THEY CONFIRMED THAT THE GOA CANNOT IN ANY WAY "OVERRULE" THE STATE AND TERRITORY HEALTH AUTHORITIES ON FOOD SAFETY. THEY CONCEDED THAT THE STANDARD DOES NOT PROVIDE A CLEAR ANSWER TO ALL OF THE POSSIBLE SITUATIONS CONFRONTING BUSINESS, BUT THEY URGED BUSINESS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GET TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIERS TO MAKE APPLICATIONS FOR ASSESSMENTS. OFFICIALS FOR DFAT'S ENVIRONMENT BRANCH PLAN ON BEING IN WASHINGTON FOR THE UPCOMING UMBRELLA GROUP MEETING AND WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE FOOD STANDARD ISSUE. ENVIRONMENT BRANCH OFFICIALS SAID THEY WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH US TO MANAGE POTENTIAL FALLOUT FROM THE NEW STANDARD. THEY DID NOT, HOWEVER, SEE THE STANDARD AS CONTRADICTING THEIR NATIONAL POSITIONS ON BIOSAFETY (SEPTEL).

9. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: THE EMBASSY WILL FOCUS FOREMOST ON THE CONCERNS OF THE U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN DEALING WITH THE STANDARD. THE AMBASSADOR WILL RAISE BUSINESS'S CONCERNS

WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND TRADE MINISTER TIM FISCHER DURING A MEETING ON MARCH 11. WE WILL WORK WITH ANZFA AS WELL, WHICH HAS SHOWN ITSELF SYMPATHETIC TO OUR CONCERNS, WHILE KEEPING AMCHAM AND ITS MEMBERS INFORMED OF OUR PROGRESS. THE INTERIM PROPOSAL SUGGESTED BY ANZFA PROVIDES LITTLE HELP, BUT IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE STANDARD WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN. BASED ON AQIS' SANGUINE VIEWS, ENFORCEMENT MAY BE LESS THAN RIGOROUS, AT LEAST INITIALLY. HOW LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES APPLY THE STANDARD PROHIBITIONS IS FAR LESS CLEAR. BUSINESS WILL BE FACED WITH MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS

SECT: SECTION: 02 OF 04

SSN: 0718

TOR: 990307163947 M3730887

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHBYA0748 0682326-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 092326Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
OSRI: RUEHBY
DTG: 092326Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3096
INFO: RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0481
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 3014
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0731
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0160
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0151
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0084
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0267
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 1904
RUEHBD/AMCONSUL PERTH 0178
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 8371
RUEHWLB/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND 0078
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0466

SUBJ: BIOSAFETY: GMO REGULATIONS BURDEN COOPERATION

TEXT: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 CANBERRA 000748

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
DEPARTMENT PASS USDA/FAS
GENEVA PASS USTR
AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
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USDOC FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: GMO REGULATIONS BURDEN COOPERATION

REF: (A) CANBERRA 718; (B) WELLINGTON 254 (NOTAL); (C) 98
SYDNEY 2296 (NOTAL)

(U) CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR CURTIS STEWART FOR
12958 REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. ~~(S)~~ SUMMARY: THE GOA DENIES THAT A TRIO OF LABELING AND
SAFETY ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS COVERING FOODS CONSISTING OF

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/16/2019
2016-0529-m (7.35)

OR CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) (REFTELS) CONTRADICTS AUSTRALIA'S BIOSAFETY STRATEGY. OFFICIALS CHARACTERIZE THE REGULATIONS AS NORMAL, "WTO-CONSISTENT" FOOD SAFETY MEASURES, AND HAVE WARNED THAT A TOO VIGOROUS USG REACTION RISKS CASTING THE UNITED STATES AS CONCERNED ONLY WITH FORCING "UNSAFE" PRODUCTS ON OTHER COUNTRIES' MARKETS AT ANY COST. THEY ALSO RAISED THE PROSPECT THAT A CONTROVERSY OVER THE REGULATORY REGIME MIGHT UNDERMINE U.S.-AUSTRALIAN COOPERATION ON THE MULTILATERAL BIOSAFETY AGENDA WITHIN THE SO-CALLED MIAMI GROUP. FOR ITS PART, U.S. BUSINESS IN AUSTRALIA ASSERTS THAT AUSTRALIA'S (AND NEW ZEALAND'S) TREATMENT OF GENTECH FOODS IS UNCONTROVERTIBLY IN VIOLATION OF GATT PROVISIONS. END SUMMARY.

A DEFENSIVE DFAT CLAIMS INNOCENCE, PLAYS THE MIAMI CARD

2. ~~(S)~~ OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE'S (DFAT) ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE BRANCHES MET WITH ESTOFF ON MARCH 5 TO DISCUSS NEW FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS RELATED TO GMOS. THE MEETING WAS REQUESTED IN THE WAKE OF CONCERNS RAISED BY U.S. BUSINESSES DURING A MARCH 3 AMCHAM BRIEFING FOR THE AMBASSADOR. OF MOST IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO BUSINESS IS AN AUGUST 1998 STANDARD THAT REQUIRES INDIVIDUAL RISK ASSESSMENTS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPONENTS AS A PRECONDITION TO THE SALE OF FOOD PRODUCTS IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND AFTER MAY 13 (REF A). THE STANDARD ALSO REQUIRES THE LABELING OF FOODS CONTAINING GMO PRODUCTS DEEMED TO BE "NOT SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT IN ANY CHARACTERISTIC OR PROPERTY" TO THE UNALTERED ORGANISM FROM WHICH THE GMO WAS DERIVED.

3. ~~(S)~~ THE MEETING WAS MARKED BY AN UNTYPICALLY SUBDUED ATMOSPHERE, WITH THE DFAT OFFICIALS EMPHATICALLY DEFENDING THE NEW LABELING AND ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS AS BEING GATT-CONSISTENT AND NOT FUNDAMENTALLY AT ODDS WITH GOA BIOSAFETY POSITIONS. WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANYTHING ESTOFF HAD SAID, THE ENVIRONMENT BRANCH'S JANALINE OH, A VETERAN OF THE CARTAGENA BIOSAFETY TALKS, WARNED THAT AN OVERLY STRONG USG RESPONSE COULD RESULT IN THE UNITED STATES "CONTINUING" TO BE CHARACTERIZED BY ITS OPPONENTS AS "PURSUING ITS COMMERCIAL INTERESTS WITHOUT REGARD TO THE HEALTH CONCERNS OF OTHER COUNTRIES." SHE AND HER SUPERVISOR, ASSISTANT SECRETARY JAN LINEHAN, BOTH INTONED THEIR CONCERNS THAT THE BILATERAL COOPERATION NOT SUFFER AS A RESULT OF THE FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS. LINEHAN SAID THAT BOTH COUNTRIES MUST AIM TO DO "WHATEVER IS POSSIBLE TO MINIMIZE ANY DISRUPTION."

4. ~~(S)~~ OH SAID THAT IT HAD NEVER BEEN GOA POLICY TO OPPOSE GMO ASSESSMENTS ON THE BASIS OF HUMAN HEALTH. THE GOA SEES THIS AS A ROUTINE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE, SHE INSISTED, NOT ONE UNIQUE TO GENTECH PRODUCTS. AS FOR LABELING, SHE SAID THAT THE GOA HAD ALSO NEVER MADE OPPOSITION TO LABELING A KEY PART OF ITS BIOSAFETY STRATEGY, AND IN CARTAGENA HAD LEFT THAT ISSUE TO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. SHE NOTED THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT IN AUSTRALIA RESTS WITH THE STATE AND TERRITORY GOVERNMENTS.

AS A RESULT, ONCE A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIA-
NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL HAD VOTED TO SUPPORT THE
NEW STANDARD, THE GOA WAS POWERLESS TO OPPOSE IT FURTHER.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 CANBERRA 000748

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
DEPARTMENT PASS USDA/FAS
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AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
USDOC FOR 4530/IEP/EAP/OPB/GPAINE
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USDOC FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: GMO REGULATIONS BURDEN COOPERATION

BUSINESS SMELLS A GATT CONFLICT

5. ~~(S)~~ IN ALERTING THE AMBASSADOR TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE
NEW REGULATIONS, PROCTOR AND GAMBLE MANAGING DIRECTOR "SKIP"
TYLMAN IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE
NEW STANDARD AND AUSTRALIA'S (AND PRESUMABLY NEW ZEALAND'S)
COMMITMENTS UNDER THE GATT. THE NEW LABELING REQUIREMENT
WOULD, HE SAID, "PLACE AUSTRALIA IN THE POSITION OF HAVING
THE MOST RESTRICTIVE LABELING REGIME IN THE WORLD. (NOTE:
IT IS NOT CLEAR IF TYLMAN WAS INCLUDING IN HIS THINKING THE
STILL-TO-BE-FINALIZED LABELING AMENDMENT COVERING FOOD
CONTAINING GMOS "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT," VOTED BY THE
COUNCIL IN DECEMBER (REF C).

6. ~~(S)~~ IN ITS BRIEFING MEMO TO THE AMBASSADOR, THE AMCHAM
NOTED THE FOLLOWING GATT PROVISIONS THAT THE NEW LABELING
REGULATIONS MAY CONFLICT WITH: THE "NATIONAL TREATMENT
RULE;" THE "NON-DISCRIMINATION RULE;" THE TECHNICAL BARRIERS
TO TRADE AGREEMENT; AND A REQUIREMENT THAT WTO MEMBER STATES
"ENSURE THAT THEIR REGIONAL OR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ARE
BOUND BY THEIR COMMITMENTS AS SIGNATORIES TO THE WTO." IT
ALSO NOTES THAT AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD COVERING GMOS IN
FOOD IS BEING DRAFTED FOR THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS AND THAT
THE TBT AGREEMENT OBLIGES STATES NOT TO INTRODUCE NEW
NATIONAL STANDARDS THAT CONTRAVENE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS
THAT ARE IMMINENT.

A GROCER SIDES WITH HIS CUSTOMERS

7. ~~(S)~~ AN OFFICIAL OF COLES-MYER, OPERATORS OF A NATIONWIDE
CHAIN OF SUPERMARKETS AND DEPARTMENT STORES, TOLD
ESTOFF ON MARCH 9 THAT HIS COMPANY HAD COME DOWN ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF THE ARGUMENT FROM ITS SUPPLIERS, SUCH AS
PROCTOR AND GAMBLE. TED MOORE SAID THAT COLES' POSITION,
EXPRESSED IN A LETTER TO ANZFA, IS IN OPPOSITION TO THE
POLICY OF THE AUSTRALIAN FOOD GROCERY COUNCIL, THE MAIN FOOD
MANUFACTURER GROUP, WHOSE MEMBERS INCLUDE AUSTRALIAN AND

MULTINATIONAL FIRMS, INCLUDING PROCTOR AND GAMBLE. HE SAID THAT COLES SUPPORTED WHAT HE SAID WAS THE OVERWHELMING DESIRE OF CONSUMERS FOR LABELING INFORMATION AT THE POINT OF SALE ON THE PRESENCE OF GMOS IN THEIR FOOD. HE SAID THAT COLES FAVORED THE POSITION ESPOUSED BY THE UK'S INSTITUTE OF GROCERY DISTRIBUTORS (IGD). ACCORDING TO MOORE, AT THE HEART OF THE IGD'S "VOLUNTARY STANDARD" IS THE LABELING OF GMO FOODS, EXCEPT WHERE PROCESSING HAD ELIMINATED DNA AND PROTEINS FROM THE GENTECH COMPONENT. (NOTE: MOORE SAID THAT THE IGD'S APPROACH HAD SINCE BEEN CODIFIED WITHIN EU DIRECTIVE 7814/98. END NOTE.)

8. ~~(C)~~ MOORE SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT STATE HEALTH AUTHORITIES TO VIGOROUSLY ENFORCE THE NEW REGULATIONS, AT LEAST NOT IMMEDIATELY. THIS IN PART BECAUSE THE LACK OF AN ANZFA DEFINITION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A GMO (STILL BEING DRAFTED) FOR THE PURPOSES OF STANDARD A18 AND THE "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT" LABELING AMENDMENT MADE PROSECUTION ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT GROCERS SUCH AS COLES WOULD IN ANY CASE BE ABLE TO PASS THE LIABILITY "BUCK" BACK TO SUPPLIERS IF THEY SUFFERED LOSSES DUE TO FOODS BEING DECLARED ILLEGAL AFTER MAY 13. HE SAID THAT THE BEST COURSE OPEN TO FOOD MANUFACTURERS USING GMO COMPONENTS IS TO GET THEIR PRODUCTS ASSESSED AND LABELED AND TO THEN LET CONSUMERS THEMSELVES DECIDE IF THEY BELIEVED THE PRODUCTS WERE AS SAFE AND WHOLESOME AS CLAIMED. "THAT'S WHAT FREEDOM OF CHOICE IS ABOUT, ISN'T IT?"

COMMENT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 CANBERRA 000748

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
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GENEVA PASS USTR
AUCKLAND, MELBOURNE, PERTH AND SYDNEY ALSO FOR FCS
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USDOC FOR 6132/ITA/BI/EARAKAKI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: GMO REGULATIONS BURDEN COOPERATION

9. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: AUSTRALIA'S NEW LABELING REQUIREMENTS CLEARLY PUT THE CAT AMONG THE PIGEONS. THE GOA WILL CONTINUE TO CITE ITS POWERLESSNESS TO ALTER THE REGULATIONS (TRUE) AND TO INSIST THAT THE LABELING AND SAFETY ASSESSMENTS DO NOT COMPROMISE ITS LARGER BIOSAFETY POSITION (LESS CLEAR). ITS PRESENCE AND PERFORMANCE WITHIN THE MIAMI GROUP HAS EARNED IT OUR GRATITUDE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DIFFICULT CARTAGENA TALKS. NONETHELESS, THE GOA HAS NEVER HIDDEN THE FACT THAT ITS BIOSAFETY AGENDA DIVERGES SIGNIFICANTLY AT POINTS FROM OUR OWN. ITS NEW STANDARDS WILL CERTAINLY NOT GO UNNOTICED NOR UNEXPLOITED BY THE EU AND THE G-77 COUNTRIES OPPOSED TO TRADE IN GMOS. ALSO, THE

REGULATIONS' CONFORMITY WITH THE GATT AND URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENTS CERTAINLY LOOKS PROBLEMATIC, DESPITE ASSERTIONS FROM DFAT THAT ITS FEBRUARY 1998 NOTIFICATIONS WERE WTO CONSISTENT. ON BALANCE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AUSTRALIA'S STATE HEALTH AUTHORITIES, AT LEAST A MAJORITY OF THEM, MAY BE UNDERMINING THE MIAMI GROUP'S FUTURE PROSPECTS AS A COHESIVE NEGOTIATING FORCE. WHAT REMAINS TO BE DECIDED IS WHETHER WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE RIFT AND PROSECUTE BAD TRADE PRACTICES OR IF WE ENGAGE THE GOA IN DAMAGE CONTROL FOR THE SAKE OF A UNITED FRONT IN THE MIAMI GROUP. END COMMENT.

HOLMES

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03

<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 0748

<^SSN>0748

<^SSN>0748

TOR: 990309183145 M3734845

<^TOR>990309183231 M3734846

<^TOR>990309183231 M3734847

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHWLA0355 0732237-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 142237Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
OSRI: RUEHWL
DTG: 142237Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1098
INFO: RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0632
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0054
RUEHNZ/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND 0379
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 0041
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0084
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
SUBJ: ECOTERRORISTS SABOTAGE GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD
EXPERIMENT

TEXT:
UNCLAS WELLINGTON 000355

AUCKLAND FOR FCS:ECANNON
STATE PASS USTR:BSTILLMAN
STATE PASS USDA FOR ITP/SHEIKH, SIMMONS, HARBERT, FAA/MOLSTAD
GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, SENV, TBIO, NZ
SUBJECT: ECOTERRORISTS SABOTAGE GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD
EXPERIMENT

1. AS THE PUBLIC DEBATE ABOUT GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY HEATS UP, A GROUP OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS, CALLING THEMSELVES THE "WILD GREENS," HAS MOVED THE GROWING PROTEST TO A NEW LEVEL. TAKING MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS, THE WILD GREENS UPROOTED A CROP OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES GROWING AT THE NEW ZEALAND CROP AND FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEAR CHRISTCHURCH ON MARCH 11. THEY THEN MIXED THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES WITH OTHERS BEING GROWN AT THE INSTITUTE TO RUIN THE EXPERIMENT. ACCORDING TO THE RESEARCHERS, THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES CONTAIN A SYNTHETIC GENE SIMILAR TO DNA FROM A TOAD THAT PRODUCES A PEPTIDE WHICH MAY MAKE POTATOES RESISTANT TO SOFT ROT.

2. IN AN INTERVIEW ON PUBLIC RADIO, THE WILD GREENS' SPOKESMAN, NANDOR TANCZOS, SAID THAT THE GROUP ACTED BECAUSE IT BELIEVED THE GOVERNMENT HAD SURREPTITIOUSLY INTRODUCED GENETIC ENGINEERING INTO NEW ZEALAND WITHOUT PUBLIC DISCUSSION. TANCZOS ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IF THE PUBLIC WERE TO CONSUME FOODS CONTAINING ANTIBIOTICS. ACCORDING TO TANCZOS, THE WILD

GREENS ARE CALLING FOR A MORATORIUM ON GENETIC ENGINEERING UNTIL A ROYAL COMMISSION IS SET UP TO ESTABLISH THE TECHNOLOGY'S SAFETY. HE LATER ISSUED A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE CLAIMED "A DUTY TO BREAK THE LAW IN ORDER TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT."

3. LATER IN THE INTERVIEW, NEW ZEALAND FOOD AND CROP RESEARCH INSTITUTE CEO MIKE DUNBIER DISPUTED TANCZOS, POINTING OUT THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (ERMA) REQUIRED PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF THE FIELD TRIALS AND CONDUCTED PUBLIC HEARINGS AS PART OF THE REGULATORY PROCESS. IN ADDITION, GMO'S HAVE AND ARE BEING DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT AND THE PRESS. BUT TANCZOS CHARGED THAT THIS COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED PUBLIC DISCUSSION BECAUSE ERMA IS ACTUALLY AN ADVOCATE FOR GENETIC ENGINEERING, THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IS FOLLOWING ITS OWN AGENDA, AND, IN AN EXAGGERATION CUT SHORT BY THE PRESENTER, NEW ZEALAND IS GOVERNED BY AN "ELECTED DICTATORSHIP."

4. DUNBIER ALSO NOTED THAT SCIENTISTS HAD VOLUNTARILY IMPOSED A MORATORIUM ON GENETIC ENGINEERING IN THE 1970S TO ALLOW FOR DEBATE AND THAT TRIALS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN NEW ZEALAND SINCE 1988 WITH NO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES. HE COMMENTED THAT THE PUBLIC CONTROVERSY ON GENETIC ENGINEERING ISSUE IS LARGELY FUELED BY MISCONCEPTION, A VIEW SHARED BY THE GNZ. BEEMAN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0355

TOR: 990314174148 M3742802

DIST:

SIT: ARVIZU KEITH LIEBERTHAL ORFINI OSIUS PRITCHARD SANDALOW USTR

SIT: NSC

PRT: STERN

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHFRA6984 0851714-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 261714Z MAR 99

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

OSRI: RUEHFR

DTG: 261714Z MAR 99

ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4616
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0925
RUEHMRE/AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
RUEHSR/AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

SUBJ: DETERIORATION OF FRENCH CONSUMER AND
PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF GMO'S - THE PROBLEM GROWS
LARGER

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 006984

USDA FOR OSEC, UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR
OA/TGALVIN/CGOLDTHWAIT; ITP/DA/PSHEIK;
ITP/WEIAD/BMACK; OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/COTS/BLUM; CMP/G&F/REIMENSCHNEIDER;
FAA/GEERKEN; APHIS/CREED; FSIS/JPRUCHA

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, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR

SUBJECT: DETERIORATION OF FRENCH CONSUMER AND
PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF GMO'S - THE PROBLEM GROWS
LARGER

REF: (A) PARIS 3420; (B) PARIS 6774; (C) LONDON
2605; (D) 98 PARIS 17714; (E) 98 17165; (F) 98 PARIS
28012; (G) 98 PARIS 014245

1. SUMMARY: RECENT FRENCH CONSUMER AND RETAIL
ACTIONS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S)
MAKE IT CLEAR THAT PUBLIC SKEPTICISM, LACK OF
PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND DEEP-SEATED CULTURAL VIEWS
ON MATTERS OF SCIENCE, SAFETY, AND REGULATION CALL
FOR STEPPED UP PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS, NOT JUST

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. FRANCE IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST SCIENTIFICALLY ADVANCED COUNTRIES, BUT THE PUBLIC'S LINKAGE OF FOOD SAFETY WITH PUBLIC HEALTH SCANDALS LIKE MAD COW DISEASE AND HIV-TAINTED BLOOD MEANS THE GOF TAKES A CAUTIOUS APPROACH IN APPROVING NEW TECHNOLOGIES. IN SHORT, GMO'S BELONG TO A GROUP OF ISSUES CAUGHT UP IN FRENCH ATTITUDES TOWARD GOVERNMENT, SCIENCE, FOOD, AND BIG BUSINESS. AS THIS TREND CONTINUES TO GATHER MOMENTUM, A SERIES OF BIOTECHNOLOGY CONFERENCES AND PUBLICATIONS ARE JUST BEGINNING TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES. POST URGES INCREASED ATTENTION TO THE NEW REALITY IN EUROPEAN ATTITUDES IN THE U.S. POLICY PROCESS AND GREATER SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS CRUCIAL TO RESOLVING AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN DIFFERENCES. END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH CONSUMERS AND RETAILERS HAVE INCREASINGLY VOICED CONCERNS AND SKEPTICISM OF ACCEPTING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S) IN THE FOOD CHAIN. ADDED TO THIS SKEPTICISM IS A LACK OF CLARIFICATION OF EU GMO LABELING REGULATIONS WHICH, SINCE SEPTEMBER 1998, STIPULATE THAT FOOD PRODUCTS WHICH INCLUDE GMO INGREDIENTS MUST BE LABELED WITH "CONTAINS GMO'S." HOWEVER, THE REGULATIONS HAVE NEVER INCLUDED ANY DETAILS ON HOW GMO'S ARE TO BE DETECTED AND/OR TRACED. AS REPORTED IN REF A, THE FRENCH FEDERATION FOR COMMERCE AND DISTRIBUTION DEMANDED IN JANUARY 1999 THAT A GMO LABELING POLICY BE ESTABLISHED AND IMPLEMENTED. NO SUCH POLICY HAS YET BEEN PUT IN PLACE. THUS, FRENCH SUPERMARKETS AND RETAIL OUTLETS ARE TAKING ACTION ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVES. FOR EXAMPLE, CARREFOUR, A MAJOR HYPERMARKET CHAIN STARTED A GMO-FREE LABELING POLICY FOR PRODUCTS UNDER ITS OWN BRAND. MOST RECENTLY, ACCORDING TO LAST WEEK'S PRESS REPORTS (REF B), AUCHAN, THE SECOND LARGEST HYPERMARKET CHAIN IN FRANCE, BANNED GMO INGREDIENTS FROM FORTY FOUR ITEMS OF ITS LINE OF PRODUCTS.

3. FRANCE IS A RATHER LIBERAL, FORWARD LOOKING COUNTRY FOR ADVANCEMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH CONSUMER AND GENERAL PUBLIC VIEW NEW TECHNOLOGIES WITH MUCH RETICENCE AND SKEPTICISM, OFTEN LINKING FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTH RELATED ISSUES TO NEW TECHNOLOGIES, SUCH AS BIOTECHNOLOGY AND GMO'S (REFS D AND E). CONSEQUENTLY, SCH LINKS AND PERCEPTIONS HAVE LED THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE (GOF), THE FRENCH PARLIAMENT, COSUMER, WHOLESALER AND RETAILER ORGANIZATIONS TO BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN TAKING STEPS TO BOOST PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ADVANTAGES AND THE SAFETY OF GMO'S. THE MOST STRIKING INDICATION OF THIS TYPE OF ACTION IS FRANCE'S CONSEIL D'ETAT REFERRAL OF THE NOVARTIS BT CORN CASE TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE TO CLARIFY THE ROLE OF THE EU MEMBER STATES AND THE EU COMMISSION IN THE AUTHORIZATION PROCESS.

OCEDURES OF
GMO'S (REF F). HIS REFERRAL, WHICH OCCURRED IN
DECEMBER 1998 PUT THE FRENCH CORN SECTOR IN A
DIFFICULT POSIION OF TAKING OFF THE MARKET THE BT
CORN HARVESTED IN 1998.

4. THE FRENCH CONSUMERS NOT ONLY VIEW GMO
PRODUCTS WITH SKEPTICISM FROM A FOOD AFETY
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 PARIS 006984

USDA FOR OSEC, UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR
OA/TGALVIN/CGOLDTHWAIT; ITP/DA/PSHEIK;
ITP/WEIAD/BMACKE; OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER;
CMP/COTS/LBLUM; CMP/G&F/REIMENSCHNEIDER;
FAA/GEERKEN; APHIS/CREED; FSIS/JPRUCHA

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, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: DETERIORATION OF FRENCH CONSUMER AND
PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF GMO'S - THE PROBLEM GROWS
LARGER

PERSPECTIVE, BUT THEY ALSO LINK GMO'S TO OTHER
FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTH RELATED ISSUES, SUCH AS THE
BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) CRISIS, THE
HIV TAINTED BLOOD SCANDAL, AND MORE RECENTLY THE
USE OF HORMONES TO PRODUCE BEEF. MOREOVER,
CONSUMERS AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ATTACH
CULTURAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL ASPECTS TO
THE ACCEPTANCE OF GMO PRODUCTS. THEY HAVE LITTLE
OR NO CONCERN WITH THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVANTAGES OF BIOTECHNOLOGICAL AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION. FRENCH CONSUMERS CONSIDER THAT GMO'S
PRESENT ADVANTAGES FOR PRIVATE BIOTECH COMPANIES
(SUCH AS MONSANTO AND NOVARTIS) AND FARMERS, BUT
NOT FOR CONSUMERS THEMSELVES. IN ADDITION, FRENCH
CONSUMERS FEAR THAT PUBLIC AUTHORITIES CHANGE
THEIR MINDS ON THE IMPACT OF GMO'S ON HUMAN
HEALTH, AS WAS THE CASE WITH BSE. IN OTHER WORDS,
THEY ARE AFRAID THAT GMO'S, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY
PRESENTED AS BEING SAFE FOR CONSUMERS' HEALTH,
WOULD BE DISCOVERED TO BE HARMFUL IN THE NEXT FEW
YEARS. HOWEVER, CERTAIN FRENCH AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCERS ARE KEENLY AWARE OF THE ECONOMIC
BENEFIT, BUT DO NOT OPENLY VOICE FAVORITISM FOR
GMO'S.

5. IN AN EFFORT TO FOSTER PUBLIC AWARENESS,
VARIOUS ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEGUN TO
DEVELOP MORE PROGRAMS, CONFERENCES, PUBLICATIONS
AND ACTIVITIES ON BIOTECHNOLOGY IN GENERAL. THE

FIRST CONFERENCE, THE CONFERENCE OF CONSENSUS, HELD ON JUNE 20-21, 1998, AND ORGANIZED BY THE FRENCH PARLIAMENT WITH CONSUMERS AND GMO SPECIALISTS (REF G), WAS A GREAT FIRST STEP. MORE RECENTLY, THE MOST PROMINENT ACTIVITY IS THE BIOVISION CONFERENCE -- INTERNATIONAL LIFE SCIENCES FORUM, IN LYON, MARCH 26-29, 1999, ORGANIZED BY THE MAYOR, RAYMOND BARRE, WHO IS A FORMER FRENCH PRIME MINISTER. THE BIOVISION CONFERENCE WILL INCLUDE THE PARTICIPATION OF FRENCH PRIME MINISTER LIONEL JOSPIN AND U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE RICHARD ROMINGER, VIA A TELECONFERENCE SATELLITE LINK.

6. ANOTHER MAJOR PUBLIC AWARENESS EFFORT IS THE RECENT PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK ENTITLED "TAIS-TOI ET MANGE, L'AGRICULTURE, LE SCIENTIFIQUE ET LE CONSOMMATEUR" (BE QUIET AND EAT -- THE FARMER, THE SCIENTIST AND THE CONSUMER), BY GUY PAILLOTIN, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH IN AGRONOMY (INRA). THE BOOK, WHICH HAS BEEN WIDELY RECEIVED IN THE PRESS AND ON NATIONAL TELEVISION, TRACKS THE HISTORY OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN FARMERS, SCIENTISTS AND THE CONSUMERS SINCE THE 1950'S, INCLUDING GMO'S, THE MAD COW CRISIS, AND THE DIFFERENCES OF AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN CONCEPT OF EATING. IN THIS BOOK, PAILLOTIN STRONGLY SUPPORTS GMO LABELING TO INFORM CONSUMERS (SEPTEL).

7. THE FRENCH FEDERATION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IS HOLDING A CONFERENCE IN PARIS ON APRIL 15, 1999, SPECIFICALLY WITH "THE MISSION OF FOSTERING PERCEPTION FAVORABLE TO BIOTECHNOLOGY." PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE A VAST ARRAY OF SCIENTISTS AND EXPERTS FROM RESEARCH INSTITUTES, UNIVERSITIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING EXPERTS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTER COUNSELOR WILL BE ATTENDING AND REPORTING ON THE CONFERENCE.

8. POST BELIEVES THE U.S. NEEDS TO TAKE IN ACCOUNT MORE SERIOUSLY THIS GROWING REALITY IN FRAMING POLICIES TO ENSURE EUROPEAN MARKETS STAY OPEN AND INDEED OPEN FURTHER TO AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. ARGUMENTS TO "LET THE CUSTOMER DECIDE" OR "OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE VOUCHED UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 PARIS 006984

USDA FOR OSEC, UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/TGALVIN/CGOLDTHWAIT; ITP/DA/PSHEIK; ITP/WEIAD/BMACKE; OFSTS/LHARBERT; CMP/DA/JPARKER; CMP/COTS/LBLUM; CMP/G&F/REIMENSCHNEIDER; FAA/GEERKEN; APHIS/CREED; FSIS/JPRUCHA

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, TBIO, KSCA, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: DETERIORATION OF FRENCH CONSUMER AND
PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF GMO'S - THE PROBLEM GROWS
LARGER

FOR THE SAFETY OF THE PRODUCT" ARE NO LONGER
PERSUASIVE.

9. THE EMBASSY IS PLEASED TO SEE THAT ITS
RECOMMENDATION OF A EUROPEAN VISIT OF A U.S.
BIOTECHNOLOGY TEAM OF EXPERTS (REFTEL D) IS
SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN MAY. THIS TEAM VISIT
SHOULD FOSTER U.S./FRENCH EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND
SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION.
HOWEVER, POST ALSO
BELIEVES THAT ATTENTION TO SEVERAL OTHER
RECOMMENDATIONS IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF REF D WOULD
GREATLY ENHANCE U.S./FRENCH RELATIONS IN THE
BIOTECH AREA, ESPECIALLY INITIATIVES UNDER THE
TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP. THESE APPROACHES ALSO
RECOMMENDED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A WORKING
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOF'S NEWLY ESTABLISHED
COMMITTEE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH; ENCOURAGING
MORE CONGRESSIONAL-PARLIAMENTARIAN EXCHANGE
PROGRAMS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY; ESTABLISHING MAJOR
SCIENTIFIC UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE PROGRAMS ON
BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND REINFORCING AND STRENGTHENING
U.S/FRENCH BILATERAL CONTACTS BOTH IN WASHINGTON
AND AT POST AND DURING VISITS OF HIGH-LEVEL
OFFICIALS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY IN GENERAL.
ROHATYN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03
SSN: 6984
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TOR: 990327190800 M3768188
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DIST:
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 291427Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG: 291427Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1088
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0401
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0811
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA 0852
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0585
RUEHSF/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 0370
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB 0652
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA 0639
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 0470
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0400
SUBJ: EUROPE THROUGH THE BACK DOOR - A PROPOSAL FOR GAINING
ACCEPTANCE OF GMO'S
TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 VIENNA 001717
SENSITIVE
STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR/PETER SCHER/JIM MURPHY,
FDA AND EPA, USIS/EB/TPP/ATT AND OES/E/ETC
USDA FOR OSEC/U/SEC SCHUMACHER, T/A SIDDIQUI,
USDA/FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH/GRUEFF, ITP/EAMED/MACKE,
OFSTS/HARBERT/SLUTSKY, ICD/RSED/BECK, COMMODITY DIVISIONS,
FAA/SEBRANEK/GEERKEN
USDA PASS APHIS FOR PAYNE AND SCHECHTMAN
BRUSSELS FOR USEU, PASS AGRICULTURE AND APHIS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGRICULTURE
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, EUN, XG
SUBJECT: EUROPE THROUGH THE BACK DOOR - A PROPOSAL FOR GAINING
ACCEPTANCE OF GMO'S
REF: A) VIENNA 01288 B) 97 STATE 232817 (12 DEC 97)
STCABLE 907
(U) THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED
1. (SBU) SUMMARY: PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN
AUSTRIA HAS MADE LITTLE IF ANY PROGRESS OVER THE PAST YEAR.
CERTAIN ACTIVIST GROUPS ARE STAGING CAMPAIGNS IN AN EFFORT TO
DISCOURAGE SPRING FIELD TRIALS IN AUSTRIA (REF A). POST HAS A

NUMBER OF PROJECTS PLANNED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN CENTRAL EUROPE. SINCE THERE IS RELATIVELY LITTLE COMMERCIAL USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN MOST WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND NONE IN AUSTRIA, WE PROPOSE THAT WASHINGTON SUPPORT A STRATEGY OF ENCOURAGING THE USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHICH COULD BECOME OUR ALLIES IN PROMOTING THE ACCEPTANCE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN WESTERN EUROPE. LIBERAL INTERPRETATION OF EU DIRECTIVES AND THE ADOPTION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN EASTERN EUROPE WOULD ALLOW EASTERN EUROPEAN FARMERS TO BECOME MORE COMPETITIVE, ASSIST THEM IN MAXIMIZING AVAILABLE RESOURCES, PROVIDE MANY ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS, AND SET THE STAGE FOR INCREASED FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN BIOTECHNOLOGY AS SOME MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES CONSIDER WITHDRAWING FROM SELECTED ANTI-BIOTECH COUNTRIES IN WESTERN EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

LIBERAL INTERPRETATION OF EU DIRECTIVES

2. (SBU) EU HARMONIZATION IS A FACT OF LIFE IN EASTERN EUROPE. WITH THAT IN MIND, OUR STRATEGY WOULD NOT ENDORSE THE DENIAL OF EU DIRECTIVES ESTABLISHED TO REGULATE THE CONSUMPTION AND FREE RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS). HOWEVER, WE ADVOCATE ASSISTING COUNTRIES IN EASTERN EUROPE TO PREPARE AND IMPLEMENT LEGISLATION THAT INTERPRETS THE EU DIRECTIVES IN A LIBERAL WAY. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW IN THE EU: WHILE AUSTRIA HAS AN UNWRITTEN, QUOTE VOLUNTARY UNQUOTE BAN ON GMO TESTING, COMMERCIAL PLANTING OF UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 VIENNA 001717

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR/PETER SCHER/JIM MURPHY, FDA AND EPA, USIS/EB/TPP/ATT AND OES/E/ETC
USDA FOR OSEC/U/SEC SCHUMACHER, T/A SIDDIQUI,
USDA/FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH/GRUEFF, ITP/EAMED/MACKE,
OFSTS/HARBERT/SLUTSKY, ICD/RSED/BECK, COMMODITY DIVISIONS,
FAA/SEBRANEK/GEERKEN

USDA PASS APHIS FOR PAYNE AND SCHECHTMAN
BRUSSELS FOR USEU, PASS AGRICULTURE AND APHIS
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE; GENEVA FOR USTR PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, EUN, XG
SUBJECT: EUROPE THROUGH THE BACK DOOR - A PROPOSAL FOR GAINING ACCEPTANCE OF GMO'S

IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS IN JANUARY 1999. THEIR SCIENTIFIC REVIEW COMMITTEE SHOULD ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF THEIR FIRST FIELD TRIAL APPLICATION REVIEWS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. SLOVENIA AND CROATIA ARE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND SHOULD ALLOW FIELD TRIALS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

COOPERATION WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS IN ENCOURAGING THE USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

5. (SBU) AS A RESULT OF ELECTIONS IN THE PAST YEAR IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY, NEW MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED GREAT WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH US IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH. POST BELIEVES WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE MID-LEVEL POLICY MAKERS ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY TO FARMERS AND CONSUMERS. POST HAS ALREADY NOMINATED SEVERAL INFLUENTIAL POLICY MAKERS AND RESEARCHERS FROM FIVE CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN A GMO WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 26-29 IN WARSAW. IN ADDITION, POST HAS RECRUITED A REGULATOR'S TEAM FROM CENTRAL EUROPE THAT WILL TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES IN JUNE THROUGH THE COCHRAN PROGRAM TO SEE BIOTECHNOLOGY IN PRACTICE. WE VIEW SUCH EFFORTS AS CRUCIAL IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT NEARLY 50 PERCENT OF OUR SOYBEAN AND CORN PRODUCTION THIS COMING SEASON WILL BE PRODUCED FROM GM SEEDS. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE GMO REGULATORY TOUR IN THE UNITED STATES WILL BE A FILM DOCUMENTARY THAT WILL BE PRODUCED BY A FAMOUS CZECH PROFESSOR AND CZECH TV. THE PROPOSED FILM DOCUMENTARY COULD BE DUBBED INTO SEVERAL LANGUAGES AND BROADCAST THROUGHOUT CENTRAL EUROPE.

BENEFITS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

6. (SBU) CONSUMER GROUPS IN AUSTRIA CONTINUE TO ASK HOW BIOTECHNOLOGY BENEFITS THEM AND WHY THEY SHOULD ALLOW IMPORTS OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE NEXT WAVE OF GM PRODUCTS WILL PROVIDE DIRECT BENEFITS TO CONSUMERS IN THE FORM OF LONGER SHELF LIFE, ENHANCED NUTRITIONAL QUALITIES, AND IMPROVED FLAVOR. NEVERTHELESS, AUSTRIAN AND MANY OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN CONSUMER GROUPS IGNORE THE BENEFITS THAT CURRENT GM SEEDS PROVIDE TO THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE FORM OF REDUCED USE OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES, LESS CONSUMPTION OF FOSSIL FUEL ENERGY, AND LESS SOIL EROSION. THE VIEW FARTHER EAST IS MORE GMO-FRIENDLY, HOWEVER. THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR TO EASTERN EUROPEAN FARMERS IS THAT THEY CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE SEEDS OF TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT USING ANY SPECIAL EQUIPMENT. THESE SEEDS, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY COST MORE THAN TRADITIONAL SEEDS, ALLOW FARMERS TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF EXTREMELY LIMITED RESOURCES. THEY ENABLE FARMERS TO MINIMIZE CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF TRIPS ACROSS FIELDS WITH TRADITIONAL CULTIVATION EQUIPMENT. ONE FINAL BENEFIT IS RELATED TO FUTURE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES OF SPECIALTY CROPS ENGINEERED THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR INDUSTRIAL USES SUCH AS BIODIESEL OR STARCH.

ALLIES IN PROMOTING ACCEPTANCE OF GMOS

7. (SBU) IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN ENCOURAGING EASTERN EUROPEAN FARMERS AND CONSUMERS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY BIOTECHNOLOGY, WE SHOULD FIND NEW ALLIES IN OUR EFFORTS TO PERSUADE REGULATORS AND CONSUMERS IN WESTERN EUROPE EVENTUALLY TO ACCEPT GMOS. AS JUST ONE EXAMPLE, MANY U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS APPEAR NOT TO HAVE GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO WHAT WILL HAPPEN ONCE THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCES THE FIRST GM WHEAT VARIETY. THE 1.5 MILLION METRIC TONS OF WHEAT THAT WE SHIP TO WESTERN EUROPE COULD STOP OVERNIGHT. WE SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREPARE THE WORLD FOR THIS

ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH COULD ONLY BE 3-5 YEARS AWAY. THE HUNGARIANS ARE MAKING GREAT STRIDES IN GM WHEAT RESEARCH AND SHOULD BE WILLING TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE UNITED STATES TO CONVINCE CERTAIN PARTS OF THE WORLD OF THE SAFETY OF THIS UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 VIENNA 001717

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB; PASS USTR/PETER SCHER/JIM MURPHY, FDA AND EPA, USIS/EB/TPP/ATT AND OES/E/ETC
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, SENV, SOCI, TBIO, EUN, XG
SUBJECT: EUROPE THROUGH THE BACK DOOR - A PROPOSAL FOR GAINING
ACCEPTANCE OF GMO'S

EXCITING NEW TECHNOLOGY. HALL

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

SSN: 1717
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DIST:
SIT: BLINKEN BROWN
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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006. cable	Re: [European Commission] (2 pages)	04/01/1999	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[02/05/1999 - 04/26/1999]

2013-0836-F
ke3013

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

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

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007. cable	Re: [France] (4 pages)	04/01/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:

[02/05/1999 - 04/26/1999]

2013-0836-F
ke3013

RESTRICTION CODES

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 091509Z APR 99
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 091509Z APR 99
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
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INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
SUBJ: GMO LABELING DELAYED AGAIN

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 002352

FAS FOR ITP/SIMMONS/MACKE/SCHWARTZ, OFSTS/SLUTSKY,
CMP/DIVISON DIRECTORS
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY, CUMMINS
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTSPASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EN
SUBJECT: GMO LABELING DELAYED AGAIN

1. AN OFFICIAL DECISION ON LABELING OF GMO PRODUCTS WILL NOT APPEAR DURING THE "CARETAKER" COMMISSION, AGATT LEARNED YESTERDAY. A DIRECTOR IN G III (INDUSTRY) SAID THAT THE DG III CABINET YESTERDAY MADE A POLITICAL DECISION THAT A PROPOSAL PROVIDING THE LONG-AWAITED IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS OF REGULATION 1139/98 DID NOT MEET THE CRITERIA FOR ACTION BY THE CARETAKER COMMISSION AND THEREFORE MUST AWAIT INSTALLATION OF A NEW COMMISSION, EXPECTED NO EARLIER THAN JUNE AND POSSIBLY NOT UNTIL SEPTEMBER.

BACKGROUND:

2. LABELING OF FOOD PRODUCTS MADE FROM GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S) HAS BEEN A CONTINUOUS AND

TRADE-THREATENING ISSUE. IN MAY 1997, THE EU PASSED A NOVEL FOODS REGULATION THAT ADDRESSED THE ISSUE, BUT FAILED TO COVER THE TWO IMPORTANT GMO VARIETIES THEN ALREADY APPROVED FOR SALE IN THE EU: NOVARTIS' BT CORN AND MNSANTO'S ROUNDUP READY SOYBEAN. MOST EU IMPORTS OF CORN AND SOYBEANS ARE FROM THE UNITED STATES.

3. THE COMMISSION FIRST PROPOSED LEGISLATION COVERING LABELING OF PRODUCTS FROM THESE TWO VARIETIES IN SEPTEMBER OF 1997. REGULATION 1139/98 FINALLY WAS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL IN MAY OF 1998 AND HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE SEPTEMBER OF 1998. HOWEVER, THE REGULATION IS UNENFORCEABLE, AS IT DOES NOT DEFINE A THRESHOLD OR A TESTING METHOD. IT ALSO LACKS A "NEGATIVE LIST" OF PRODUCTS EXEMPT FROM TESTING --FOR EXAMPLE, PURIFIED OILS AND STARCHES WHICH COULD NOT CONTAIN ANY DETECTABLE MODIFIED DNA OR PROTEIN.

4. U.S. OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL WERE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE WTO'S TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE PROCESS. THE PRINCIPLE OBJECTION IS THAT THE REGULATION DEFINES ANY DETECTABLE MODIFIED PROTEIN OR DNA AS A JUSTIFICATION FOR LABELING, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE MODIFICATION CHANGES NUTRITIONAL OR OTHER TRAITS OF THE PRODUCT. THIS DIFFERS FROM OECD GUIDELINES WHICH REQUIRE LABELING ONLY WHEN PRODUCTS ARE NOT "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT."

5. IN THE MEANTIME, THE USE OF GMO'S IN FOODSTUFFS HAS REMAINED A FRONT-PAGE POLITICAL ISSUE IN MUCH OF EUROPE. A PRINCIPLE COMPLAINT OF GMO-PHOBIC EUROPEAN CONSUMERS HAS BEEN THE LACK OF A CONSISTENT LABELING LAW. FOR LACK OF DETAILS IN THE EU LEGISLATION, ENFORCEMENT AND INTERPRETATION HAS BEEN IN THE HANDS OF MEMBER STATE AUTHORITIES, CREATING UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION BOTH FOR EUROPEAN FOOD PROCESSORS AND U.S. EXPORTERS. ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, INCLUDING GREENPEACE, HAVE TESTED U.S. PRODUCTS FOR GMO'S AND SENT LETTERS TO U.S. SUPPLIERS THREATENING THEM WITH PUBLICITY THAT THEIR PRODUCTS CONTAIN GMO'S. SOME EUROPEAN COMPANIES HAVE SWITCHED SUPPLIERS OF BASIC COMMODITIES --FOR EXAMPLE, BUYING CANADIAN INSTEAD OF U.S. SOYBEANS-- FOR FEAR OF HAVING TO LABEL. END BACKGROUND

COMMISSION WORKING PAPER

6. ON FEBRUARY 17 THE COMMISSION DISTRIBUTED AN INTERNAL WORKING PAPER (OBTAINED BY SEVERAL EU EMBASSIES AND FAXED TO USTR AND FAS/W MARCH 29) WHICH AIMED TO DEFINE THE MANDATE OF ESTABLISHING A VALIDATED TESTING METHOD, A NEGATIVE LIST OF PRODUCTS WHICH NEED NOT BE LABELED AND A "DE MINIMIS" THRESHOLD FOR ACCIDENTAL PRESENCE OF GMO PROTEIN OR DNA --ALSO CALLED "ADVENTITIOUS CONTAMINATION." IT MENTIONS, BUT EXCLUDES AS AN IMMEDIATE GOAL, CREATING A LEGAL DEFINITION OF "GMO-FREE."

7. THE INTERNAL WORKING PAPER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A "NON-PAPER" (ALSO FAXED TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES) WHICH PROPOSED AMENDING REGULATION 1139/98 TO CREATE A NEGATIVE LIST FOR

PRODUCTS WHERE MODIFIED DNA OR PROTEIN IS PRESENT, AND
ESTABLISHING A THRESHOLD OF TWO PERCENT FOR "ADVENTITIOUS
CONTAMINATION" PROVIDED PROCESSORS CAN PROVIDE EVIDENCE
THAT THEY AD ATTEMPTED TO AVOID USING GMO SOY OR CORN.
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 002352

FAS FOR ITP/SIMMONS/MACKE/SCHWARTZ, OFSTS/SLUTSKY,
CMP/DIVISION DIRECTORS
STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY, CUMMINGS
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN
SUBJECT: GMO LABELING DELAYED AGAIN

8. DG III SOURCES EARLIER HAD SAID THEIR PLAN WAS TO
SUBMIT A COMMON POSITION TO THE COUNCIL BY THE BEGINNING
OF APRIL. HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION'S RESIGNATION HAS
THROWN A BIG WRENCH IN THE WORKS, AND IT IS NOW UNLIKELY
THAT A FUNCTIONING LABELING POLICY CAN BE IN PLACE BEFORE
THE SUMMER, AND POSSIBLY MUCH LATER.

9. DG III SOURCES SAY THEY WILL CONTINUE TO REFINE THE
PROPOSAL THROUGH INTERNAL REVIEW AND MEETINGS WITH MEMBER
STATE AUTHORITIES, PENDING EVENTUAL POLITICAL APPROVAL TO
GO AHEAD.

10. COMMENT: THE COMMISSION'S DECISION TO POSTPONE YET
AGAIN AN ENFORCEABLE POLICY PROVIDES AID AND COMFORT TO
ANTI-GMO GROUPS, CONTINUES UNCERTAINTY FOR U.S. AND
EUROPEAN FOOD PROCESSORS, AND UNDERSCORES THE MALIGNANT
EFFECT OF POLITICS ON DECISIONS WHICH SHOULD RELY ON
SCIENCE. END COMMENT. KURSCH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 2352
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TOR: 990409143844 M3792105
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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 161325Z APR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
OSRI: RUEHAK
DTG: 161325Z APR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7067
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0361
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHDA/AMCONSUL ADANA 3194
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4125
SUBJ: GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY CONSIDERS MORE STRINGENT
CONTROLS ON GMO PRODUCTS

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 003457

FAS FOR FAA; ITP; CMP, G&F,COTS
GENEVA, BRUSSELS PASS FAS
STATE PASS USTR- M.SPIRNAK
USDOC FOR 4212/ITA/MAC/OEURA/CPD/DEFALCO

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

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY CONSIDERS MORE STRINGENT
CONTROLS ON GMO PRODUCTS

1. SUMMARY : THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (MARA) IS CONSIDERING IMPOSITION OF MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS ON THE PRODUCTION, HANDLING AND MARKETING OF GMO (GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM/ BIOTECH) PRODUCTS. THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH HAS CIRCULATED A DRAFT REGULATION TO CONTROL THE DISTRIBUTION OF GMOS AND TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO ASSESS THEIR HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS. THE PAPER HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO OTHER MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SECTIONS, AND WILL BE CIRCULATED IN THE STATE PLANNING AGENCY, FOREIGN TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH MINISTRIES. IN A RELATED ISSUE, MARA OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED THE FEED INDUSTRY THAT THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN FEED AND MAY IMPOSE EU-TYPE RESTRICTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DRAFT MARA REGULATION ON GMOS INCLUDES A PROPOSAL TO CHARGE A FEE OF US\$20,000 TO CONDUCT MANDATORY FIELD

(ADAPTATION) TRIALS OF UP TO TWO YEARS ON NEW BIOTECH SEEDS. ONE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE GOT IS TRYING TO DUPLICATE THE CANADIAN MODEL FOR RISK ASSESSMENT OF BIOTECH PRODUCTS. SEED COMPANIES INFORM US THAT THE PROPOSED FEE AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS IN THE APPROVAL PROCESS WOULD MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN TURKEY. THEY ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT, AT A LATER DATE, THE GOT MIGHT DECIDE TO ASSESS ADDITIONAL CHARGES FOR REGISTRATION TRIALS. THE GOT DOES NOT CURRENTLY ALLOW IN-HOUSE TRIALS BY PRIVATE COMPANIES BUT HAS BEEN CHARGING A MODEST \$1,800 FOR FIELD TRIALS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS AND ABOUT \$200 FOR REGULAR SEEDS.

3. THERE SEEM TO BE A NUMBER OF REASONS FOR THE RECENT ATTENTION TO THIS SUBJECT. GOT OFFICIALS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY AWARE OF AND CONCERNED ABOUT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPEAN APPROACHES TO THIS SUBJECT. THE PRESS HAS STARTED PUBLISHING MORE ARTICLES ON THIS TOPIC, AND THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO AVOID CRITICISM. TURKISH OFFICIALS AND SCIENTISTS, MANY OF WHOM ARE NOT VERY WELL-INFORMED ABOUT BIOTECH ISSUES, ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF GMOS BOTH ON PEOPLE AND ON CROPS GROWN IN NEIGHBORING FIELDS, AND WANT TO MOVE MORE CAREFULLY AND SLOWLY IN TESTING AND RELEASING PRODUCTS. THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH FEELS IT HAS BEEN "LOSING MONEY" IN CONDUCTING FIELD TRIALS FOR PRIVATE FIRMS. ALSO, LOCAL NON-BIOTECH SEED PRODUCERS MAY BE LOBBYING THE GOVERNMENT FOR SLOWER RELEASE OF COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS.

4. U.S. SEED COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES INFORM US THAT TRIALS FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED COTTON, CORN, AND POTATOES ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY OR ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGES BY NOVARTIS, PIONEER, MONSANTO AND DELTA PINE. THESE COMPANIES RECENTLY FORMED A SUB-COMMITTEE UNDER THE TURKISH SEED ASSOCIATION AND HAVE STARTED MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE PAPER, PROPOSED FEES, AND TO ARGUE THEIR CASE FOR LOWER CHARGES AND FASTER RESULTS.

5. THE DRAFT REGULATION, WHICH ADDRESSES DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, IS ALREADY DRAWING COMMENTS FROM GOT OFFICES WHICH ARE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SEED PRODUCTION. SEVERAL MARA OFFICIALS INFORMED US THAT THEY WILL BE SUGGESTING MODIFICATIONS WHICH INCORPORATE THE IMPORT AND MARKETING OF IMPORTED GMOS. AN INTERNAL DEBATE HAS STARTED IN THE MINISTRY REGARDING WHETHER TURKEY SHOULD MORE CLOSELY FOLLOW EU POLICIES, GIVEN TURKEY'S CUSTOMS UNION WITH THE EU AND IMPORTANT SALES OF PROCESSED TURKISH PRODUCTS IN EUROPEAN MARKETS. OTHER OFFICIALS ARE LOOKING AT CONSUMER PREFERENCES AND LABELING REQUIREMENTS.

6. COMMODITY TRADERS HAVE ALSO VOICED THEIR CONCERNS THAT THE GOT WILL DECIDE TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED GRAINS, OILSEEDS OR THEIR PRODUCTS. IN THE PAST, THE GOT HAS FOUND WAYS TO

TEMPORARILY DELAY IMPORTS WHILE THEY DEBATE NEW POLICIES,
HIGH DEMURRAGE COSTS OR DIVERT SHIPMENTS TO OTHER PORTS.

7. ON A BELATED ISSUE, EARLIER THIS WEEK REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE FEED INDUSTRY MET WITH MARA OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS
GOT CONCERNS ABOUT THE INCLUSION OF ANTIBIOTICS IN ANIMAL
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ANKARA 003457

FAS FOR FAA; ITP; CMP, G&F, COTS
GENEVA, BRUSSELS PASS FAS
STATE PASS USTR- M.SPIRNAK
USDOC FOR 4212/ITA/MAC/OEURA/CPD/DEFALCO

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

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY CONSIDERS MORE STRINGENT
CONTROLS ON GMO PRODUCTS

FEEDS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FEED COMPANIES
OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTED CONTINUED USE OF THE ADDITIVES,
ARGUING THAT IF THE UNITED STATES' FDA BELIEVED THAT THE
ANTIBIOTICS WERE SAFE AND DID NOT POSE A HEALTH THREAT TO
CONSUMERS, THE GOT SHOULD ACCEPT THE SAME SCIENTIFICALLY-
BASED RATIONALE. GOT OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, ARE FAR FROM
CONVINCED, AND ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR
NEGATIVE ARTICLES TO APPEAR IN THE PRESS AND INFLUENCE
CONSUMER OPINIONS.

8. AGCOUNSELOR AND STAFF HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED THESE
ISSUES WITH A NUMBER OF MARA OFFICIALS AND ARE PLANNING
ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WITH OTHER GOT OFFICIALS. POST IS
ALSO LOOKING AT ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO PROMOTE ACCEPTANCE OF
U.S. POSITIONS ON GMO/BIOTECH PRODUCTS BY THE GOT AND TO
ENSURE THAT BOTH THE GOT AND TURKISH PUBLIC NOT FOLLOW
THE EU'S EMOTIONAL RESPONSE.
PARRIS

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 3457
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TOR: 990416110628 M3805127
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Cable

PREC: PRIORITY

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHROA2763 1161623-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: P 261623Z APR 99

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME

OSRI: RUEHRO

DTG: 261623Z APR 99

ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1310
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 2141

INFO: RUEHXI/LABOR COLLECTIVE
RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 0003
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 0014
RUEHPO/AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO 0002
RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 0007
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 0061
RUEHRC/USDA WASHDC

SUBJ: TRADE DISPUTES (BANANAS, GMO'S): MAKING THE USG'S
CASE TO EU AUDIENCES

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 002763

STATE FOR G, DRL/IL, WHA/PPC, EUR/ERA, EUR/USIA, EB/TPP
STATE PASS USTR FOR NOVELLI AND IVES
DEPT OF LABOR FOR ILAB - DUS ANDREW SAMET
USDA FOR FAS/ITP
GENEVA FOR USTR AND LABOR OFFICER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, EAGR, PHUM, WTRO, ICFTU, EUN, XL, XM, IT
SUBJECT: TRADE DISPUTES (BANANAS, GMO'S): MAKING THE USG'S
CASE TO EU AUDIENCES

REFS: A) ROME 1477, B) LONDON 820, C) LONDON 2584, D) STATE
74554, E) BRIDGETOWN 860

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST; SEE PARAS 10-11.

SUMMARY

2. EMBOFFS MET 4/22 WITH EUROPEAN REPS OF CHIQUITA BANANA,
WHO REVIEWED THE STATE OF PLAY ON EU (NON)COMPLIANCE WITH WTO
RULINGS. AT LABCOUN'S REQUEST, CHIQUITA REPS PROMISED TO SEND
MATERIAL ON WORKER RIGHTS CONDITIONS ON CENTRAL AND SOUTH
AMERICAN BANANA PLANTATIONS TO DRL/IL AND DOL/ILAB.

3. AS PART OF POST'S ONGOING EFFORT TO CARRY USG TRADE ISSUE

VIEWS TO INFLUENTIAL PUBLIC AUDIENCES, WE HAVE SCHEDULED A 5/6 ROUNDTABLE AT WHICH FAS'S DR. BERNICE SLUTSKY WILL TALK ABOUT GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S). WE WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE SEVERAL CONSUMER-ORIENTED TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS AMONG THE INVITEES. SUCH GROUPS HAVE LIMITED OR NO INTEREST IN THE LEGAL SIDE TO TRADE DISPUTES BUT ARE FOCUSED ON THEIR POLITICAL DIMENSION, E.G., QUESTIONS OF CONSUMER ADVANTAGE AND RESPECT FOR WORKER RIGHTS. WE BELIEVE ADVANTAGE CAN BE GAINED BY ENGAGING THESE AUDIENCES IN TRADE ISSUE DEBATES, AS THEIR GRASS ROOTS INVOLVEMENT (MAGNIFIED BY ICFTU COORDINATION) CAN HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT IN BOTH EU NATIONAL CAPITALS AND BRUSSELS. FOR THIS REASON, WE WANT TO SHOW THESE AUDIENCES THAT THE USG UNDERSTANDS AND IS RESPONSIVE TO THEIR CONCERNS. TO DO SO, HOWEVER, WE NEED WASHINGTON'S COOPERATION IN PROVIDING TIMELY RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS THEY RAISE. END SUMMARY.

MEETING WITH CHIQUITA REPS

4. EMBOFFS MET 4/22 WITH THREE EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES OF CHIQUITA BANANA: PETER HOREKENS (PRESIDENT AND COO EUROPE), CONSTANCE KANN (OF BRUSSELS PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM EDELMAN), AND FRANCO CORTESI (HEAD OF CHIQUITA ITALY). THEY REVIEWED THE STATE OF PLAY ON MANEUVERS TO APPEAL THE WTO PANEL RULING THAT WENT AGAINST EU INTERESTS IN THE "BANANA WAR." MS KANN EMPHASIZED THAT "THE ILLEGALITIES ARE STILL THERE," AND THAT THE DAMAGE TO CHIQUITA - WHICH HAS LOST APPROXIMATELY \$1 BILLION OVER THE LAST SIX YEARS BECAUSE OF EU POLICY - CONTINUES.

5. LABCOUN NOTED THAT USG EFFORTS TO PROMOTE LIBERALIZED TRADE ARE PREMISED ON THE BELIEF THAT GLOBALIZING THE WORLD'S ECONOMY SHOULD BENEFIT ALL PLAYERS - INCLUDING CONSUMERS WHO, THROUGH COMPETITION, GAIN ACCESS TO BETTER QUALITY GOODS AT LOWER PRICES. ITALIAN CONSUMERS (MANY OF WHOM ARE TRADE UNIONISTS OR MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES) CAN INFLUENCE GOI VIEWS AND, THROUGH BOTH THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) AND THE GOI, EU VIEWS AT LARGE. FOR THIS REASON, LABCOUN HAS TRIED IN CONTACTS WITH HIS TRADE UNION "CONSTITUENCY" TO ADVANCE THE USG POSITION ON BANANAS. HE HAS HAD TO DEAL, HOWEVER, WITH THE IMPRESSION AMONG ITALIAN TRADE UNIONISTS THAT WORKER RIGHTS CONDITIONS ON BANANA PLANTATIONS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA (E.G., THOSE PRODUCING CHIQUITA BANANAS) ARE INFERIOR TO THOSE ON CARIBBEAN PRODUCER PLANTATIONS (REF A). REFERRING TO SIMILAR PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN LONDON (REFS B, C), LABCOUN SPOKE OF TUC INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR MICHAEL WALSH'S COMPLAINT (TAKEN FROM A 3/8 LETTER FROM AFL-CIO PRESIDENT JOHN SWEENEY TO USTR BARSHEFSKY) THAT "CHIQUITA HAS A LONG RECORD OF ANTI-UNION, ANTI-WORKER BEHAVIOR. IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE MITCH, WHICH DEVASTATED HONDURAN AND GUATEMALAN BANANA PLANTATIONS, CHIQUITA USED THE THREAT OF CLOSING THE PLANTATIONS TO EXTRACT CONCESSIONS FROM BANANA WORKERS AND DRAMATICALLY REDUCE THE POWER OF THEIR UNIONS."

6. HOREKENS RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT CHIQUITA PAYS ITS WORKERS SALARIES ABOVE LOCAL MINIMUM WAGE RATES, PROVIDES THEM WITH DECENT HOUSING (SUPERIOR TO THE HOUSING CONDITIONS OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN WORKERS), AND COOPERATES WITH CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN NGO'S IN ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. HE COMPLAINED THAT CHIQUITA HAS FACED A WIDESPREAD CAMPAIGN IMPUGNING ITS CONDUCT AND CHALLENGING THE VERACITY OF COMPANY-SUPPLIED INFORMATION DOCUMENTING ITS

POSITIVE RECORD. HOREKENS VOLUNTEERED TO SUPPLY LABCOUN WITH COPIES OF THIS DOCUMENTATION.

7. LABCOUN NOTED THAT HIS COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER EU COUNTRIES FACE A SIMILAR PROBLEM AND, THEREFORE, IT IS IN OUR/CHIQUITA'S COMMON INTEREST TO DISTRIBUTE THAT INFORMATION WIDELY. HE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 002763

STATE FOR G, DRL/IL, WHA/PPC, EUR/ERA, EUR/USIA, EB/TPP
STATE PASS USTR FOR NOVELLI AND IVES
DEPT OF LABOR FOR ILAB - DUS ANDREW SAMET
USDA FOR FAS/ITP
GENEVA FOR USTR AND LABOR OFFICER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, EAGR, PHUM, WTRO, ICFTU, EUN, XL, XM, IT
SUBJECT: TRADE DISPUTES (BANANAS, GMO'S): MAKING THE USG'S CASE TO EU AUDIENCES

REFERRED HOREKENS TO DRL/IL AND DOL/ILAB AS APPROPRIATE ADDRESSEES TO RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION FOR "BUREAUCRATIC DIGESTING" AND SUBSEQUENT FIELD DISTRIBUTION. HOREKENS ASSURED LABCOUN HE WOULD DISPATCH THE MATERIALS IN QUESTION WITHIN A WEEK.

ROUNDTABLE ON GMO'S

8. ON 5/6, POST PLANS TO USE THE VISIT OF FAS TECHNICAL EXPERT DR. BERNICE SLUTSKY TO HOLD A ROUNDTABLE ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S). THIS PROGRAM FORMS PART OF POST'S ONGOING EFFORT (INVOLVING ECON, FAS, FCS, USIS, AND POL) TO INFORM INFLUENTIAL PUBLIC AUDIENCES ON USG TRADE ISSUE VIEWS. POST WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE CONSUMER-ORIENTED TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS AMONG INVITEES TO THIS EVENT. LABCOUN ACCORDINGLY HAS COMPILED A SHORT LIST OF SEVEN SUCH ORGANIZATIONS (AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATIONS CGIL, CISL, AND UIL) TO BE INVITED.

THE LINK BETWEEN USG VIEWS ON BANANAS AND GMO'S

9. MORE THAN TWO MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE EARLY-FEB ROME VISIT OF USTR BARSHEFSKY AND A/USTR NOVELLI, WHICH HIGHLIGHTED USG VIEWS ON TRADE ISSUE DISPUTES. TRADE UNION CONCERNS ABOUT THE WORKER RIGHTS DIMENSION OF THE BANANA WAR EMERGED IN THAT CONTEXT (AND SUBSEQUENTLY ENGENDERED REF A REQUEST FOR BACKGROUND INFO ON WORKER RIGHTS/CODE OF CONDUCT CONDITIONS ON BANANA PLANTATIONS FROM WHICH AMERICAN COMPANIES EXPORT TO EUROPE). THE DEPARTMENT'S RECENT MESSAGE ON THE SUBJECT (REF D), WHICH RESPONDED TO A SIMILAR INFORMATION REQUEST FROM BRIDGETOWN (REF E), HAS SOME USEFUL INFORMATION REGARDING GSP LEGISLATION AND USG CONCERN TO MAINTAIN A WTO-CONSISTENT BANANA REGIME THAT PROVIDES APPROPRIATE BENEFITS FOR CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. TO RESPOND TO OUR LABOR CONSTITUENCY'S SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS, HOWEVER, WE MUST DEPEND ON THE INFORMATION THAT (PER REF D) THE DEPARTMENT WILL SEEK FROM SOME POSTS. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, OUR ABILITY TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR USG TRADE VIEWS FROM EU LABOR AND CONSUMER GROUPS WILL BE AFFECTED - FOR BETTER OR WORSE - BY OUR RECORD FOR RESPONSIVENESS. THAT IS PARTICULARLY TRUE WHEN, AS IN THE CASE OF

THE GMO ROUNDTABLE, WE INVITE UNION-AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS TO SUCCESSIVE TRADE ISSUE DISCUSSIONS.

ACTION REQUESTED

10. PLEASE FORWARD INFORMATION RECEIVED (PER REF D) "ON CONDITIONS OF WORK IN THE BANANA SECTOR IN CENTRAL AMERICA." THIS INFORMATION WILL BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IF WE CAN RECEIVE IT AT POST BEFORE THE SCHEDULED 5/6 ROUNDTABLE ON GMO'S. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING APPROPRIATE HIGHLIGHTS FROM WHATEVER INFORMATION CHIQUITA BANANA PROVIDES THE DEPT ON WORKER RIGHTS CONDITIONS ON ITS BANANA PLANTATIONS.

11. PER REF D, 98 TEGUCIGALPA 4740 REPORTED ON THE RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS OF U.S. BANANA COMPANIES ON BEHALF OF THEIR WORKERS IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE MITCH. AS THAT CABLE IS NOT AVAILABLE AT POST, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING A COPY BY FAX OR ELECTRONIC RETRANSMISSION.

FOGLIETTA

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

SSN: 2763
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STROMSETH SUM2 VACCARO WIPPMAN
SIT: NSC
PRT: SIT{C2} STEINBERG