Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Visit of U.S. Secretary of Agriculture] (4 pages)	07/03/1999	P1/b(1)
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: GMOs and the EU's Revisions to 90/220 (5 pages)~~	~~07/06/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
~~003. cable~~	~~Re: [Chirac Economic Advisor] (4 pages)~~	~~07/13/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: [GMOs and Biotech] (5 pages)~~	~~07/16/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
~~005. cable~~	~~Re: Request to Meeting with MAFF Officials to Express U.S.~~ Concerns (3 pages)	~~07/16/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 11/26/2019
006. cable	Re: [French Agriculture] (2 pages)	07/19/1999	P1/b(1)
~~007. cable~~	~~Re: GMOs: Further Thoughts on the Role of Science Institutions (2~~ pages)	~~07/21/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
~~008. cable~~	~~Re: Demarche on GMO Labeling (3 pages)~~	~~07/21/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 11/26/2019
~~009. cable~~	~~Re: Biosafety: Labeling of Genetically Modified Food (3 pages)~~	~~07/28/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020
~~010. cable~~	~~Re: [Options for Labeling of Genetically Modified Foods] (3 pages)~~	~~07/30/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ VR 4/3/2020

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

FOLDER TITLE:
[07/03/1999 - 07/30/1999]

2013-0836-F
ke3014

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.
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b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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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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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 061157Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMCONSUL DUBAI
OSRI: RUEHDI
DTG: 061157Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMCONSUL DUBAI
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0416
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 0150
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0001
INFO: ////
SUBJ: GMO SEMINAR

TEXT:

UNCLAS DUBAI 0419

FAS FOR ITP/OFSTS/JHESSE/BSLUTSKY; FAA/PHOFFMAN
STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATT/ATP/MBRUNO
GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD
SUBJECT: GMO SEMINAR

REF: STATE 113313

IN THE FIVE COUNTRIES COVERED BY ATO DUBAI (BAHRAIN, KUWAIT, OMAN, QATAR AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES), AWARENESS ON THE PART OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY DECISION MAKERS ABOUT GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS(GMO) IS STILL NASCENT. IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE THE DEBATE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE FORMATION OF SCIENCE-BASED POLICIES, ATO DUBAI RECOMMENDS A PROACTIVE APPROACH AT THIS JUNCTURE. OTHERWISE, AS HAPPENED IN THE CASE OF HORMONE TREATED BEEF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE DEBATE MAY BE DRIVEN BY THE EU.

SPECIFICALLY, ATO DUBAI IS WILLING TO ORGANIZE A SEMINAR FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA IN FY00, AND BELIEVES THERE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT INTEREST IN SUCH A FORUM. ATO DUBAI WOULD COORDINATE WITH APPROPRIATE FAS/WASHINGTON OFFICES TO PUT TOGETHER THIS SEMINAR. CONTACT INFORMATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

ATO DUBAI
AMERICAN CONSULATE
P.O. BOX 9343
DUBAI, UAE

TEL: 971-4-314-063

FAX: 971-4-314-998

ELLRICH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0419

TOR: 990706130108 M3945670

DIST:

SIT: A-W BOLAN CAMP MALLEY POLLACK RIEDEL
SIT: NSC

Cable

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By YL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2014-0574-M (2.41)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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LINE3: O 061408Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG: 061408Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7105
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
SUBJ: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

REF BRUSSELS 4157

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 005769

DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

REF BRUSSELS 4157

1. CLASSIFIED BY L. ALLEN NELSEN, EST COUNSELOR. REASON: 1.5 (D)

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: UK OFFICIALS (STRICTLY PROTECT) GAVE US AN UPBEAT ASSESSMENT OF THE JUNE 24-25 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL DECISION ON REVISIONS TO DIRECTIVE 90/220. HMG GOT MOST OF ITS OBJECTIVES AND BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL WELCOME THE REVISIONS. A NUMBER OF ONEROUS PROPOSALS WERE DEFEATED, AND THE PROPOSED NEW REGIME BRINGS SOMEWHAT MORE TRANSPARENCY, CERTAINTY, AND TIMELINESS TO THE PROCESS. HMG DISPUTES THE ARGUMENT THAT THE AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A DE FACTO MORATORIUM, SINCE COMPANIES WILL BE FREE TO CONTINUE SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS BOTH FOR PLANTING AND FOR MARKETING. WHILE APPROVAL OF SUCH APPLICATIONS WILL CLEARLY BE INIFLUENCED BY THE CURRENT POLITICAL DEBATE ABOUT GMOS IN MANY MEMBER STATES, THE EXISTING 90/220 PROCEDURES WILL APPLY TO NEW APPLICATIONS AND CAN GAIN TIMELY APPROVAL IF THE CURRENT POLITICAL UPROAR DIES DOWN. THE COUNCIL HAS ASKED THE COMMISSION TO FLESH OUT THE DETAILS ON LABELING, 'GUIDANCE NOTES' FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT, AND THRESHOLDS, BUT THE UK DOES NOT EXPECT ANY UNPLEASANT SURPRISES IN THAT PROCESS. HMG EXPECTS FINAL APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL OF THE

DIRECTIVE IN THE LATE AUTUMN AND ENTRY INTO FORCE LATE IN 2000. END SUMMARY

3. ~~(C)~~ WE MET JULY 2 WITH HMG OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE JUNE 24-25 ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL MEETING FOR THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE AGREEMENT. IN TALKING TO US, THEY AGREED TO WORK FROM THE 'GOING IN' TEXT (WORKING DOCUMENT ENV/99/84, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WASHINGTON HAS). WHILE FOCUSSING ON THE NATURE OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT IN LUXEMBOURG, WE ALSO SOUGHT TO UNDERSTAND THE DYNAMICS THAT LEAD TO CHANGES FROM THE WORKING DOCUMENT.

FOR THE USG, A GOOD OUTCOME

4. ~~(C)~~ THE UK'S OVERALL ASSESSMENT WAS POSITIVE, REFLECTING THEIR SUCCESS IN SEEING MINISTERS RESOLVE MANY DISPUTED ARTICLES IN THE HMG'S FAVOR. HMG BELIEVES THAT THE USG WILL WELCOME THIS OUTCOME, SINCE ON MANY OCCASIONS THE RESULT IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVQ CURRENT PROCEDURES (AND THE ALTERNATIVE ON THE TABLE WAS SOMETHING WHICH THE UK EXPECTS WE WOULD HAVE FOUND MUCH MORE OBJECTIONABLE). THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE CASE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT (ERA - ANNEX II) WHERE A PROCESS IS EXPECTED THAT IS BASED UPON THE EXISTING UK SYSTEM AND IS LIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE UNIFORM FROM ONE MEMBER STATE TO THE NEXT. U.S. COMPANIES ARE THOUGHT TO BE FAMILIAR WITH, AND COMFORTABLE WITH, THE CURRENT UK SYSTEM. WE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRINCIPLES FOR THE ERA ONLY ADDRESS ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES; THERE IS NO MANDATE TO CONSIDER, OR TO WEIGH, POSSIBLE FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENTAL OR HEALTH IMPACTS). ATTEMPTS TO ADD ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO THE ERA WERE DEFEATED; WHILE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION ARE FREE TO INFORM AND CONSULT ADVISORY GROUPS WITH ETHICAL OR CONSUMER INTERESTS, THE VIEWS OF THESE ADVISORY GROUPS ARE NOT AN ELEMENT IN THE ERA ITSELF.

5. ~~(C)~~ SIMILARLY, THE NEW MONITORING PROVISIONS, IN THE UK VIEW, PROVIDE MORE CERTAINTY TO APPLICANTS, REDUCE DIVERGENCIES IN CURRENT MEMBER STATE PRACTICES, AND WILL BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO NEW INFORMATION. THE LATTER ADVANTAGE SHOULD ULTIMATELY INCREASE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE IN THE SYSTEM.

THE PROPOSED NEW SYSTEM -- STRICTER TIME LIMITS

6. ~~(C)~~ FOR PLANTING APPROVALS (PART B OF THE PROPOSED NEW DIRECTIVE), A SERIES OF TIME LIMITS ARE IMPOSED. COMPANIES REMAIN FREE TO APPLY FOR PLANTING APPROVAL IN ANY MEMBER STATE WHERE THEY BELIEVE THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY WILL GRANT APPROVAL. THAT AUTHORITY THEN HAS 90 DAYS TO TAKE A DECISION, ALTHOUGH THE CLOCK STOPS WHEN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS REQUIRED OR WHEN A PUBLIC INQUIRY IS CONSTITUTED. WE POINTED OUT THAT THE WORKING DOCUMENT DID NOT INDICATE RESOLUTION ON THE LENGTH OF TIME PERMITTED FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY, NOR DID IT ADDRESS POTENTIAL ABUSE BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES (CONSTANTLY ASKING FOR MORE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO DELAY A DECISION). HMG TOOK NOTE OF OUR POINTS; THEY ASKED TO DELAY RESPONSING TO US ON THE LENGTH OF TIME PERMITTED FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY, SINCE THEY WERE NOT SURE WHAT THE FINAL COMMISSION LANGUAGE WOULD SAY ON THIS POINT. (THIS

IS ALSO RELEVANT TO PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS -- ART 7, PARA 1).

7. ~~(C)~~ COMPANIES SEEKING PLANTING APPROVAL ACROSS THE EU MAY ALSO APPLY UNDER THE "DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURES" (ART 6B) BY ASKING THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY WHERE INITIAL APPROVAL IS SOUGHT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE COMMISSION FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE OTHER MEMBER STATES. ART 6B, PARA 2, SPELLS OUT THE TIME LIMITS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 LONDON 005769

DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

BY THE OTHER MEMBER STATES. THESE TIME LIMITS RUN CONCURRENTLY, BUT THE CLOCK STOPS UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES NOTED ABOVE. IF A MEMBER STATE CONTINUES TO OBJECT TO THE DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURES AFTER A 45-DAY PERIOD DESIGNED TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES, THEN THE MATTER GOES TO THE "COMMITTEE" COMPOSED OF MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES (ART 21), WHERE A DECISION IS TAKEN EITHER BY CONSENSUS OR QUALIFIED MAJORITY. WE NOTED TO THE UK THAT THE WORKING DOCUMENT DID NOT SPECIFY A TIME LIMIT FOR A DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE.

8. ~~(C)~~ WE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT ART 6C, WHICH PERMITS THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND OR TERMINATE THE APPROVED DELIBERATE RELEASE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSE NEW INFORMATION. THE ARTICLE WOULD APPEAR TO BE OPEN TO OVERREACTION AND ABUSE AND DOES NOT OFFER A RIGHT OF APPEAL. HMG DID CONFIRM, HOWEVER, THAT ONE MEMBER STATE COULD NOT INVOKE THIS ARTICLE TO SUSPEND PLANTING IN ANOTHER MEMBER STATE.

MARKETING GMO PRODUCTS -- QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING THE KEY

9. PART C OF THE PROPOSED DIRECTIVE COVERS GMO'S 'AS OR IN PRODUCTS'. WHEREAS THE WORKING DOCUMENT ENVISIONED BOTH A STANDARD PROCEDURE AND A DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURE (ART 13B), THE LATTER HAS BEEN DROPPED AND WILL BE RECONSIDERED A FEW YEARS AFTER THE DIRECTIVE IS IN PLACE. THE UK WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE A DIFFERENTIATED PROCEDURE IN PLACE (WHICH WOULD HAVE EXPEDITED COMMUNITY-WIDE APPROVAL FOR WELL-KNOWN GMOS, WHERE VERY SIMILAR PRODUCTS HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROVED), THEY DIDN'T SEE A SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH ADVANTAGE OVER THE STANDARD PROCEDURE IN TERMS OF TIMELINESS TO FIGHT HARD FOR THE OPTION. THE STANDARD PROCEDURE REQUIRES THE COMPANY TO NOTIFY THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THE PRODUCT IS EXPECTED TO BE PLACED ON THE MARKET FOR THE FIRST TIME. THAT COUNTRY PREPARES AN ASSESSMENT REPORT (ART 12) WITHIN 90 DAYS (BUT THE CLOCK MAY STOP AS NOTED EARLIER). THAT REPORT IS DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION, WHO HAVE 60 DAYS TO ASK FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, MAKE COMMENTS, OR OBJECT (SEE ART 13). THE CLOCK STOPS UNDER CONDITIONS NOTED EARLIER, OR IF THE COMMISSION DECIDES TO CONSULT THE RELEVANT

EXISTING SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE). IF THERE ARE OBJECTIONS OR OUTSTANDING ISSUES, A FURTHER 45 DAYS IS PERMITTED TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES. IF, AT THAT POINT, DIFFERENCES REMAIN, THE ART 21 PROCEDURES, WITH QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING, ARE FOLLOWED IF MARKETING IS APPROVED, LABELING IS REQUIRED AT ALL MARKETING STAGES. WE NOTED THAT PROVISIONS FOR REQUESTING FURTHER INFORMATION DURING THE RESOLUTION PERIOD WERE NOT LIMITED EITHER IN TIME OR NUMBER, AND THAT ART 11 PARA 5 (REQUIRING A SEPARATE NOTIFICATION FOR "EACH USE DIFFERENT THAN THAT ALREADY SPECIFIED IN THE NOTIFICATION") WAS SUBJECT TO ABUSE. HMG DID CONFIRM, HOWEVER, THAT 'TREATY-SHOPPING' WAS POSSIBLE (IF THE COUNTRY WHERE YOU FIRST APPLY FOR MARKETING TURNS YOU DOWN, YOU CAN APPLY AGAIN SOMEWHERE ELSE). ONCE GRANTED, MARKETING APPROVAL IS VALID FOR UP TO 10 YEARS (THE UK PREFERRED 12 YEARS, BUT 10 BECAME THE COMPROMISE WHEN SOME MEMBER STATES ADVOCATED AS FEW AS 5 YEARS).

EXISTING NOTIFICATIONS -- THE OLD RULES APPLY; NO NEED TO START OVER

10. ~~(C)~~ WE PRESSED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE IMPACT OF THE AGREEMENT ON EXISTING APPLICATIONS (INCLUDING ONE IN THE UK FOR MONSANTO'S BT CORN). HMG OFFICIALS ASSURED US THAT THE CURRENT RULES APPLY, AND THAT ANY APPLICATIONS STILL PENDING WHEN THE NEW REGIME COMES INTO PLACE WOULD BE ADJUDICATED WITHIN A PRESCRIBED TIME PERIOD (THE WORKING DOCUMENT SAYS 360 DAYS (ART 13CA, PARA 2), BUT OUR CONTACTS WERE NOT SURE THAT IS THE FINAL AGREEMENT). HMG INDICATED THAT THERE WAS AGREEMENT NOT TO HAVE A 'GAP' BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW RULES. THE PROPOSED DIRECTIVE DOES NOT, ACCORDING TO HMG, RETROACTIVELY APPLY NEW RULES TO THE PENDING APPLICATIONS, OTHER THAN LIMITING THE LENGTH OF THE MARKETING APPROVAL TO A FIXED PERIOD (THE WORKING DOCUMENT HAD PROPOSED A MAXIMUM OF 6 YEARS) AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW DIRECTIVE. EXISTING APPLICATIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME ERA AGREED TO BY MINISTERS IN DECEMBER 1998.

SAFEGUARDS -- DO THEY ALSO APPLY TO MARKETING?

11. ~~(C)~~ THE WORKING DOCUMENT (ART 16) INDICATES THAT A MEMBER STATE MAY PROVISIONALLY RESTRICT OR PROHIBIT THE SALE OF GMO PRODUCTS ON ITS OWN TERRITORY WHEN ADVERSE NEW OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. HMG OFFICIALS TOLD US THAT THIS IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO CURRENT PROCEDURES AND IN ANY CASE ONLY APPLIES TO PART B (PLANTING APPROVAL). WE WILL ASK AGAIN ON THIS POINT (AND RECOMMEND WASHINGTON TO DO SO TOO), SINCE THE APPLICATION OF THE SAFEGUARD CLAUSE TO PART C COULD EASILY BE ABUSED BY MEMBER STATES LOOKING FOR EXCUSES TO KEEP GMO PRODUCTS OUT OF THE MARKET.
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 LONDON 005769

DEPT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES, EUR/ERA
ALSO FOR USTR - MURPHY, HAVERKAMP, SANFORD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/02/09
TAGS: SENV ETRD UK EUN TBIO

SUBJECT: GMO'S AND THE EU'S REVISIONS TO 90/220: UK READOUT

A DE JURE OR DE FACTO MORATORIUM -- THE UK DISAGREES

12. ~~(C)~~ HMG DISPUTES THE VIEW SOME HAVE TAKEN THAT THE COUNCIL DECISION REPRESENTS A MORATORIUM ON APPROVALS. THERE IS NO GAP BETWEEN THE CURRENT AND FUTURE REGULATIONS. IF THE CURRENT PUBLIC OUTCRY OVER GMO'S DIES DOWN IN SOME MEMBER STATES, APPROVALS WOULD PROBABLY RESUME (AND IN THEORY, THEY COULD ANYWAY), AND NEW APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED (AND ADJUDICATED NOT LATER THAN WITHIN A FIXED PERIOD AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW RULES). OUR CONTACTS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE CURRENT 90/220 REGULATION IS NOT BEING FOLLOWED (INCLUDING HERE IN THE UK), BUT SUCH AN OUTCOME WOULD ALSO BE POSSIBLE (ALTHOUGH PRESUMABLY MORE DIFFICULT) UNDER A NEW DIRECTIVE. HMG EMPHASIZES THAT THE NEW DIRECTIVE MAY MAKE APPROVALS EASIER (THE PROCESS WILL BE MORE TRANSPARENT, AND STAKEHOLDERS WILL FEEL THAT THEY ARE PART OF THE PROCESS), BUT ULTIMATELY PUBLIC OPINION WILL DETERMINE HOW MUCH THE MEMBER STATES CAN DO. THE UK IS ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO AVOID A TRADE DISPUTE WITH THE UNITED STATES AND HOPES THAT A PROCESS EMERGES WHICH IS SATISFACTORY TO THE USG AND PROVIDES U.S. COMPANIES WITH GREATER CERTAINTY. OUR INTERLOCUTERS BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE BRITISH PUBLIC AGAIN EMBRACES GMO PRODUCTS, BUT IF THAT DECISION IS MADE BY THE MARKET, RATHER THAN BUREAUCRATS AND POLITICIANS, THE USG WILL, IN HMG'S VIEW, HAVE NO BASIS FOR PURSUING TRADE ACTION.

LADER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 03
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SSN: 5769
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DIST:
SIT: BLINKEN BUTLER DAVIDSON GORDON MOYN SAPIRO
SIT: NSC

Cable

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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE3: R 061525Z JUL 99
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RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 2425
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUETIAA/DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
RHFJUSC/USCUSTOMS WASHDC
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0036
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 3674
SUBJ: GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO)
- OPUS

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 ROME 004495

STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER, OA/GALVIN,
ITP/SHEIKH/MACKIE/SLUTSKY
STATE EB/TPP/ATT/ATP/MARILYN BRUNO
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU
MILAN FOR ATO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, ECON, KSCA,
EU, IT
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO)
- OPUS

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

REF: SECSTATE 113313

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: WHILE ITALY'S
OFFICIAL BIOTECH DECISION MAKERS COULD BE

CHARACTERIZED AS PRO-BIOTECH, A SMALL BUT POWERFUL GREEN PARTY REPRESENTATION IN THE D'ALEMA GOVERNMENT HAS ACTIVELY SOUGHT TO STALL THE USE AND TRADE OF GMOS AT BOTH THE NATIONAL AND EU LEVELS. THE THREE COMMITTEES THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO WORK ON BIOTECH ISSUES (BIOSAFETY, NOVEL FOODS, AND BIOSECURITY) HAVE TAKEN A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO THEIR WORK, ALTHOUGH THE NOVEL FOODS COMMITTEE IS ACUTELY AWARE OF CONSUMERS' SENSITIVITIES AND SUPPORTS THEIR DESIRE FOR INFORMATIVE LABELING. WHILE ITALY HAS BEEN A CONSISTENTLY FAVORABLE VOTER ON BIOTECH DOSSIERS PRESENTED IN BRUSSELS, ANTI-BIOTECH GROUPS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN CIRCUMVENTING THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEES AND GETTING ITALY TO JOIN HOLLAND IN CHALLENGING THE EU DIRECTIVE ALLOWING FOR BIOTECH PATENTING. ALSO ANTI-BIOTECH ACTIVISTS ENGINEERED A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE BANNING GMOS FROM BABY FOOD THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE. MORE RECENTLY, THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, A GREEN, GLADLY SUPPORTED THE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL DECLARATION ON BIOTECH REGULATION. DESPITE THE FACT THAT NEWS COVERAGE OF BIOTECH HAS BEEN GENERALLY EVEN-HANDED, PARTICULARLY IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC PRESS, SEVERAL MAJOR FOOD MARKETING CHAINS HAVE ANNOUNCED INTENTIONS TO CREATE "GMO-FREE" PRIVATE LABELS, PERHAPS ANTICIPATING A CONSUMER FUROR THAT HASN'T CLEARLY EMERGED. THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE

UNCLASSIFIED

PUBLIC DIALOGUE ABOUT BIOTECH. THE EMBASSY SPONSORED A SERIES OF MEETINGS MAY 6 AND 7 TO ENCOURAGE SUCH DIALOGUE. POST STRATEGY IS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH EIGHT.
END SUMMARY.

2. OVERVIEW OF GMO ISSUES IN ITALY: ITALY HAS A FIRM BASE OF SCIENTISTS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND AGRICULTURALISTS WHO SUPPORT THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS). HOWEVER, THIS SUPPORT IS CHALLENGED BY A STRONG ANTI-GMO LOBBY LED BY GREENPEACE AND A SMALL BUT VOCAL GREEN PARTY WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. (THE GREENS ARE PART OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT COALITION, AS THEY WERE IN THE PRODI GOVERNMENT.) MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT RONCHI, A GREEN, WAS CARRIED OVER FROM THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. THE PRESIDENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE GREEN PARTY. ITALIAN CONSUMERS ARE NOT NECESSARILY ADVERSE TO BIOTECHNOLOGY, BUT

EXPECT HIGH QUALITY IN THEIR FOOD PRODUCTS.

THE LEADERS OF THE OFFICIAL ITALIAN BIOSAFETY, BIOSECURITY, AND NOVEL FOODS COMMITTEES, WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EVALUATION OF GMO PRODUCTS, ARE SUPPORTIVE OF BIOTECH DEV
ELOPMENT. BASED ON THE
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 06 ROME 004495

STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER, OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH/MACKIE/SLUTSKY
STATE EB/TPP/ATT/ATP/MARILYN BRUNO
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU
MILAN FOR ATO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, ECON, KSCA, EU, IT
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO) - OPUS

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE, ITALY HAS VOTED IN FAVOR OF VIRTUALLY ALL THE DOSSIERS FOR GMO PRODUCTS SUBMITTED FOR EU APPROVAL DESPITE POLITICAL PRESSURE FROM GREEN ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. (ENVIRONMENT, WHICH SITS ON THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE IS NOT

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PERMITTED TO VETO A PROPOSAL WITHOUT SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION, WHICH IT HASN'T BEEN PERSUASIVE IN PRESENTING TO DATE.) WHILE THE NOVEL FOODS COMMITTEE COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS "PRO-BIOTECH", ITS LEADER, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSUMER LABELING) HAS EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO SEE ALL PRODUCTS CONTAINING MORE THAN 2 PERCENT GMOS IDENTIFIED AS GENETICALLY MODIFIED ON THE LABELS. MOH ALSO OPPOSES A "NEGATIVE LIST" OF PROCESSED PRODUCTS, SUCH AS OIL, THAT WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE LABELED. THE GOI HAS APPROVED FIELD TRIALS OF CORN AND TOMATOES AND IS PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF 13 BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTERS THROUGHOUT ITALY IN AN EFFORT TO SEE THAT ITALY IS NOT LEFT BEHIND IN THIS GROWING FIELD. HOWEVER, A FEW REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE BANNED GMO CROPS AND THE PRIME MINISTER BOWED TO PRESSURE FROM THE GREENS TO SUPPORT THE NETHERLANDS EFFORTS TO OVERTURN THE EU REGULATION ALLOWING FOR PATENT PROTECTION OF GMO PRODUCTS. MORE RECENTLY, A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE WAS ISSUED BANNING THE USE OF GMOS IN

BABY FOOD.

WHILE PRESS ARTICLES ON BIOTECH IN ITALY TEND TO BE FAIRLY EVEN-HANDED, PARTICULARLY IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC PRESS, ANTI-GMO EDITORIALS AND ADVERTISEMENTS ARE COMMON AND SEVERAL LEADING ITALIAN SUPERMARKET CHAINS, INCLUDING COOP, HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL AVOID THE USE OF GMO INGREDIENTS IN THEIR PRIVATE LABEL PRODUCTS. THE LOCAL INDUSTRY AND THE U.S. EMBASSY HAVE ACTIVELY WORKED OVER THE LAST YEAR TO COUNTER THE MISINFORMATION AND BIAS THAT OFTEN IS FOUND

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IN THESE ARTICLES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. BIOTECH COMPANIES, SUCH AS MONSANTO, HAVE DEVELOPED A STRONG NETWORK OF INTERESTED JOURNALISTS AND HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PLACING ARTICLES PROVIDING OBJECTIVE INFORMATION ON BIOTECHNOLOGY. THE U.S. EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED TRAINING FOR SCIENTISTS AND JOURNALISTS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AND RECENTLY HOSTED A SERIES OF MEETINGS TO HELP INITIATE A DIALOGUE ON THE ISSUE BETWEEN SCIENTISTS, CONSUMER GROUPS, AND THE FOOD INDUSTRY. THE CLOSING SEMINAR WAS HOSTED BY CONFAGRICULTURA, ONE OF ITALY'S LEADING AGRICULTURAL CONFEDERATIONS, WHICH VIEWS BIOTECHNOLOGY AS AN IMPORTANT TOOL THAT ITS MEMBERS WILL NEED IN ORDER TO BE COMPETITIVE IN THE FUTURE.

THE DEBATE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY IN ITALY IS JUST BEGINNING. CONSUMERS AND THE FOOD INDUSTRY ARE AWARE OF THE POSITIONS AND FEARS BEING EXPRESSED IN OTHER MEMBER STATES SUCH AS
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STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER, OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH/MACKIE/SLUTSKY
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MILAN FOR ATO

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AUSTRIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, BUT AS A WHOLE, THEY HAVE NOT SHUT THE DOOR ON GMO PRODUCTS. THE AVAILABILITY OF OBJECTIVE INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE A RATIONAL DISCUSSION AMONG CONSUMERS AND THE

FOOD INDUSTRY IS CRITICAL TO ASSURING THAT THE BIOTECH PRODUCTS ARE VIEWED OBJECTIVELY.

3. A SERIES OF MEETINGS WAS HELD ON MAY 6 AND 7, TO PROMOTE A DIALOGUE ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO)S. THE PROGRAMS WERE SPONSORED BY FAS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF USIS, AND INCLUDED: A GENERAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION FOR CONSUMER GROUPS AND THE FOOD INDUSTRY; A LUNCHEON BRIEFING FOR ABOUT 6 PARLIAMENTARIANS INVOLVED IN BIOTECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE; A ROUND TABLE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ITALIAN BIOSAFETY, NOVEL FOODS, AND BIOSECURITY COMMITTEES; AND A SEMINAR HOSTED BY CONFAGRICULTURA, ONE OF ITALY'S LEADING AGRICULTURAL CONFEDERATIONS. PRESS COVERAGE, WHICH WAS MAINLY CONFINED TO THE CONFAGRICULTURA EVENT, WAS SCIENTIFICALLY ORIENTED AND EVEN-HANDED. DR. BERNICE SLUTSKY AND SARA SCHWARTZ WERE THE GUEST SPEAKERS AT ALL EVENT
S AND WERE JOINED BY DR.
JOHN LUPIEN OF THE FAO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST THREE EVENTS. DR. LEONARDO SANTI, PRESIDENT OF THE BIOSECURITY COMMITTEE (UNDER THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS), SERVED AS MODERATOR FOR THE DISCUSSIONS WITH CONSUMER GROUPS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS, BOTH OF WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE U.S. EMBASSY. AS EXPECTED, MANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS FROM THE PARLIAMENT AND THE CONSUMER GROUPS EXPRESSED CONCERNS OVER THE USE OF GMO PRODUCTS. IN MANY CASES, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE GROUPS HAD NOT RECEIVED BALANCED INFORMATION ABOUT THE ISSUE. THE PARTICIPANTS WERE INTERESTED IN THE VIEWPOINTS PROVIDED BY THE EXPERTS AND TRULY APPRECIATIVE OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A DIALOGUE. CONSUMER GROUP REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A MORE OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE PROS AND CONS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY WILL GROW FROM THIS BEGINNING.

4. GENERAL ROUND TABLE: THE SERIES OF MEETINGS WAS KICKED OFF WITH A ROUND TABLE HOSTED BY PROFESSOR LEONARDO SANTI, PRESIDENT OF THE BIOSECURITY COMMITTEE, AND INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM CONSUMER GROUPS, THE FOOD INDUSTRY, ASSOBIOTECH, A BIOTECH

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ADVOCACY AGENCY COMPRISED OF BIOTECH INDUSTRIES, SELECTED "PRO-BIOTECH" PRESS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ITALIAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY INVOLVED IN BIOTECHNOLOGY. AS EXPECTED, MANY OF THE CONSUMER AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED CONCERNS OVER THE

USE OF FOOD PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM GMOS. HOWEVER, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THESE GROUPS HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO A GOOD DEAL OF MISINFORMATION. THEY WERE EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING BIOTECH SAFETY ISSUES AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE U.S. EMBASSY'S LEADERSHIP IN INITIATING A DIALOGUE THAT THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT HAS APPROACHED WITH SOME TREPIDATION. WHILE ALL OF THE CONCERNS WERE FAR FROM RESOLVED, SOME DID APPEAR TO BE MORE
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STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER, OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH/MACKIE/SLUTSKY
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, ECON, KSCA, EU, IT
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OPEN TO DISCUSSION AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE ENCOUNTER WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF A MORE PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF BIOTECH. A HIGHLIGHT OF THE MEETING WAS WHEN A JOURNALIST HELD UP A PACKET OF CANDY COMMONLY FOUND IN ITALY AND ANNOUNCED THAT IT CONTAINED GMO SOYPRODUCTS. HIS POINT WAS THAT GMOS ARE READILY AVAILABLE AND CONSUMED IN ITALY WITHOUT PROBLEMS AND THAT THE PRESS AND CERTAIN GROUPS WERE FOCUSING ON ANY NEGATIVE ASPECT THEY COULD FIND, TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE EDUCATION OF THE CONSUMER. (THE JOURNALIST WAS A RECENT PARTICIPANT IN THE USIS INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM TO VIEW THE U.S. APPROVAL SYSTEM. HE HAS PRODUCED A STEADY STREAM OF ARTICLES ENCOURAGING THE ITALIAN AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENT NOT TO "MISS THE BOAT" ON BIOTECH.)

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5. PARLIAMENTARIAN LUNCH: THE LUNCH, ALSO HOSTED BY PROFESSOR SANTI AT THE EMBASSY, WAS ATTENDED BY HALF A DOZEN PARLIAMENTARIANS. PROFESSOR SANTI PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF THE BIOTECH ISSUE AS WELL AS THE STATUS OF BIOTECH RESEARCH IN ITALY. SLUTSKY AND SCHWARTZ PROVIDED A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE GMO APPROVAL PROCESS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FARMERS ARE REALIZING FROM THE USE OF THESE PRODUCTS.

SEVERAL OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE WELL INFORMED ON THE ISSUE, AND WHILE THEY DID NOT EXPRESS STRONG SUPPORT FOR GMOS, THEY ASKED QUESTIONS THAT INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO UNDERSTAND THE BENEFITS TO BIOTECHNOLOGY. HON. PECCARARO SCANIO, PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE, AND A GREEN PARTY MEMBER, AGREED THAT A SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION OF ANY POTENTIAL GMO PRODUCT WAS IMPORTANT, BUT ARGUED WARMLY THAT ITALY WOULD ALWAYS HAVE TO CONSIDER THE PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS AND SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURE IN ANY AGREEMENTS.

6. SCIENTIFIC ROUNDTABLE: A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WAS HELD FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE BIOSAFETY, NOVEL FOODS, AND ETHICS COMMITTEES. THE MEETING WAS HOSTED BY DR.GIULIANO D'AGNOLO, CHAIRMAN OF THE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE AND ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY 30 SCIENTISTS. DR. SLUTSKY HAD BR
IEFED MOST OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT A SIMILAR MEETING A YEAR AGO, AND THEY WERE INTERESTED TO HEAR HER UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

7. A SEMINAR, HOSTED BY CONFAGRICULTURA,

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ITALY'S LEADING AGRICULTURAL CONFEDERATION, WAS HELD ON MAY 7 FOR APPROXIMATELY 80 MEMBERS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FOOD INDUSTRY, AND MEMBERS OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS. THE MEETING WAS MODERATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF CONFAGRICULTURA AND WAS NOTABLE IN THAT HE PUBLICALLY STATED HIS SUPPORT FOR BIOTECH, ALTHOUGH HE ADVOCATED MOVING AHEAD
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STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER, OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH/MACKIE/SLUTSKY
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CAUTIOUSLY. IN ADDITION TO PRESENTATIONS BY SLUTSKY AND SCHWARTZ ON THE U.S. APPROVAL PROCESS AND ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OF GMO

PRODUCTS, COMMENTS WERE OFFERED BY 4 OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE CONFEDERATION AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ACADEMIA. WHILE MOST COMMENTS URGED CAUTION IN MOVING AHEAD WITH GMOS, THE LAST 2 SPEAKERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA DEPARTMENTS OF PHARMACOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY WERE CLEARLY IN FAVOR OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND PROVIDED AN EXCELLENT COUNTERPOINT TO THE U.S. PRESENTATIONS, AND A GOOD CLOSING TO THE PROCEEDINGS. CONFAGRICULTURA'S SPONSORSHIP OF THE SEMINAR IS VIEWED AS A STRONG STEP IN MAKING THE DEBATE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY MORE PUBLIC.

8. STRATEGIES. POST PLANS TO CAPITALIZE ON THE MOMENTUM OF THE SERIES OF MEETINGS BY CONTINUING TO IDENTIFY AND WORK WITH GROUPS AND JOURNALISTS IN ITALIAN SOCIETY WHO CAN INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION ON BIOTECH. EMBASSY LABOR COUNSELOR NOTES THAT ONE "VITAL" DIMENSION TO THIS ISSUE HAS TO DATE GONE VIRTUALLY UNNOTICED. PLANTS THAT HAVE BEEN GENETICALLY MODIFIED TO PRODUCE THEIR OWN PESTICIDE PROTECTION LOWER COSTS TO FARMERS

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WHO OTHERWISE MAY SPEND CONSIDERABLE SUMS FOR AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS. SWITCHING FROM CHEMICAL TO NATURAL PROTECTION, HOWEVER, IS EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS OTHERWISE EXPOSED TO THE RISKS OF HANDLING SUBSTANCES THAT POISON PEOPLE AS WELL AS PESTS. FOR THIS REASON, HE PROPOSES THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THIS ISSUE, WHICH POST CAN USE TO ENCOURAGE ITALIAN TRADE UNIONS AND CONSUMER GROUPS SENSITIVE TO THIS CONCERN TO ENTER THE DEBATE.

FAS AND USIS ARE ALSO EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF FUNDING PROGRAMS OF A WEEK TO 10 DAYS FOR FOOD INDUSTRY JOURNALISTS WHO WRITE FOR TRADE-ORIENTED PUBLICATIONS, SINCE THE FOOD INDUSTRY SEEMS TO BE A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE PART OF THE BIOTECH MOSAIC. (THE PRIVATE SECTOR APPEARS TO BE WILLING TO FUND AIRFARE.) ADDITIONALLY, WE ARE CONSIDERING A VIDEO CONFERENCE THAT WOULD ALLOW ITALIAN FOOD INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES TO DISCUSS CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE AND MARKETING ISSUES WITH THEIR U.S. COUNTERPARTS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO NOMINATE BIOTECH DECISION-MAKERS TO VISIT THE U.S. UNDER USIS PROGRAMMING.

THIS YEAR, THREE HAVE BEEN APPROVED UNDER THE VOLUNTARY VISITORS PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE UNDERSECRETARY OF HEALTH AND THE HEAD OF THE NOVEL FOODS COMMITTEE. ANOTHER TEAM OF 3 NOMINATED BY FAS AND SCIENCE, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF, OR PROVIDE RESEARCH FOR, THE BIOTECH COMMITTEES TRAVELED UNDER THE 3 WEEK INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM. LAST YEAR A

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STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER, OA/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH/MACKIE/SLUTSKY
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GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU
MILAN FOR ATO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, ECON, KSCA, EU, IT
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PRO-BIOTECH JOURNALIST RECOMMENDED BY FAS TRAVELED TO BRUSSELS AND THE U.S. ON A USIS PROGRAM, AND HAS SINCE PRODUCED A STEADY STREAM OF POSITIVE ARTICLES.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC IS PERHAPS THE MOST DIFFICULT AND MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE EQUATION, AS GMO FOODS IN EUROPE WILL BE LABELED AND THE CONSUMERS WILL MAKE THE ULTIMATE DECISION. ANY INFORMATION THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES CAN ASSEMBLE (PARTICULARLY THAT BASED ON ACADEMIC RESEARCH OR FINDINGS OF INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS) THAT CAN BE DISSEMINATED TO THE PRESS WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL. OBVIOUSLY, SUCH INFORMATION SHOULD

BE CLEAR, OBJECTIVE AND PRESS-READY.

9. CONTACTS

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SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 06
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CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHKOA5602 1890721-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
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LINE3: R 080721Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
OSRI: RUEHKO
DTG: 080721Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4550
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 5698
INFO: ////
SUBJ: MAFF TO FINALIZE GMO LABELING POLICY THIS
- SUMMER

SENSITIVE BUT NOT CLASSIFIED

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 005602

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR FDA FOR CFSAN/MARYANSKI
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USTR FOR MURPHY, CUMMINGS
USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, DEATON;
FAS/FSTSD/SLUTSKY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, JA
SUBJECT: MAFF TO FINALIZE GMO LABELING POLICY THIS
- SUMMER

SENSITIVE BUT NOT CLASSIFIED

THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARAGRAPH 10.

1. SUMMARY: AFTER MORE THAN TWO YEARS OF DELIBERATIONS, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MAFF) GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE WILL REACH A DECISION ON LABELING OF FOODS CONTAINING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED INGREDIENTS LATER THIS SUMMER, ACCORDING TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE SECRETARIAT. MAFF MINISTER NAKAGAWA RECENTLY INFORMED THE SUBCOMMITTEE HE "IS EXPECTING" POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE BY AUGUST, AND THE SECRETARIAT SAID THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL COMPLY WITH THE MINISTER'S EXPECTATIONS.

2. SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD A DECISION IS EXPECTED AT THE NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING, TO BE HELD ON JULY 13. AT THE MEETING, THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL REVIEW A TECHNICAL REPORT WHICH WILL CONTAIN A LIST OF FOODS MARKETED IN JAPAN THAT BOTH: (A) MAY CONTAIN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED INGREDIENTS AND (B) CONTAIN DETECTABLE UNALTERED DNA.

FROM THIS LIST, THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL DECIDE EITHER TO REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELING ON SELECTED ITEMS, OR FORMALLY ADOPT VOLUNTARY LABELING AS MAFF POLICY FOR LABELING OF GMOS. LOCAL TRADE RUMORS INDICATE MAFF HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELING OF SEVERAL PRODUCTS ON THE LIST, NAMELY TOFU AND CORN GRITS. HOWEVER, MAFF HAS NOT CONFIRMED THE RUMORS. MAFF CONFIRMED THAT SOYBEAN OIL AND OTHER HIGHLY PROCESSED ITEMS, WHERE DNA HAS BEEN ALTERED OR DESTROYED, ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE REPORT'S POSITIVE LIST. ANY POLICY CHANGE WILL LIKELY BE MADE EFFECTIVE AT THE BEGINNING OF JAPANESE FISCAL YEAR 2000 (APRIL 1, 2000). END SUMMARY.

3. ON JULY 7, 1999 AGATT MET WITH KAOURU YOSHIMIURA, SECRETARIAT OF THE MAFF GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR OF MAFF STANDARDS AND LABELING DIVISION, TO DISCUSS MAFF EFFORTS TO FINALIZE ITS POLICY ON GMO LABELING. YOSHIMIURA CONFIRMED THAT MAFF IS WORKING TOWARD A DECISION ON LABELING OF FOODS CONTAINING GM INGREDIENTS THIS SUMMER. HE SAID THAT MINISTER NAKAGAWA "IS EXPECTING" A DECISION BY AUGUST, AND PLEDGED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL COMPLY WITH THE MINISTER'S EXPECTATIONS.

4. YOSHIMIURA SAID SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD A DECISION IS EXPECTED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE, TO BE HELD JULY 13. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL EVALUATE A TECHNICAL REPORT THAT WILL CONTAIN A LIST OF FOODS MARKETED IN JAPAN THAT BOTH (A) MAY CONTAIN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED INGREDIENTS AND (B) CONTAIN DETECTABLE UNALTERED DNA (THE REPORT WILL BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON JULY 13). YOSHIMIURA MENTIONED THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP THAT CREATED THE REPORT PERFORMED TESTS FOR THE PRESENCE OF UNALTERED DNA ON ROUGHLY 200 PRODUCTS, AND SEVERAL PRODUCTS TESTED POSITIVE. IN RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY FROM AGATT, YOSHIMIURA CONFIRMED THAT SOYBEAN OIL AND OTHER HIGHLY PROCESSED ITEMS, WHERE DNA HAS BEEN ALTERED OR DESTROYED, ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE LIST.

5. YOSHIMIURA THEN MENTIONED THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL ALSO EVALUATE A GOJ STATUS REPORT ON IDENTITY PRESERVED (IP) DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE ABILITY TO SEGREGATE GENETICALLY MODIFIED FROM NON-GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS WILL BE A KEY CONCERN AS THE SUBCOMMITTEE WORKS TOWARD A DECISION

6. IN RESPONSE, AGATT URGED THAT MAFF DELAY A FINAL DECISION ON GMO LABELING UNTIL AFTER FURTHER PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AT THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS. HE REFERRED TO RECENT PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM GOJ OFFICIALS REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION ON GMO LABELING AND SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT MAFF SHARED THE U.S. DESIRE FOR INTERNATIONAL HARMO
NIZATION
PRIOR TO UNILATERAL DECISIONS.

7. IN RESPONSE, YOSHIMIURA VIGOROUSLY DENIED THAT IT IS

JAPAN'S POLICY TO WAIT FOR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON GMO LABELING PRIOR TO MOVING FORWARD. IN FACT, YOSHIMIURA SAID THAT MAFF HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO ESTABLISH ITS POLICY AHEAD OF CODEX AND, BY DOING SO, JAPAN WILL BECOME A MORE IMPORTANT PLAYER IN THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO ESTABLISH GMO LABELING GUIDELINES.

8. AGATT THEN COMMENTED THAT INDUSTRY (BOTH U.S. AND JAPAN) HAS RESPONDED TO GROWING DEMAND FOR NON-GMO FOODS
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STATE PLEASE PASS FOR FDA FOR CFSAN/MARYANSKI
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USTR FOR MURPHY, CUMMINGS
USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, DEATON;
FAS/FSTSD/SLUTSKY

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TAGS: EAGR, JA
SUBJECT: MAFF TO FINALIZE GMO LABELING POLICY THIS
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IN JAPAN, WITH RISING AVAILABILITY OF NON-GMO INGREDIENTS, WHICH IS PROOF POSITIVE THAT VOLUNTARY (NON-GMO) LABELING IN JAPAN IS MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE MARKET, NEGATING THE NEED FOR MANDATORY GMO LABELING BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN. HE REQUESTED THAT JAPAN JOIN THE UNITED STATES IN OPTING FOR VOLUNTARY LABELING AS A SOLUTION TO CONSUMER DEMAND FOR NON-GMO FOODS. HE URGED THAT JAPAN REMAIN CONSISTENT IN ITS LABELING DECISIONS INVOLVING CONSUMER "RIGHT-TOKNOW" ISSUES (THAT ARE UNRELATED TO HEALTH OR SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS), TAKING PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID REQUIRING LABELING ONLY ON ISSUES THAT INVOLVE IMPORTS, AND COMMENTED THAT FAILURE TO DO SO HAS WTO/SPS IMPLICATIONS. END REPORT OF MEETING WITH YOSHIMIURA.

9. ACTION REQUEST (POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS): JAPAN SEEMS DETERMINED TO MOVE FORWARD ON MANDATORY GMO LABELING, ALBEIT LIMITED IN SCOPE, GIVEN THE DECISION TO LIMIT LABELING ONLY TO GMOS THAT CONTAIN UNALTERED DNA. GIVEN THE BROAD SUPPORT FOR MANDATORY LABELING FROM CONSUMERS, MEMBERS OF THE DIET, AND SENIOR-LEVEL MAFF OFFICIALS, POST BELIEVES HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATION IS VITAL TO USG EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE MAFF FROM MOVING FORWARD. THE JULY 15 QUINT MEETING PRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THE ISSUE IN A BILATERAL SESSION WITH MINISTER NAKAGAWA. POST STRONGLY ENCOURAGES A WORKING-LEVEL DEMARCHE PRIOR TO THE QUINT MEETING HIGHLIGHTING USG CONCERNS.
FOLEY

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SIT: NSC

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PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHKOF0153 1900030-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 090000Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMCONSUL FUKUOKA
OSRI: RUEHKOF
DTG: 090000Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMCONSUL FUKUOKA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1119
INFO: RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 0296
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT WASHDC
RUEHRC/DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2288
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2134
RUHBBMA/AMCONSUL NAHA 4145
RUEHKON/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 1905
RUEHKOS/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 4105
SUBJ: MAJOR TRADING FIRM PROMOTES NON-GMO SOYBEANS

TEXT:

UNCLAS FUKUOKA 0153

TOKYO AND OSAKA FOR ATO AND ECON
STATE FOR EAP/J AND EB/TPP/ATT/ATP
USDOC FOR 4410/IEP/EAP/OJ/NMELCHER
STATE PASS TO USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, ECON, JA
SUBJECT: MAJOR TRADING FIRM PROMOTES NON-GMO SOYBEANS

REF: STATE 113313

1. MARUBENI CORPORATION, ONE OF THE BIG FIVE JAPANESE TRADING COMPANIES, PLANS TO ESTABLISH A THREE-STEP SELECTION SYSTEM FOR IMPORTING NON-GMO SOYBEANS INTO JAPAN IN COOPERATION WITH ILLINOIS-BASED ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND CORPORTION (ADM) STARTING THIS FALL. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL NIKKEI, AS A RESULT OF CONSUMER CONCERNS OVER GMO FOOD, MARUBENI EXPECTS INCREASING DEMAND FOR NON-GMO SOYBEANS FROM PROCESSED FOOD MANUFACTURERS.

2. ACCORDING TO MARUBENI'S KYUSHU REPRESENTATIVE, THE COMPANY USES ONLY THREE PORTS (MIZUSHIMA IN OKAYAMA, NAGOYA AND YOKOHAMA) TO IMPORT CRUDE SOYBEANS AND OPERATES A SPECIAL PROCESSING FACILITY TO AVOID MIXTURE OF GMO AND NON-GMO SOYBEANS. ADM AND MARUBENI HAVE ALREADY PLANTED NON-GMO SOYBEANS AT REMOTE FIELDS (34,000 ACRES) IN ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN ENABLING THEM TO

SCREEN NON-GMO SOYBEANS DURING CULTIVATION, SHIPMENT,
AND UNLOADING. MARUBENI PLANS TO SUPPLY APPROXIMATELY
30,000 TONS OF NON-GMO SOYBEANS PER YEAR.

MAHER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0153

TOR: 990708223744 M3950975

DIST:

SIT: ARVIZU HAMMONDS HILLJ HOLTZAPPLE KEITH LEE LIEBERTHAL OSIUS PRITCHARD
SCHAEFER SHAH
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHGPA2141 1930841-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 120841Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
OSRI: RUEHGP
DTG: 120841Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5957
INFO: RUEHZS/ASEAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9049
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2630
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 2094
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 2476
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 5240
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 9133
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0324
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC
RUEHRC/USDA WASHDC
SUBJ: WORKING WITH SINGAPORE/ASEAN ON GMO ISSUES

TEXT:

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 002141

STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATT/ATP-MARILYN BRUNO

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE

USDA FOR FAS - ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR PATRICK STEELE AND DEP ADMINISTRATOR (INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY) PATRICIA SHEIKH

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, SENV, ECON, KSCA, ASEAN, SN
SUBJECT: WORKING WITH SINGAPORE/ASEAN ON GMO ISSUES

REF: STATE 113313

SUMMARY
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1. ASPIRING TO BECOME AN ASIAN BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER, SINGAPORE HAS RECENTLY TAKEN ON AN INCREASINGLY CRITICAL ROLE WITHIN ASEAN IN ITS EFFORT TO HARMONIZE REGULATIONS IN REGIONAL FOOD PRODUCTION AND TRADE. SINGAPORE CURRENTLY HEADS THE ASEAN WORKING GROUPS ON CROPS AND LIVESTOCK, WHICH WERE FORMED TO HARMONIZE SANITARY AND PHYTO-SANITARY STANDARDS, AS WELL AS A RECENTLY-CREATED ASEAN TASK FORCE TO HARMONIZE REGULATIONS

GOVERNING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY. SINGAPORE HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED A GENETIC MODIFICATION COMMITTEE (GEMAC) TO ADVISE ITS OWN REGULATORY BODIES ON THE IMPORT, HANDLING AND USE OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO).

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE EMBASSY--THROUGH THE AGRICULTURE TRADE OFFICE (ATO)--HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT TO HELP PROVIDE INFORMATION AND EXPERTISE IN THE AREA OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND FOOD SECURITY. THE ATO/USDA PROVIDED SPEAKERS FOR TWO ASEAN WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED BY THE SINGAPORE-CHAIRED BIOTECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE OVER THE PAST YEAR. IT HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATION OF A USDA/ASEAN MOU AND IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE VISIT OF AN ASEAN COOPERATION TEAM TO THE UNITED STATES THIS FALL. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR US HERE IN SINGAPORE TO ADVANCE U.S. INTERESTS ON THE GMO AND OTHER BIOTECH ISSUES IN THIS REGION. IN THIS REGARD, WE ARE CONCERNED BY THE USDA DECISION NOT TO REPLACE THE OUTGOING ATO/SINGAPORE ATTACHE NEXT SUMMER, AS IT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY CONTACTS ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE.

SINGAPORE AS A REGIONAL BIOTECH CENTER

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3. SINGAPORE'S BIOTECHNOLOGY INTERESTS ARE MULTIFACETED. IT WANTS TO BECOME THE BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA AND HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS TO THIS END. THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE'S INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR AGROBIOLOGY (IMA) IS SPEARHEADING RESEARCH INTO GENETICALLY-MODIFIED (GM) CROPS RANGING FROM DISEASE RESISTANT RICE TO ANIMAL VACCINES. WITH 150 RESEARCHERS, THE IMA FOCUSES ON CROPS IMPORTANT TO THE REGION SUCH AS RICE AND SUGARCANE, AS WELL AS PLANT AND ANIMAL DISEASES IN ASIA.

4. MOREOVER, INSOFAR AS SINGAPORE IS ALMOST TOTALLY RELIANT ON IMPORTS FOR ITS FOOD SUPPLIES, THE GOVERNMENT SEES BIOTECHNOLOGY AS AN ANSWER TO SOME OF ITS DOMESTIC FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS. COUPLED WITH ITS NEED TO ACCESS SAFE FOOD SUPPLIES AND INTEREST IN DEVELOPING FURTHER AS A REGIONAL TRADING HUB, SINGAPORE HAS THUS SOUGHT AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) IMPLEMENTATION OF A REGIONAL FREE TRADE AREA AND EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AN INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE REGIME FOR FOOD PRODUCTS.

5. SINGAPORE IS THE CURRENT CHAIR FOR TWO OF ASEAN'S AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUPS; ONE ON CROPS AND ANOTHER ON LIVESTOCK. THESE TWO WORKING GROUPS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING AND GUIDING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE HARMONIZATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTO-SANITARY REGULATIONS AMONG ITS TEN MEMBER COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION, IN THE FALL OF 1997, SINGAPORE REQUESTED AND RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM THE ASEAN MEMBERS TO LEAD AN ASEAN TASK FORCE TO HARMONIZE MEMBER COUNTRY REGULATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND TO FACILITATE INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE FLOWS OF GMO PRODUCTS WITHIN THE ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA, WHICH IS IN ITS FOURTH YEAR OF PHASED TARIFF REDUCTIONS.

SINGAPORE ESTABLISHES A GMO COMMITTEE
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6. IN SUPPORT OF ITS INCREASED RESPONSIBILITIES AND AMBITIONS IN THE AREA OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A GENETIC MODIFICATION COMMITTEE (GEMAC) TO CHECK ON GMO-RELATED IMPORTS AND TO ADVISE ITS OWN REGULATORY BODIES ON THE HANDLING AND USE OF GM ORGANISMS AND PRODUCTS. THE COMMITTEE ALSO OVERSEES RESEARCH, PRODUCTION, HANDLING AND TESTING OF GM ORGANISMS, AS WELL AS MEDICAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND FOOD PRODUCTS MADE IN SINGAPORE WITH GMO TECHNOLOGY. GEMAC IS COMPRISED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM MORE THAN A DOZEN ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE PRIMARY PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT (PPD) IN THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, THE NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BOARD, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

7. SINCE ITS FORMATION, GEMAC SUBGROUPS HAVE BEEN FORMED TO LOOK INTO SETTING UP BIOSAFETY GUIDELINES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY AND GM ORGANISMS. THEIR FINDINGS ARE EXPECTED TO BE READY BY THE END OF AUGUST 1999. ANOTHER SUBGROUP WILL TACKLE THE ISSUE OF PRODUCT LABELING IN SINGAPORE, THAT IS, WHETHER AND, IF SO, HOW GENETICALY-MODIFIED PRODUCTS NEED TO BE LABELED. A RECOMMENDATION ON THIS ISSUE IS EXPECTED BY THE END OF 1999.

U.S. EMBASSY'S SUPPORT FOR GOS/ASEAN EFFORTS
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8. RECOGNIZING SINGAPORE'S INCREASINGLY CRITICAL ROLE IN THE REGION, THE U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE OFFICE/SINGAPORE (ATO) HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE PRIMARY PRODUCT DEPARTMENT (PPD) TO REPRESENT U.S. INTERESTS AND POSITIONS IN THE AREA OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND TRADE. THE PPD IS THE KEY SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR GMO ISSUES, AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES CHAIR THE ASEAN WORKING GROUPS ON CROPS AND LIVESTOCK, AS WELL AS THE BIOTECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE. THE ATO/SINGAPORE INITIATED USDA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE BIOTECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE'S FIRST WORKSHOP IN APRIL 1998 BY HELPING TO PROVIDE SEVERAL SPEAKERS FOR THE PROGRAM. IT ALSO HELPED INITIATE THE TASK FORCE'S SETTING UP OF A SECOND WORKSHOP IN JANUARY 1999 THAT ADDRESSED THE ISSUES OF RISK ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC AWARENESS WITH RESPECT TO GM ORGANISMS AND PRODUCTS. THE LATTER WORKSHOP EVENTUALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE ASEAN MEMBERS TAKING THE ADDITIONAL STEP OF ASSIGNING THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPING AND OVERSEEING A REGIONAL (BIOTECHNOLOGY) PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM.

9. LOOKING BEYOND THE SHORT-TERM, THE ATO/SINGAPORE--IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL LIFE SCIENCE INSTITUTE AND AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION--HAS ALSO SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL TO USDA'S FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE (FAS) RECOMMENDING THAT USG AGENCIES ADOPT A BROAD STRATEGY TO APPROACH ASEAN AS A REGIONAL ORGANIZATION ON A WIDE RANGE OF AGRICULTURAL ISSUES. IN THIS CONTEXT, IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND ASEAN JOINTLY DEVELOP A BIOTECHNOLOGY PROGRAM WHICH WOULD HARMONIZE REGULATIONS GOVERNING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY. SUCH

A PROGRAM SHOULD SEEK TO INCORPORATE U.S., NGO AND ASEAN VIEWS AND INTERESTS, WHILE DEVELOPING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF GMO ISSUES THROUGH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

PROPOSED USDA/ASEAN COOPERATION MOU
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10. AS PART OF THE ABOVE EFFORT, THE ATO/SINGAPORE INITIATED USDA/ASEAN NEGOTIATIONS LAST FALL TO ESTABLISH A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE. THE ATO AND THE FAS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE PRESENTED A DRAFT MOU TO THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT IN FEBRUARY 1999. THE MOU WILL SET THE STAGE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A USDA/ASEAN PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WHICH WILL ADDRESS ASEAN FOOD SECURITY INTERESTS IN A NUMBER OF AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, INCLUDING: DATA COLLECTION AND POLICY ANALYSIS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING STRUCTURE NEEDS, TRADE FACILITATION AND SPECIAL STUDIES. USG AND ASEAN BIOTECHNOLOGY INTERESTS ARE SEEN AS INTERTWINED WITH THE IDENTIFIED PROGRAM AREAS. THE INTENT IS TO FOLD A BIOTECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT INTO THE OVERALL COOPERATION PROGRAM.&&&&&&&&&&
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 SINGAPORE 002141

STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATT/ATP-MARILYN BRUNO

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE

USDA FOR FAS - ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR PATRICK STEELE AND DEP ADMINISTRATOR (INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY) PATRICIA SHEIKH

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, SENV, ECON, KSCA, ASEAN, SN
SUBJECT: WORKING WITH SINGAPORE/ASEAN ON GMO ISSUES

11. ATO/SINGAPORE HAS PROPOSED, ONCE THE MOU IS SIGNED, TO SPONSOR AN ASEAN COOPERATION TEAM TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THIS VISIT ARE TWOFOLD: FIRST, TO HAVE THE ASEAN TEAM BRIEF USG AND PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES ON ASEAN'S FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES; AND SECOND, TO HAVE THE USG BRIEF THE ASEAN TEAM ON U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND DISCUSS COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF BIOTECHNOLOGY STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS, AMONG OTHER ISSUES. THE TENTATIVE DATES OF THIS VISIT HAVE BEEN SET FOR AUGUST 20-27. THE ATO, INTERESTED IN INCORPORATING U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR INTERESTS, HAS GAINED MONSANTO'S CONCURRENCE TO FUND THE TEAM'S TRAVEL EXPENSES THROUGH THE U.S. ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL. (NOTE: MONSANTO HAS PROVEN TO BE AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF A REGIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA. IT SEES ASEAN AS A BEACH HEAD FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF GMO REGULATIONS BASED ON SOUND SCIENCE, BECAUSE ASEAN MEMBERS--LIKE THE U.S.--HAVE EXPORT INTERESTS WITHIN ASIA AND TO EUROPE.) IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE COUNCIL IS INTERESTED IN ASSISTING WITH THE VISIT AND IS SOURCING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS AS WELL.

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS IN ASEAN
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12. APART FROM THE SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA OF OUR PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH ASEAN, WE ARE ALSO BEGINNING TO IDENTIFY CONTACTS IN GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, ACADEMIA AND NGO'S WHO MAY BE RECEPTIVE TO OUR VIEWS ON GMO ISSUES. ATO/SINGAPORE HAS ALREADY OBTAINED FROM THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT, FOR EXAMPLE, A LIST OF THE ASEAN TEAM MEMBERS WHO WILL BE TRAVELING TO THE UNITED STATES FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF THE USDA/ASEAN COOPERATION MOU. THESE ARE LIKELY TO BE KEY PLAYERS WHO WILL BE ADDRESSING REGIONAL BIOTECH ISSUES, INCLUDING REGULATIONS GOVERNING GMO STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS. THE FIVE TEAM MEMBERS IDENTIFIED TO DATE INCLUDE:

DR. SUTHAD SETBOONSARGN (TEAM LEADER)
DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ASEAN
(ECONOMIC AND FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION)

DR. NGIAM TONG TAN,
(SOM-AMAF REPRESENTATIVE)
DIRECTOR, PRIMARY PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT,
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SINGAPORE

DR. AZMI MAT AKHIR,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUREAU
(RESPONSIBLE FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
ASEAN SECRETARIAT

MR. CHO KAH SIN,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION
(RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIAL/RURAL DEVELOPMENT)
ASEAN SECRETARIAT

DR. AMPON KITTIAMPON,
(DIRECTOR, NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE
ASSISTANT PERMANENT SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES, THAILAND

COMMENT: NEED TO BROADEN AND SUSTAIN COOPERATION WITH SINGAPORE/ASEAN ON GMO AND OTHER BIOTECH ISSUES

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13. SINGAPORE/ASEAN CAN BE AN IMPORTANT ALLY IN BUILDING A CONSENSUS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AND OTHER FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RELATED TRADE ISSUES WITHIN SUCH INTERNATIONAL FORA AS APEC AND THE WTO. STRENGTHENING U.S. COOPERATION WITH SINGAPORE AND ASEAN, ESPECIALLY IN RESPONSE TO ASEAN'S VOICED INTERESTS IN COLLABORATING MORE CLOSELY WITH THE USG, WILL SERVE TO MAKE ASEAN'S TRADE POLICY SUPPORT FOR U.S. POSITIONS MORE LIKELY TO MATERIALIZE. IN PARTICULAR, WE SEE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY HERE IN SINGAPORE TO WORK WITH OUR CONTACTS IN GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND THE ACADEMIA TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND EXPERTISE THAT WILL BE NEEDED IN THEIR EFFORT TO HARMONIZE REGULATIONS WITHIN ASEAN. IN THIS REGARD, WE ARE CONCERNED BY THE USDA DECISION NOT TO REPLACE THE OUTGOING ATO/SINGAPORE ATTACHE WHO IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART NEXT SUMMER. IT IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT ATO/SINGAPORE'S CONTACTS HERE ON THE GMO ISSUE BE MAINTAINED AND FURTHER DEVELOPED, GIVEN SINGAPORE'S LEADING ROLE WITHIN ASEAN IN THIS AREA.

14. TO SUSTAIN SUCH AN EFFORT, WE WILL ALSO NEED TO DEVELOP A BROADER PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH ASEAN SUPPORTED BY UP-FRONT MULTI-YEAR FUNDING. USDA ITSELF HAS PROGRAMS THAT CAN FUND INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES, BUT ITS RESOURCES CANNOT GUARANTEE THE KIND AND LEVEL OF SUPPORT NEEDED TO DEMONSTRATE LONGER TERM COMMITMENT AND ACHIEVE SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS. USG-WIDE PARTICIPATION AND FUNDING WILL BE NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THIS BROAD COOPERATION. (NOTE: THE EU SIGNED AN MOU ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROGRAM ON STANDARDS, QUALITY AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT WITH THE ASEAN IN JANUARY. UNDER THE MOU, THE EU WILL PROVIDE A CONTRIBUTION OF USD 6.12 MILLION TO CO-FINANCE THE PROGRAM OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS.)

15. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD ENCOURAGE STATE AND OTHER USG AGENCIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ASEAN COOPERATION TEAM MEETINGS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF AUGUST, AND TO EXPLORE WITH USDA THE POSSIBILITIES OF COORDINATING INTERESTS AND PROVIDING FUNDING SUPPORT FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH ASEAN. (NOTE: DR. PETER KOFFSKY, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT/FAS (TEL: 202-690-1939) IS COORDINATING USDA/ASEAN MOU NEGOTIATIONS AND THE ASEAN COOPERATION TEAM'S TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES.)

GREEN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2141

TOR: 990712051405 M3954397

DIST:

SIT: BERNARD ORFINI SANDALOW
SIT: NSC
PRT: STERN

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHTHA4361 1931004-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 121004Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
OSRI: RUEHTH
DTG: 121004Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4326
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0055
INFO: RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1008
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0604
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0281
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 4324
RUEATRS/TREASURY WASHDC
RUETIAA/DIRNSA FORT GEORGE G MEADE MD
RHFJUSC/US CUSTOMS SERVICE WASHDC
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0126
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 0131
SUBJ: GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO) IN GREECE

TEXT:

UNCLAS ATHENS 004361

STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER, OA/GALVIN,
ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE/SLUTSKY
STATE EB/TPP/ATT/ATP/MARILYN BRUNO
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU
ROME FOR AG MIN COUNSELOR
MILAN FOR ATO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, GR
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO) IN GREECE

REF: (A) STATE 113313 (B) ATHENS 02743

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: THE ENVIRONMENT FOR CONSIDERATION OF GMO FIELD TESTING, PLANTING AND CONSUMPTION IS HIGHLY POLITICIZED. SMALL BUT VOCAL CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS HAVE BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BLOCK THE PROGRESS OF BIOTECH ACCEPTANCE IN GREECE. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE OFFICIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE TENDS TO SUPPORT MOST OF THE BIOTECH DOSSIERS PRESENTED FOR ITS CONSIDERATION, A "NO" VOTE BY ONE MEMBER

OF THE COMMITTEE IS ALL IT TAKES TO KILL AN INITIATIVE. THIS HAS HAPPENED A NUMBER OF TIMES, EVEN WHEN THE "NO" VOTE IS NOT SCIENTIFICALLY JUSTIFIED. THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, THE COMPETENT MINISTRY, HAS ALSO BEEN KNOWN TO BLOCK INDIVIDUAL DOSSIERS THAT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE AND HAS, MORE RECENTLY, COME OUT IN FAVOR OF A MORATORIUM BOTH AT THE EU AND NATIONAL LEVELS. THE GREEK PRESS TENDS TO BE MORE INTERESTED IN PRODUCING ARTICLES THAT WILL PROVOKE CONSUMER FEARS, THAN ARTICLES THAT ARE BALANCED AND OBJECTIVE. WE OFTEN SEE THE WORD "FRANKENSTEIN" IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF BIOTECH ARTICLES. COUNTRY TEAM ACTIONS, TO DATE, AND STRATEGIES ARE DETAILED IN PARA 6. END SUMMARY.

2. AN INTER-MINISTERIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REVIEWS BIOTECH DOSSIERS FOR BOTH PROPOSALS MADE AT THE EU LEVEL AND PLANTING TRIAL PROPOSALS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE THEN FORWARDED TO THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, THE COMPETENT MINISTRY, WHO WILL ONLY ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL IF THERE IS A CONSENSUS. EVEN THOUGH THE COMMITTEE IS COMPOSED MAINLY OF SCIENTISTS WHO ARE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD BIOTECH, A SINGLE "NO" VOTE IS, IN EFFECT, EQUIVALENT TO A VETO. RECENT DOSSIERS CONSIDERED AT THE EU LEVEL WERE REJECTED BY GREECE ON THE BASIS OF "NO" VOTES FROM THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS REP OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT. THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT HAS ALSO BEEN KNOWN TO BLOCK INDIVIDUAL DOSSIERS, EVEN WHEN PRESENTED WITH A POSITIVE CONSENSUS. GREECE HAD A HISTORY OF ABSTAINING ON DOSSIERS PRESENTED AT THE EU LEVEL UNTIL IT VOTED IN FAVOR OF SEVERAL CORN AND COTTON DOSSIERS IN 1998. IN 1999, IT REVERTED TO NON-SUPPORT BASED ON DISSENT IN THE BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE FROM THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS REP.

3. PLANTING TRIALS: ALTHOUGH PLANTING TRIALS WERE NOT PERMITTED IN GREECE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, IN 1998 THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT APPROVED COTTON TRIALS. ADDITIONALLY, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDERTOOK SOME FIELD TRIALS (USING BT CORN SEED FROM FRANCE) IN COOPERATION WITH VARIOUS PREFECTURES, COMPLETELY CIRCUMVENTING THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT.

THIS YEAR, APPLICATIONS WERE AGAIN FORWARDED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO THE PREFECTURE LEVEL. THREE PREFECTURES WERE SELECTED, LARISSA (IN THESSALY), FTHIOTIS (CENTRAL GREECE) AND THESSALONIKI (MACEDONIA). ALL SEVEN APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN FAVORABLY REVIEWED BY THE COMMITTEE. THE THREE PREFECTURES ALL REJECTED THE PLANTING TRIAL PROPOSALS, FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN ATHENS.

THE APPLICATIONS WERE FOR THE FOLLOWING GENETICS:

CROP	GEN. MODIFICATION	COMPANY

SUGAR BEET	RESISTANT TO ROUNDUP	NOVARTIS
SUGAR BEET	RESISTANT TO GLYFOSINATE	AGROEVO
COTTON	RESISTANT TO ROUNDUP	MONSANTO
COTTON	BT	MONSANTO
COTTON	BT AND ROUNDUP READY	MONSANTO
CORN	RESISTANT TO ROUNDUP	MONSANTO
COTTON	RESISTANT TO BROMOXYMIL	RHON PULENC

DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT KOLIOPANOS, A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE REJECTION TOOK PLACE, MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE GREEK PRESS, STATING THAT "NO EXPERIMENTAL CROPS WILL BE GROWN IN GREECE AND NO COMMERCIALIZATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS WILL BE ALLOWED EITHER, SINCE THERE IS NO INTENTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE, FROM THE GOG, TO GRANT APPROVALS." HE ADDED THAT GREECE WOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO PUSH FOR A MORATORIUM TO BE SIGNED BETWEEN THE MULTINATIONAL SEED COMPANIES AND THE EU, IN AN ATTEMPT TO STOP EXPERIMENTAL CROPS FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS. HE STATED THAT DURING THIS PERIOD "THE CONSUMER WILL BE BETTER INFORMED, THE RELEVANT LEGISLATION CAN BE IMPROVED AND THE INSPECTION MECHANISMS GET BETTER ORGANIZED."

4. GREEK MORATORIUM PROPOSAL AT EU LEVEL: FOLLOWING SEVERAL MONTHS OF NEGATIVE PUBLICITY ON GMOS, DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT KOLIOPANOS, ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 31, THAT GREECE WAS BANNING THE EXPERIMENTAL PLANTING OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS FOR ONE YEAR. KOLIOPANOS ALSO PROPOSED A TWO-YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE SALE AND CULTIVATION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS, AS REPORTED IN REF (B).

THE REASON GIVEN FOR THESE ACTIONS WAS TWO-FOLD: ONE, THAT AT LEAST A YEAR WAS NEEDED TO FULLY STUDY THE POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARDS THAT GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD PRODUCTS MIGHT CAUSE; AND TWO, THAT TIME IS NEEDED TO CORRECT THE AMBIGUITIES THAT CURRENTLY EXIST IN THE LABELING OF FOODS WHICH CONTAIN GMOS.

DURING THE COUNCIL OF ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTERS MEETING IN LUXEMBURG (JUNE 24-25, 1999), IN THE CONTEXT OF DISCUSSING PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF EU REG 90/220, GREECE PROPOSED A TWO YEAR MORATORIUM.

5. MEDIA COVERAGE: THE GREEK PRESS TENDS TO SEIZE UPON PRESS RELEASES PUT OUT BY GREENPEACE, ECOLOGICAL AND CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS WITHOUT SERIOUSLY ATTEMPTING TO DISCERN FACT FROM FICTION. BIOTECH COMPANIES HAVE ALSO ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE THE MEDIA BUT WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS. AS A RESULT, THE MESSAGE REACHING THE AVERAGE CONSUMER IS INACCURATE AND LARGELY NEGATIVE.

6. EMBASSY ACTIVITIES AND STRATEGIES: IN 1998 ECON AND FAS, IN COOPERATION WITH THE HELLENIC AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AMERICAN SEED COMPANIES AND THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY ORGANIZED TWO SEMINARS IN ATHENS AND THESSALONIKI ON FIELD TESTING AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF ENGINEERED CROPS AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR

TRANS-ATLANTIC TRADE. SPEAKERS FROM APHIS AND FAS/W PARTICIPATED. SHORTLY AFTER THESE EVENTS, COTTON FIELD TRIALS WERE APPROVED.

EMBASSY HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE USIS INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM TO FURTHER FAMILIARIZE KEY GREEK OFFICIALS WITH BIOTECH APPROVAL PROCEDURES IN THE U.S. IN JUNE 1998, TWO OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PARTICIPATED IN THE THREE WEEK IVP. MINAG RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A BIOTECHNOLOGY DIVISION WITH ONE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS AS DIRECTOR. MINAG TENDS TO TAKE A RELATIVELY POSITIVE POSITION ON GMOS.

IN JUNE 1999, TWO GOG OFFICIALS, ONE FROM THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND A MEMBER OF THE BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, AND ONE FROM THE NATIONAL CHEMICAL LABORATORY (RESPONSIBLE FOR APPROVAL AND LABELING OF PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS) PARTICIPATED IN THE IVP.

FOR YR 2000 I.V. PROGRAM, ANOTHER TWO GOG OFFICIALS WERE SELECTED TO VISIT U.S. ON BIOTECHNOLOGY: ADVISOR TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT KOLIOPANOS AND A FOOD CHEMIST FROM THE NATIONAL CHEMICAL LABORATORY AS AN ALTERNATE.

FAS AND USIS ARE ALSO DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING SEVERAL FOOD INDUSTRY JOURNALISTS, WHO WRITE FOR TRADE-ORIENTED PUBLICATIONS, AND AN EXECUTIVE OF THE SUPERMARKET ASSOCIATION TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. FOR 7-10 DAYS UNDER THE VOLUNTARY VISITORS' PROGRAM, WITH AIRFARE LIKELY TO BE PROVIDED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THIS ACTIVITY COULD HELP CORRECT MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT BIOTECH IN THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION SECTOR AND HELP ENCOURAGE GROCERS TO COMMUNICATE TO CONSUMERS IN AN ACCURATE MANNER. FINALLY, OUR PRESS OFFICE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CONCISE, PRESS-READY INFORMATIONAL THAT USDA/FDA/EPA COULD PROVIDE ON BIOTECH FOR RELEASE TO THE MEDIA. THIS WOULD HELP US ADDRESS THE STEADY STREAM OF DISINFORMATION THAT THE GREEK PRESS IS CURRENTLY DISSEMINATING.

BURNS

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4361

TOR: 990712052158 M3954401

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHMNA1390 1940940-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 130940Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
OSRI: RUEHMN
DTG: 130940Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3627
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 1431
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0141
INFO: ////
SUBJ: STATUS OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) IN URUGUAY

TEXT:

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 001390

STATE FOR WHA/BSC; EB/TPP/ATT/ATP; MARILYN BRUNO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, SENV, ECON, KSCA
SUBJECT: STATUS OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) IN URUGUAY

REF: STATE 113313

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY MET WITH OFFICIALS AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE REGARDING THE STATUS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) IN URUGUAY. URUGUAY STILL HAS NO OFFICIAL POSITION ON THE LABELING OF GMO PRODUCTS, BUT HAS CREATED A NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE TOPIC. URUGUAY IS NOT PRESENTLY PRODUCING GMO PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT OR DOMESTIC MARKETS. GMO RICE AND EUCALYPTUS TREES ARE CURRENTLY UNDERGOING EVALUATION, BUT PRODUCTION HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED. A SEMINAR REGARDING GMOS IS BEING PLANNED FOR THIS OCTOBER.

2. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, ON JUNE 8 EMBASSY OFFICIALS MET WITH DR. UGARTE, THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNIT FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, AND OTHER OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) IN URUGUAY. THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE ADDRESSED.

FOOD LABELING UNCERTAINTY
3. AT THE APRIL 1999 CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELING (CCFL) URUGUAY WAS UNSURE ABOUT ITS POSITION ON LABELING ISSUES. AT LAST MONTH'S CODEX

MEETING IN ROME, URUGUAY WAS STILL UNDECIDED. THERE STILL IS NO OFFICIAL URUGUAY POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT. A URUGUAYAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE THAT ENCOMPASSES DIFFERENT INTERESTS WILL DETERMTNE THE POLICY, BUT IT WILL WAIT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION BEFORE CREATING A NATIONAL POSITION ON THE SUBJECT.

4. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF ACRICULTURE OFFERED THEIR PERSONAL OPINION ON THE LABELING ISSUE. THEY ARE IN FAVOR OF LABELING FOODS THAT ARE NOT GENETICALLY MODIFIED, BUT NOT LABEI,ING THE GMOS. THE EXTRA COST PRODUCERS BEAR BY PRODUCING THE NON-GMO "NATURAL'' VARIETIES SHOULD BE PASSED TO THE CONSUMER WHO CHOOSES TO BUY THESE GOODS. THEY COMPARED THE FUTURE MARKET CONDITIONS FOR NON-GMOS TO BE SIMILAR TO THE CURRENT SITUATION FOR ORGANIC FOODS.

BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL

5. URUGUAY, A MEMBER OF THE MIAMI GROUP, HOLDS THE SAME POSITION AS THE U.S. WITH REGARDS TO THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL (BSP) TO THE CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY (CBD). THE ENTIRE MIAMI GROUP OPPOSED THE PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL REGIME FOR PRE-IMPORT APPROVAIJ AND MANDATORY DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR BULK GMO COMMODITIES DESTINED FOR CONSUMPTION AND/OR PROCESSING IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND THE DEMAND FOR MANDATORY GMO FOOD LABELING. URUGUAY WAS PRESENT AT THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING AND AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL ATTENDED THE MEETING TN OTTAWA ON THE SUBJECT.

URUGUAYAN PRODUCTION OF GMOS

6. CURRENTLY URUGUAY DOES NOT PRODUCE ANY GMO PRODUCTS. THERE ARE A FEW VARIETIES OF GMO RICE UNDER STUDY IN URUGUAY. IT IS ONLY UNDER EVALUATION AND PRODUCTION HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED. ALSO, THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF GMO EUCALYPTUS TREES THAT ARE IN A TWO YEAR EVALUATION BY THE SHELL COMPANY. SHELL HAS NOT YET REQUESTED THEIR USE FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

7. URUGUAY DOES NOT EXPORT SOYBEANS OR CORN, SO THIS IS NOT AN ISSUE. URUGUAY DOES EXPORT RICE, BUT THEY DO NOT EXPORT A GMO VARIETY. URUGUAY'S MAIN EXPORT MARKET FOR AGRICULTURAL GOODS IS THE EUROPEAN UNION, AND THUS URUGUAY HAS BASED ITS EXPORT STRATEGY ON THE DEMAND OF ITS MARKET.

DOMESTIC SEMINAR ON GMOS

8. THE URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS INFORMED US THAT THEY ARE ORGANIZING A SEMINAR FOR OCTOBER REGARDING GMOS THAT WILL FOCUS ON THE REGULATION AND USES OF TECHNOI,OGY AT THE DOMESTIC LEVEL. THEY PLAN ON INVITING A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE APHIS DIVISION OF THE USDA TO THIS SEMINAR. FARRAR

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1390

TOR: 990713053942 M3956447

DIST:

SIT: ARMSTRONG AVERY HAMMONDS HOLTZAPPLE LEE ORFINI RICE SANDALOW SCHAEFER SHAH SHANNON VALENZUELA
SIT: NSC

Cable

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By KL NARA, Date 11/26/2013
2016-0574-M (2.42)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHFRA2473 1941718-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
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OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 131718Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2546
RUEATRS/DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHFT/AMCONSUL FRANKFURT 0525
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
SUBJ: CHIRAC ECONOMIC ADVISOR ON COLOGNE SUMMIT, GMO'S

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 012473

C O R R E C T E D COPY (ADD DECLASS DATE)

TREASURY FOR GEITHNER, TRUMAN, ATKINSON, SCHUERCH
STATE FOR E, EB, EUR, S/P

PASS USTR

PASS USDA

USDOC FOR 4212/MAC/EUR/OEURA/PDACHER

FRANKFURT FOR MCCOWN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 13JUL04
TAGS: EFIN, PREL, ETRD, EAGR, FR
SUBJECT: CHIRAC ECONOMIC ADVISOR ON COLOGNE SUMMIT, GMO'S

1. CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC MINISTER JOEL SPIRO. REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. FRANCE WAS GENERALLY PLEASED BY THE COLOGNE SUMMIT OUTCOME, PARTICULARLY ON HIPC DEBT RELIEF -- AN ISSUE ON WHICH THE GOF IS FEELING UNACCUSTOMED DOMESTIC PRESSURE, ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S ECONOMIC ADVISOR JEAN-FRANCOIS CIRELLI. CIRELLI STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE WORLD BANK TO PROVIDE ITS SHARE OF HIPC FINANCING QUICKLY. ON FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE REFORM, CIRELLI SAID FRANCE'S MAIN GOAL WOULD BE THAT ANY NEW FORUM REMAIN WITHIN THE BRETTON WOODS FRAMEWORK. HE SAID FRANCE RECOGNIZED THAT THERE WAS NO SUPPORT FOR ITS INITIATIVE ON THE IMF INTERIM COMMITTEE AND WOULD SOFT-PEDAL THE IDEA. ON GMO'S, CIRELLI HIGHLIGHTED THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN FRANCE, BUT STRESSED THAT A WAY NEEDED

TO BE FOUND AROUND THESE OBSTACLES, WORKING WITH THE U.S. AND U.S. COMPANIES. END SUMMARY.

3. ~~(C)~~ EMIN AND FINOFF MET JULY 2 WITH PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S ECONOMIC COUNSELOR JEAN-FRANCOIS CIRELLI FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ISSUES IN THE WAKE OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VISIT TO PARIS, THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FRENCH AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL (FAB-C), AND VISITS BY SECRETARIES GLICKMAN AND DALEY, AS WELL AS THE COLOGNE G-8 SUMMIT. CHIRAC, WE WERE TOLD, WAS ESPECIALLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND TIME.

PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND FAB-C
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4. ~~(C)~~ CIRELLI SAID CHIRAC HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VISIT, PARTICULARLY THE PRIVATE DINNER AND PRIVATE TIME THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO SPEND TOGETHER. CHIRAC APPRECIATED THAT THE PRESIDENT FOUND THE TIME TO COME TO PARIS. CIRELLI ALSO SAID THAT CHIRAC HAD ENJOYED HIS MEETING AND THE FRANK EXCHANGES WITH FRENCH AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL (FAB-C) PARTICIPANTS THE WEEK BEFORE.

GMO'S
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5. ~~(C)~~ CIRELLI THOUGHT CHIRAC'S FRANK EXCHANGE WITH MONSANTO CEO SHAPIRO DURING THE FAB-C MEETING HIGHLIGHTED THE FORUM'S USEFULNESS. HE HOPED THAT CHIRAC'S NEGATIVE REACTION WHEN SHAPIRO RAISED GMO'S HAD CONVEYED TO SHAPIRO THE DEPTH OF THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS GMO'S FACED IN FRANCE AND IN EUROPE. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE "A PITY FOR FRENCH AND EUROPEAN INTERESTS," CIRELLI SAID, IF THE POLITICS OF GMO'S LED TO THEIR REJECTION IN EUROPE. THIS WOULD PUT EUROPE EVEN FURTHER BEHIND THE UNITED STATES. BUT THIS WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN, CIRELLI THOUGHT, IF EUROPEAN LEADERS, AND U.S. COMPANIES, DID NOT FIND A POLITICAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH THE PUBLIC'S INSTINCTIVELY HOSTILE REACTION.

6. ~~(C)~~ CIRELLI TOLD EMIN HE WAS THUS PLEASED THAT SECRETARY GLICKMAN AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER GLAVANY HAD HAD PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS IN PARIS THE WEEK BEFORE. HE WAS ALSO GRATIFIED TO LEARN THAT AMBASSADOR ROHATYN WAS FULLY ENGAGED. CIRELLI AGREED WITH EMIN THAT THE GMO ISSUE WAS A POLITICAL ONE FULL OF DANGERS AND THAT IT NEEDED TO BE FOLLOWED AT HIGH LEVELS.

HIPC DEBT INITIATIVE
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7. ~~(C)~~ MOVING TO THE COLOGNE G-7/8 SUMMIT, CIRELLI SAID ALL PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING CHIRAC, WERE VERY PLEASED WITH THE AGREEMENT TO ENHANCE THE TERMS OF THE MULTILATERAL DEBT INITIATIVE FOR THE HIGHLY INDEBTED POOR COUNTRIES (HIPC). THE PRIORITY NOW, HE EMPHASIZED, WAS TO MOVE FORWARD QUICKLY

TO PRODUCE RESULTS. AFTER BEING CRITICIZED FOR SLOWNESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE ORIGINAL HIPC INITIATIVE, THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY COULD NOT AFFORD TO BE SEEN FOR A SECOND TIME AS NOT HAVING FOLLOWED THROUGH.

8. ~~(C)~~ CIRELLI OBSERVED THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS UNDER MOUNTING PRESSURE FROM NGO'S ON DEBT ISSUES. THIS WAS ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 012473

C O R R E C T E D COPY (ADD DECLASS DATE)

TREASURY FOR GEITHNER, TRUMAN, ATKINSON, SCHUERCH
STATE FOR E, EB, EUR, S/P

PASS USTR

PASS USDA

USDOC FOR 4212/MAC/EUR/OEURA/PDACHER

FRANKFURT FOR MCCOWN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 13JUL04
TAGS: EFIN, PREL, ETRD, EAGR, FR
SUBJECT: CHIRAC ECONOMIC ADVISOR ON COLOGNE SUMMIT, GMO'S

SOMETHING NEW IN FRANCE, WHERE OFFICIALS ARE USED TO DEVELOPING POLICIES IN RELATIVE ISOLATION FROM PUBLIC OPINION. COMING TO TERMS WITH THE CHANGE WAS TOUGH.

9. ~~(C)~~ THE RISK OF DELAY IN IMPLEMENTING IMPROVED HIPC TERMS, CIRELLI THOUGHT, CAME FROM THE MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS, PARTICULARLY THE WORLD BANK. THE WORLD BANK, HE SAID, WAS A "GREAT BUREAUCRACY THAT MUST DELIVER ITS SHARE," HOWEVER DIFFICULT THAT MIGHT BE. ITS SHAREHOLDERS, INCLUDING THE U.S. AND FRANCE, HAD TO KEEP PRESSURE ON THE BANK, CIRELLI THOUGHT.

10. ~~(C)~~ CIRELLI SAID BILATERAL CREDITORS WOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A DELAY IN IMPLEMENTING ENHANCED HIPC TERMS. THEY HAVE CLEAR PROCEDURES WITHIN THE PARIS CLUB. FRANCE, IN PARTICULAR WOULD DELIVER ITS SHARE, WHATEVER THE BUDGET BURDEN. HE SAID MATIGNON (PRIME MINISTER JOSPIN AND STAFF) HAD NOT BEEN VERY HAPPY WITH SOME PARTS OF THE ENHANCED HIPC INITIATIVE BECAUSE OF THEIR CONSIDERABLE BUDGETARY COST. MATIGNON BACKED OFF UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE PRESIDENCY AND AFTER ASSURANCES THAT THE COSTS COULD BE SPREAD OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS.

FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE REFORM
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11. ~~(C)~~ THE OUTCOME ON FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE REFORM HAD BEEN "NOT BAD," CIRELLI SAID. HE SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT FOLLOW-UP WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE NEW INFORMAL MECHANISM FOR DIALOGUE WITH SYSTEMICALLY IMPORTANT COUNTRIES AGREED IN COLOGNE (THE G-22/33 SUCCESSOR) REMAINED UNDER THE UMBRELLA

OF THE BRETTON WOODS INSTITUTIONS. THE G-22/33 HAD PLAYED A USEFUL ROLE IN RESPONDING TO THE CRISIS, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO CREATE A NEW INSTITUTION.

12. ~~(C)~~ MEANWHILE, FRANCE HAD ACCEPTED THAT THE IMF'S INTERIM COMMITTEE WAS NOT GOING TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO A DECISION-MAKING BODY ANYTIME SOON. THE U.S. HAD COMPLETELY OPPOSED THE FRENCH INITIATIVE AND THERE WAS LITTLE TO NO SUPPORT ELSEWHERE, INCLUDING FROM EMERGING MARKET COUNTRIES, IN WHOSE INTEREST IT WOULD SEEM TO BE. FRANCE WOULD CONTINUE RAISING THE ISSUE, BUT SAW IT AS A LONG RANGE GOAL AND WOULD NOT MAKE A "FEDERAL CASE," CIRELLI SAID.

RUSSIA/DEBT
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13. ~~(C)~~ ON ONE LAST SUMMIT ISSUE, CIRELLI CONFIRMED THAT PRIME MINISTER STEPASHIN HAD MADE A GOOD IMPRESSION. CIRELLI WAS SURPRISED, HOWEVER, THAT GERMANY HAD ACCEPTED WHAT APPEARED TO BE VERY FORWARD LEANING G-8 LANGUAGE ON RUSSIA DEBT RELIEF. HOWEVER, FRANCE WAS LESS INVOLVED FINANCIALLY -- BOTH AS A SMALLER CREDITOR AND BECAUSE IT HAD ALREADY WRITTEN OFF THE BUDGETARY COST OF DEBT REDUCTION FOR RUSSIA DURING PARIS CLUB NEGOTIATING ROUNDS EARLIER IN THE 1990S.

COMMENT
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14. ~~(C)~~ THE MEETING WAS PREMATURELY INTERRUPTED BY A CALL FROM PRESIDENT CHIRAC. CIRELLI IS CLEARLY SOMEONE WITH A MODERATE, LIBERAL APPROACH WHO HAS THE EAR OF THE PRESIDENT. HIS BACKGROUND AT THE FRENCH TREASURY MAKES HIM PARTICULARLY STRONG ON FINANCIAL ISSUES. BUT HIS MANDATE EXTENDS TO ALL ECONOMIC AND TRADE ISSUES, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY INVOLVE THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVERSEEING FRANCE'S FOREIGN RELATIONS. WE WILL ENCOURAGE GREATER CONTACTS BETWEEN CIRELLI AND U.S. OFFICIALS, WHICH HE WOULD LIKE.

ROHATYN

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

SSN: 2473
<^SSN>2473

TOR: 990715055454 M3960661
<^TOR>990715055539 M3960662

DIST:
SIT: BLINKEN DAVIDSON GORDON
SIT: NSC

Cable

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By NARA, Date 11/20/14
2016-0529-M (2.43)

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: PTTCZYUW RUEHLOA6138 1970558-CCCC--RHEHWSR.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: P 160558Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLOA
DTG: 160558Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7460
RHEHWSR/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION RM WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0038
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0505
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2298
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1969
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0708
SUBJ: GMO'S AND BIOTECH: THE G-8, OECD, AND SCIENTIST-TO-SCIENTIST FORA: READOUT ON LONDON MEETINGS

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 LONDON 006138

WHITE HOUSE FOR OSTP - DR. NEAL LANE
PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD
STATE FOR E, OES, EB/TPP/ATP(MBRUNO)
DEPARTMENT PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO USDA FOR FAS ADMINISTRATOR GALVIN, U/S SCHUMACHER, AND FAS/ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/15/09
TAGS: ETRD SENV TBIO UK
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND BIOTECH: THE G-8, OECD, AND SCIENTIST-TO-SCIENTIST FORA: READOUT ON LONDON MEETINGS

A. STATE 132548 B. PARIS 12469 C. STATE 128346

1. CLASSIFIED BY EST COUNSELOR L. ALLEN NELSEN. REASON: 1.5 (D)

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: THE GMO/BIOTECH EVENT HOSTED BY THE UK'S ROYAL SOCIETY ON JULY 13 DID NOT QUITE PRODUCE A MULTINATIONAL, SCIENTIST-LED EFFORT TO EVALUATE AND CERTIFY THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY OF GMO FOODS AND CROPS. THE PRESENCE OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES FROM FIVE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RESULTED IN MUCH GREATER FOCUS ON THE `FEEDING THE WORLD' DIMENSION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY THAN FOOD SAFETY. THE SEVEN SOCIETIES PLAN TO ISSUE A REPORT IN THE AUTUMN WHICH WILL PRIMARILY ADDRESS THIS DIMENSION BUT WILL LIKELY INCLUDE SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. AT THAT POINT THE GROUP WILL PROBABLY DISBAND. EST COUNSELOR EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITY THAT A WIDER

GROUP OF NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMIES MIGHT BE BROUGHT TOGETHER TO FOCUS MORE SPECIFICALLY ON THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION. U.S. PARTICIPANTS THOUGHT THIS COULD BE DONE, PERHAPS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE PLANNED INTER-ACADEMY CENTER. WIDE PARTICIPATION IN SUCH A GROUP (PRIMARILY OECD COUNTRIES BUT WITH A FEW KEY LDCS) WAS VIEWED AS MORE BENEFICIAL THAN A GROUP OF G-8 ACADEMIES. END SUMMARY

3. (U) THE UK'S ROYAL SOCIETY HOSTED A MEETING JULY 13 OF SEVEN SCIENCE ACADEMIES (THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF THE U.S., MEXICO, INDIA, BRAZIL, CHINA, AND THE "THIRD WORLD ACADEMY") TO DISCUSS GM CROPS AND WORLD AGRICULTURE. AT THE END OF THE DAY-LONG SESSION (TO WHICH GOVERNMENTS WERE NOT/NOT INVITED), THE GROUP ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE, WHICH FOLLOWS AT THE END OF THIS MESSAGE.

4. ~~(C)~~ EMBASSY WAS DEBRIEFED BY U.S. AND UK PARTICIPANTS. WITH FIVE DEVELOPING COUNTRY SOCIETIES PRESENT, MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION COVERED POSSIBLE THIRD-WORLD BENEFITS FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY. PARTICIPANTS ASKED THEMSELVES WHETHER BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR FOOD PRODUCTION WAS EVEN NEEDED, AND IF SO, WHAT FOOD CROPS/TECHNOLOGIES ARE THE MOST PROMISING. WHILE THERE WAS A GENERAL SENSE THAT THE `GREEN REVOLUTION' HAD PLATEAUED, SOME OF THE LDC PARTICIPANTS WERE NOT SURE THAT BIOTECHNOLOGY WAS NECESSARY, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE ALREADY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF IT.

5. (SBU) THERE WAS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE VIEW THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION/RESEARCH ON THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ASPECTS. COMPANIES, FOR PROPRIETARY REASONS, HAVE NOT MADE DATA AVAILABLE PUBLICLY, AND THEY DON'T WANT TO SPEND MORE MONEY THAN REQUIRED TO MEET EXISTING NATIONAL REGULATIONS. PARTICIPANTS POINTED OUT THAT EVEN GOVERNMENTS LIKE THE U.S. ARE GETTING OUT OF THE BUSINESS OF CONDUCTING RISK TESTING OR REPLICATING COMPANY RESEARCH IN ORDER TO VERIFY TEST RESULTS. RESEARCHERS SEE NO DIRECT PAYOFF FROM FOCUSSING ON POSSIBLE COLLATERAL DAMAGE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE MAY NOT BE ANY TO FIND. MUCH MORE EFFORT IS GOING INTO RESEARCH ON HOW TO IDENTIFY AND INTRODUCE NEW GENES INTO PLANT SPECIES.

6. (SBU) THE SEVEN SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS AGREED TO PREPARE A REPORT, WHICH THEY PLAN TO RELEASE BY OCTOBER. TOPICS WERE `AUCTIONED OFF' TO INDIVIDUAL AUTHORS, WHO WILL COORDINATE THEIR WORK DIRECTLY. THE COMPOSITE TEXT WILL BE PRESENTED TO EACH SOCIETY FOR APPROVAL. THE REPORT IS EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON THIRD-WORLD BENEFITS; IN THE AREA OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, THE REPORT IS ONLY EXPECTED TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE RESEARCH IS PARTICULARLY LACKING. WHILE THERE MAY BE A `MEETING' TO FINALIZE AND ENDORSE THE REPORT, A MAJOR EVENT, TO WHICH GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE INVITED, IS NOT ENVISIONED. NO FURTHER WORK IS PLANNED ONCE THE REPORT HAS BEEN RELEASED.

7. ~~(C)~~ WE PROBED AS TO THE WILLINGNESS OF THE SOCIETIES TO TAKE ON ADDITIONAL WORK RELATED TO HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. OUR INTERLOCUTORS THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH THE NAS OFFICIALS WERE MUCH MORE AMENABLE THAN OUR ROYAL SOCIETY CONTACT. THE INTERACADEMY PANEL,

WHICH IS CO-CHAIRED BY INDIA AND THE U.S., COULD ASK ITS STEERING GROUP TO UNDERTAKE SUCH AN EFFORT. THE PLANNED INTERACADEMY CENTER MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE STAFFING AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT. GIVEN THE STRONG SUPPORT FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY ON THE PART OF BOTH THE U.S. AND INDIAN CO-CHAIRS, WE WERE TOLD THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO CONSTITUTE A SCIENCE

WHITE HOUSE FOR OSTP - DR. NEAL LANE
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STATE FOR E, OES, EB/TPP/ATP(MBRUNO)
DEPARTMENT PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO USDA FOR FAS ADMINISTRATOR GALVIN, U/S SCHUMACHER, AND FAS/ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/15/09
TAGS: ETRD SENV TBIO UK
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND BIOTECH: THE G-8, OECD, AND SCIENTIST-TO-SCIENTIST FORA: READOUT ON LONDON MEETINGS

INSTITUTION TO SCIENCE INSTITUTION BODY TO ADDRESS THE SAFETY ISSUE. THE U.S. PARTICIPANTS NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ROYAL SOCIETY IS NOT PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT TAKING ON ADDITIONAL WORK -- IT HAS ALREADY CONCLUDED THAT GM FOODS ARE SAFE, THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ARE MANAGEABLE, AND THEY DON'T SEE GREAT VALUE IN GOING FURTHER.

8. ~~(C)~~ WE WERE ALSO TOLD THAT THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT MULTILATERAL GMO-RELATED WORK IN OTHER FORA LIKE THE OECD. CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED THAT AN INITIATIVE BY SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS MIGHT MERELY DUPLICATE THE WORK OF OTHERS AND WOULD HAVE NO CLEAR IMPACT. EST COUNSELOR ARGUED THAT WE WOULD VERY MUCH WELCOME SUPPORT FROM THE SCIENCE COMMUNITY FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND THAT A MULTILATERAL EFFORT AMONG INDEPENDENT NATIONAL SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS WOULD HAVE GREATER CREDIBILITY AMONG SKEPTICS THAN WORK DONE IN A GOVERNMENTAL FRAMEWORK.

9. ~~(C)~~ WE ASKED WHETHER A GROUP LIKE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (BUT WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT ROLE) WOULD BE A USEFUL MODEL, AND WE NOTED THAT THE IPCC DRAWS EXPERTISE FROM BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH DEVELOPED COUNTRY SCIENTISTS PLAY A DOMINANT ROLE. IN THAT CONNECTION, WE ALSO ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS VALUE IN G-8 SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS PLAYING A DISTINCT ROLE (EITHER AS A SUBSET, OR ALTERNATIVE TO, THAT BODY), AND IF SO, WHICH INSTITUTION WOULD BE BEST TO TACKLE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES AND WOULD BE CREDIBLE TO BIOTECH CRITICS. OUR INTERLOCUTORS SAW THE VALUE OF A MULTILATERAL EFFORT WHICH WOULD ISOLATE THE OUTLYERS IN THE SCIENCE COMMUNITY, AND THEY SUGGESTED THAT THE GROUP BE AS INCLUSIVE AS POSSIBLE. ON HEALTH AND SAFETY, THEY ANTICIPATED THAT THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES THAT ARE MOST INTERESTED WOULD BE LOCATED IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, BUT HAVING SOME PARTICIPATION FROM PROMINENT SOCIETIES LIKE THE ONE IN INDIA WOULD BE HELPFUL. THEY DID NOT SEE A DISTINCT ROLE FOR SOCIETIES FROM THE G-8 COUNTRIES, POINTING OUT THAT THERE AREN'T INSTITUTIONS COMPARABLE TO THE NAS OR ROYAL SOCIETY IN SOME G-8 COUNTRIES, AND THAT THOSE THAT DID EXIST WERE NOT ALWAYS FREE OF

GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE. IF IT WAS NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY A `LEAD' G-8 INSTITUTION TO CARRY THE PROCESS FORWARD WITHOUT INVITING SUSPICION, THERE WAS A GENERAL VIEW THAT JAPAN MIGHT BE IDEAL. FOR A WIDER GROUPING OF NATIONAL SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS, THERE WAS SUPPORT FOR SWEDEN TAKING THE LEAD.

10. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: IF WASHINGTON CONTINUES TO SEE VALUE IN THE INVOLVEMENT OF INDEPENDENT NATIONAL SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS IN ASSESSING AND CERTIFYING THE SAFETY OF GMO FOODS AND CROPS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO SIGNAL THIS TO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY AND OTHER SOCIETIES THAT HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES TO BE INTERESTED. OTHERWISE, THERE WILL BE NO FOLLOW-UP TO THE MEETING JUST HELD. WE AGREE THAT AN INCLUSIVE PROCESS, UNDER THE CAREFUL CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE U.S. CO-CHAIR OF THE INTERACADEMY PANEL, STANDS THE BEST CHANCE OF CREATING MOMENTUM TOWARDS ENGAGEMENT OF THE GLOBAL SCIENCE COMMUNITY IN THE BIOTECHNOLOGY DEBATE. BOTH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY AND THE ROYAL SOCIETY UNDERSTAND THAT THE USG (AND HMG) WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE THE PROCESS (BUT WITHOUT BEING SEEN AS THE PRIME MOVER), AND BASED UPON OUR READOUT HERE IN LONDON, WE ARE QUITE CONFIDENT THAT SUCH AN OUTCOME SHOULD BE POSSIBLE. END COMMENT

11. BEGIN TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE:

GM CROPS AND WORLD AGRICULTURE

GENETIC MODIFICATION RAISES GLOBALLY IMPORTANT ISSUES AND NEEDS A CORRESPONDINGLY GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE. IN A LANDMARK SESSION AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY THIS WEEK, SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVEN ACADEMIES OF SCIENCE FROM WIDELY DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE WORLD THEREFORE MET TO DISCUSS THE EXPERIENCES OF EACH REGION IN DEALING WITH GM TECHNOLOGY.

THE SESSION AGREED THAT GM CROPS ARE ONE IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE FUTURE OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURE WORLDWIDE. IT IDENTIFIED BOTH COMMON THEMES AND LOCAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REGIONS IN THEIR APPROACHES TO GM CROPS. THERE WAS A SHARED COMMITMENT BY ALL PARTICIPANTS TO:

- BASING GM POLICY ON THE BEST SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE ABOUT BENEFITS AND RISKS;

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PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD
STATE FOR E, OES, EB/TPP/ATP(MBRUNO)
DEPARTMENT PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO USDA FOR FAS ADMINISTRATOR GALVIN, U/S SCHUMACHER, AND FAS/ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/15/09
TAGS: ETRD SENV TBIO UK
SUBJECT: GMO'S AND BIOTECH: THE G-8, OECD, AND SCIENTIST-TO-SCIENTIST FORA: READOUT ON LONDON MEETINGS

- ENSURING THAT THE BENEFITS OF GM TECHNOLOGY ACCRUE TO LOCAL ECONOMIES AND TO CONSUMERS;

- ENCOURAGING AN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY REGIME THAT PROMOTES AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION AND IS EQUITABLE TO ALL CONCERNED.

THE SEVEN ACADEMIES AGREED TO DEVELOP AN AUTHORITATIVE JOINT STATEMENT DEALING WITH SUCH ISSUES AS: THE NEED FOR GM PLANTS IN LOCAL AGRICULTURE TO FEED THE WORLD'S POPULATION IN THE COMING DECADES; HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES; WAYS OF ENSURING THAT GM TECHNOLOGIES BENEFIT LOCAL POPULATIONS; AND RELATIONS BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATELY FUNDED GM RESEARCH.

SIR AARON KING, PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, WELCOMED THIS INITIATIVE: "THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PROJECT IN WHICH INDEPENDENT ACADEMIES OF NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, AND WEST ARE POOLING THEIR EXPERTISE TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE RESULTS OF THIS WORK."

END TEXT

LADER

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

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TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4853
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5734
INFO: ////
SUBJ: REQUEST TO MEET WITH MAFF OFFICIALS TO EXPRESS
- U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING POSSIBLE NEW MANDATORY
- GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN JAPAN

- U R G E N T -

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 005886

SENSITIVE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - CAPTION ADDED

USDA FOR FFAS/SCHUMACHER
USDA FOR OSEC/SIDDIQUI
USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, DEATON;
FAS/FSTSD/SLUTSKY
C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CAPTION ADDED)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, JA
SUBJECT: REQUEST TO MEET WITH MAFF OFFICIALS TO EXPRESS
- U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING POSSIBLE NEW MANDATORY
- GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN JAPAN

- U R G E N T -

REFTEL 5602

THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST.

1. SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST: MAFF IS MOVING RAPIDLY TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW MANDATORY GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN JAPAN. POST PROPOSES VISIT BY SENIOR-LEVEL USDA OFFICIAL TO RAISE U.S. GOVERMENT CONCERNS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE JULY 13 MAFF GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING, MAFF PROGRESSED TOWARD A MANDATORY LABELING DECISION BY ISSUING A LIST OF PRODUCTS MARKETED IN JAPAN

THAT BOTH: (1) MAY CONTAIN GMOS AND; (2) CONTAIN DETECTABLE DNA OR PROTEIN. AT THE NEXT LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING, TO BE HELD IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST, POST BELIEVES MAFF WILL ISSUE A MANDATORY LABELING PROPOSAL FOR PRODUCTS ON THE POSITIVE LIST, WITH IMMEDIATE APPROVAL BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE EXPECTED. MAFF HAS INFORMED POST THAT A FINAL DECISION WILL BE MADE "BY AUGUST".

3. IN THIS VERY SHORT TIME FRAME, IT IS VITAL THAT MAFF PERCEIVE CORRECTLY THE HIGH LEVEL OF USG CONCERN OVER THIS ISSUE. AS A FIRST STEP, POST WILL SEEK APPROVAL TO PRESENT A FORMAL DEMARCHE OUTLINING U.S. GOVERNMENT CONCERNS TO WORKING-LEVEL MAFF OFFICIALS. DEPENDING ON THE REACTION, WE WOULD SEEK APPOINTMENTS FOR THE AMBASSADOR WITH THE MAFF MINISTER. WE WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND THAT SENIOR USDA OFFICIALS SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO ARTICULATE OUR CONCERNS TO JAPANESE MEDIA IN WASHINGTON. FINALLY, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT SENIOR-LEVEL REPRESENTATION, PREFERABLY AT THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OR UNDERSECRETARY LEVEL, VISIT TOKYO TO BRING HOME TO MAFF OFFICIALS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ISSUE.

4. FOR ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND, SEE REFTEL 5602 AND JULY 13 LABELING SUMCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY BELOW.

5. SUMMARY OF 15TH MEETING OF THE MAFF GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE JULY 13, 1999

6. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE MEETING FOCUSED ON A TECHNICAL REPORT THAT INCLUDED A LIST OF FOODS MARKETED IN JAPAN (I.E. "POSITIVE LIST") THAT BOTH: (1) MAY CONTAIN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED INGREDIENTS AND; (2) CONTAIN DETECTABLE DNA. WHILE MAFF DID NOT PRESENT A LABELING RECOMMENDATION AT THE MEETING, THE SUBCOMMITTEE FORMALLY AGREED TO ALLOW MAFF TO PRESENT A LABELING PROPOSAL BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE REPORT AT THE NEXT MEETING, TO BE HELD IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST. WHILE OFFICIALLY, MAFF COULD RECOMMEND EITHER VOLUNTARY OR MANDATORY LABELING, POST FULLY EXPECTS MAFF WILL RECOMMEND MANDATORY LABELING FOR PRODUCTS ON THE POSITIVE LIST. THE SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED THAT JAPAN CANNOT WAIT UNTIL A CODEX DECISION ON GMO LABELING SINCE IT IS AMONG THE SIX COUNTRIES LEADING THE DISCUSSION.

7. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP POSITIVE LIST (THE RETAIL/FOOD MANUFACTURING BREAKDOWN WAS MADE IN THE REPORT WITHOUT EXPLANATION):

FOODS FOR RETAIL SALE:

1. TOFU AND ITS PROCESSED FOOD.
2. FOODS USING PLANT PROTEIN.
3. FOODS USING SOYBEAN FLOUR.
4. CORN SNACKS.
5. FOODS USING CORN STARCH.
6. FOODS USING CORN FLOUR.

INGREDIENTS FOR FOOD MANUFACTURING:

1. SOYBEAN FLOUR
2. PLANT PROTEIN
3. CORN GRITS
4. CORN STARCH
5. CORN FLOUR

9. SINCE MAFF HAS NOT YET INTRODUCED A MANDATORY LABELING PROPOSAL IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WORKING GROUP REPORT, NO DETAILS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED REGARDING POSSIBLE VERIFICATION METHODS, THRESHOLD LEVELS, OR COMPLIANCE

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 TOKYO 005886

SENSITIVE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - CAPTION ADDED

USDA FOR FFAS/SCHUMACHER
USDA FOR OSEC/SIDDIQUI
USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, DEATON;
FAS/FSTSD/SLUTSKY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, JA
SUBJECT: REQUEST TO MEET WITH MAFF OFFICIALS TO EXPRESS
- U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING POSSIBLE NEW MANDATORY
- GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN JAPAN

MEASURES.

10. GIVEN THE PRESENCE OF HIGHLY PROCESSED FOODS SUCH AS STARCH AND FLOUR ON THE LIST, IT APPEARS MAFF HAS DROPPED A PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED P
RE-REQUISITE OF
"UNALTERED (WHOLE) DNA" FOR INCLUSION IN THE POSITIVE LIST. WITH UNCERTAIN CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION, ANY PRODUCT THAT MAY CONTAIN DETECTABLE FOREIGN DNA FRAGMENTS COULD BE SUBJECT TO INCLUSION AT A LATER DATE, INCREASING THE POTENTIAL FOR NEGATIVE TRADE IMPACTS. END SUMMARY.
LAFLUER

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

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TO: SECSTATE WASHDC 7199
INFO: ////
SUBJ: CONTACT INFORMATION ON GMO INTERLOCUTORS IN CAMEROON

TEXT:

UNCLAS YAOUNDE 003574

STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATT/ATP MARILYN BRUNO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, SENV, ECON, CM
SUBJECT: CONTACT INFORMATION ON GMO INTERLOCUTORS IN CAMEROON

REF: STATE 113313

1. PER INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL, POST IS PROVIDING A LIST OF CONTACT POINTS IN CAMEROON ON THE ISSUE OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO). THESE PEOPLE ARE:

- MARY FOSI, CHIEF OF DIVISION OF COOPERATION, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY (MINEF), TELEPHONE: 237-23-95-48, FAX: 237-22-94-80

- DR. DAVID MBAH, TECHNICAL ADVISOR, MINISTRY OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH (MINREST), TELEPHONE: 237-22-48-13, EMAIL: DAMBAH#SDNCMR.UNDP.ORG

- DR. TITANJI VPK, VICE RECTOR, UNIVERSITY OF BUEA, TELEPHONE: 237-32-22-72, TELEPHONE/FAX: 237-43-25-08

- DR. SOULEY ABDOUKADIRI, LANAVET GAROUA, TELEPHONE/FAX: 237-27-15-91

- DR. DIEUDONNE NWAGA, COURSE ADMINISTRATOR, UNIVERSITY OF YAOUNDE I, TELEPHONE: 237-31-92-79 OR 237-23-74-29

- PROFESSOR JATO JOHNSON, BDCP-C, TELEPHONE: 237-31-41-25; TELEPHONE/FAX: 237-31-96-67, EMAIL: JATO#ICC.NET

- DR. SIMON ZOK, DIRECTOR OF IRAD EKONA, TELEPHONE: 237-42-91-22, FAX: 237-39-15-16

2. CAMEROON HAS TRADITIONALLY FOLLOWED THE AFRICA-BASED CONSENSUS POSITION THAT IS ANTAGONISTIC TO US INTERESTS. POST BELIEVES THAT THE BEST WAY TO ENGAGE CAMEROON ON THIS ISSUE IS TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS AIMED AT PROVIDING INFORMATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF HUMAN RESOURCES. FOR EXAMPLE, IN OCTOBER 1998, USAID PROVIDED FUNDING FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY. IN ADDITION TO THE FUNDING SUPPORT, EXPERTS FROM USAID, USDA AND EPA TRAVELED TO YAOUNDE TO PARTICIPATE AND IMPROVE AFRICAN UNDERSTANDING OF BIOTECHNOLOGY ISSUES AS WELL AS STRENGTHEN USG UNDERSTANDING OF AFRICAN POSITIONS AND VIEWS.

3. P/E OFFICER MET ON JULY 14 WITH MINEF'S MARY FOSI MBANTENKHU, THE GRC POINT PERSON ON THE ISSUE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. MS. FOSI AGREED THAT CAMEROONIANS OFTEN HOLD UNSOPHISTICATED OPINIONS ABOUT BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY BECAUSE THEY LACK THE INFORMATION AND TRAINING NECESSARY TO HAVE AN IN-DEPTH UNDERSTANDING OF THE ISSUES.

4. MS. FOSI SAID THAT FROM AUGUST 5 - 7, CAMEROON WILL HOST A REGIONAL BIOSAFETY WORKSHOP IN LIMBE ON RISK ASSESSMENT AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT. THE GRC EXPECTS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF CHAD, CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE, CAR, NIGERIA, EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND GABON TO ATTEND. MS. FOSI BELIEVES THAT A DRAFT OF CAMEROON'S BIOSAFETY LEGISLATION, WHICH IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING FINALIZED, WILL BE READY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO POST AT THIS TIME. WHEN THIS DOCUMENT IS RECEIVED, WE WILL FORWARD IT TO DEPARTMENT.
YATES

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3574

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([GMO…])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:
[07/03/1999 - 07/30/1999]

2013-0836-F
ke3014

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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RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 1653
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 4603
SUBJ: DIRECTIVE FOR MONITORING OF GMO SOYBEANS PUBLISHED

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRASILIA 002635

USDA FOR FAS/ITP/BSIMMONS/OKARAWA/BSLUTSKY
USDA FOR FAS/CMP/COTS/LBLUM
STATE PASS USTR FOR KMEIMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, BR
SUBJECT: DIRECTIVE FOR MONITORING OF GMO SOYBEANS PUBLISHED

REFS: (A)BRASILIA 02302, (B)BRASILIA 02396

1. REF A REPORTED THAT THE GOB HAD DECIDED THAT THERE NEEDED TO BE SOME ADDITIONAL REGULATORY AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS FOR GMO SOYBEAN SEED MULTIPLICATION BEYOND THAT NORMALLY REQUIRED FOR NON-GMO SEEDS. ON FRIDAY, JUNE 25, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SUPPLY (MAA) PUBLISHED DIRECTIVE 293/99, IN THE DIARIO OFICIAL (BRAZIL'S FEDERAL REGISTER) THAT CONTAINS THE MONITORING REQUIREMENTS UNDER WHICH GMO SOYBEAN SEEDS CAN BE PRODUCED IN BRAZIL. THE OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS (OAA) HAS FAXED A COPY OF THE DIRECTIVE TO USDA/FAS/CMP/COTS AND USDA/FAS/ITP/FSTSD.

2. AS OF JULY 19, 1999, THE COMMERCIAL PLANTING OF ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS (RRS) REMAINS ON HOLD SINCE THE GRANTING OF THE INJUNCTION AGAINST THE SALE OF RRS IN BRAZIL (REF A).

3. MONSANTO HAS APPEALED THE INJUNCTION, BUT THE PRESIDENT OF THE REGIONAL FEDERAL COURT (TRF) UPHELD THE JUDGE'S DECISION. SINCE THE JUDICIARY IS ON RECESS FOR THE ENTIRE MONTH OF JULY, THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED AGAIN UNTIL SOMETIME IN AUGUST. MARKET ANALYSTS ARE QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT MONSANTO'S PLAN TO OFFER RRS SEEDS FOR COMMERCIAL SALE FOR THE NEXT SUMMER CROP (PLANTING IN SEP-NOV 99, HARVEST IN 2000) IS SERIOUSLY THREATENED, WHICH MEANS THAT BRAZIL MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PLANT RRS UNTIL THE FOLLOWING YEAR FOR SALE IN 2001.
GALUCCI

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2635

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E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0521-M (2.46)

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RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0712
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
SUBJ: GMO'S: FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE ROLE OF SCIENCE
TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ LONDON 006306

WHITE HOUSE FOR OSTP - DR. NEAL LANE
PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD
STATE FOR E, OES, EB/TPP/ATP(MBRUNO)
DEPT PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO USDA FOR FAS ADMINISTRATOR GALVIN, U/S SCHUMACHER, AND FAS/ITP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/21/09
TAGS: TBIO ETRD SENV UK
SUBJECT: GMO'S: FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE ROLE OF SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS

LONDON 6138

1. CLASSIFIED BY EST COUNSELOR L. ALLEN NELSEN. REASON 1.5 (D)

2. ~~(C)~~ EST COUNSELOR WAS INVITED TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY (THE UK'S COUNTERPART TO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE) ON JULY 20 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE ROLE OF SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS IN THE CURRENT DEBATE OVER ACCEPTANCE OF GMO FOODS AND CROPS. CONFIRMING COMMENTS TO US (PARA 7 REFTEL) BY NAS OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED THE LONDON CONFERENCE, OUR THREE ROYAL SOCIETY INTERLOCUTORS SHOWED SOME RELUCTANCE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN ANY PERMANENT, OR SEMI-PERMANENT, SCIENCE INSTITUTION-TO-INSTITUTION EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WERE FULLY RESEARCHED AND THAT GOVERNMENTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE DECISIONS ON GMO'S ON THE BASIS OF SOUND SCIENCE. THE ROYAL SOCIETY HAS ISSUED POSITIVE STATEMENTS ON BOTH HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS AND IS NOT SURE WHAT VALUE EXISTS IN REVISITING EITHER ISSUE.

3. ~~(C)~~ THAT SAID, THE ROYAL SOCIETY IS PREPARED TO COLLABORATE IN ANY MULTI-INSTITUTION EFFORT ORGANIZED BY THE INTERACADEMY PANEL. OUR INTERLOCUTORS RECOGNIZE THAT THE GMO ISSUE IS LIKELY TO BE WITH US FOR SOME TIME, AND THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NEW ELEMENTS OF THE GMO DEBATE WILL LIKELY ARISE IN THE FUTURE WHICH WOULD WARRANT CLOSE ATTENTION BY THE SCIENCE COMMUNITY. THEY ALSO ACCEPTED THE POINT MADE BY OSTP DIRECTOR NEAL LANE DURING HIS VISIT LAST MONTH THAT "CITIZEN SCIENTISTS" NEED TO GET OUT OF THE LABORATORY OCCASIONALLY TO TAKE ON A PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ROLE IN SUPPORT OF EVIDENCE-BASED DECISIONS BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND CONSUMERS. THEY INDICATED THAT THE SOCIETY HAS ALREADY ENCOURAGED ITS MEMBERS WITH EXPERTISE ON GENE TECHNOLOGY TO SPEAK OUT IN SUPPORT OF THE TECHNOLOGY.

4. ~~(C)~~ IN CONSIDERING THE MECHANICS OF AN INSTITUTION-TO-INSTITUTION ARRANGEMENT, THE ROYAL SOCIETY OFFICIALS AGREED THAT SOMETHING LIKE THE IPCC WOULD BE USEFUL IN DEVELOPING CONSENSUS ON GMO ISSUES. UNLIKE THE IPCC, HOWEVER, A GROUP FOCUSSED ON GMO'S SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING. IN THIS REGARD, THEY THOUGHT THAT RESPECTED FOUNDATIONS LIKE ROCKEFELLER, OR MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE FAO, UNESCO, OR CBD, MIGHT BE WILLING TO FUND AN ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS AND ONGOING RESEARCH PROGRAM. THEY ALSO THOUGHT THAT THE SWEDISH SCIENCE ACADEMY MIGHT BE THE BEST LOCALE FOR COORDINATING THE WORK, AND THE INTERACADEMY PANEL, THROUGH THE PLANNED INTERACADEMY CENTER, COULD FORMALLY CONVASS A NUMBER OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RESEARCH EFFORT. WE WERE ASSURED THAT THE ROYAL SOCIETY COULD BE COUNTED UPON TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY UNDER SUCH ARRANGEMENTS.

5. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: BY HOSTING THE CONFERENCE LAST MONTH, THE ROYAL SOCIETY BELIEVES THAT IT HAS DONE ITS FAIR SHARE FOR THE TIME BEING. IN ADDITION, WE DETECTED SOME RESIGNATION THAT BECAUSE THE SCIENCE COMMUNITY IN THE UK DOESN'T ENJOY PUBLIC CONFIDENCE ON THE GMO ISSUE (AS A RESULT OF BSE AND EARLIER FOOD SCARES), THE ROYAL SOCIETY WON'T GET ANY MILEAGE AT HOME FROM ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN A MULTILATERAL EFFORT. NONETHELESS, THEY ARE GUIDED BY THE DESIRE THAT POLICY MAKERS AND THE PUBLIC TAKE EVIDENCE-BASED DECISIONS, AND THEY WILL NOT STAND ON THE SIDELINES IF SOMEONE ELSE TAKES THE LEAD IN ORGANIZING A MULTILATERAL EFFORT AMONG SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS.

LADER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6306

TOR: 990721135246 M3970398

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA6574 2020146-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 210147Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 210147Z JUL 99
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO: ////
SUBJ: DEMARCHE ON GMO LABELING

TEXT:

UNCLAS STATE 136574

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, JA
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON GMO LABELING

REF: A) TOKYO 5602 B) TOKYO 5886

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED; PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. PLEASE SEE PARA 7.

2. (SBU) SUMMARY: IT APPEARS THAT JAPAN'S MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MAFF) WILL BE TAKING STEPS TO FINALIZE ITS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LABELING OF FOODS DERIVED THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY. THERE IS A REAL POSSIBILITY THAT MAFF MAY RECOMMEND MANDATORY LABELING FOR A LIST OF PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN UNALTERED DNA OR PROTEIN (REF A). SUCH A RECOMMENDATION WOULD RAISE A NUMBER OF SERIOUS CONCERNS FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS CONSISTENCY IN MAFF'S LABELING POLICY, THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR THE POLICY, AND CREATING A WORKABLE POLICY THAT IS NOT TRADE RESTRICTIVE. END SUMMARY.

3. (SBU) ON JULY 13, 1999, THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP REPORTED BACK TO THE MAFF GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE WITH A LIST OF FOODS THAT MAY CONTAIN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED INGREDIENTS WITH DETECTABLE DNA. THE SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED

TO ALLOW MAFF TO PRESENT A LABELING PROPOSAL IN LATE JULY

OR EARLY AUGUST BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP. IT IS EXPECTED THAT MAFF WILL RECOMMEND MANDATORY LABELING FOR THIS GROUP OF PRODUCTS.

4. (SBU) MAFF HAS DECIDED THAT IT WILL NOT WAIT FOR THE CODEX LABELING COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE ITS WORK BEFORE JAPAN MAKES ITS FINAL POLICY DECISION. DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THEIR LABELING POLICY, MAFF HAS BEEN NEUTRAL IN THE CODEX DISCUSSIONS. MAFF MAY BE HOPING THAT A REQUIREMENT FOR LABELING OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF INGREDIENTS WILL ALLOW THEM TO BE AN ARBITRATOR BETWEEN THE POSITION TO LABEL ALL PRODUCTS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND THE POSITION TO ONLY REQUIRE LABELING IF A FOOD HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED.

5. (SBU) BASED ON THE REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP, THE LIST OF INGREDIENTS FOR WHICH MAFF IS CONSIDERING MANDATORY LABELING INCLUDE TOFU, SOYBEAN FLOUR PLANT PROTEIN, CORN GRITS, CORN STARCH AND CORN FLOUR. WE DO NOT KNOW THE SPECIFIC CRITERIA THAT THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP USED IN MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AND THEREFORE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MAFF COULD EXTEND THIS LIST IN THE FUTURE.

6. (SBU) IF MAFF DOES REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELING, THIS WILL BE A DEPARTURE FROM ITS OTHER POLICY DECISIONS ON LABELING BASED ON CONSUMER DEMAND. FOR EXAMPLE, JAPANESE CONSUMERS HAVE ALSO ASKED FOR LABELING OF MEAT FROM CLONED ANIMALS, PRODUCTS FROM LIVESTOCK TREATED WITH HORMONES OR VETERINARY DRUGS, AND FOODS PRODUCED USING PESTICIDES. IN ALL OF THESE CASES, MAFF DECIDED NOT TO REQUIRE SPECIAL LABELING. IN ALL OF THESE CASES, DOMESTIC PRODUCTS WOULD BE AFFECTED WHEREAS, FOR THE PRESENT AT LEAST, THE BIOTECH PRODUCTS AFFECTED BY LABELING WOULD ALL BE IMPORTED PRODUCTS.

7. (SBU) ACTION REQUEST: THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER COUNSELOR IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS TO MAFF; AS APPROPRIATE, EMBASSY MAY ALSO DELIVER THE SAME DEMARCHE TO MOFA:

-- THE UNITED STATES APPRECIATES THE EFFORT THE MAFF COMMITTEE HAS MADE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS ON LABELING OF FOODS DERIVED THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY.

-- THE UNITED STATES AGREES THAT LABELING IS NECESSARY WHEN THERE IS A HEALTH OR SAFETY REASON, SUCH AS A PRESENCE OF AN ALLERGEN, OR WHEN THERE ARE CHANGES IN THE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE FOOD, SUCH AS AN ALTERED NUTRITIONAL CONTENT. IN THESE CASES, THE SPECIFIC CHANGE IS THE SUBJECT OF A LABEL, RATHER THAN THE PROCESS BY WHICH IT IS PRODUCED.

-- MAFF HAS STATED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF EXTENDING A MANDATORY LABELING REQUIREMENT TO FOOD THAT HAS BEEN PRODUCED THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY IS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE CONSUMER. THE UNITED STATES AGREES THAT IT IS

IMPORTANT FOR CONSUMERS TO HAVE INFORMATION ON FOODS THAT HAVE BEEN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MEANS OTHER THAN LABELING, SUCH AS EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND PUBLIC FORA, THAT CAN COLLECTIVELY PROVIDE MORE MEANINGFUL INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS ON GENETIC ENGINEERING.

-- THE UNITED STATES DOES SUPPORT VOLUNTARY LABELING OF BIOTECH FOODS AS LONG AS THAT LABELING IS TRUTHFUL AND NOT MISLEADING TO THE CONSUMER. AS EVIDENCED IN JAPAN, VOLUNTARY APPROACHES CAN MEET CONSUMER NEEDS, PARTICULARLY WHEN DONE IN CONJUNCTION WITH EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES. IF THE OBJECTIVE OF MAFF IS TRULY TO INFORM THE CONSUMER IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR CONSUMER CHOICE, WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE JAPAN TO FULLY EXPLORE OPTIONS SUCH AS VOLUNTARY LABELING IN CONJUNCTION WITH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS.

-- LABELING BASED SOLELY ON CONSUMER DEMAND COULD OPEN THE DOOR TO A PROLIFERATION OF INFORMATION ON THE FOOD LABEL THAT COULD ULTIMATELY SERVE TO CONFUSE OR MISLEAD THE CONSUMER, BECAUSE IT WOULD IMPLY A NON-EXISTENT DIFFERENCE IN QUALITY OR SAFETY. MAFF APPEARED TO RECOGNIZE THIS PROBLEM WHEN IT DECIDED NOT TO REQUIRE LABELING, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR MEAT FROM CLONED ANIMALS. WE WOULD EXPECT MAFF TO BE CONSISTENT IN HOW IT APPROACHES CONSUMER LABELING.

-- OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE ATTEMPTED TO INSTITUTE MANDATORY LABELING OF FOODS DERIVED THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY HAVE HAD MANY PROBLEMS WITH IMPLEMENTATION. THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO HAVE PROFOUND CONCERNS ABOUT THE EU'S POLICY ON BIOTECHNOLOGY LABELING. PRODUCERS, INDUSTRY,

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, CONSUMERS DO NOT HAVE ANY IDEA HOW IT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

-- AS WTO MEMBERS, WE ARE OBLIGATED TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES IN A MANNER NO MORE TRADE RESTRICTIVE THAN NECESSARY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK TOWARD INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION OF OUR LABELING POLICIES IN CODEX ALIMENTARIUS SO THAT WE CAN PROVIDE CONSUMERS WITH USEFUL INFORMATION THAT IS TRUTHFUL AND NOT MISLEADING. ALBRIGHT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6574

TOR: 990720215535 M3969140

DIST:

SIT: HAMMONDS HOLTZAPPLE LEE LIEBERTHAL OSIUS PRITCHARD SCHAEFER SHAH
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHKOA6029 2030905-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 220905Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
OSRI: RUEHKO
DTG: 220905Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5065
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5746
INFO: ////
SUBJ: GOJ RESPONSE TO U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING
- POSSIBLE NEW GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN
- JAPAN.

TEXT:

UNCLAS TOKYO 006029

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EB/JPP/ATT; EAP/J
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USTR FOR CUMMINGS
USDA FOR FFAS/SCHUMACHER
USDA FOR OSEC/SIDDIQUI
USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, DEATON;
FAS/FSTSD/SLUTSKY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, WTRO, JA
SUBJECT: GOJ RESPONSE TO U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING
- POSSIBLE NEW GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN
- JAPAN.

REF: STATE 136574

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED; PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY

1. (SBU) SUMMARY. ON JULY 22, 1999, AGMIN DELIVERED TALKING POINTS IN REFTEL TO KAOURU YOSHIMIURA, DIRECTOR OF MAFF STANDARDS AND LABELING DIVISION, AND SECRETARIAT OF MAFF GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE. IN RESPONSE, YOSHIMIURA SAID MAFF WILL PRESENT ITS GMO LABELING PROPOSAL AT THE NEXT MAFF GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING IN EARLY AUGUST. HE SAID MAFF WOULD CONSIDER U.S. CONCERNS BUT COULD NOT PREDICT HOW THEY WOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE FINAL DECISION.

2. (SBU) TALKING POINTS WERE ALSO DELIVERED TO KAZUYOSHI UMEMOTO, DIRECTOR, FIRST INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION (WTO DIVISION, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

BUREAU, MOFA). IN RESPONSE, UMEMOTO SAID THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN WILL TAKE NOTE OF U.S. CONCERNS AND WILL CONSIDER WTO IMPLICATIONS OF MAFF'S GMO LABELING PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

3. (SBU) ON JULY 22, 1999, AGMIN DELIVERED TALKING POINTS IN REFTEL REGARDING U.S. POSITION ON POSSIBLE NEW MANDATORY LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN JAPAN TO KAOURU YOSHIMIURA, DIRECTOR OF MAFF STANDARDS AND LABELING DIVISION, AND SECRETARIAT OF MAFF GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE.

4. (SBU) IN RESPONSE, YOSHIMIURA CONFIRMED THAT MAFF IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A DRAFT LABELING PROPOSAL, TO BE PRESENTED AT THE NEXT LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING IN EARLY AUGUST. HE SAID MAFF WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT U.S. CONCERNS, BUT COULD NOT PREDICT HOW THE CONCERNS WOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE FINAL DECISION. HE MENTIONED THAT MAFF WILL MAKE ITS FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS BY MID-AUGUST.

5. (SBU) IN RESPONSE TO U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING POTENTIAL NEGATIVE TRADE IMPACTS FROM MANDATORY LABELING, YOSHIMIURA SAID MAFF IS "DOING WHAT IT CAN TO MINIMIZE TRADE IMPACTS". HE ADDED THAT TRADE IMPACTS FROM LABELING OF PRODUCTS ON THE LIST--MANDATORY OR VOLUNTARY--WOULD BE MINIMAL DUE TO THE LIMITED AMOUNT OF TRADE INVOLVED AND GROWING SUPPLIES OF NON-GMO CORN AND SOYBEANS IN THE UNITED STATES. IN RESPONSE, AGMIN MENTIONED THAT GROWING SUPPLIES OF NON-GMO CORN AND BEANS PROVE INDUSTRY IS RESPONDING VOLUNTARILY TO THE NEEDS OF THE MARKET, FURTHER NEGATING THE NEED FOR MANDATORY LABELING.

6. (SBU) IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCERN THAT THE POSITIVE LIST COULD BE EXPANDED IN THE FUTURE TO INCLUDE OTHER ITEMS, SUCH AS SOYBEAN OIL, FURTHER RAISING THE POTENTIAL FOR NEGATIVE TRADE IMPACTS, YOSHIMIURA RESPONDED THAT SOYBEAN OIL IS EXCLUDED FROM THE POSITIVE LIST BECAUSE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETECT FOREIGN DNA IN UNREFINED OIL.

7. (SBU) TALKING POINTS IN REFTEL WERE DELIVERED SEPARATELY TO KAZUYOSHI UMEMOTO, DIRECTOR, FIRST INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION (WTO DIVISION, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS). IN RESPONSE, UMEMOTO SAID THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN WILL TAKE NOTE OF U.S. CONCERNS AND WILL CONSIDER WTO IMPLICATIONS (OF JAPAN'S GMO LABELING PROPOSAL). COMMENTING ON THE NEED FOR LABELING, UMEMOTO SAID THAT MAFF IS UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM CONSUMER GROUPS AND NGOS FOR MORE TRANSPARENCY. FINALLY, UMEMOTO NOTED THAT JAPAN HAS IDENTIFIED GMOS AS A SUBJECT FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NEXT WTO ROUND.
FOLEY

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6029

TOR: 990722052211 M3971492

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA4695 2041530-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 231530Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 231530Z JUL 99
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC//NEC/CEQ//
SUBJ: EP REQUEST FOR U.S./EU HEARING ON GMO'S

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 004695

STATE PASS USTR SCHER, MURPHY, NOVELLI,CUMMINGS, MOWREY
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
USDA/OS/SIDDIQUI
USDA/FAS FOR OA/GALVIN; ITP/GRUEFF/MACKE/SLUTSKY

POSTS PASS TO AGRICULTURE AND ECON
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE
STATE FOR G,OES, EUR/ERA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, EUN, OREP
SUBJECT: EP REQUEST FOR U.S./EU HEARING ON GMO'S

1. ON JULY 20, USEU RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEMBER ERIKA MANN REQUESTING CONSIDERATION OF A JOINT U.S./EU HEARING ON GMO'S. WE NOTE THAT THIS REQUEST IS ADDRESSED TO OUTGOING COMMISSIONERS AND WE EXPECT THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR A FOLLOW-UP REQUEST TO THE NEW COMMISSION.

2. BEGIN TEXT:
PLEASE FIND ATTACHED FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE LETTER MS. MANN SENT TO THE COMMISSIONERS BJERREGAARD, FISCHLER AND SIR LEON BRITTAN WITH REGARD TO A JOINT GMO HEARING IN BRUSSELS. MOREOVER THE GERMAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO THE EU, MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, U.S. CONGRESSMEN, THE ASSISTANT USTR FOR AGRICULTURE PETER SCHER, THE UNDERSECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FARM AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE SERVICES AUGUST SCHUMACHER AND

UNDERSECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AMBASSADOR DAVID AARON HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THE LETTER.

KINDEST REGARDS,
CARENA HUELSZ,ASSISTANT
BURO ERIKA MANN
EUROPAISCHES PARLAMENT
RUE WIERTZ
12 G 342
B-1047 BRSSEL

END TEXT

3. TEXT, OF LETTER TO ACTING COMMISSIONER BJERREGAARD FOLLOWS.

BEGIN TEXT

TO
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
MS. RITT BJERREGAARD
RUE DE LA LOI 200
B-1049 BRUXELLES

BRUSSEL, DEN 15. JULI 1999
NO 99-25

DEAR COMMISSIONER BJERREGAARD,

ON JUNE 29, 1999 I HAD A MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AMBASSADOR DAVID AARON IN WASHINGTON. WE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY TO ORGANIZE A JOINT HEARING IN BRUSSELS ON GMO (SIC) INVOLVING PARLIAMENTARIANS, GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND EXPERTS. THE ASSISTANT USTR FOR AGRICULTURE(SIC), PETER SCHER AND THE UNDERSECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FARM AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE SERVICES, AUGUST SCHUMAKER (SIC), WHO I MET TWO DAYS LATER, IN GENERAL SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF A EU-U.S. HEARING ON THIS TOPIC.

AT THE TRANSATLANTIC SUMMIT IN BONN ON JUNE 21, 1999 THE EU AND U.S. HAVE AGREED TO PURSUE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON FOOD SAFETY AND EMPHASIZED THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THEIR RESPECTIVE LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY INITIATIVES IN FOOD SAFETY WHICH COULD RELATE TO TRANSATLANTIC TRADE. GIVEN THE RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR WORKING TOGETHER ON ISSUES OF HEALTH AND CONSUMER SAFETY, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO SET UP A HEARING ON THIS SUBJECT.

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR POSITIVE RESPONSE.

YOURS SINCERELY,

ERIKA MANN, MEP

CC: COMMISSIONER FRANZ FISCHLER
COMMISSIONER SIR LEON BRITTAN

END TEXT

4. ERIKA MANN IS A GERMAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (MEP) WHO HAS SERVED ON THE COMMITTEE FOR EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND PARTICIPATES IN THE TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATIVE DIALOGUE (TLD). IN THE NEW PARLIAMENTARY TERM, WHICH BEGAN JULY 20, SHE WILL SERVE ON THE NEWLY FORMED COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRY, EXTERNAL TRADE, RESEARCH, AND ENERGY AND PROBABLY ALSO ON THE DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., WHICH CONDUCTS THE TLD WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. SHE IS THE PARLIAMENT'S EXPERT ON US/EU TRADE ISSUES AND OFTEN SUPPORTS U.S. INTERESTS.
5. MS. MANN'S CALL FOR A JOINT U.S./EU HEARING ON GMOS REFLECTS THE DESIRES OF SEVERAL MEPS WHO ARE SEEKING MORE EDUCATION ON GMOS. HEARINGS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP) ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE IN THE U.S. THEY ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND ALL MEPS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE. THE EP HAS "CO-DECISION" AUTHORITY ON ALL "ENVIRONMENTAL" LEGISLATION (INCLUDING THE REVISION OF 90/220 LEGISLATION ON GMO PRODUCT APPROVALS). THE EP WILL THEREFORE HAVE AN IMPORTANT VOICE IN FUTURE GMO LEGISLATION THAT WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT EFFECT ON U.S. INTERESTS.

6. COMMENT: ON JANUARY 20-21, 2000, EMBASSY THE HAGUE WILL HOST AN EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR FOR NON-SCIENTISTS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY TO EDUCATE POLICY-MAKERS, POLITICIANS, CONSUMERS, AND OPINION LEADERS ABOUT THE MEANING, POTENTIAL, AND CHALLENGES OF BIOTECHNOLOGY.
SIMILAR EFFORTS, SUCH AS PROPOSED BY MS. MANN, TARGETED AT PARLIAMENT COULD BE A CONSTRUCTIVE MEDIUM FOR INFLUENCING EU POLICY. A FALL HEARING WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE U.S. REGULATORY AND POLICY APPROACH TO GMO ISSUES AND FOOD SAFETY IN GENERAL AND LAUNCH A PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE EP IN THIS AREA. IT MIGHT ALSO BE A GOOD PLATFORM TO CONVEY OUR CONCERNS ON THE REVISION OF 90/220 WHICH IS EXPECTED TO COME BEFORE THE EP THIS FALL FOR A SECOND READING. MORE THAN HALF OF THE MEPS ARE NEWLY ELECTED AND WANT TO BE INFORMED OF KEY ISSUES BEFORE PARLIAMENT. ADDRESSING OUR COMMENTS IN AN EDUCATIONAL FORUM RATHER THAN DIRECT COMMENT WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

7. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, MS. MANN'S REQUEST HAS NOT YET BEEN ADDRESSED TO THE U.S. SHE HAS TOLD US SHE PLANS TO INVITE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED JOINT HEARING. SHE PARTICULARLY MENTIONED CONGRESSMEN BOUCHER AND GOODELATTE AS HAVING EXPRESSED INTEREST DURING HER JUNE 28-JULY 3 MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON. IF SUCH AN INVITATION IS RECEIVED, POST WOULD ENCOURAGE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF A HEARING WHICH WOULD INCORPORATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND SCIENTISTS PARTICIPATION. POST STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS INITIATIVE. IF WASHINGTON

CHOOSES TO ACCEPT THIS ANTICIPATED FORTHCOMING
INVITATION, WE REQUEST WASHINGTON IDENTIFY A SPECIFIC
POINT PERSON FOR FOLLOW-UP. END COMMENT. MORNINGSTAR

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4695

TOR: 990723160932 M3975017

DIST:

SIT: BLINKEN BREMNER DAVIDSON GORDON HAMMONDS HOLTZAPPLE LEE MOYN NORLAND
SAPIRO SCHAEFER SHAH VONLIPSEY
SIT: NSC

Cable

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/14/14
2016-0584-M (2.47)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHBYA2490 2090717-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 280717Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
OSRI: RUEHBY
DTG: 280717Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4317
INFO: RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0805
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 3043
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0782
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0180
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0172
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0108
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0356
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 2575
RUEHBAD/AMCONSUL PERTH 0796
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 9141
RUEHWLB/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND 0132
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0551
SUBJ: BIOSAFETY: LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

TEXT:
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 CANBERRA 002490

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
DEPARTMENT PASS USDA
USDA ALSO FOR FAS
USDA FOR OFFICE OF SECRETARY (SIDDIQUI)
FAS FOR ADMINISTRATOR TGALVIN
FAS ALSO FOR ITP/PSHEIKH/BSIMMONS/BSLUTSKY
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: 03/10/09
TAGS: SENV, EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, BEXP, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

REF: (A) CANBERRA 748; (B) CANBERRA 718; (C) WELLINGTON
254 (NOTAL); (D
) 98
SYDNEY 2296 (NOTAL)

(U) CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC OFFICER BRIAN SILER FOR REASON 1.5 (B).

1. ~~(C)~~ THE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL (ANZFSC) WILL MEET ON AUGUST 3 TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR LABELING OF FOODS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS). ANZFSC IS COMPOSED OF THE HEALTH MINISTERS OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE HEALTH MINISTERS FROM THE SIX STATES AND TWO TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA. ANZFSC WILL BE CONSIDERING FIVE PROPOSALS DURING THIS MEETING: THREE WOULD REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELING, ONE WOULD ALLOW VOLUNTARY LABELING UNDER A CODE OF PRACTICE, AND ONE WOULD REQUIRE MANDATORY DISCLOSURE OF GMO INFORMATION AT POINT OF SALE. END SUMMARY

2. (U) BACKGROUND: IN DECEMBER 1998, ANZFSC DIRECTED THE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY (ANZFA) TO PREPARE A DRAFT STANDARD REQUIRING LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD WHERE THE FOOD IS SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THE TRADITIONAL FORM OF THAT FOOD (REF B). ANZFSC HAD PREVIOUSLY APPROVED A STANDARD (A18) THAT REQUIRED FOODS PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY THAT WERE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE TRADITIONAL FORM OF THAT FOOD TO BE LABELED ACCORDINGLY.

3. ~~(C)~~ ANZFA STAFF HAVE NOW PREPARED FIVE ALTERNATIVES FOR THE HEALTH MINISTERS TO CONSIDER. THE FIRST THREE REQUIRE SOME FORM OF MANDATORY LABELING. ANZFA STAFF CONTACTS DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY OF THESE THREE OPTIONS ARE WORKABLE. THEY HAVE THUS PROPOSED TWO ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION THAT DO NOT REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELING, BUT DO PROVIDE GMO INFORMATION FOR CONSUMERS.

4. ~~(C)~~ ONE OPTION WOULD ENABLE THE INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR VOLUNTARY LABELING. THIS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AND MONITORED BY THE INDUSTRY. ANZFA STAFF INDICATED THAT ANZFSC IS UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT THIS OPTION, GIVEN ANZFSC'S EARLIER DECISION TO REQUIRE LABELING, AND INCREASING PRESS COVERAGE OF THE GMO DEBATE. ANZFA IS THUS PUSHING THE FIFTH OPTION OF MANDATORY PROVISION OF INFORMATION. UNDER THIS OPTION, MANUFACTURES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW A CODE OF PRACTICE THAT REQUIRED THEM TO PROVIDE GMO INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS AT THE POINT OF SALE. IT WOULD BE UP TO MANUFACTURES TO DETERMINE HOW TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION. THEY COULD FOR EXAMPLE, PROVIDE PAMPHLETS, HAVE A TOLL FREE CONSUMER INFORMATION NUMBER, OR LABEL THE PRODUCT. ANZFA AND THE INDUSTRY WOULD JOINTLY DEVELOP A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PROVISION OF THE INFORMATION. AS IN THE CASE FOR ALL FOOD STANDARDS, STATES AND TERRITORIES IN AUSTRALIA WOULD ENFORCE THE STANDARD.

5. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT: IN DECEMBER, BY A MAJORITY VOTE, ANZFSC REJECTED AN ANZFA RECOMMENDATION THAT FOODS CONTAINING GMOS THAT WERE SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT DID NOT HAVE TO BE LABELED. ANZFSC THEN DIRECTED ANZFA TO PREPARE STANDARDS FOR MANDATORY LABELING. SINCE THE VOTE, THE MANUFACTURING AND GROCERY INDUSTRIES, STATE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE, AND FARM GROUPS HAVE EXPENDED CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO

CONVINCE THE HEALTH MINISTERS THAT MANDATORY LABELING IS NOT PRACTICAL. THEY HAVE TOLD ANZFSC THAT MANDATORY LABELING HAS SIGNIFICANT COSTS, IT WILL NOT PROVIDE NEEDED INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS, AND COULD RUN COUNTER TO WTO RULES. HOWEVER, GIVEN ANZFSC'S INITIAL DECISION AND ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 CANBERRA 002490

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/ANP, OES/ETC
DEPARTMENT PASS USTR
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/09
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SUBJECT: BIOSAFETY: LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

INCREASING PRESS ATTENTION GIVEN TO GMOS, IT IS LIKELY THAT ANZFSC WILL REQUIRE SOME FORM OF MANDATORY INFORMATION ON FOODS CONTAINING GMOS. THE VOTE MAY BE CLOSE ON HOW MUCH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NECESSARY AND HOW THAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED, BUT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT SOME MANDATORY INFORMATION ON GMOS WILL BE REQUIRED. AS THE FOOD STANDARDS DECISION MAKING BODY, ANZFSC HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT, CHANGE ANY ASPECT OR ADD NEW ELEMENTS, OR REJECT ANZFA RECOMMENDATIONS. ANZFA STAFF ARE CLEARLY AWARE OF THEIR WTO OBLIGATIONS AND ARE PUSHING THE OPTION THAT MINIMIZES TRADE IMPACTS. END COMMENT

BELLAMY

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

SSN: 2490
<^SSN>2490

TOR: 990728032035 M3980369
<^TOR>990728031844 M3980364

DIST:
SIT: ARVIZU LIEBERTHAL
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHMEA6893 2092250-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 282250Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
OSRI: RUEHME
DTG: 282250Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5683
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO: ////
SUBJ: MEXICO ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 006893

SENSITIVE

FOR EB/TPP/ATT/ATP/MBRUNO

FOR FAS/ITP/DA/SHEIKH; ITP/MTND/HENKE;
ITP/FSTSD/HARBERT; ITP/AAD/SCHWARTZ

PASS USTR/JMELLE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, SENV, ECON, KSCA, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

REF: SECSTATE 113313

1.(U) SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

2. (SBU) SUMMARY. THE GOM IS UNDER INCREASING PUBLIC PRESSURE TO DEVELOP POLICY CONCERNING GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO IMPORTED U.S. AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES. AN ANTI-GMO SENTIMENT WAS ALSO REINFORCED BY REPORTS THAT MEXICO'S PRIZED MONARCH BUTTERFLIES WERE THREATENED BY U.S. GMO CORN. PRESIDENT ZEDILLO HAS RESPONDED BY FORMING TWO COMMISSIONS TO STUDY THE ISSUE AND DEVELOP POLICY. USDA OFFICIALS HAVE BROACHED THE SUBJECT WITH THE SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE (SAGAR) AND SEVERAL AGRICULTURAL NGOS, ALL OF WHOM ARE IN SUPPORT OF GMOS AND AGREE THAT MORE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC. END SUMMARY.
PRESSURE ON THE GOM
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3. (SBU) THERE IS INCREASING PUBLIC OPPOSITION IN MEXICO REGARDING GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS, LED BY GREENPEACE. SPECIFICALLY, IMPORTS OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES HAVE BEEN TARGETED, NAMELY CORN AND COTTON. THERE IS PRESSURE ON THE GOM TO RESTRICT ACCESS, A SENTIMENT REINFORCED BY REPORTS THAT MEXICO'S PRIZED MONARCH BUTTERFLY POPULATION IS THREATENED BY GMO CORN GROWN IN THE U.S. IN RESPONSE, PRESIDENT ZEDILLO ANNOUNCED IN JUNE THE FORMATION OF TWO NEW COMMISSIONS: THE BIOSECURITY COMMISSION; AND THE EXECUTIVE INTERSECRETARIAL (INTER-AGENCY) COMMISSION. THE FORMER IS HEADED BY DR. LUIS ALBERTO AGUIRRE, SAGAR'S DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PLANT HEALTH, WHO RECENTLY TOLD US THAT HE WAS "STUDYING" THE ISSUE. THE COMMISSIONS ARE CHARGED WITH DEVELOPING NATIONAL POLICY ON GMOS. (COMMENT: AGUIRRE IS INFAMOUS FOR PLAYING QUID PRO QUO ON MARKET ACCESS ISSUES. END COMMENT.)

ROLE OF USDA AND CIMMYT

4. (U) THE ISSUE OF GMOS WAS ALSO THE PRINCIPAL INTEREST OF USDA'S U/S FOR FARM AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES, AUGUST SCHUMACHER, JR., AND U/S FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS, MIEY GONZALEZ, WHEN THEY VISITED MEXICO-BASED CIMYT (THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR MAIZE AND WEAT IMPROVEMENT) IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THISYEAR'S MEETING OF THE U.S.-MEXICO BINATIONALCOMMISSION (BNC) IN MEXICO CITY. WHILE THERE, THE USDA OFFICIALS ENLISTED AND RECEIVED STRONG GMO SUPPORT FROM CIMMYT'S NOBEL LAUREATE, NORMAN BORLAUG (WHEAT - GREEN REVOLUTION). IN FACT, DR. BORLAUG JOINED U/S SCHUMACHER AND SAGAR U/S FOR AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK, FRANCISCO GURRIA, IN TWO PHONED-IN INTERVIEWS TO U.S. RADIO, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF GMO DEVELOPMENT IN FEEDING THE GROWING WORLD POPULATION. DR. BORLAUG AND THE CIMMYT ORGANIZATION BOTH THINK THAT THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY HAS BEEN REMISS IN EDUCATING THE PUBLIC PRIOR TO AND DURING THE ATTACKS AGAINST GMOS.

SUPPORT OF U.S. FARM TRADE GROUPS IN MEXICO

5. (SBU) POST'S AGRICULTURE OFFICE (FAS) HAS ALSO BEEN APPROACHED BY LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF USDA'S MARKET DEVELOPMENT COOPERATOR PROGRAM - THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION (ASA), U.S. GRAINS COUNCIL (USGC) AND U.S. WHEAT ASSOCIATES (USWA) - WHO ARE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR BELIEF THAT NOW IS THE RIGHT TIME TO APPROACH MEXICAN POLICY MAKERS WITH THE FACTS SUPPORTIVE OF GMO. IN PARTICULAR, ASA'S MEXICO OFFICE REPORTS THAT IT IS PLANNING SEVERAL ACTIVITIES SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSING GMO, INCLUDING MEXICAN TRADE TEAMS TO THE U.S. ASA HAS ALSO CONTRACTED THE LOCAL OFFICE OF AN INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM TO DEVELOP A RECOMMENDED ACTION

PLAN. USGC AND USWA, AS W
ELL, HAVE BOTH EXPRESSED
STRONG INTEREST IN TAKING ACTION, A POSITION WHICH WILL
CERTAINLY BE SUPPORTED BY THE LOCAL OFFICE OF COTTON
INCORPORATED (CI).

SAGAR INTEREST AND SUPPORT
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 006893

SENSITIVE

FOR EB/TPP/ATT/ATP/MBRUNO

FOR FAS/ITP/DA/SHEIKH; ITP/MTND/HENKE;
ITP/FSTSD/HARBERT; ITP/AAD/SCHWARTZ

PASS USTR/JMELLE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, SENV, ECON, KSCA, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

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6. (SBU) AT A MEETING IN MID-JULY WITH SAGAR U/S FOR POLICY AND PLANNING, ANDRES CASCO, HE WAS PLEASED TO RECEIVE FROM POST A COPY OF THE RECENT NEWS RELEASE ABOUT USDA SECRETARY GLICKMAN'S PRESENTATION TO THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB. MR. CASCO SAID THAT THE GOM RECOGNIZES THAT THE BENEFITS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND GMO FAR EXCEED THE RISKS, AND THAT THE PURPOSE OF MEXICO'S NEW BIOSECURITY COMMISSION IS TO ESTABLISH RULES FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WANTS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH USDA TO DEVELOP AND SHARE INFORMATION FOR THE MEXICAN PUBLIC. HE POINTED OUT THAT BESIDES CIMMYT, MEXICO IS ALSO THE HOME OF GRUPO PULSAR, ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRODUCERS OF TRANSGENIC HORTICULTURAL SEED FOR EXPORT; NOVARTIS AND MONSANTO ALSO PRODUCE GMO IN MEXICO.

GOM CONTACT POINTS

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7. (SBU) PRINCIPAL GOM CONTACT POINTS WHOM POST BELIEVES WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO THE U.S. POSITION ON GMOS INCLUDE SAGAR UNDER SECRETARIES FRANCISCO GURRIA AND ANDRES CASCO, MENTIONED ABOVE. OTHER SAGAR OFFICIALS CERTAINLY INVOLVED WITH THIS ISSUE INCLUDE: DR. LUIS ALBERTO AGUIRRE (PARA 1); DR. JAIME ALMONTE, DG FOR INTL AFFAIRS; AND DR. JORGE KONDO, DG FOR RESEARCH. DR. KONDO IS ALSO ON THE NEW BIOSECURITY COMMISSION, WORKS CLOSELY WITH USDA'S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS), AND WILL LIKELY BE RECEPTIVE TO THE USG POSITION. IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, THE MEXICAN LEAD IS EDUARDO SOLIS, THE SECRETARIAT OF TRADE'S (SECOFI) GENERAL COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE. DIRECTLY UNDER HIM IS HUMBERTO JASSO, DG FOR INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS,

WHO WE WORK CLOSELY WITH ON U.S.-MEXICO TRADE ISSUES. BOTH OF THESE OFFICIALS WILL CERTAINLY BE ENGAGED IN ANY POLICY DECISIONS REGARDING GMO TRADE.

NGO SUPPORT
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8. (U) AMONG AGRICULTURAL NGOS IN MEXICO, THE MOST PROMINENT IN SUPPORT OF GMOS IS CLEARLY CIMMYT AND DR. NORMAN BORLAUG. CIMMYT'S CURRENT DIRECTOR GENERAL IS DR. TIMOTHY REEVES, AN AUSTRALIAN. IN ADDITION, THE MEXICO OFFICES/DIRECTORS OF USDA'S MARKET DEVELOPMENT COOPERATORS - ASA/HANS HOYER, USFGC/RICARDO CELMA, USWA/MITCH SKALICKY AND CI/GERARDO LASTIRI - CAN BE RELIED ON TO PROVIDE ACTIVE SUPPORT.

DAVIDOW

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

SSN: 6893
<^SSN>6893

TOR: 990728185110 M3981782
<^TOR>990728185200 M3981784

DIST:
SIT: ARMSTRONG AVERY ORFINI RICE SANDALOW SHANNON VALENZUELA
SIT: NSC
PRT: STERN

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHULA4233 2110507-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 300507Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
OSRI: RUEHUL
DTG: 300507Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1045
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1001
SUBJ: GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO) - OPUS

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 SEOUL 004233

USDA FOR FAS/ITP/SIMMONS/SLUSTSKY/FECITT/KOTSCHWAR;
- APHIS/PPQ/IS/GUPTA

STATE FOR EAP/K/THORTON AND EB/TPP/ATT/ATP/BRUNO

PASS USFDA FOR JAMES MARYANSKI

PASS USTR FOR PHILLIPS/LATIMER

USDOC FOR 4430/IEP/OPB/EAP/WGOLICK

GENEVA FOR USTR AND AG MIN-COUNSELOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, KS
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO) - OPUS

REF: SECSTATE 113313

1. THIS IS IN REPLY TO SECSTATE 113313, DATED JUNE 17, 1999.

STATUS OF GMO REGULATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
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2. THE KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PASSED THE AGRICULTURAL & FISHERY PRODUCT QUALITY CONTROL ACT IN DECEMBER, 1998. THIS ACT PROVIDED THE LEGAL BASIS FOR THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT TO REQUIRE LABELING FOR PRODUCTS PRODUCED THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY. THIS ACT ALLOWS FOR THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION AS OF JULY 1, 1999.
3. ON APRIL 12, 1999, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY (MAF) ANNOUNCED IN ITS GOVERNMENT GAZETTE A DRAFT

PROPOSAL FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE OF THE AGRICULTURAL & FISHERY PRODUCT QUALITY CONTROL ACT. THE DOMESTIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDED MAY 3, 1999. THE PROPOSAL CONTAINED GENERAL CRITERIA FOR WHAT TYPE OF FOOD PRODUCTS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO LABELING AND THE PENALTIES THAT WOULD BE IMPOSED WHEN SOMEONE FAILS TO COMPLY. HOWEVER, THIS PROPOSAL FAILS TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC PRODUCTS THAT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO LABELING AND SPECIFICS FOR THE LABEL, SUCH AS WORDING, FONT SIZE, LOCATION OF LABEL, ETC. IT LEAVES IT UP TO THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY TO DECIDE.

4. THIS DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE WAS NOTIFIED TO THE WTO ON MAY 3, 1999. (G/TBT/NOTIFICATION 99.204). THE MAY 3 WTO NOTIFICATION CONTAINED THE SAME INFORMATION AS THE APRIL 12 DOMESTIC GAZETTE ANNOUNCEMENT.

5. ON MAY 23, 1999: MAF PREPARED A NEW DRAFT "PRESIDENTIAL DECREE OF THE AGRICULTURAL & FISHERY PRODUCT QUALITY CONTROL ACT." THIS DRAFT WAS NOT SUBMITTED TO THE WTO NOR TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO MAF, THE MAY 23 DRAFT WAS PROVIDED TO WTO MEMBER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE USG. FOLLOWING IS OUR TRANSLATION OF THE NEW DRAFT. HOWEVER, THIS PROPOSAL AGAIN FAILS TO PROVIDE SPECIFICS FOR THE ACTUAL LABELING AND LEAVES IT UP TO THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE A& FORESTRY OR THE MINISTER OF MARITIME AFFAIRS & FISHERIES TO DECIDE PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO LABELING. POST IS NOT AWARE OF ANY LIST THAT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED UP TO THIS POINT.

6. RELEVANT ARTICLES OF THE MAY 23, 1999, DRAFT "PRESIDENTIAL DECREE OF THE AGRICULTURAL & FISHERY PRODUCTS QUALITY CONTROL ACT:

A. ARTICLE 27 (ITEMS SUBJECT TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL & FISHERY PRODUCT LABELING: HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS GMO LABELING)

B. ARTICLE 27-1: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF ARTICLE 16-3 OF THE AGRICULTURE & FISHERY PRODUCT QUALITY CONTROL ACT, AMONG THE FOLLOWING, ITEMS SUBJECT TO GMO LABELING WILL BE THOSE THAT ARE DESIGNATED AND NOTIFIED BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY OR THE MINISTER OF MARITIME AFFAIRS & FISHERIES AMONG THE FOLLOWING:

B-1. ITEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED THAT THEIR CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS COMPONENTS, NUTRITION VALUE OR INTENDED USE, ALLERGENCITY, ETC. ARE DIFFERENT FROM THEIR CONVENTIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY PRODUCTS.

B-2. ITEMS WHICH CAUSE ETHICAL PROBLEMS, SUCH AS AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY PRODUCTS WHERE HUMAN GENES ARE INTRODUCED INTO THE PLANT OR ANIMAL, ETC.

B-3. OTHER ITEMS THAT ARE DESIGNATED BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY OR THE MINISTER OF MARITIME & FISHERIES IF DEEMED NECESSARY.

C. ARTICLE 27-2: AS FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL

AND FISHERY PRODUCTS OTHER THAN THE ABOVE ITEMS SUBJECT TO THE GMO LABELING, PEOPLE CAN VOLUNTARILY LABEL ITEMS THAT ARE GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY PRODUCTS. ALSO, AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY PRODUCTS WHICH ARE NOT GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS CAN VOLUNTARILY LABEL THAT THE ITEMS ARE NOT GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05 SEOUL 004233

USDA FOR FAS/ITP/SIMMONS/SLUSTSKY/FECITT/KOTSCHWAR;
- APHIS/PPQ/IS/GUPTA

STATE FOR EAP/K/THORTON AND EB/TPP/ATT/ATP/BRUNO

PASS USFDA FOR JAMES MARYANSKI

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GENEVA FOR USTR AND AG MIN-COUNSELOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, KS
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO) - OPUS

PRODUCTS.

D. ARTICLE 28 (LABELING STANDARDS, ETC. OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURE & FISHERY PRODUCTS)

E. ARTICLE 28-1: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF ARTICLE 16-3 OF THE ACT, LABELING STANDARDS FOR ITEMS SUBJECT TO GMO LABELING ARE AS FOLLOWS.

E-1. AS FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, IT SHOULD BE LABELED "GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS." AS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, IT SHOULD BE LABELED "CONTAINS GENETICALLY MODIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS." HOWEVER, IF ITEMS FALL UNDER A. AND B. OF THE ABOVE ARTICLE 27 - 1, DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GIVEN ITEM COMPARED TO THE CONVENTIONAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND CHARACTERISTICS THAT CAUSE ETHICAL PROBLEMS MUST BE LABELED.

E-2. AS FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED FISHERY PRODUCTS, IT SHOULD BE LABELED "GENETICALLY MODIFIED FISHERY PRODUCTS." AS FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED FISHERY PRODUCTS, IT SHOULD BE LABELED "CONTAINS GENETICALLY MODIFIED FISHERY PRODUCTS." HOWEVER, IF ITEMS FALLS UNDER A. AND B. OF THE ABOVE ARTICLE 27-1, DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GIVEN ITEM COMPARED TO THE CONVENTIONAL FISHERY PRODUCTS AND CHARACTERISTICS THAT CAUSE ETHICAL PROBLEMS MUST BE LABELED.

E-3. ARTICLE 28-2: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE PROVISION OF A OF ARTICLE 27, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISION OF ARTICLE 16-3 OF THE ACT, LABELING FOR ITEMS SUBJECT TO THE GMO LABELING SHOULD BE DONE ON THE SURFACE OF THE PACKAGE/CONTAINER OF

THE GIVEN AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY PRODUCT OR DONE AT THE SALES POINT, ETC., ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING METHODS. THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY OR THE MINISTER OF MARITIME AFFAIRS & FISHERY CAN ESTABLISHED AND NOTIFIED DETAILS TO THE LABELING METHOD.

E-5. LABELED WITH FONTS WHICH FINAL PURCHASER CAN READ EASILY

E-6. LABELED IN A PLACE WHERE IT CAN BE EASILY RECOGNIZED

E-7. LABELED IN A METHOD WHICH CAN NOT BE EASILY ERASED NOR DETACHED

F. ARTICLE 28-3: THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY CAN DESIGNATE AND NOTIFY AN INSPECTION AGENCY FOR SAMPLES IF DEEMED NECESSARY IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY ARE GMO PRODUCTS OR NOT.

7. THE KOREA FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION (KFDA) ALSO PUT OUT A DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFETY EVALUATION GUIDELINES FOR GMO FOOD AND FOOD ADDITIVES. THIS PROPOSAL WAS NOTIFIED TO THE WTO ON APRIL 16, 1999, (G/SPS/N/KOR/55). THE COMMENT PERIOD ENDED AS OF MAY 31, 1999 AND KFDA IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING THE COMMENTS. THE KFDA PROPOSAL DOES NOT COVER ANY REQUIREMENT ON LABELING.

8. KFDA SENT INQUIRIES TO MAJOR TRADING COUNTRIES AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF GATHERING INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICES OF EACH COUNTRY, REGARDING THE LABELING OF GMO FOOD PRODUCTS.

9. DEVELOPMENT OF KOREAN GMOS: THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION HAS FINISHED DEVELOPING EIGHT DIFFERENT TYPES OF GMO PRODUCTS, INCLUDING TOBACCO, RED PEPPER, CHINESE CABBAGES, ETC. HOWEVER, THE PRODUCTS ARE STILL UNDERGOING CONFINED FIELD TEST AND HAVE NOT BEEN PUT INTO COMMERCIAL CHANNELS.

10. CONSUMER GROUPS REACTIONS: THE CONSENSUS AMONG CONSUMER GROUPS IS THAT THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE IT MANDATORY TO LABEL PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS, I.E., KOREAN CONSUMER GROUPS ARE FOLLOWING THE EU POSITION ON ASKING FOR "REVERSE BURDEN OF PROOF OF ABSOLUTE SAFETY", OTHERWISE, MAKE IT MANDATORY TO LABEL THE GMO PRODUCTS. AS ONE REPORTER STATED, THE PROBLEM WITH THE KOREAN CONSUMER GROUPS IS THAT MOST OF THE GROUPS ARE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONSUMER SAFETY BUT ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE POLITICAL
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 05 SEOUL 004233

USDA FOR FAS/ITP/SIMMONS/SLUSTSKY/FECITT/KOTSCHWAR;
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, KS
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO) - OPUS

IMPLICATIONS.

11. PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE GOVERNMENT ACTIONS: THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN FULLY SUCCESSFUL IN EDUCATING THE GENERAL PUBLIC NOT THE CONSUMER GROUPS ON THE SAFETY ASPECT OF GMO PRODUCTS. THUS, DEPENDING ON HOW STRONG THE CONSUMER GROUPS VOICE MAY BE, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IS LIABLE TO INTRODUCE A LIST OF PRODUCTS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO LABELING. THE BARRIERS FOR PREVENTING THIS FROM ACTUALLY TAKING PLACE ARE, 1) LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS IN VERIFYING THE TRUTH OF THE LABEL, 2) KOREA IS ONLY 30 PERCENT SELF-SUFFICIENT IN ITS FOOD SUPPLY, 3) LACK OF SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR REQUIRING LABELING OF GMO PRODUCTS, 4) CONCERN ABOUT TRADE DISPUTES THAT MAY COME ABOUT IF KOREA REQUIRES LABELING, 5) LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS OF REQUIRING LABELING FOR BULK PRODUCTS THAT ARE FURTHER PROCESSED.

IDEAS ON HOW TO OVERCOME MARKET ACCESS BARRIERS:

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12. BACKGROUND: POST HAS TAKEN SEVERAL PRO-ACTIVE MEASURES BY WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE RELEVANT KOREAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, ACADEMIA, CONSUMER GROUPS, INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND MEDIA. POST HAS ARRANGED VISITS IN 1999 FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO VISIT KOREA AND MEET WITH THE GROUPS LISTED ABOVE. U.S. DELEGATIONS THAT VISITED KOREA INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE USDA ANIMAL PLANT & HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS) AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE, US FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD INFORMATION COUNCIL. THE VISITS BY THESE GROUPS PROVED TO BE INFORMATIVE AND USEFUL. USIS HAS DONE SEVERAL SEMINARS WITH THE KOREAN PRESS WHERE THE GMO ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED.

13. CONSUMER GROUPS: BASED ON FEEDBACK FROM THE ABOVE VISITS, CHANGING THE POSITION OF THE CONSUMER GROUPS IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED SOON. POST RECOMMENDS THAT PROVIDING FACTUAL INFORMATION AND QUICKLY ADDRESSING WRONG INFORMATION PUT OUT BY THE CONSUMER GROUPS IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF DEALING WITH THE KOREAN CONSUMERS ON THIS ISSUE.

14. MEDIA: MORE EMPHASIS NEEDS TO BE GIVEN TO PROVIDING FACTUAL INFORMATION TO THE MEDIA. IN KOREA, HOUSEWIVES WHO MAKE THE DECISION ON WHAT TO BUY ARE INFLUENCED BY MEDIA REPORTING. GENERALLY, THE KOREA PUBLIC TENDS TO BELIEVE EVERYTHING IN THE MEDIA AS FACTUAL AND ONCE FALSE INFORMATION IS DISSEMINATED, IT IS DIFFICULT TO CHANGE THE MINDS OF THE READERS. ORIENTATION TOURS FOR THE MEDIA TO THE UNITED STATES TO VISIT WITH USG FOOD SAFETY AGENCIES AND TO SEE THE SAFETY TESTING OF GMO PRODUCTS AND THE PRACTICAL

PROBLEM OF TRYING TO SEGREGATE GMO PRODUCTS WITH NON-GMO PRODUCTS FOR GRAINS WOULD BE USEFUL.

15. GOVERNMENT: THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE BENEFITS OF GMOS BUT NEEDS POLITICAL COVER FROM ITS CRITICS FOR NOT PROTECTING CONSUMERS FROM GMOS. THE BEST SOLUTION IS TO ENCOURAGE THE ROKG TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACCEPTABLE GUIDELINES THROUGH INTERNATIONAL BODIES, SUCH AS THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS.

CONTACT POINTS IN KOREA

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16. AS THE FOLLOWING LIST IS A MOVING TARGET, IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING CONTACTS BE SENT THROUGH POST, FOR ATTENTION TO THE OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS AND THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

16-A. CONTACT POINTS IN THE GOVERNMENT:

MR. JOO SOO KIM
DIRECTOR GENERAL
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BUREAU
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
#1 CHOONGANG-DONG, KWACHON-SHI
KYUNGGI-DO (427-760)
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FAX: (82) 2-507-3965

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 SEOUL 004233

USDA FOR FAS/ITP/SIMMONS/SLUSTSKY/FECITT/KOTSCHWAR;
- APHIS/PPQ/IS/GUPTA

STATE FOR EAP/K/THORTON AND EB/TPP/ATT/ATP/BRUNO

PASS USFDA FOR JAMES MARYANSKI

PASS USTR FOR PHILLIPS/LATIMER

USDOC FOR 4430/IEP/OPB/EAP/WGOLICK

GENEVA FOR USTR AND AG MIN-COUNSELOR

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TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, KS
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO) - OPUS

DR. IN SANG SONG
DIRECTOR GENERAL
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SEOUL (122-020)
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FAX: (82) 2-382-4892

DR. GIL BOK LEE
DIRECTOR
RESEARCH PLANNING DIVISION
RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
250 SODUN-DONG, KWONSUN-KU
SUWON-SHI, KYUNGGI-DO (441-707)
TEL. (82) 331-299-2583
FAX: (82) 331-291-6067

16-B. CONTACT POINTS IN INDUSTRY: AS THIS LIST IS TOO EXTENSIVE, POST RECOMMENDS THAT LETTERS TO INDUSTRY CONTACTS BE ADDRESSED TO POST FOR DISTRIBUTION.

16-C. CONTACT POINTS IN ACADEMIA:

DR. SUK-HA LEE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN CROP SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCE
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DR. BU-YOUNG YI
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FAX: (82) 2-2210-2258

DR. JOON-SHICK RHEE
PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
373-1, KOOSUNG-DONG, YOOSUNG-KU
TAEJEON-SHI (305-701)
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FAX: (82) 42-869-2610

DR. CHUNG-SOOK MOON
PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER ECONOMICS
SOOKMYUNG WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY
#53-12, CHUNGPAH-DONG 2 GA, YONGSAN-KU
SEOUL (140-742)
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FAX: (82) 2-715-6325

16-D. CONTACT POINTS IN NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION (NGOS) THAT MAY BE RECEPTIVE TO USG POSITION:

MS. KWANG-MO CHUNG
CHAIRWOMAN
CONSUMER UNION OF KOREA
#272-1, HANNAM-DONG, YONGSAN-KU
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FAX: (82) 2-798-6564

DR. JUNG-HEE SUH
SENIOR INVESTIGATOR
PRODUCT TESTING DEPARTMENT
KOREA CONSUMER PROTECTION BOARD
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FAX: (82) 2-529-0409

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 05 SEOUL 004233

USDA FOR FAS/ITP/SIMMONS/SLUSTSKY/FECITT/KOTSCHWAR;
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PASS USFDA FOR JAMES MARYANSKI

PASS USTR FOR PHILLIPS/LATIMER

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TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, KS
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MISSIONS INTERESTED IN UNDERTAKING OUTREACH EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE:

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17. TO DATE BOTH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE KOREAN FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION HAVE DONE SEMINARS ON THE GMO ISSUE. POST AND USG OFFICIALS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ALL SEMINARS. THE KOREA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ARRANGING A SYMPOSIUM IN OCTOBER, 1999 TO ADDRESS THE GMO ISSUE. THEY PLAN TO ASK FOR POST'S ASSISTANCE IN INVITING GUEST SPEAKERS TO KOREA. THE INSTITUTE HAS INFORMED POST THAT IT WILL PROVIDE DETAILS TO THE SYMPOSIUM IN EARLY JULY.

BOSWORTH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 05
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DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHKOA6254 2110629-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 300629Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
OSRI: RUEHKO
DTG: 300629Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5312
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 5753
INFO: RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0943
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0112
SUBJ: USDA SPECIAL ASSISTANT SIDDIQUI RAISES U.S.
- CONCERNS REGARDING POSSIBLE MANDATARY GMO
- LABELING IN JAPAN WITH GOJ OFFICIALS

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 TOKYO 006254

SENSITIVE

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USTR FOR SCHER, CUTLER, EARP, DWOSKIN
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR FDA FOR MARYANSKI, FLAMM
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR NEC FOR BRAINARD
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USDOC
STATE FOR E; EAP/J; EB/DCT
GENEVA PLEASE PASS FOR USTR
USDA FOR GLICKMAN, SIDDIQUI, FRAZIER, SCHUMACHER, DUNN, WOTEKI
USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, HENKE, DEATON; FAS/FSTSD/SLUTSKY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, WTRO, JA
SUBJECT: USDA SPECIAL ASSISTANT SIDDIQUI RAISES U.S.
- CONCERNS REGARDING POSSIBLE MANDATARY GMO
- LABELING IN JAPAN WITH GOJ OFFICIALS

REF: TOKYO 05886

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

1. (SBU) SUMMARY. ON JULY 27 AND JULY 28, ISI SIDDIQUI, USDA SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, DISCUSSED U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING POSSIBLE NEW GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN JAPAN IN MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MAFF) AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MOFA), AS WELL AS A MEMBER OF THE LOWER HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. SIDDIQUI WAS

ACCOMPANIED BY FAS BIOTECHNOLOGIST BERNICE SLUTSKY.

2. (SBU) IN RESPONSE, MAFF VICE MINISTER KUMAZAWA SAID THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS UNDER CONSIDERATION ARE IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO KNOW AND EMPHASIZED ANY NEW LABELING REQUIREMENT WOULD BE LIMITED AND WOULD NOT IMPACT TRADE. DIRECTOR GENERAL FUKUSHIMA REVIEWED THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE'S WORK IN DETAIL, MENTIONING THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO RECOMMEND VOLUNTARY OR MANDATORY LABELING OF FOODS IN CATEGORY TWO (SEE "POSITIVE LIST" FOODS IN REFTEL) AT A MEETING TO BE HELD AUGUST 4. HE SAID FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE ISSUED AT AN AUGUST 10 MEETING. HE INVITED FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AS THE SUBCOMMITTEE WORKS TOWARD A FINAL DECISION. JUN YOKOTA, MOFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, RESPONDED THAT WHILE MOFA HAS NOT YET DEVELOPED ITS POSITION, MOFA WAS KEENLY AWARE OF ITS WTO OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE TBT. TARO KONO, LDP MEMBER OF THE DIET, SAID THAT MANDATORY LABELING IS NECESSARY TO REDUCE CONSUMER'S ANXIETY ABOUT BIOTECHNOLOGY.

3. (SBU) AFTER MEETING WITH OFFICIALS FROM MAFF AND MOFA, SPECIAL ASSISTANT SIDDIQUI BRIEFED JAPANESE MEDIA AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS IN A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD JULY 27 AT THE EMBASSY. IN ADDITION, HE ALSO MET WITH LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND BIOTECH DEVELOPERS, WHO EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT MANDATORY LABELING IN JAPAN AND URGED STRONG U.S. OPPOSITION. FINALLY, SIDDIQUI MET WITH EITARO MIWA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MAFF'S INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES DIVISION. DIRECTOR GENERAL MIWA DISCUSSED MAFF ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN JAPAN, WHICH INCLUDE SEMINARS FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC, IN ADDITION TO ACTIVITIES GEARED TO EDUCATE HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. END SUMMARY

MEETING WITH VICE MINISTER KUMAZAWA

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4. (SBU) DR. SIDDIQUI BEGAN BY EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE NEW MANDATORY LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN JAPAN. HE MENTIONED THAT THE JAPANESE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE HAS CONCLUDED MANDATORY LABELING IS NOT NECESSARY FOR GMOS WHOSE SAFETY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED, AND SAID THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH U.S. POLICY.

5. (SBU) SIDDIQUI THEN ADDED HE IS "PERPLEXED AND CONCERNED" THAT MAFF IS RUSHING TOWARD A DECISION ON LABELING IN ADVANCE OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS, AND ASKED THAT JAPAN WAIT UNTIL CODEX HAS FINISHED ITS WORK PRIOR TO MOVING FORWARD.

6. (SBU) HE EMPHASIZED THAT MANDATORY GMO LABELING WOULD STIGMATIZE FOODS CONTAINING GMOS AND REDUCE TRADE, AS EVIDENCED BY THE NEGATIVE REACTION BY EUROPEAN CONSUMERS IN RESPONSE TO MANDATORY GMO LABELING IN THE EU. HE

ALSO EMPHASIZED THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES OF MANDATORY LABELING. SIDDIQUI SUGGESTED, AS AN ALTERNATIVE, MAFF SHOULD CONSIDER VOLUNTARY LABELING, WHICH THE U.S. SUPPORTS AS AN APPROPRIATE MEANS OF PROVIDING INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS.

7. (SBU) SIDDIQUI ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT VOLUNTARY GMO
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SENSITIVE

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USTR FOR SCHER, CUTLER, EARP, DWOSKIN
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR FDA FOR MARYANSKI, FLAMM
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR NEC FOR BRAINARD
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USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, HENKE, DEATON; FAS/FSTSD/SLUTSKY

E.O. 12958: N/A
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LABELING IN JAPAN IS CONSISTENT WITH MAFF'S APPROACH ON OTHER LABELING ISSUES THAT DO NOT INVOLVE HEALTH, SAFETY, OR NUTRITION. HE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY, IN RESPONSE TO CONSUMER DEMAND FOR MANDATORY LABELING OF MEAT FROM CLONED ANIMALS, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE RESPONDED THAT BECAUSE THERE IS NO SAFETY CONCERN THERE IS NO NEED FOR MANDATORY LABELING.

8. (SBU) TURNING TO THE DISTRESSED STATE OF THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY IN THE UNITED STATES, SIDDIQUI SAID THAT MANDATORY GMO LABELING WOULD SEND THE WRONG SIGNAL TO U.S. FARMERS AND COULD FURTHER DEPRESS PRICES, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY AT 30-40 YEAR LOWS. HE ADDED GIVEN THE UPCOMING U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, ANY DISRUPTION IN TRADE COULD POLITICIZE THE GMO LABELING ISSUE. HE THEN POINTED OUT THE U.S. RECOGNIZED THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO JAPAN ON RICE TARIFFICATION EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND HOPED THAT JAPAN WILL LIKEWISE CONSIDER THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES ON GMO LABELING, AND IMPACT ON U.S. TRADE.

9. (SBU) IN RESPONSE, VICE MINISTER KUMAZAWA SAID HE RECOGNIZES U.S. GRAIN PRICES ARE LOW BUT EMPHASIZED THERE WOULD BE NO IMPACT ON U.S. PRICES FROM GMO LABELING IN JAPAN. HE SAID MAFF IS OBLIGATED TO RESPOND TO CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO KNOW, AND REITERATED THAT GMO LABELING POLICIES UNDER CONSIDERATION WOULD NOT IMPACT TRADE. HE SAID HE WISHED TO DEFER FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THE ISSUE TO THE FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH DIRECTOR

GENERAL FUKUSHIMA. IN CLOSING, KUMAZAWA BRIEFLY DISCUSSED JAPAN'S EXPECTATIONS FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND SAID THAT MINISTER NAKAGAWA WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH SECRETARY GLICKMAN TO DISCUSS JAPAN'S POSITION IN LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER, IF THE SECRETARY IS AVAILABLE AND IF THE MINISTER'S COMMITMENTS TO ATTENDING SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL DIET CAN ALSO BE SATISFIED.

MEETING WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL FUKUSHIMA

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10. (SBU) SIDDIQUI BEGAN THE MEETING BY MENTIONING THE U.S. AND JAPAN HAVE A LOT IN COMMON REGARDING BIOTECH, GIVEN JAPAN'S EMERGING BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY. HE SAID MANDATORY LABELING WOULD STIGMATIZE PRODUCTS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, WHICH WOULD HAMPER BIOTECH DEVELOPMENT BOTH IN THE U.S. AND JAPAN. HE EMPHASIZED VOLUNTARY INFORMATIONAL GMO LABELING IS THE BEST APPROACH TO RESPONDING TO CONSUMER NEEDS.

11. (SBU) IN RESPONSE, FUKUSHIMA EXPLAINED THAT THE BASIS OF MAFF'S LABELING POLICY IS THE CONSUMER'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW, AND SAID HE APPRECIATED USDA SECRETARY GLICKMAN'S RECENT REMARKS "REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATIONAL DISCLOSURE AND LABELING" OF GMOS.

12. (SBU) SIDDIQUI RESPONDED THAT SECRETARY GLICKMAN DID NOT ADVOCATE MANDATORY LABELING OF GMOS. HE SAID THE SECRETARY AGREES WITH "INFORMATIONAL LABELING", AS LONG AS IT IS VOLUNTARY.

13. (SBU) RETURNING TO DEVELOPMENTS ON GMO LABELING IN JAPAN, FUKUSHIMA MENTIONED THE GMO LABELING SUBCOMMITTEE IS EVALUATING A TECHNICAL REPORT THAT DIVIDES FOODS WHICH MAY CONTAIN GMOS INTO THREE CATEGORIES: (1) NUTRITIONAL/COMPOSITIONAL CHANGES, SUCH AS THE HIGH OLEIC ACID SOYBEAN; (2) FOODS WHICH CONTAIN DETECTABLE DNA, SUCH AS TOFU; AND (3) FOODS WHOSE DNA HAVE BEEN DENATURED OR DESTROYED, SUCH AS SOYBEAN OIL.

14. (SBU) HE SAID THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS CURRENTLY FOCUSING ON LABELING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOODS IN CATEGORY TWO; SPECIFICALLY, WHETHER TO RECOMMEND VOLUNTARY OR MANDATORY LABELING. REGARDING FOODS IN CATEGORY THREE, HE SAID THAT INDUSTRY AND CONSUMER FACTIONS IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE CONTINUE TO LOCK HORNS ON WHETHER MANDATORY LABELING IS NECESSARY, WHILE SCIENTISTS ARE "NEUTRAL" IN UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 05 TOKYO 006254

SENSITIVE

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USTR FOR SCHER, CUTLER, EARP, DWOSKIN
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR FDA FOR MARYANSKI, FLAMM
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GENEVA PLEASE PASS FOR USTR
USDA FOR GLICKMAN, SIDDIQUI, FRAZIER, SCHUMACHER, DUNN, WOTEKI
USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, HENKE, DEATON; FAS/FSTSD/SLUTSKY

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THIS REGARD.

15. (SBU) HE PREDICTED THERE WOULD BE "FIERCE DISCUSSION" ON HOW TO LABEL CATEGORY TWO FOODS AT THE NEXT MEETING, TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 4, AS THE SUBCOMMITTEE WORKS TOWARD ISSUING FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS AT A MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 10. HE SAID ANY LABELING POLICY CHANGES WOULD BE MADE BY REVISING MAFF JAS LABELING LAW, AND PREDICTED WTO NOTIFICATION WOULD TAKE PLACE SOMETIME THIS FALL. HE MENTIONED MAFF WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AS THE SUBCOMMITTEE WORKS TOWARD A FINAL DECISION.

16. (SBU) IN RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE MANDATORY LABELING REQUIREMENTS BY MAFF, SIDDIQUI ACKNOWLEDGED CONSUMERS MAY HAVE CONCERNS BUT NOTED THAT "MAFF HAS NOT GIVEN IN TO EVERY CONSUMER CONCERN". HE MENTIONED, FOR EXAMPLE, JAPANESE CONSUMERS HAVE DEMANDED LABELING FOR CLONED MEAT, HORMONE-TREATED MEAT, AND USE OF PESTICIDES, AND IN EVERY CASE, MAFF HAS OPTED FOR VOLUNTARY LABELING. HE URGED MAFF TO CONSIDER VOLUNTARY GMO LABELING IN RESPONSE TO CONSUMER CONCERNS, AND EMPHASIZED THE POTENTIAL FOR NEGATIVE TRADE IMPACTS IF MAFF REQUIRES MANDATORY LABELING.

17. (SBU) FUKUSHIMA THEN RETURNED TO MAFF'S OBLIGATION TO INFORM CONSUMERS AND SAID MAFF WISHES TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE WITHOUT DISRUPTING TRADE. IN RESPONSE TO TRADE CONCERNS, FUKUSHIMA MENTIONED MAFF WILL ALLOW MANUFACTURERS TO LABEL CATEGORY TWO FOODS AS "NOT SEGREGATED" AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO (THE MORE SENSITIVE) "CONTAINS GMO".

18. (SBU) SIDDIQUI THEN REFERRED TO CONSUMER CONFUSION AND TRADE DISRUPTION IN THE EU IN THE WAKE OF MANDATORY LABELING AND OPENLY WONDERED HOW MAFF COULD PROVIDE REASSURANCES THAT TRADE WOULD NOT BE DISRUPTED. SLUTSKY ADDED THAT VOLUNTARY LABELING CAN MEET THE NEEDS OF CONSUMERS. SHE CITED, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTARY LABELING AND CONSUMER EDUCATION MOVEMENT IN HOLLAND.

19. (SBU) SLUTSKY THEN QUESTIONED MAFF'S SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA FOR LABELING, UNDERSCORING THE U.S. POSITION THAT PRESENCE OF NEW PROTEIN OR DNA DOES NOT

SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE THE FOOD, AND THUS DOES NOT WARRANT SPECIAL LABELING REQUIREMENTS. SHE ADDED IF THE PRESENCE OF DNA OR PROTEIN IS THE CRITERIA FOR LABELING, THEN MAFF WILL BE OPEN TO CHALLENGES BY A RANGE OF CONSUMER AND OTHER GROUPS TO TEST PRODUCT AND UNDERMINE THE POLICY.

20. (SBU) FUKUSHIMA RESPONDED THAT MAFF WOULD ENFORCE LABELING THROUGH "SOCIAL VERIFICATION". HE EXPLAINED THAT MANUFACTURERS WHO WISH TO PROMOTE THEIR PRODUCTS AS "NON-GMO" COULD DEMONSTRATE THE INGREDIENTS ARE IDENTITY PRESERVED/NON-GMO THROUGH CERTIFICATION OR DOCUMENTATION (I.E. SHIPPING DOCUMENTS). HE REITERATED THAT IT IS MAFF'S POSITION THAT LABELING WILL NOT BE CONDUCTED FOR SAFETY REASONS BUT IN RESPONSE TO CONSUMER INTEREST.

21. (SBU) SIDDIQUI CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY POINTING OUT IF MAFF RESPONDS TO CONSUMER CONCERNS IN A WAY THAT NEGATIVELY IMPACTS TRADE, THEN THE UNITED STATES WILL EVALUATE WHETHER THE POLICY IS CONSISTENT WITH JAPAN'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER WTO.

22. (SBU) TO CLOSE THE MEETING, FUKUSHIMA INSISTED MAFF "DOES NOT EXPECT SUBSTANTIAL TRADE IMPACTS" FROM MANDATORY LABELING. HE SAID MAFF IS "COMMITTED TO A PRACTICAL, WORKABLE, LABELING SYSTEM".

MEETING WITH MOFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL YOKOTA

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23. (SBU) SIDDIQUI BEGAN BY NOTING THAT THE NIHON KEIZAI
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SENSITIVE

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USTR FOR SCHER, CUTLER, EARP, DWOSKIN
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- CONCERNS REGARDING POSSIBLE MANDATARY GMO
- LABELING IN JAPAN WITH GOJ OFFICIALS

SHIMBUN (JAPAN ECONOMIC DAILY) HAD MISREPRESENTED SECRETARY GLICKMAN'S RECENT SPEECH ON GMO LABELING IN REPORTING THAT HE HAD INDICATED A SHIFT IN U.S. POLICY, TOWARD SUPPORTING MANDATORY LABELING OF FOOD PRODUCTS

CONTAINING PRODUCTS OF GMOS. THE SECRETARY HAD SAID, SIDDIQUI NOTED, THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT/NOT SUPPORT MANDATORY LABELING, BUT RATHER BELIEVES THAT FOOD PROCESSORS SHOULD EXAMINE VOLUNTARY INFORMATIONAL LABELING. BOTH THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND JAPAN'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE HAD CONCLUDED THAT SO LONG AS A FOOD CONTAINING GMO-DERIVED PRODUCTS WAS DETERMINED TO BE SAFE, THERE WAS NO NEED FOR SPECIAL LABELING. THE FDA, HE ADDED, DOES REQUIRE LABELING IF THE GMO CONTAINS AN ALLERGEN, OR IF THERE IS A CHANGE IN NUTRITIONAL COMPOSITION.

24. (SBU) SIDDIQUI NOTED THAT THE G-8 LEADERS HAD DIRECTED THE OECD TO CONSIDER THE SAFETY OF FOODS CONTAINING GMO-DERIVED PRODUCTS, AND THAT CODEX ALIMENTARIUS IS, UNDER JAPAN'S LEADERSHIP, EXAMINING GMO LABELING ISSUES. SO LONG AS THESE MULTILATERAL EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY, HE SAID, JAPAN SHOULD RESIST TAKING STEPS THAT MIGHT MAKE FUTURE HARMONIZATION MORE DIFFICULT. IF THE MOTIVATION FOR GMO LABELING STEMMED FROM CONSUMER DEMAND, HE SUGGESTED, PROCESSORS SHOULD BE LEFT TO DO VOLUNTARY LABELING THAT MET MARKET NEEDS. IMPOSITION OF MANDATORY LABELING REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE, HE SAID, ARE PROVING HIGHLY TRADE RESTRICTIVE IN THE EU, WHERE GROCERY STORES ARE PULLING FOODS CONTAINING GMO-DERIVED PRODUCTS FROM SHELVES. A REPEAT OF THIS EXPERIENCE IN JAPAN COULD HAVE SERIOUS TRADE CONSEQUENCES, HE NOTED, AS THE UNITED STATES ACCOUNTS FOR 30 PERCENT OF JAPAN'S AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS. AG MINISTER NOTED THAT MAFF HAD PROVIDED NO CLEAR RESPONSE WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL TRADE IMPACT OF ITS LABELING PROPOSAL.

25. (SBU) YOKOTA REPLIED THAT MOFA HAD MADE NO DECISION ABOUT GMO LABELING, EITHER DOMESTICALLY OR INTERNATIONALLY. HE WAS WELL AWARE, HE NOTED, THAT THIS WILL BE A MAJOR TOPIC AT THE WTO'S NEXT ROUND, AND OF JAPAN'S WTO/TBT OBLIGATIONS. HE ALSO NOTED THE DESIRE TO HARMONIZE LABELING MEASURES TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.

26. (SBU) SIDDIQUI ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY, IF BOTH HEALTH MINISTRIES AGREE GMO-DERIVED FOODS ARE SAFE, THERE SHOULD BE ANY RUSH TO IMPOSE LABELING REQUIREMENTS. VOLUNTARY LABELING WOULD SUFFICE TO MEET ANY CONSUMER PRESSURE FOR INFORMATION. YOKOTA CHARACTERIZED HIS MAFF COUNTERPARTS AS "NOT SO SCHEMING" AS TO RUSH LABELING REQUIREMENTS THROUGH WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH OTHER MINISTRIES. HE CHARACTERIZED MAFF'S MOTIVATION AS STEMMING FROM "CIVIL SOCIETY" CONCERNS.

27. (SBU) SIDDIQUI CONTINUED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN THREE CLOSE PARALLELS WHERE MAFF HAS RESISTED CALLS FOR MANDATORY LABELING: FOODS TREATED WITH PESTICIDES, HORMONE-TREATED MEATS, AND MEAT FROM CLONED ANIMALS. YOKOTA RESPONDED THAT WITH THIS TRACK RECORD, HE BELIEVED IT UNLIKELY MAFF WOULD BEHAVE DIFFERENTLY IN THIS CONTEXT.

28. (SBU) AG MINISTER POINTED OUT THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TASK MAFF APPEARED TO BE SETTING FOR ITSELF: THE EU, MORE THAN A YEAR AFTER ISSUING ITS DIRECTIVE REQUIRING LABELING OF GMO-DERIVED FOODS, HAD NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO RESOLVE DIFFICULT ISSUES SUCH AS THRESHOLD LEVELS, COMMINGLED GMO/NON-GMO SHIPMENTS, AND UNDETECTABLE GMO IN PROCESSED FOODS. HE ADDED THAT WHEN GOVERNMENTS MANDATE LABELING FOR A CERTAIN FACTOR, THERE IS ALWAYS A PUBLIC PERCEPTION THAT THERE IS A HEALTH REASON BEHIND THE REQUIREMENT. A VOLUNTARY LABELING SYSTEM THAT WOULD ALLOW PROCESSORS TO IDENTIFY PRODUCTS AS "NON-GMO" WOULD FILL A NICHE MARKET SUCH AS THE ONE FOR "ORGANIC" FOODS CREATED WITH USDA'S 1990 STANDARDS FOR SUCH LABELS.

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 05 TOKYO 006254

SENSITIVE

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USTR FOR SCHER, CUTLER, EARP, DWOSKIN
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR FDA FOR MARYANSKI, FLAMM
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR NEC FOR BRAINARD
STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USDOC
STATE FOR E; EAP/J; EB/DCT
GENEVA PLEASE PASS FOR USTR
USDA FOR GLICKMAN, SIDDIQUI, FRAZIER, SCHUMACHER, DUNN, WOTEKI
USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN; FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, HENKE, DEATON; FAS/FSTSD/SLUTSKY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, WTRO, JA
SUBJECT: USDA SPECIAL ASSISTANT SIDDIQUI RAISES U.S.
- CONCERNS REGARDING POSSIBLE MANDATARY GMO
- LABELING IN JAPAN WITH GOJ OFFICIALS

29. (SBU) ECONOFF ADDED THAT IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING ANY MANDATORY LABELING REQUIREMENT, MOFA - AS THE OVERSEER OF THE BILATERAL DEREGULATION INITIATIVE - SHOULD ENSURE THAT MAFF SOLICITS PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSALS. YOKOTA RESPONDED THAT TO DATE, OVER 10,000 COMMENTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED ON THE PREVIOUS GENERATION OF PROPOSALS, MOST FAVORING MANDATORY LABELING. AG MINISTER SUGGESTED THAT SINCE THE CURRENT PROPOSALS DIFFER SO GREATLY FROM PREVIOUS ONES, THEY SHOULD BE RESUBMITTED FOR NEW COMMENT.

30. (SBU) SIDDIQUI CLOSED BY NOTING THAT THE DEPRESSED STATE OF THE U.S. FARM ECONOMY MADE THIS A PARTICULARLY PRESSING ISSUE FOR THE U.S. AGRICULTURE. THE PROSPECT OF IMPACTING 30 PERCENT OF THE MARKET FOR FOOD EXPORTS TO JAPAN COULD QUICKLY BECOME HIGHLY POLITICIZED, HE NOTED.

MEETING WITH THE HON. TARO KONO, MEMBER OF THE DIET, LDP

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31. (SBU) SIDDIQUI OPENED THE MEETING BY DISCUSSING SECRETARY GLICKMAN'S JULY 13 SPEECH ON BIOTECHNOLOGY. HE EXPLAINED THE U.S. POSITION ON GMO LABELING AND EMPHASIZED THAT OBLIGATORY LABELING WOULD MISLEAD CONSUMERS AND NEGATIVELY IMPACT TRADE.

32. (SBU) IN RESPONSE, KONO DISCUSSED THE DEVELOPING GOJ POSITION ON GMO LABELING, POINTING OUT THAT MAFF IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM CONSUMERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, WHICH CAUSED MAFF TO BECOME MORE PROACTIVE. HOWEVER, KONO RECOGNIZED THE U.S. GRAIN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM DOES NOT FACILITATE HIGH VOLUME SEGREGATION OF NON-GMOS FROM GMOS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED TECHNICAL CONCERNS, POINTING OUT MAFF'S PROPOSAL DOES NOT ESTABLISH THRESHOLDS.

33. (SBU) KONO THEN MENTIONED HE HAS NO SYMPATHY FOR BIOTECH DEVELOPERS BECAUSE HE THINKS COMPANIES SHOULD HAVE CREATED THEIR OWN POLICY ON LABELING AS A MEANS TO PROVIDE CONSUMERS WITH INFORMATION, WHICH WOULD HAVE PREVENTED GROWING ANXIETY ABOUT GMOS AMONG CONSUMERS. KONO EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT JAPAN HAS TO ADOPT MAFF'S LABELING PROPOSAL TO EASE CONSUMER'S ANXIETY; OTHERWISE, CONSUMERS WILL WORRY THAT THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH GMOS. KONO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT CONSUMERS WILL EVENTUALLY UNDERSTAND THE SAFETY AND IMPORTANCE OF GMO, EVEN WITHOUT EMERGENCE OF BENEFICIAL GMO PRODUCTS. HE SAID THE EMERGENCE OF SUCH BENEFICIAL PRODUCTS HELP BUILD CONFIDENCE EVEN MORE. KONO PREDICTED IT WOULD TAKE 3 TO 5 YEARS AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF LABELING UNTIL GMOS ARE ACCEPTED BY THE PUBLIC. KONO ALSO SAID JAPANESE BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANIES, NOW HESITANT TO PRODUCE BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS BECAUSE OF THE FEAR OF CONSUMER BOYCOTT, WILL BE ABLE TO ACTIVELY DEVELOP BENEFICIAL PRODUCTS.

34. (SBU) RESPONDING TO SIDDIQUI'S VIEWS ON THE CONFUSION CREATED BY MANDATORY LABELING IN THE EU, KONO SAID WHEN HE MET WITH OFFICIALS IN THE EU LAST YEAR, THEY WERE CONFIDENT THAT GMO LABELING WOULD NOT CAUSE CONFUSION. KONO SAID HE WAS SURPRISED BY THE PROBLEMS IN THE EU.

35. (SBU) HE THEN COMMENTED THAT JAPANESE CONSUMERS ARE CONCERNED THAT GMO PRODUCTS THAT CANNOT BE SHIPPED TO THE EU, WILL BE SHIPPED TO JAPAN INSTEAD. KONO OPINED THAT PROBLEMS IN THE EU ARE CAUSED BY LACK OF EDUCATION, WHICH MAKES THE TECHNOLOGY A "MYSTIFIED" ONE.
FOLEY

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DIST:
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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By KZ NARA, Date 11/26/2014
2016-0529-M (1.48)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHWLA0966 2110213-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 300213Z JUL 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
OSRI: RUEHWL
DTG: 300213Z JUL 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1652
INFO: RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0932
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0073
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0123
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
SUBJ: NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF ANZFSC OPTIONS FOR LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000966

DEPT PASS TO USDA
USDA FOR OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (SIDDIQUI)
FAS FOR ADMINISTRATOR GALVIN
FAS FOR ITP/PSHEIKH/BSIMMONS/BSLUTSKY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/30/09
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, NZ, AS
SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF ANZFSC OPTIONS FOR LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

REF: A) WELLINGTON 937; B) CANBERRA 2490

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE RTMILLER PER REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) AND OTHER MINISTRY OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR LABELING OF FOODS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE AUSTRALIAN NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL (ANZFSC) ON AUGUST 3 IN CANBERRA. THE MOH IS TRYING TO BALANCE CONSUMER DESIRE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON GMOS WITH THE COST AND PRACTICALITY OF IMPLEMENTATION AND THE NEED TO MEET WTO OBLIGATIONS. THEY ADDED THAT THERE ARE NO LONGER FIVE OPTIONS FOR ANZFSC TO CONSIDER (REF B) SINCE TWO MANDATORY OPTIONS HAVE BEEN CONDENSED INTO ONE. OFFICIALS ALSO ADMIT THAT POLITICAL PRESSURES OF THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS WILL INFLUENCE THE GNZ DECISION. END SUMMARY.

3. ~~(C)~~ MOH OFFICIALS HAVE RECEIVED OVER 5,700 COMMENTS

(INCLUDING USG COMMENTS PROVIDED JULY 12) ON THEIR QUESTIONNAIRE SOLICITING COMMENTS REGARDING LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS (GMFS). MOST PUBLIC COMMENTS SUPPORT LABELING, BUT THE MOH ADMITS THAT THE RESULTS REFLECT THE BIAS OF GREEN GROUP LOBBYING AND ANTI-GMF INTERNET USERS (SOME GREEN GROUPS PASSED OUT STANDARD ANSWERS TO THE SURVEY). MOH OFFICIALS ADMIT THAT THEY DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT THE MAJORITY OF THE NEW ZEALAND PUBLIC THINKS ON THIS ISSUE. THE MOH WILL RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC THE 90 PAGES OF COMMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THE AUGUST 3 ANZFSC MEETING.

4. ~~(C)~~ GREEN GROUPS IN ZEALAND, LED BY GREEN PARTY LEADER JEANETTE FITZSIMONS, CONTINUE TO PRESS THEIR VIEWS IN WEEKLY PUBLIC MEETINGS AND BY INTERNET THAT GMFS ARE NOT SAFE, THAT U.S. REGULATORY PROCESSES ARE NOT TRUSTWORTHY (NOTING THE CURRENT LAW SUIT AGAINST FDA), AND THAT GMOS SHOULD BE BANNED. MOH OFFICIALS ADMIT THAT THE GREEN GROUP POSITION IS SEEN AS EXTREME IN NEW ZEALAND AND THE MOH, BASED ON CURRENT KNOWLEDGE, DOES NOT SEE GMFS AS POSING A HEALTH THREAT (FOOD INDUSTRY LEADERS FAULT THE MOH, HOWEVER, FOR NOT SPEAKING OUT ON THIS ISSUE, LIKE U.S. REGULATORY OFFICIALS).

5. ~~(C)~~ MOH, CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRACTICALITIES AND COST OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY ANZFSC DECISION ON MANDATORY PROVISION OF INFORMATION (WHETHER REQUIRING MANDATORY LABELING OR NOT) HAS CONSULTED WITH THE GROCERY INDUSTRY COUNCIL (GIC) OF NEW ZEALAND AND ON JULY 29 RECEIVED ITS COMMENTS ON THE ANZFSC LABELING OPTIONS. THE GIC REPRESENTS MANUFACTURERS, RETAILERS AND WHOLESALERS.

6. ~~(C)~~ THE GIC, IN ITS LETTER TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND HEALTH MINISTER CREECH (WHO WILL REPRESENT NEW ZEALAND AT THE AUGUST ANZFSC MEETING), PROVIDES SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS: 1) THE CURRENT LABELING PROVISION IN STANDARD A18 IS THE BEST ALTERNATIVE; 2) IT DOES NOT SUPPORT MANDATORY LABELING FOR SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT FOODS AS THIS IS FULL OF DIFFICULTIES (INCLUDING HOW TO DETECT GMFS), COSTLY TO IMPLEMENT (ESTIMATED AT NZ$300 MILLION ANNUALLY BY ANZFA FOR ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OR PASSED ON TO COMPANIES), AND BREACHES THE WTO; 3) THE ADOPTION OF A CODE OF PRACTICE PRESCRIBING THE PARAMETERS OF A VOLUNTARY LABELING REGIME IS AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PROVIDING INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS (REF A); 4) ANY LABELING SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THE INGREDIENT LIST (INGREDIENTS WOULD COME FROM AN APPROVED GM SOURCE) AND GMF LABELS ARE THERE TO INFORM AND NOT WARN; 5) THEY HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT PROVIDING, MANAGING, AND FUNDING POINT OF SALE MATERIAL (REGULATORY OFFICIALS NEED TO PUBLISH EDUCATION MATERIALS SINCE GREEN GROUPS HAVE COMPLAINED THAT CURRENT INDUSTRY POINT OF SALE PAMPHLETS ARE BIASED); AND (6) OFFICIAL REGULATORY AGENCIES MUST BE MORE ACTIVE IN PROMOTING THE FACT THAT LEGISLATION IS IN PLACE TO ASSURE SAFETY OF GMFS (THROUGH ANZFA'S APPROVAL/SAFETY REVIEW).

7. ~~(C)~~ BOTH MOH AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF THEIR WTO OBLIGATIONS AND DON'T WANT THE ANZFSC DECISION TO BECOME A TECHNICAL BARRIER TO TRADE. MOH OFFICIALS ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE U.S. RETALIATION IF THE DECISION GOES THE WRONG WAY.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000966

DEPT PASS TO USDA
USDA FOR OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (SIDDIQUI)
FAS FOR ADMINISTRATOR GALVIN
FAS FOR ITP/PSHEIKH/BSIMMONS/BSLUTSKY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/30/09
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, NZ, AS
SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF ANZFSC OPTIONS FOR LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS

8. ~~(C)~~ MOH OFFICIALS ADD, HOWEVER, THAT APPROVAL AND LABELING OF GMFS IS AN ELECTION ISSUE AND POLITICS WILL PLAY A ROLE IN THE GNZ POSITION. A MINI-NEW ZEALAND CABINET MEETING WILL DECIDE THE GNZ POSITION IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. ALSO, SINCE NEW ZEALAND HAS ONLY ONE VOTE AT THE ANZFSC, AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS WILL DETERMINE THE DECISION. IF AUSTRALIA WERE TO DECIDE DIFFERENTLY THAN THE GNZ, THE GNZ COULD OPT OUT OF ANY ANZFSC DECISION, BUT THAT WOULD BE POLITICALLY DIFFICULT AND UNLIKELY. MOH OFFICIALS ALSO NOTED THAT IF A NEW GOVERNMENT IS ELECTED IN NOVEMBER, IT COULD REVIEW AND POSSIBLY CHANGE A DECISION MADE BY THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT.

MILLER

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