

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Organisms] (2 pages)	11/04/1999	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: [Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms] (2 pages)	11/17/1999	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: [Attitude Toward Genetically Modified Organisms] (3 pages)	11/22/1999	P1/b(1)
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: Italy Considers the Ban of 7 GMO Varieties (4 pages)~~	~~12/22/1999~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ v2 4/2/2020

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[11/04/1999 - 12/22/1999]

2013-0836-F
ke3016

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHHEA6235 3121357-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 081357Z NOV 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
OSRI: RUEHHE
DTG: 081357Z NOV 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0857
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0151
SUBJ: FINLAND'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GMO THRESHOLD
REGULATION

TEXT:
UNCLAS HELSINKI 006235

DEPT FOR EUR/ERA, EUR/NB, EB/TPP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, ECON, FI

SUBJECT: FINLAND'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GMO THRESHOLD
REGULATION

1. FOLLOWING THE EU'S APPROVAL OF A GMO THRESHOLD REGULATION LAST MONTH, ECONOFF INQUIRED ABOUT FINNISH PLANS FOR ENFORCEMENT. LEENA MANNONEN, SENIOR FOOD CONTROL OFFICER IN THE NATIONAL FOOD ADMINISTRATION (NFA) AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NOVEL FOODS BOARD, EXPLAINED THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL ENFORCE THE NEW RULES, AND THE NFA WILL COORDINATE AND OVERSEE ENFORCEMENT.

2. MANNONEN SAID THAT THE NFA IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING ANALYSIS PROCEDURES FOR ENFORCEMENT BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES, BUT THIS IS SOMEWHAT AWKWARD BECAUSE THERE ARE NO STANDARDIZED, EU-WIDE TESTING PROCEDURES. SHE OPINED THAT FINLAND'S LONG HISTORY OF COOPERATION AMONG PRODUCERS, CONSUMERS, AND REGULATORS INDICATES THAT THESE GROUPS WILL WORK WELL TOGETHER TO ENSURE ENFORCEMENT OF THE NEW RULES.

3. THE NFA PLANS TO SURVEY PRODUCERS AND IMPORTERS TO DETERMINE HOW PREVALENT LABELING ALREADY IS AND WHAT KIND OF DOCUMENTATION SUPPLIERS HAVE TO CERTIFY GMO-FREE FOODS. NFA OFFICIALS WILL EVENTUALLY CONDUCT SAMPLING TO SEE IF THEIR OWN ANALYSIS YIELDS THE SAME RESULTS AS THAT USED TO SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION, ACCORDING TO MANNONEN. THE NFA HAS NO PLANS TO ESTIMATE THE COSTS OF ADHERING TO THE NEW REGULATION, BUT WILL INVESTIGATE HOW MANUFACTURERS ARE ENSURING THAT DOCUMENTATION IS CORRECT.
EDELMAN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 6235

TOR: 991108090431 M4139364

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHFRA6915 3131609-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 091609Z NOV 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG: 091609Z NOV 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5735
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1285
SUBJ: BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE: SOME FRENCH
PERSPECTIVES

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 016915

USDA FOR OSEC; UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR
OA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/RMACKE;
FAA/SEBRANEK/GEERKEN; CMP/DA/JPARKER

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
STATE PASS FDA
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR
SUBJECT: BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE: SOME FRENCH
PERSPECTIVES

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

1. (SBU) BEGIN SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 3-4, AGATT
ATTENDED A MEETING ON PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY AND FOOD
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY. DURING AND AFTER THIS THIRD
ANNUAL COLMAR SYMPOSIUM FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES,
AGATT MET WITH JOURNALISTS, ECOLOGISTS,
RESEARCHERS AND OTHERS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
EVOLVING FRENCH PERSPECTIVES ON GMOS IN FOOD.
ANOTHER PURPOSE WAS TO RECRUIT CANDIDATES FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM, WHICH IS
ADMINISTERED BY THE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) PAPERS WERE PRESENTED BY BIOTECH FIRMS
AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES FROM THE U.S., U.K.,

GERMANY, NETHERLANDS, SWITZERLAND, BELGIUM, AND BRAZIL. THE AUDIENCE CONSISTED MAINLY OF SCIENTISTS FROM BIOTECH COMPANIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES. THERE WERE NO FRENCH PRESENTERS. (COMMENT: AGATT DISCUSSED THIS WITH SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS; NONE HAD AN ANSWER, BUT NONE SAW ANY KIND OF MESSAGE IN THE ABSENCE OF FRENCH PRESENTERS. A SIZEABLE MINORITY OF THE AUDIENCE WAS FRENCH. END COMMENT.) CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.BIOVALLEY.COM.

3. (SBU) THE GOAL OF THE PRESENTERS FROM BIOTECH COMPANIES WAS TO PROMOTE THE PRODUCTS THEY HAD DEVELOPED AND TO COUNTER COMMONLY-HEARD CRITICISMS OF THESE PRODUCTS. (COMMENT: RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH PLANTING GMO VARIETIES WERE NOT DISCUSSED, LIMITING THE USEFULNESS OF THE DATA AND SOMEWHAT REDUCING THE PRESENTERS' CREDIBILITY. END COMMENT) GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES DID NOT GIVE PAPERS.

4. (SBU) AMCONSULATE STRASBOURG SET UP AN EXCELLENT PROGRAM OF MEETINGS FOR AGATT AROUND THE CONFERENCE IN COLMAR AND THE NEXT DAY IN STRASBOURG. THE RESULTS OF THESE MEETINGS, OF AGATT DISCUSSIONS DURING AND AFTER THE CONFERENCE, AND SOME POINTS FROM THE CONFERENCE ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

5. (SBU) BIOTECH AND BIODIVERSITY

IN SOME REGIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, FARMERS WHO HAVE PLANTED BT CORN ARE REPORTING A RETURN OF NON-TARGET SPECIES TO THEIR FIELDS. INSECTS AND BIRDS THAT HAD DISAPPEARED DUE TO PESTICIDE USE ARE MAKING A COMEBACK IN SOME AREAS PLANTED TO BIOTECH VARIETIES.

6. (SBU) RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS IS SHOWING THAT CONCERNS ABOUT REDUCING GENETIC COMPLEXITY IN CORN MAY BE UNFOUNDED. REVERSE VARIABILITY STUDIES ARE SHOWING THAT COMPLEXITY CAN BE RESTORED AS WELL AS REDUCED.

7. (SBU) PUBLIC OUTREACH

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS AND SOME PRESENTERS NOTED THEIR FRUSTRATION AT THEIR LACK OF ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF BIOTECH TO THE PUBLIC. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AGATT, SEVERAL RESEARCHERS ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE EXPRESSED THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE PROMOTIONAL APPROACH TAKEN BY THE BIG BIOTECH COMPANIES. THESE SCIENTISTS WERE LOOKING TO BE GIVEN A FULL RANGE OF INFORMATION AND TO HEAR IT DISCUSSED IN ALL ITS ASPECTS.

8. (SBU) COMMENT: IF COMPANIES WERE MORE WILLING TO DISCUSS OPENLY THE RISKS AS WELL AS THE

ADVANTAGES OF THEIR NEW PRODUCTS, THEIR BIOTECH MESSAGE MIGHT BE MORE EFFECTIVE. THEIR CURRENT STYLE OF COMMUNICATION MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS ADVERTISING SUPPORTED BY SELECTIVE DATA. THEY COULD BE BETTER SERVED BY TAKING A PAGE FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S BOOK AND SHOWING THEMSELVES TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING BY PRESENTING ALL OF THEIR DATA, BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE. THIS APPROACH MIGHT GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS GAINING THEM THE RESPECT AND UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 PARIS 016915

USDA FOR OSEC; UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/RMACKE; FAA/SEBRANEK/GEERKEN; CMP/DA/JPARKER

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY
STATE PASS FDA
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR
SUBJECT: BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE: SOME FRENCH PERSPECTIVES

CONFIDEM
CE OF THE PEOPLE THEY ARE TRYING TO
PERSUADE. PURE MARKETING IS NOT WORKING. END
COMMENT.

9. (SBU) BIOTECH CROPS IN EUROPE

ONE RESEARCHER NOTED TO AGATT THAT THERE ARE ABOUT FIFTY FIELD TEST SITES FOR BIOTECH CROPS AROUND FRANCE, BUT THEIR LOCATION IS NOT DISCLOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

10. (SBU) IT APPEARS THAT EUROPEAN SCIENTISTS ARE UNANIMOUS IN THINKING THAT IT IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE BIOTECH CROPS ARE ACCEPTED BY THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC. IN SIDE DISCUSSIONS, MANY NOTED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF PARALLEL GMO AND NON-GMO SECTORS IS INEVITABLE. THE PROBLEM FACING EUROPE IS THAT ONCE BIOTECH VARIETIES ARE WIDELY APPROVED FOR PLANTING, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR EUROPEAN FARMERS TO PRODUCE FOR A GMO-FREE LABEL, OR FOR THE ONE PERCENT THRESHOLD. THE SMALL SIZE OF FIELDS IN EUROPE AND THEIR CONFIGURATION COULD MAKE GMO-FREE PRODUCTION HARD TO ATTAIN. THE U.S., RUSSIA, AND A FEW OTHER BIG COUNTRIES MAY BEST BE ABLE TO REGIONALIZE PRODUCTION AND PRODUCE FOR THE FUTURE PARALLEL MARKETS.

11. (SBU) SEVERAL RESEARCHERS NOTED TO AGATT THAT FRANCE IS BEHIND IN THE PRODUCTION OF BIOTECH SEED VARIETIES, WHICH COULD EXPLAIN THE ABSENCE OF FRENCH PRESENTERS AT THE CONFERENCE. IT WAS NOTED

THAT IN GERMANY, UNLIKE IN FRANCE, THE GOVERNMENT IS AGGRESSIVELY FUNDING BIOTECH RESEARCH.

12. (SBU) TESTING FOR GMOS

THE EU'S ONE PERCENT THRESHOLD FOR GMOS IN FOOD PRODUCTS REPORTEDLY CANNOT BE MEANINGFULLY ENFORCED BASED ON TESTS THAT ARE COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE TODAY. THAT WILL LIKELY CHANGE, BUT THE SCIENCE OF TESTING FOR GMOS IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. IN ADDITION, DEVELOPING SAMPLING PROTOCOLS IS NOT A TRIVIAL PROBLEM. IT CANNOT BE EXPECTED THAT TESTS THAT WILL GIVE EU AUTHORITIES THE MEANS TO ENSURE FULL ENFORCEMENT OF THE LABELING LAW WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.

13. (SBU) AS THE NUMBER OF GENES THAT MUST BE TESTED FOR INCREASES, ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS DUE TO THE DIFFICULTY IN DEVELOPING TESTS FOR EACH GENE WILL RISE. GMOS ARE BEING PRODUCED IN CHINA, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT ARE UNKNOWN IN THE WEST AND FOR WHICH NO TESTS HAVE BEGUN TO BE DEVELOPED.

14. (SBU) RETAIL SALES OF GMO-CONTAINING FOODS

SOME LARGE COMPANIES THINK THAT ACTIONS TAKEN BY SOME BIG RETAILING CHAINS TO REMOVE GMO INGREDIENTS FROM THEIR HOUSE BRAND PRODUCTS DO NOT HAVE THE CONSUMER SUFFICIENTLY IN MIND. SUPERMARKETS' OWN-LABEL PRODUCTS COMPETE WITH BRAND-NAME PRODUCTS. RETAIL CHAINS EXPECT THAT A PREMIUM FOR NON-GMO PRODUCTS WILL DEVELOP. ESTABLISHING A REPUTATION TODAY AS GMO-FREE MAY MAKE A PRODUCT LINE MORE PROFITABLE IN THE FUTURE. ACCORDING TO THIS VIEW, RETAILERS MAY BE SEEKING TO PROFIT FROM ANTI-GMO CONSUMER SENTIMENT.

15. (SBU) ECOLOGISTS, GREENPEACE, CONFEDERATION

PAYSANNE

ECOLOGIST AND RADICAL FARMER OPPOSITION TO GMOS IS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT THE WORLD DOES NOT NEED GMOS AND CONSUMERS HAVE NOT ASKED FOR THEM. THE GREEN POSITION IS STRIKINGLY UNIFORM AMONG GROUPS. BEHIND THE MANTRA OF "WE DON'T NEED IT" ARE ECONOMIC FEARS AND ARGUMENTS, INCLUDING THE FEAR OF COMPETITION FROM LOW-COST PRODUCERS; WORRY ABOUT LOSING INDEPENDENCE TO LARGE CORPORATIONS; DISTASTE FOR PAYING HIGHER PRICES FOR UNCHANGED PRODUCTS (ASSUMING GMO-FREE PRODUCTS WILL COMMAND UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 PARIS 016915

USDA FOR OSEC; UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIKH; ITP/WEIAD/RMACKE; FAA/SEBRANEK/GEERKEN; CMP/DA/JPARKER

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR
SUBJECT: BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE: SOME FRENCH
PERSPECTIVES

PREMIUM PRICES IN THE FUTURE); AND DISCOMFORT WITH

THE RAPID PACE OF CHANGE IN AGRICULTURE.
ROHATYN

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

SSN: 6915
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TOR: 991109111101 M4141740
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DIST:
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VONLIPSEY YEE
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
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LINE3: R 121500Z NOV 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
OSRI: RUEHWR
DTG: 121500Z NOV 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4940
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 1641
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHXE/EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS COLLECTIVE
INFO: ////
SUBJ: NEW GMO REGULATIONS IN POLAND

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

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WARSAW 011135

STATE FOR EUR/NCE/WOJTASIEWICZ, EB/TPP/ART/ATP/BRUNO
STATE PASS USTR/DRISCOLL
USDA FOR OSEC/(SCHUMACHER, SIDDIQUI); FAS POP
OA/GALVIN, ITP/DA/SHEIKH, ITP/EAMED/(MACKE, HESSE,
AVIDOR), ITP/FSTSD/SLUTSKY, FAR/BURST, ICD/STEINKAMP
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE AND ECON

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PL
SUBJECT: NEW GMO REGULATIONS IN POLAND

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1. (SBU) SUMMARY: USDA UNDER SECRETARY (U/S) AUGUST
SCHUMACHER AND EMBOFFS MET WITH OFFICIALS FROM POLAND'S
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY
(MOE) TO DISCUSS POLAND'S REGULATIONS ON GENETICALLY
MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO). MOE PRESENTED POLAND'S NEW
GMO REGULATIONS TO THE U/S AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY
NEED TO BE IMPROVED. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) ON OCTOBER 14, U/S SCHUMACHER AND EMBOFFS MET
WITH VICE MINISTER JANUSZ RADZIEJOWSKI OF MOE. AS CHIEF
INSPECTOR FOR NATURE CONSERVATION, RADZIEJOWSKI IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR GMO ISSUES WITHIN THE MOE. RADZIEJOWSKI
UPDATED THE U/S ON THE PROGRESS MADE SINCE THEY LAST MET
IN JANUARY 1999 ON PREPARING REGULATIONS ON GMOS.
RADZIEJOWSKI EXPECTED THE NEW REGULATIONS TO BE

PUBLISHED WITHIN A WEEK. HE PRESENTED THE U/S WITH THE VERSION OF THE REGULATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN ALREADY APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND THE PRESIDENT'S SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL. NOTE: THE REGULATIONS BECAME EFFECTIVE ON OCTOBER 22 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LABELING REQUIREMENTS WHICH WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE APRIL R, 2000. END NOTE.

3. (SBU) U/S NOTED THAT HE HAS AWARE THAT THE POLISH FEDERATION OF FOOD INDUSTRY HAD FORMALLY OBJECTED TO THE LACK OF A THRESHOLD LEVEL IN THE NEW GMO REGULATIONS. RADZIEJOWSKI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE REGULATIONS DID NOT PROVIDE FOR A GMO THRESHOLD LEVEL. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE AMENDMENT TO POLAND'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT WHICH OBLIGED THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT TO PREPARE THE GMO REGULATIONS HAS WRITTEN IN SUCH A WAY THAT NO PROVISION FOR A THRESHOLD LEVEL IN THE REGULATIONS HAS POSSIBLE.

4. (SBU) RADZIEJOWSKI ADMITTED THAT THE LACK OF A THRESHOLD LEVEL WAS A FLAW AND SAID THE PROBLEM WOULD BE RECTIFIED BY AMENDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT. UNFORTUNATELY, OTHER PRIORITIES BELATED TO EU INTEGRATION WILL NOT ALLOW MOE TO CORRECT THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACT WITH ANOTHER AMENDMENT UNTIL 2001 OR 2002. RADZIEJOWSKI REPEATED A RECURRING COMPLAINT FROM MOE CONTACTS THAT THE MOE DOES NOT HAVE PERSONNEL WITH EXPERTISE IN THE AREA OF GMOS AND THAT MOE INVOLVEMENT IN THE GMO ISSUE SHOULD ONLY COVER "ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS". RADZIEJOWSKI WOULD LIKE THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR REGULATING GMO IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

5. (SBU) RADZIEJOWSKI STATED THAT POLAND IS OBLIGED TO COMPLY WITH EU DIRECTIVES ON GMO AND THAT POLAND, "MUST ACCEPT EU LEGISLATION." UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER RESPONDED THAT NOBODY HAS TO ACCEPT REGULATIONS WHICH ARE NON-TRANSPARENT OR NOT BASED ON SOUND SCIENCE. THE UNDER SECRETARY GAVE THE EXAMPLE THAT THE LACK OF TESTS TO PROVE PRODUCTS DO NOT CONTAIN GMO MAKE IT PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPORT NON-GMO PRODUCT TO THE EU. THE UNDER SECRETARY SAID THAT ATTEMPTS TO WORK WITH THE EU THROUGH WTO, IPPC AND CODEX ALIMENTARIUS HAVE BEEN HAMPERED BY THE POLITICALLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING THE GMO ISSUE IN THE EU.

6. (SBU) UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER URGED VICE MINISTER RADZIEJOWSKI TO ALLOW PRODUCTS CONTAINING LESS THAN 2 PERCENT GMO CONTENT TO BE EXEMPT FROM LABELING REQUIREMENTS. RADZIEJOWSKI SUGGESTED THAT U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT LABELING POLICY BE TAKEN UP WITH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OR MINIS TRY OF HEALTH. HE AGREED TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED TO MOE ON LABELING WHICH ARE ENDORSED BY THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH. RADZIEJOWSKI NOTED THAT THE POLISH FOOD PROCESSORS FEDERATION ALSO HAD REQUESTED A 2 PERCENT THRESHOLD LEVEL ON GMO CONTENT. UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER

CONCLUDED THAT HE HOPED THE U.S. COULD WORK TOGETHER WITH POLAND TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN SAFETY AND REGULATIONS BASED ON SOUND SCIENCE IN THE AREA OF GMOS.

7. (SBU) THE UNDER SECRETARY COMPLIMENTED THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT ON ITS FOREST AND PARK DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. RADZIEJOWSKI COMMENTED THAT THE MOE BUDGET LIMITS FOREST AND PARK DEVELOPMENT BUT THAT SOME SUCCESSES HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED INCLUDING PLANS TO EXPAND BIALOWIEZA NATIONAL PARK.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 WARSAW 011135

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STATE PASS USTR/DRISCOLL
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POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE AND ECON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PL

SUBJECT: NEW GMO REGULAIONS IN POLAND

8. COMMENT: WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENT OF GMO REGULATIONS CLOSELY AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ON BIOTECHNOLOGY TO MO OFFICIALS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES IN POLAND. SEVERAL USDA SPONSORED SEMINARS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATION HAVE ALREADY BEEN HELD IN POLAND AND THE AMBASSADOR RAISED GMOS WITH THE NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT ON NOVEMBER 10. FUTURE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE PARTICIPATION OF A POLISH JOURNALIST IN AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AND POSSIBLY A VIDEO CONFERENCE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY. THE POLISH FEDERATION OF FOOD INDUSTRIES HAS REQUESTED THAT SPEAKERS FROM USDA OR FDA PARTICIPATE IN THEIR ANNUAL "CONGRESS" SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 26-28 IN WARSAW. END COMMENT.

FRIED

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 1135

<^SSN>1135

TOR: 991112100531 M4146959

<^TOR>991112100720 M4146960

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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002. cable	Re: [Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms] (2 pages)	11/17/1999	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[11/04/1999 - 12/22/1999]

2013-0836-F
ke3016

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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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]
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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]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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003. cable	Re: [Attitude Toward Genetically Modified Organisms] (3 pages)	11/22/1999	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[11/04/1999 - 12/22/1999]

2013-0836-F
ke3016

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]
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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA8188 3271026-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 231026Z NOV 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 231026Z NOV 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6432
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0807
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1795
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 2176
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 4548
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 3168
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 0758
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSS/OECD POSTS COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: MISSION ITALY GMO WORKING GROUP -
FY2000 PLAN OF ACTION
TEXT: UNCLAS ROME 008188

TOBBG
STATE EB/TPP/ATT/ATP/MARILYN BRUNO
G FOR U/S LOY; OES FOR BRILL
WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER, OA/GALVIN,
ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE/SLUTSKY
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU
POST COLLECTIVE PLEASE PASS TO CONSULAR POSTS
PARIS ALSO FOR OECD
MILAN FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICER; ATO
NAPLES FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICER
FLORENCE FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR: ETRD, TBIO, SENV, KSCA
SUBJECT: MISSION ITALY GMO WORKING GROUP -
FY2000 PLAN OF ACTION
REF: SECSTATE 195095

1. TO BETTER ADDRESS THE COMPLEX DEBATE
ABOUT GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS),
THE EMBASSY HAS FORMED A GMO WORKING GROUP,

BUILDING UPON A BASIS OF STRONG INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION TO FURTHER INTEGRATE THE IDEAS OF EACH SECTION TO BETTER PROMOTE U.S. INTERESTS ON THIS ISSUE. REFLECTING THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF INTERESTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY, THE WORKING GROUP INCLUDES THE DCM AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COMMERCIAL, ECONOMICS, LABOR, POLITICAL, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, AND SCIENCE SECTIONS WITH AGRICULTURE AS CHAIR. IN ADDITION, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY TO THE VATICAN AND THE U.S. MISSION TO THE FAO AREA ALSO ACTIVE MEMBERS, AND INPUT FROM ITALYS THREE CONSULATES HAS BEEN SOLICITED. AS ALL EU POSTS FACE SIMILAR CHALLENGES, THE WORKING GROUPS PLAN OF ACTION FOR FY 2000 IS SHARED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS WITH THE HOPE THAT SOME OF THESE IDEAS WILL PROVE USEFUL TO OTHER POSTS AND THAT, IN TURN, OTHERS PROGRAMMING BIOTECH ACTIVITIES WILL SHARE THEIR IDEAS WITH US. ALSO, IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, A CALENDAR OF EVENTS IS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH 5.

2. BACKGROUND: WHILE THE ISSUE OF GMO
O

FOODS IS NOT YET AS CONTENTIOUS IN ITALY AS IT IS IN SOME OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, CONSUMERS ARE FAR FROM CONFIDENT ABOUT THE SAFETY OF MODIFIED FOOD PRODUCTS AND THE GOVERNMENT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CAUTIOUS IN ITS APPROACH TO BIOTECH. THE ONE BRIGHT SPOT IS THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, WHICH IS GENERALLY VERY SUPPORTIVE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. THIS COMMUNITY INCLUDES MANY RESPECTED ACADEMICS, AND MOST MEMBERS OF THE BIOTECH AND NOVEL FOODS COMMITTEES, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE BIO-SAFETY COMMITTEE (CONSTITUTED UNDER THE ITALIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS) WHO IS PARTICULARLY AN OUTSPOKEN SUPPORTER OF BIOTECHNOLOGY.

3. IN THE PAST, THE SUPPORT OF THIS SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY ASSURED US THAT ITALY COULD BE COUNTED ON TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF NEW GMO PRODUCTS AS THEY PASSED THROUGH THE EU APPROVAL PROCESS. HOWEVER, GROWING PRESSURE OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS FROM THE GREEN PARTY, GROUPS SUCH AS GREENPEACE, AND THE EU COMMUNITY AT LARGE IS AFFECTING BOTH GOVERNMENT AND CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, A MEMBER OF THE GREEN PARTY, AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH HAVE EFFECTIVELY STALLED ITALYS FORWARD MOMENTUM BY ARGUING FOR A MORE "CAUTIOUS" APPROACH TO GMO PRODUCT APPROVAL. GREENPEACE HAS ALSO STARTED A CAMPAIGN TO WARN CONSUMERS AND FOOD

RETAILERS ABOUT THE NUMBER OF GMO PRODUCTS ALREADY ON THE SHELVES. IN ADDITION, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, RESPONDING TO PRESSURE FROM THE GREEN PARTY AND WHAT IT PERCEIVES TO BE CONSUMER CONCERNS, HAS SUSPENDED FIELD TRIALS. THUS THE MISSION HAS BEEN COMPELLED TO ORGANIZE A FORMAL PLAN OF ACTION TO HELP ADDRESS THE CHANGING SITUATION.

4. OBJECTIVES: THE WORKING GROUP HAS DECIDED TO FOCUS MISSION ACTIVITIES NOT ONLY ON TRADITIONAL AUDIENCES, E.G., FARM ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENT CONTACTS, AND THE PRESS (AND ULTIMATELY THE CONSUMER), BUT TO ALSO REACH OUT TO NON-TRADITIONAL AUDIENCES SUCH AS THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION SECTOR, TRADE AND LABOR UNIONS, ITALIAN MEMBERS OF THE EU PARLIAMENT, ETHICISTS, AND THE VATICAN. INFORMALLY, THE WORKING GROUP HAS IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

- IDENTIFY RESOURCES INCLUDING MATERIAL FROM ALL SOURCES INCLUDING USG, FAO, WHO, AND ILO FOR TRANSLATION AND DISTRIBUTION TO THE ITALIAN PRESS, CONSUMERS, FOOD DISTRIBUTORS AND OTHERS.
- IDENTIFY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMBASSY AND U.S. SPEAKERS TO PRESENT THE U.S. MESSAGE ON BIOTECH AND GMOS.
- PROVIDE EDUCATION ON THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF GMOS INCLUDING HIGHER RETURN TO THE FARMERS, REDUCED PESTICIDE USE (AND THE CONCURRENT BENEFITS TO AGRICULTURE WORKERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES), MEDICAL AND HEALTH BENEFITS DERIVED FROM GENETICALLY MODIFIED MEDICINES, AND IN THE LONG TERM, THE ABILITY TO BOOST PRODUCTION AND MEET FOOD NEEDS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. PRESENTED BELOW IS THE EMBASSY WORK PLAN FOR FY 2000. WHERE APPROPRIATE, TARGETED DATES ARE PROVIDED. THIS IS A LIVING DOCUMENT AND WILL BE AMENDED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AS OPPORTUNITIES ARISE AND RESOURCES CHANGE.

IDENTIFY RESOURCES:

- TRANSLATE GMO MATERIAL PROVIDED BY WASHINGTON (PA ELECTRONIC JOURNAL, QS & AS, SPEECHES, ETC.) FOR DISTRIBUTION TO APPROPRIATE AUDIENCES. ONGOING.
- PROMOTE PUBLIC AFFAIRS WEB SITE

AGGRESSIVELY AMONG THE FOOD SECTOR AND THE PRESS. PREPARE CARDS WITH A PHOTO OF THE WEB SITE AND ITS ADDRESS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO CONTACTS. YEAR END.

- PROVIDE MATERIAL AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE FROM THE ILO AND WHO ON THE DANGERS OF PESTICIDE POISONING TO AGRICULTURAL WORKERS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ITALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS TO ETHICALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY-ORIENTED INTEREST GROUPS. JAN. 2000.

- DEVELOP MEDIA FILE, BOTH PRO AND CON, OF ITALIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE JOURNALS FOR USE IN IDENTIFYING, AND RESPONDING TO, CONCERNS. ONGOING.

- DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE, THE RESULTS OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) PUBLIC HEARINGS ON BIOTECH FOODS. JAN. 2000.

- DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE, MATERIAL EXPLAINING THE HUMAN HEALTH BENEFITS OF BIOMEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS, AS WELL AS BIOTECH DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS APPROVED FOR HUMAN USE.

- CONTINUE TO IDENTIFY REPORTERS AND MEDIA COMMENTATORS WHO ARE PRO-BIOTECH AND/OR PRO-FREE-TRADE (AS WELL AS THOSE WHO HAVE NOT ESTABLISHED A POSITION) AS RECIPIENTS OF BIOTECH INFORMATION AND PARTICIPANTS IN EMBASSY SPONSORED EVENTS. ONGOING.

OUTREACH

- SPONSOR DIGITAL VIDEO CONFERENCE (DVC) FOR LEADERS IN THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION SECTOR WITH THE U.S. COUNTERPARTS AND BIOTECH EXPERTS. WINTER, 1999/2000

- CULTIVATE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL JOURNALISTS WHO CAN WRITE BALANCED ARTICLES ON BIOTECHNOLOGY.

- PARTICIPATE IN GMO CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES INCLUDING DR. SUSAN HUTNER, A USIA RECOMMENDED BIOTECH SPEAKER AND PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPERT. FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITIES INCLUDE PRESS OPPORTUNITIES IN ROME AND MILAN AND MEETINGS WITH PUBLIC SECTOR AND COOPERATIVE INSTITUTIONS CONDUCTING PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS MEETINGS WITH FAO EXPERTS INVOLVED IN BIOTECH. DEC. 1-3, 1999.

- ORGANIZE IN A SEMINAR ON GMOS WITH THE

ITALIAN SMALL GROCERY ASSOCIATION. SPRING, 2000.

- ORGANIZE PARTICIPATION OF FDA SPEAKERS IN THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION AND CONGRESS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY IN GENOA. MAY 24-26, 2000.

- OPEN DIALOGUE WITH ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS SERVING ON THE COMMITTEE FOR EVALUATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (VAST) ON THE FULL RANGE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY ISSUES, BEGINNING WITH AGRICULTURE AND NOVEL FOODS. YEAR-END 1999.

- WORK WITH THE ITALIAN TOXICOLOGY SOCIETY TO IDENTIFY A U.S. SPEAKER FOR A CONFERENCE ON "THE SECURITY OF BIOTECH FOOD PRODUCTS". FEB. 2000.

- IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE BIOTECHNOLOGY AND ITS DEVELOPMENT CAN PROVIDE BENEFITS TO THE LESSER DEVELOPED REGIONS IN ITALY (I.E. SOUTHERN ITALY). FEB. 2000.

- COORDINATE WITH THE EU COLLECTIVE TO SHARE IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES. ONGOING.

- IDENTIFY SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS FOR THE JAN 2000 BIOTECH CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY AMEMBASSY, THE HAGUE. YEAR-END 1999.

- SEEK SPIN-OFF FROM HAGUE CONFERENCE BY

IDENTIFYING ADDITIONAL PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES IN ITALY FOR SPEAKERS FROM THE HAGUE CONFERENCE. YEAR-END 1999.

- DISSEMINATE WIDELY THE RESULTS OF THE HAGUE CONFERENCE. END JANUARY 2000.

- ENCOURAGE APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS TO PROVIDE MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES ON BIOTECHNOLOGY WHENEVER THEY TRAVEL TO ITALY. ONGOING.

EDUCATION:

- PROPOSE A VOLUNTARY VISITOR PROGRAM FOR FOOD INDUSTRY WRITERS AND GROCERY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT THE U.S. TO STUDY BIOTECH AND FOOD SAFETY FOR FUNDING BY PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND THE BIOTECH INDUSTRY (AIRFARE). JANUARY, 2000.

- VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE NOVEL FOODS COMMITTEE TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER A PA INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM (IVP) TO LEARN ABOUT THE U.S. REGULATORY PROCESS. SPRING

2000.

- IDENTIFY TARGET GROUP FOR FY 2000 IVP PROGRAMS (POSSIBLE PACKAGE FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS AND POLITICAL DECISION MAKERS). WINTER, 2000.

- SPONSOR GMO SEMINARS IN ROME AND MILAN CENTERED AROUND FDA AND USDA SPEAKERS. MAY, 2000.

- HOST DISCUSSION GROUPS OF LOCAL LEADERS HOSTED BY THE CONSULATES TO IDENTIFY NEEDS AND ATTITUDES IN THE VARIOUS REGIONS OF ITALY. FIRST QUARTER, 2000.

- IDENTIFY ITALIAN EC PARLIAMENTARIANS CURRENTLY SITTING ON ANY COMMITTEES RELEVANT TO THE GMO ISSUE. INVITE THEM TO EMBASSY ACTIVITIES BOTH SUBJECT SPECIFIC (DVCS, PRESS CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, ETC.) BUT ALSO TO SOCIAL EVENTS WHERE RELATIONSHIPS CAN BE BUILT. YEAR END.

- THROUGH THE EMBASSY TO THE VATICAN, IDENTIFY ORDAINED AND LAY EXPERTS SERVING IN THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND LIFE WHO CAN ORGANIZE FORMAL SESSIONS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AND GMOS. EXPLORE WITH THESE EXPERTS ETHICAL AND QUALITY OF LIFE ASPECTS (GREATER ACCESS TO FOOD, INCREASED WORKER SAFETY) OF GMOS. PROVIDE INPUT TO PONTIFICAL ACADEMY DISCUSSIONS. NOVEMBER, 1999 AND ONGOING.

- DISCUSS BENEFITS OF GMOS WITH CARITAS, THE FOOD AID ORGANIZATION OF THE VATICAN. YEAR END.

- WORK WITH THE U.S. MISSION TO FAO TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION WITH APPROPRIATE FAO OFFICES. ENCOURAGE THE FAO TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN DISCUSSING BIOTECHNOLOGY, PARTICULARLY IN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMITTEE WHICH DEVELOPS FOOD SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS. ONGOING.
FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 8188

TOR: 991124044958 M4166786

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA8188 3271026-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH (CCY AD12E165/MSI7946/668)

LINE3: R 231026Z NOV 99 ZEL

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME

OSRI: RUEHRO

DTG: 231026Z NOV 99

ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6432
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0807

INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1795
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 2176
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 4548
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 3168
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 0758
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHSS/OECD POSTS COLLECTIVE

SUBJ: MISSION ITALY GMO WORKING GROUP -
FY2000 PLAN OF ACTION

TEXT:

UNCLAS ROME 008188

C O R R E C T E D COPY (DELETED USIA ADDRESS)

STATE EB/TPP/ATT/ATP/MARILYN BRUNO
G FOR U/S LOY; OES FOR BRILL
WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER, OA/GALVIN,
ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE/SLUTSKY
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU
POST COLLECTIVE PLEASE PASS TO CONSULAR POSTS
PARIS ALSO FOR OECD
MILAN FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICER; ATO
NAPLES FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICER
FLORENCE FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR: ETRD, TBIO, SENV, KSCA

SUBJECT: MISSION ITALY GMO WORKING GROUP -
FY2000 PLAN OF ACTION

REF: SECSTATE 195095

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- CONTINUE TO IDENTIFY REPORTERS AND MEDIA COMMENTATORS WHO ARE PRO-BIOTECH AND/OR PRO-FREE-TRADE (AS WELL AS THOSE WHO HAVE NOT ESTABLISHED A POSITION) AS RECIPIENTS OF BIOTECH INFORMATION AND PARTICIPANTS IN EMBASSY SPONSORED EVENTS. ONGOING.

OUTREACH

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WELL AS MEETINGS WITH FAO EXPERTS INVOLVED IN BIOTECH. DEC. 1-3, 1999.

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IDENTIFYING ADDITIONAL PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES IN ITALY FOR SPEAKERS FROM THE HAGUE CONFERENCE. YEAR-END 1999.

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- ENCOURAGE APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS TO PROVIDE MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES ON BIOTECHNOLOGY WHENEVER THEY TRAVEL TO ITALY. ONGOING.

EDUCATION:

- PROPOSE A VOLUNTARY VISITOR PROGRAM FOR FOOD INDUSTRY WRITERS AND GROCERY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT THE U.S. TO STUDY BIOTECH AND FOOD SAFETY FOR FUNDING BY PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND THE BIOTECH INDUSTRY (AIRFARE). JANUARY, 2000.

- VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE NOVEL FOODS COMMITTEE TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER A PA INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM (IVP) TO LEARN ABOUT THE U.S. REGULATORY PROCESS. SPRING 2000.
- IDENTIFY TARGET GROUP FOR FY 2000 IVP PROGRAMS (POSSIBLE PACKAGE FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS AND POLITICAL DECISION MAKERS). WINTER, 2000.
- SPONSOR GMO SEMINARS IN ROME AND MILAN CENTERED AROUND FDA AND USDA SPEAKERS. MAY, 2000.
- HOST DISCUSSION GROUPS OF LOCAL LEADERS HOSTED BY THE CONSULATES TO IDENTIFY NEEDS AND ATTITUDES IN THE VARIOUS REGIONS OF ITALY. FIRST QUARTER, 2000.
- IDENTIFY ITALIAN EC PARLIAMENTARIANS CURRENTLY SITTING ON ANY COMMITTEES RELEVANT TO THE GMO ISSUE. INVITE THEM TO EMBASSY ACTIVITIES BOTH SUBJECT SPECIFIC (DVCS, PRESS CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, ETC.) BUT ALSO TO SOCIAL EVENTS WHERE RELATIONSHIPS CAN BE BUILT. YEAR END.
- THROUGH THE EMBASSY TO THE VATICAN, IDENTIFY ORDAINED AND LAY EXPERTS SERVING IN THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND LIFE WHO CAN ORGANIZE FORMAL SESSIONS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AND GMOS. EXPLORE WITH THESE EXPERTS ETHICAL AND QUALITY OF LIFE ASPECTS (GREATER ACCESS TO FOOD, INCREASED WORKER SAFETY) OF GMOS. PROVIDE INPUT TO PONTIFICAL ACADEMY DISCUSSIONS. NOVEMBER, 1999 AND ONGOING.
- DISCUSS BENEFITS OF GMOS WITH CARITAS, THE FOOD AID ORGANIZATION OF THE VATICAN. YEAR END.
- WORK WITH THE U.S. MISSION TO FAO TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION WITH APPROPRIATE FAO OFFICES. ENCOURAGE THE FAO TO TAKE AN ACTIVE

ROLE IN DISCUSSING BIOTECHNOLOGY, PARTICULARLY IN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMITTEE WHICH DEVELOPS FOOD SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS. ONGOING.

FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 8188

TOR: 991124215514 M4168746

DIST:

SIT: BLINKEN YEE

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHOTA4194 3281913-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 241913Z NOV 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
OSRI: RUEHOT
DTG: 241913Z NOV 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0241
INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0682
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHKK/WHADP COLLECTIVE
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2075
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUCNCAN/ALCAN COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GMO FOODS: MANDATORY LABELING BILL INTRODUCED, WILL NOT PASS

TEXT:

UNCLAS OTTAWA 004194

DEPARTMENT FOR G, E, EB/TPP, OES/ETC/ENRIGHT, WHA/CAN

DEPARTMENT PASS USTR FOR SHARON BOMER LAURITSEN AND MARY
RYCKMAN

USDA FAS WASHDC PLEASE PASS FDA FOR OFFICE OF FOOD LABELING -
JERRY MCCOWIN

USDA FOR FAS RMIRELES AND APHIS/DORR AND MCCAMMON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, GM, CA

SUBJ: GMO FOODS: MANDATORY LABELING BILL INTRODUCED, WILL NOT PASS

REF: (A) OTTAWA 3734 (B) OTTAWA 3413 (C) OTTAWA 3353

1. A BILL THAT WOULD MAKE IT MANDATORY TO LABEL GENETICALLY
MODIFIED FOODS HAS BEEN INTRODUCED INTO THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT BY
A MEMBER OF THE BLOC QUEBECOIS, THE QUEBEC NATIONALIST OPPOSITION
PARTY.

2. THE BILL DOES NOT HAVE THE IMPRIMATUR OF THE GOVERNING LIBERAL
PARTY AND THEREFORE HAS VIRTUALLY NO CHANCE OF BECOMING LAW.

3. THE ACT, C-309 "AN ACT TO AMEND THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT", IS A
SO-CALLED "PRIVATE MEMBER'S PUBLIC BILL" THAT WAS RECENTLY
INTRODUCED FOR FIRST READING IN PARLIAMENT BY BLOC QUEBECOIS MP
HELEN ALARIE. THE SO-CALLED FIRST READING SIMPLY ALLOWS THE
PROPOSED ACT TO BE PUT ON THE AGENDA OF PARLIAMENT FOR DISCUSSION

LATER IN THE SESSION. THE PROPOSED ACT WILL BE PRESENTED FOR SECOND READING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AT SOME STILL UNDEFINED DATE (THE RULING LIBERAL PARTY CONTROLS THIS PROCESS) AT WHICH TIME THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECT OF THE BILL WILL BE DEBATED, AND THE BILL EITHER ACCEPTED OR REJECTED.

4. THE PROPOSED BILL CALLS FOR MANDATORY LABELS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS THAT WILL READ "THIS PRODUCT OR ONE OR MORE OF ITS COMPONENTS HAS BEEN GENETICALLY MODIFIED" AND WOULD REQUIRE STORES TO POST A SIGN NEAR THE FOOD THAT WILL READ: "GENETICALLY MODIFIED".

5. BILL C-309 CAN BE FOUND IN ITS ENTIRETY AT THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY WEBSITE (UNDER HOUSE BUSINESS, PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS):

[HTTP://WWW.PARL.GC.CA](http://www.parl.gc.ca)

4. COMMENT: THIS PROPOSED ACT IS VERY UNLIKELY TO EVER BECOME LAW SINCE IT DOES NOT HAVE THE BLESSING OF THE RULING LIBERAL PARTY. IT WILL, HOWEVER, SERVE TO SPARK DISCUSSION IN PARLIAMENT OF THE GMO LABELING ISSUE AND GENERATE INCREASED SCRUTINY OF THE GOC APPROACH TO GMO LABELING (SEE REF CABLES). POST WILL MONITOR AND REPORT NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

GIFFIN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4194

TOR: 991124152635 M4168244

DIST:

SIT: BLINKEN DAVIDSON GORDON KASS NORLAND VONLIPSEY YEE

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHOTA4273 3342045-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 302045Z NOV 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
OSRI: RUEHOT
DTG: 302045Z NOV 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0301
INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0684
RUCNCAN/ALCAN COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: FOOD GIANT ESCHEWS GMO POTATOES

TEXT:

UNCLAS OTTAWA 004273

STATE FOR EB, WHA/CAN, OES

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS USTR

USDA FAS FOR BERNICE SLUTSKY AND FOR APHIS - SALLY MCCAMMON

USDA FAS PLEASE PASS FDA

FDA FOR JAMES MARYANSKI AND FCAN/JOHN JONES

USTR FOR MARY RYCKMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, CA

SUBJ: FOOD GIANT ESCHEWS GMO POTATOES

1. ON NOVEMBER 28, NEW BRUNSWICK-BASED MCCAIN FOODS, ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST BUYERS OF POTATOES (AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST PRODUCERS OF FROZEN FRENCH FRIES) ANNOUNCED THAT BEGINNING IN EARLY 2000 IT WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT GENETICALLY MODIFIED POTATOES FOR PROCESSING.

2. THE CHAIRMAN OF MCCAIN FOODS, HARRISON MCCAIN, TOLD REPORTERS THAT ALTHOUGH "WE THINK GENETICALLY MODIFIED MATERIAL IS VERY GOOD SCIENCE..WE'VE GOT TOO MANY PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT EATING THE PRODUCT" AND EXPLAINED THAT MCCAIN'S ROLE IS SIMPLY TO GIVE CUSTOMERS WHAT THEY WANT AND NOT TO DEBATE SCIENCE WITH THE CONSUMER.

3. MCCAIN'S MOVE IS NOT THE ONLY DEVELOPMENT OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS THAT HAS SERVED TO FUEL THE GMO DEBATE IN CANADA. LATE LAST WEEK 200 FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENTISTS SENT A PETITION TO GOC HEALTH MINISTER ALLAN ROCK WHICH CLAIMS THAT THE GOVERNMENT LACKS THE STAFF

AND RESOURCES TO EXAMINE THE POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS (AND OFFERS AS THE SOLUTION, MORE FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT) .

4. POST CONTINUES TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS ON THE GMO FRONT AND WILL PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE GOC BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY STANCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

PETERS

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4273

TOR: 991130170117 M4175660

DIST:

SIT: DUNCAN HAMMONDS LEE SCHAEFER

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHMLA4887 3350750-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 010750Z DEC 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
OSRI: RUEHML
DTG: 010750Z DEC 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7026
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
INFO: RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1267
RUEHGS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 3691
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6172
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0069
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0726
SUBJ: BIOTECHNOLOGY - PHILIPPINE CONGRESS HOLDS
HEARINGS ON PROPOSED MANDATORY GMO LABELING LEGISLATION

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 MANILA 014887

GENEVA FOR USTR

USTR FOR OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

USTR ALSO FOR S.MURPHY

STATE FOR EB/ATP,OES/ETC

STATE PASS FDA - CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

USDA FOR ITP/SHEIEKI AND HARBERT

USDA ALSO FOR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, OCII, OPRC, SENV, WTRO, RP
SUBJECT: BIOTECHNOLOGY - PHILIPPINE CONGRESS HOLDS
HEARINGS ON PROPOSED MANDATORY GMO LABELING LEGISLATION

REF: MANILA 13397

1. ACTION REQUEST - SEE PARAS. 16-17.

SUMMARY

2. THE PHILIPPINES SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HELD SEPARATE HEARINGS NOVEMBER 23 ON PROPOSED

LEGISLATION THAT WOULD MANDATE THE LABELING OF FOOD AND FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS). THE LEGISLATION WAS INTRODUCED BY INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATORS, NOT BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO TESTIFIED AT THE HEARINGS GENERALLY CONCURRED WITH THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATION, ALTHOUGH THEY DID POINT OUT THAT IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE DIFFICULT. TWO NGOS TESTIFIED IN FAVOR OF THE LEGISLATION, ASSERTING, AS DID THE SPONSORS OF THE LEGISLATION, THAT THE ISSUE AT STAKE IS THAT CONSUMERS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHETHER FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINS GMOS. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SEARICE, A EUROPEAN-FUNDED NGO, SAID CAUTION SHOULD BE THE WATCHWORD OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ON BIOTECHNOLOGY. THE SPONSOR OF THE BILL IN THE SENATE, SEN. JUAN FLAVIER, COMMENTED THAT "PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHOOSE WHETHER THEY WANT TO TAKE THE RISKS WITH GMO FOOD." THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE TRADE AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE, WHICH CONDUCTED THE HEARING, IS SKEPTICAL OF THE MANDATORY LABELING PROPOSAL. HE HAS INVITED USG REPRESENTATIVES TO GIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE U.S. APPROACH TO FOOD BIOTECHNOLOGY AT THE NEXT COMMITTEE HEARING ON THE BILL. THE SAME SENTIMENT WAS EXPRESSED AT THE HOUSE HEARING ON GMO LABELING LEGISLATION. IN THE HOUSE, HOWEVER, DISCUSSION MOVED ON TO DELIBERATION OF A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE HEALTH RISKS OF GMOS. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON AGENCIES SEND A TEAM COMPOSED OF FDA, USDA AND EPA OFFICIALS FOR THE NEXT HEARING. END SUMMARY.

HEARING ON GMO LABELING

3. THE PHILIPPINE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HELD SEPARATE HEARINGS NOVEMBER 23 ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION (SB 1677 IN THE SENATE AND HB 7793 IN THE HOUSE) THAT WOULD MANDATE LABELING OF FOOD AND FOOD PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN GMOS. THE HOUSE HEARING ALSO CONSIDERED HOUSE RESOLUTION 552, MANDATING AN INQUIRY INTO THE ENTRY OF GMOS INTO THE PHILIPPINES, THEIR USE IN FOOD PRODUCTION, AND THE EXTENT OF DANGER, IF ANY, THEY POSE TO PUBLIC HEALTH. REF A REPORTED ON SB 1677, INTRODUCED BY SEN. JUAN FLAVIER, A PHYSICIAN AND A FORMER HEALTH SECRETARY. BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE BILLS ARE INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVES, NOT ADMINISTRATION-SPONSORED LEGISLATION. THE FACT THAT TWO SEPARATE HEARINGS WERE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY APPEARS TO BE COINCIDENTAL.

4. SEN. FLAVIER EMPHASIZED AT THE SENATE HEARING, CHAIRED BY TRADE AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SEN. RAMON MAGSAYSAY JR., THAT HE SEES THE PROPOSAL PRIMARILY AS PROMOTING THE CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO KNOW WHETHER FOODS CONTAIN GMOS. FLAVIER NOTED THE ON-GOING DEBATE ABOUT WHETHER BIOTECH FOODS POSE RISKS AND SAID "CONSUMERS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHETHER TO TAKE THE RISK OR NOT." SIMILARLY, THE AUTHOR OF HB 7793, REPRESENTATIVE FRANCIS ESCUDERO, JR., SAID HE WAS NEUTRAL ON THE ISSUE OF HEALTH RISK, AND THOUGHT IT MORE IMPORTANT TO ALLOW CONSUMERS AN INFORMED CHOICE WHILE THE

HEALTH DEBATE DRAGS ON.

GOVERNMENT: LABELING OK, BUT IMPLEMENTATION DIFFICULT

5. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT THE SENATE HEARING DID NOT
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 MANILA 014887

GENEVA FOR USTR

USTR FOR OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

USTR ALSO FOR S.MURPHY

STATE FOR EB/ATP,OES/ETC

STATE PASS FDA - CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

USDA FOR ITP/SHEIEKI AND HARBERT

USDA ALSO FOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, OCII, OPRC, SENV, WTRO, RP

SUBJECT: BIOTECHNOLOGY - PHILIPPINE CONGRESS HOLDS

HEARINGS ON PROPOSED MANDATORY GMO LABELING LEGISLATION

EXPRESS ANY OPPOSITION TO THE LABELING PROPOSAL. THEY
CONCURRED WITH THE BILL'S INTENT, BUT DID NOT EXPRESS
MUCH ENTHUSIASM. DR. EMERENCIANA DURAN, A MEMBER OF THE
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON BIOSAFETY OF THE PHILIPPINES
(NCBP), NOTED THAT U.S. POLICY IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE
OF SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE, WHILE THE EU'S STRINGENT
REQUIREMENTS ARE BASED ON "PRECAUTION." (NOTE: THE NCBP
WAS ESTABLISHED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 430 IN 1990, TO
DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT REGULATIONS GOVERNING RESEARCH,
TESTING, AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF TRANSGENIC MATERIALS.
IT IS COMPOSED OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCHERS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF "CIVIL SOCIETY." END
NOTE.)

6. DURAN STRESSED THAT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN
REQUIRING THAT ALL FOODS BE LABELED, WOULD "IMPOSE A HUGE
BURDEN." SHE CITED AN AUSTRALIAN STUDY SUGGESTING
MANDATORY LABELING WOULD RAISE THE COST OF FOOD BY AS
MUCH AS SIX PERCENT. DURAN SAID IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO
CONSIDER THE ISSUE OF COVERAGE (WHAT PERCENT GMO CONTENT
WOULD TRIGGER LABELING), CITING JAPAN AS OFFERING A
"MIDDLE GROUND" APPROACH. THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE
BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS (BFAD) EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR
MANDATORY LABELING, BUT ALSO SECONDED DURAN'S CONCERN
THAT ANY LABELING REQUIREMENT COVERING FOOD PRODUCTS
WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT. HE AND DURAN
AGREED THAT ENFORCEMENT WOULD BE BEYOND EXISTING
CAPABILITIES OF THE BFAD.

7. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ZENAIDA MAGLAYA FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI) VOICED LUKEWARM

SUPPORT FOR THE BILL, BUT SAID DTI BELIEVES BFAD HAS AUTHORITY UNDER EXISTING LAW TO REQUIRE CERTAIN LABELING OF FOOD PRODUCTS. THE BFAD REPRESENTATIVE PNITA DANIO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SEARICE (A VOCAL NGO HOSTILE TO BIOTECHNOLOGY AND FUNDED IN PART BY GRANTS FROM THE DUTCH AND NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENTS) AND FRANCIS DE LA CRUZ, OF THE CITIZENS ALLIANCE FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION. THEY CITED INTERNATIONAL TRENDS TOWARD MANDATORY LABELING, IN THE EU, JAPAN, AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND, AND NOTED A DECISION BY ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND TO ENCOURAGE THE SEGREGATION OF GMO AND NON-GMO CROPS. DANIO ALSO CITED A PURPORTED BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION POSITION ADVOCATING A MORATORIUM ON GMOS. DE LA CRUZ CITED CONSUMER SURVEYS IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE U.S., WHICH ALLEGEDLY SHOW STRONG SUPPORT FOR LABELING. WE ARE FAXING COPIES OF THE PREPARED STATEMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE NGOS TO STATE/EB/ATP AND USDA/FAS/OFSTS.

ANTI-BIOTECH GROUPS HAVE FIELD DAY AT HOUSE HEARING

9. THE HOUSE HEARING CONSIDERED TWO ITEMS, HB 7793 MANDATING LABELING OF GMO FOOD PRODUCTS, AND HOUSE RESOLUTION 552, DIRECTING AN INQUIRY INTO THE HEALTH RISKS POSED BY GMOS AND THE EXTENT OF GMO USE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

10. AFTER AN INITIAL DISCUSSION, THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS DECIDED TO FOCUS ON HR 552. THE PROCEEDINGS WERE SOMEWHAT DISORGANIZED, RAMBLING FROM TOPIC TO TOPIC. THEY WERE DOMINATED BY PRESENTATIONS BY A PHARMACOLOGIST WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MEDICAL SCHOOL, AND THE "COMMUNITY" MEMBER OF THE NCBP (WHO, INCIDENTALLY, CAST THE ONLY DISSENTING VOTE AGAINST THE FIELD TESTING OF BT CORN IN THE PHILIPPINES). BOTH WERE HOSTILE TO GMOS. THEY WERE EACH ALLOWED INORDINATE FLOOR
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 MANILA 014887

GENEVA FOR USTR

USTR FOR OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

USTR ALSO FOR S.MURPHY

STATE FOR EB/ATP,OES/ETC

STATE PASS FDA - CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

USDA FOR ITP/SHEIEKI AND HARBERT

USDA ALSO FOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, OCII, OPRC, SENV, WTRO, RP

SUBJECT: BIOTECHNOLOGY - PHILIPPINE CONGRESS HOLDS

HEARINGS ON PROPOSED MANDATORY GMO LABELING LEGISLATION

TIME. THEIR COMMENTS WERE CHARACTERIZED BY DOOMSDAY

SCENARIOS BUILT ON SCIENTIFICALLY SHAKY EVIDENCE.

11. ON THE WHOLE, THE DISCUSSION TENDED TOWARDS NATIONALISTIC "NOT IN MY BACK YARD" TERMS, WITH THE U.S. IMPLIED TO BE THE SOLE MERCHANT OF GMO PRODUCTS. THE AUTHOR OF HR 552 WANTED TO KNOW WHY BT CORN FIELD TESTING WAS TO BE CONDUCTED IN THE PHILIPPINES AND NOT IN THE U.S.; HE WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT BT CORN HAD BEEN TESTED AND IN COMMERCIAL USE THERE SINCE 1996. THERE WAS A TENDENCY TO BLUR THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN GMOS AND OTHER FOOD ISSUES SUCH AS HORMONE-FED LIVESTOCK, DAIRY PRODUCTS, AND DRUGS. A RESEARCHER FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, WHICH WOULD BE CONDUCTING THE FIELD TESTING OF BT CORN HERE, MADE A BRIEF BUT ARTICULATE PRESENTATION ON THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF GMO PRODUCTS TO AN IMPOVERISHED NATION SUCH AS THE PHILIPPINES. HIS COMMENTS WERE BRUSHED ASIDE BY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR BASCUG WITH THE COMMENT THAT "SHORT-TERM" ECONOMIC GAINS COULD NOT OVERRIDE CONSIDERATION OF THE LONG TERM HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE MASSES. THE FDA APPROVAL PROCESS, AND IN PARTICULAR SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE, WAS DEEMED TO BE INADEQUATE, AND FDA'S AND EPA'S OBJECTIVITY WAS QUESTIONED BY ANTI-GMO WITNESSES.

12. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO RECOMMEND THE REVOCATION OF THE IMPORT LICENSE (GRANTED TO MONSANTO SUBSIDIARY AGRO SEED INTERNATIONAL) ON BT CORN, BASED ON "IMMINENT HEALTH RISKS". IT WAS ALSO DECIDED TO FORM A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR GMO OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING IN THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. ANOTHER HEARING IS TO BE HELD SOMETIME IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, BUT A DEFINITE DATE WAS NOT SET.

LONE VOICE AGAINST MANDATORY LABELING

13. THE ONLY SENATE WITNESS EXPLICITLY OPPOSED TO MANDATORY LABELING WAS RENATO MONTEMAYOR, PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF FOOD MANUFACTURERS. MONTEMAYOR STRESSED THAT MANDATORY LABELING WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO THE COMPLETE SEGREGATION OF GMO AND NON-GMO CROPS, LEADING TO A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN PRICES. HE EXPLAINED THE BASIS FOR LABELING IN THE UNITED STATES, AND SAID THE PHILIPPINES SHOULD EMULATE THIS MODEL, NOT THE MANDATORY LABELING REGIMES OF THE EU, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND. SENATOR FLAVIER TUSSELED VERBALLY WITH MONTEMAYOR, INSISTING THAT MANDATORY LABELING WOULD NOT REQUIRE CROPS TO BE SEGREGATED.

HEALTH SECRETARY COMMENTS ON GMOS

14. UNLIKE THEIR POSITION ON LABELING, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE FIRMLY REJECTED CALLS TO BAN GMOS. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE EDGARDO ANGARA HAS REPEATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO JOURNALISTS HIS BELIEF THAT BIOTECHNOLOGY OFFERS SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS FOR PHILIPPINE FARMERS. SECRETARY OF HEALTH ALBERTO ROMUALDEZ HAS ALSO

MADE USEFUL STATEMENTS. HE IS QUOTED IN A NOVEMBER 22 PRESS REPORT AS SAYING THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT WOULD PROVE ANY DIRECT HARM FROM GMO-DERIVED FOODS. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED AN INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE TO "TAKE STOCK OF EVIDENCE THAT WOULD PROVE THE SAFETY OF GMO DERIVED FOOD PRODUCTS." ACCORDING TO THE PRESS REPORTS, ROMUALDEZ SAID THERE IS NO BASIS FOR DISCOURAGING CONSUMERS FROM BUYING GMO-DERIVED FOODS.

COMMENT

15. SEN. MAGSAYSAY APPEARS SKEPTICAL OF FLAVIER'S LABELING BILL. HE TOLD US THAT HE IS CONCERNED THAT IT UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 MANILA 014887

GENEVA FOR USTR

USTR FOR OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE

USTR ALSO FOR S.MURPHY

STATE FOR EB/ATP,OES/ETC

STATE PASS FDA - CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

USDA FOR ITP/SHEIEKI AND HARBERT

USDA ALSO FOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, OCII, OPRC, SENV, WTRO, RP

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HEARINGS ON PROPOSED MANDATORY GMO LABELING LEGISLATION

WOULD INCREASE FOOD COSTS. HOWEVER, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ARE LESS POWERFUL IN THE PHILIPPINES THAN IN THE UNITED STATES, AND LEGISLATION CAN BE APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE EVEN IF THE CHAIRMAN PERSONALLY OPPOSES IT. MAGSAYSAY WILL BE PART OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO THE SEATTLE WTO MINISTERIAL. WHILE SENATOR FLAVIER IS COMMITTED TO HIS BILL, WE BELIEVE HE IS OPEN TO CONSIDERING MODIFICATIONS.

ACTION REQUEST

16. SENATOR MAGSAYAY INVITED AN EMBASSY OR USG REPRESENTATIVE TO APPEAR AT THE NEXT HEARING ON THE LEGISLATION, AD EXPLAIN U.S.)mX
BSCG, THE HAR F THE HOUE UB-COMMITTE N UBLIC HEALTH. EMBASSY STRONGLY ELIEVES WE SHOULD TAKE MAGSAYSAY AND BASCUG UP O THEIR OFFER, AND RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON AGENCIS SEND A TEAM COMPOSED OF FDA, EPA, AND USDA RESOURCE SPEAKERS THAT COULD PARTICIPATE (POSSIBLY AT SHORT NOTICE) IN THE NEXT HEARINGS, ONCE DATES ARE SET.

17. WE WOULD URGE WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO CONSIDER SENDING SOMEONE WHO CAN PRESENT U.S. VIEWS IN AN INFORMED, BUT NON-TECHNICAL, MANNER, OUTLINING THE COSTS MANDATORY LABELING WOULD ENTAIL AND THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES OFFICIALS WOULD FACE. SIMILARLY, SOMEONE WHO COULD CLEARLY ARTICULATE THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE U.S. APPROACH TO BIOTECH PRODUCTS, THE BODY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE ON HEALTH IMPLICATIONS, AND DISCUSS IN PARTICULAR THE FDA APPROVAL PROCESS WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IN ADDRESSING THE HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE. INFORMATION ON OUR EXPERIENCE WITH FIELD-TESTING GMOS WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME. WE WOULD PLAN TO SET UP OTHER MEETINGS FOR ANY OFFICIAL VISITOR(S), AND INCLUDE MEDIA EVENTS. MAGSAYSAY WOULD LIKE TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE IS SCHEDULED TO RECESS, DECEMBER 17. FINALLY, WE WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ABOUT CONSUMER SURVEYS ON LABELING IN THE U.S.

HUBBARD

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 04

<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 04

<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 04

<^SECT>SECTION: 04 OF 04

SSN: 4887

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<^TOR>991201222400 M4178324

<^TOR>991201222415 M4178325

<^TOR>991201222436 M4178327

DIST:

SIT: BERNARD BLACK HARRIS HUSO KEITH LIEBERTHAL OSIUS PRITCHARD SAMORE

SEGAL TUCKER

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHWA4770 3370702-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 030702Z DEC 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BERN
OSRI: RUEHSW
DTG: 030702Z DEC 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BERN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9598
INFO: RUEHZA/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
SUBJ: AUNT JEMIMA PULLED FROM STORE SHELVES OVER
UNAPPROVED GMO INGREDIENT; FEDERAL COUNCILOR PROPOSES GMO
CULTIVATION BAN

TEXT:
UNCLAS BERN 004770

GENEVA FOR FAS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, SZ
SUBJECT: AUNT JEMIMA PULLED FROM STORE SHELVES OVER
UNAPPROVED GMO INGREDIENT; FEDERAL COUNCILOR PROPOSES GMO
CULTIVATION BAN

1. SUMMARY: SWISS RETAILERS RECENTLY PULLED AUNT JEMIMA PANCAKE MIX FROM THEIR SHELVES AS A RESULT OF A GREENPEACE STUDY WHICH FOUND TRACES OF A MONSANTO GMO CORN VARIETY YET TO BE APPROVED FOR CONSUMPTION IN SWITZERLAND. THE SWISS HEALTH OFFICE CONFIRMED THAT AN APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE CORN WAS SUBMITTED BUT PERMISSION IS STILL PENDING. SEPARATELY, THE FEDERAL COUNCILOR RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS HAS PROPOSED IMPOSING A BAN ON THE CULTIVATION OF ALL GMO PLANTS. WHILE THE PROPOSAL MAY NEVER BECOME REALITY, SUCH HIGH LEVEL SUPPORT POINTS OUT THE GROWING SENSITIVITY OF THE ISSUE IN SWITZERLAND. END SUMMARY.

2. THE TWO RETAILERS STOCKING AUNT JEMIMA PANCAKE MIX IN SWITZERLAND, GLOBUS AND LOEB, PULLED THE PRODUCT FROM THEIR SHELVES ON THURSDAY IN RESPONSE TO PUBLICATION OF A GREENPEACE-FUNDED STUDY CLAIMING ANALYSIS OF THE PRODUCT REVEALED THE PRESENCE OF MONSANTO'S GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN VARIETY 810. THE STUDY REPORTEDLY DETERMINED THAT THE GMO CORN MADE UP 1.4 PERCENT OF THE CONTENTS OF THE MIX (IN JULY 1999, SWISS AUTHORITIES ESTABLISHED A 1 PERCENT THRESHOLD FOR REQUIRING THAT THE PRESENCE OF APPROVED GMOS BE INDICATED ON FOOD LABELS). THE SWISS IMPORTER OF THE PRODUCT (GUSTAV GERIG AG OF ZURICH) SAID IT WAS SURPRISED BY

THE NEWS AND INDICATED IT WILL CONTACT THE AMERICAN SUPPLIER ABOUT THE GREENPEACE ANALYSIS. IF THE U.S. SUPPLIER CONFIRMS THAT THE ANALYSIS IS CORRECT, THE COMPANY WILL NO LONGER IMPORT THE PRODUCT. THE LOEB CHAIN SAYS IT IS STUDYING THE GREENPEACE REPORT AND REMOVING THE MIX IS A "PRECAUTIONARY STEP".

3. THE SWISS HEALTH OFFICE HAS REACTED CAUTIOUSLY. WHEN THE STORY FIRST HIT THE PRESS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK, OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAD NOT SEEN THE GREENPEACE STUDY AND WERE UNSURE WHETHER THEY WOULD ISSUE ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE MATTER; TO DATE, THEY HAVE NOT. THE HEALTH OFFICE SPOKESPERSON TOLD US THAT MONSANTO HAS FILED AN APPLICATION WITH SWISS AUTHORITIES FOR APPROVAL OF THE GMO CORN VARIETY BUT THE MATTER IS STILL PENDING. UNTIL THE PRODUCT IS APPROVED, THE HEALTH AUTHORITIES OBJECT TO ITS SALE.

4. SEPARATELY, FEDERAL COUNCILOR LEUENBERGER, RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, ISSUED A PROPOSAL THIS WEEK THAT SWITZERLAND ADOPT LEGISLATION BANNING THE CULTIVATION OF GMO PLANTS. THE PROPOSAL ALSO SUGGESTS EVENTUALLY TIGHTENING RESTRICTIONS ON APPROVING GMO VARIETIES FOR USE IN FOODS AND MEDICINES. LEUENBERGER WILL FIRST HAVE TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE FEDERAL COUNCIL. ONE, FEDERAL COUNCILOR COUCHEFY\$TERS WHO REJECTED THE SO-CALLED "GENETECH" INITIATIVE IN JUNE OF 1998 (67 PERCENT OPPOSED) WHICH SOUGHT TO IMPOSE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A SIMILAR GMO CULTIVATION BAN TO THE ONE LEUENBERGER IS NOW TOUTING.

5. COMMENT: LEUENBERGER'S PROPOSAL WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL OPPOSITION -- AS DID THE GENETECH INITIATIVE. EVEN IF THE PROPOSAL FAILS OR ONLY SURVIVES IN A WATERED-DOWN VERSION, THE FACT THAT A FEDERAL COUNCILOR IS SERIOUSLY PUSHING THE IDEA POINTS OUT THE GROWING GMO SENSITIVITY IN SWITZERLAND. FREDERICKS

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 4770

TOR: 991203021156 M4180987

DIST:

SIT: DUNCAN HAMMONDS LEE MUNTER SCHAEFER

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHKO A0302 3420630-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 080630Z DEC 99
LINE4: FM AMCONSUL FUKUOKA
OSRI: RUEHKO
DTG: 080630Z DEC 99
ORIG: AMCONSUL FUKUOKA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1300
INFO: RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHRC/DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2483
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2276
RUHBBMA/AMCONSUL NAHA 4286
RUEHKO/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 2045
RUEHKO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 4246
SUBJ: GMO: REGISTRATIONS UP FOR ORGANIC FARMING IN
TEXT: UNCLAS FUKUOKA 0302

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: GMO: REGISTRATIONS UP FOR ORGANIC FARMING IN
KYUSHU

REFS: A) STATE 151442; B) STSUREPORTS. TWO REGIONAL PREFECTURES
ARE NOW PROMOTING ORGANIC OR LOW-CHEMICAL-FERTILIZER
FARMING. FUKUOKA PREFECTURE IS WORKING ON INTRODUCING
AN "ORGANIC FARMING CERTIFICATION SYSTEM", AND KUMAMOTO
PREFECTURE HAS BEEN PROMOTING AN "AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL
FERTILIZER REDUCTION SYSTEM". ACCORDING TO THE KYUSHU
AGRICULTURAL BUREAU, LAST YEAR THE MARKET FOR ORGANIC
PRODUCTS GREW BY 15 PERCENT IN KYUSHU.

2. THIS FISCAL YEAR, FUKUOKA PREFECTURE INDEPENDENTLY
INTRODUCED A NEW SYSTEM TO CERTIFY ORGANIC FARMING
METHODS. ACCORDING TO A PREFECTURAL OFFICIAL, EIGHTEEN
APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED UNDER THIS NEW SYSTEM,
EXCEEDING THE PREFECTURE'S EXPECTATIONS. MANY OF THE
APPLICATIONS CAME FROM GREEN TEA FARMERS IN YAME COUNTY
IN FUKUOKA PREFECTURE, WHICH PRODUCES 1.3 PERCENT OF THE
NATION'S GREEN TEA.

3. THROUGH THIS NEW SYSTEM, THE PREFECTURES SAY THEY
HOPE TO CLARIFY THE SOMEWHAT VAGUE STANDARDS FOR

LABELING "ORGANIC PRODUCTS" AND TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY BY PROMOTING VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS. AS "ORGANIC PRODUCTS" ARE DEFINED AS THOSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS THAT UTILIZE NO AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS FOR THREE YEARS, FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, THE LABELING UNDER THE PREFECTUREQS SYSTEM WILL INDICATE THAT THE PRODUCTS ARE IN A "TRANSITIONAL PERIOD", WITH THE FIRST OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION ISSUED IN JANUARY 2001. STARTING NEXT YEAR, FUKUOKA PREFECTURE WILL ACCEPT APPLICATIONS TWICE A YEAR IN MAY AND NOVEMBER.

4. A KUMAMOTO PREFECTURAL OFFICIAL STATED THAT 211 FARMERS REGISTERED FOR "LOW-CHEMICAL AGRICULTURAL FARMING" CERTIFICATION DURING JFY 1998 ON A RANGE OF PRODUCTS INCLUDING RICE, VEGETABLES, FRUITS AND GREEN TEA. KUMAMOTO PREFECTURE ACCEPTS APPLICATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, WITH RENEWAL GRANTED ON A YEARLY BASIS.

MAHER

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0302

TOR: 991208015544 M4188924

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHRLA2193 3471331-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O 131331Z DEC 99

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

OSRI: RUEHRL

DTG: 131331Z DEC 99

ORIG: AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2409
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0029

INFO: RUCNFRG/FRG COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 0023
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0399
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0054
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 0346

SUBJ: GREENPEACE BLOCKS SHIPMENT OF U.S. GMO CORN,
THREATENS FURTHER ACTIONS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED-PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY; NOT
FOR INTERNET REDISTRIBUTION

TEXT:

UNCLAS BERLIN 002193

SENSITIVE

FROM HAMBURG

DEPT FOR EUR/AGS, EUR/ERA, AND
EB/TPP/ATT/ATP
FAS FOR AO/GALVIN, ITP/SHEIKH/GRUEFF
GENEVA AND ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, ETRD, SCUL, GM

SUBJECT: GREENPEACE BLOCKS SHIPMENT OF U.S. GMO CORN,
THREATENS FURTHER ACTIONS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED-PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY; NOT
FOR INTERNET REDISTRIBUTION

1. (U) ON DECEMBER 8 GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS, IN THE
GREENPEACE VESSEL "BELUGA" AND NINE INFLATABLE RAFTS,
KEPT THE FREIGHTER "UNISON" FROM REACHING ITS DESTINATION
IN THE PORT OF HAMBURG. THE FREIGHTER WAS CARRYING
40,000 TONS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CORN GLUTEN FROM THE
U.S., TO BE USED AS ANIMAL FEED. DESPITE THE SIGNIFICANT
RISK OF CAUSING FIRES IN A NEARBY TANK DEPOT, THE

ACTIVISTS LIGHTED FLARES AND FIRED A ROCKET IN THEIR EFFORTS TO HOLD UP THE FREIGHTER AND CREATE A DISTRACTION. AFTER AN HOURLONG STRUGGLE WITH GREENPEACE, THE POLICE SUCCEEDED IN STORMING THE BELUGA AND ARRESTED 15 ACTIVISTS. THE FREIGHTER HAD TO BE TOWED OUT TO AWAIT THE NEXT HIGH TIDE.

2. (U) ON DECEMBER 9 POLECONSPEC CALLED LUDWIG KELTING, MANAGER OF THE FEED MILL COMPANY HABEMA, THE BUYER OF THE CORN SHIPMENT. HE TOLD US THAT THE GREENPEACE ACTION HAD RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE LOSSES TO HABEMA DUE TO EXTRA TUGGING AND PERSONNEL COSTS. HE SAID HABEMA WOULD SEE TO IT THAT GREENPEACE REIMBURSE THOSE COSTS. POLECONSPEC ALSO CALLED GREENPEACE GMO SPOKESPERSON KARSTEN SMID, WHO HAD BEEN ONE OF THE ACTIVISTS PARTICIPATING IN THE INCIDENT. SMID SAID THAT SUCH AN ACTION HAD BEEN OVERDUE, AND ASSERTED THAT GREENPEACE WOULD CONTINUE TO "PERFORM EXTREME ACTIONS" (AUF DAS SCHAERFSTE WENDEN) AGAINST GMO SHIPMENTS.

3. (SBU) A SOURCE IN THE IMPORTING BUSINESS IN GERMANY TOLD ATO OFFICER THAT THE BOAT WAS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE ON TO ARHUUS, DENMARK TO DISCHARGE THE SECOND HALF OF ITS CORN GLUTEN SHIPMENT. THIS SOURCE SAID HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF GREENPEACE ALSO MOUNTED A PROTEST ACTION THERE.

4. (U) THE TRANSMITTAL OF THIS MESSAGE WAS DELAYED BY THREE DAYS BECAUSE OF A MALFUNCTIONING PCCS SYSTEM.

LYNCH

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2193

TOR: 991213093939 M4197571

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHGPA3695 3500910-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: P 160910Z DEC 99

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

OSRI: RUEHGP

DTG: 160910Z DEC 99

ORIG: AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7219

INFO: RUEHZS/ASEAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9359

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2923

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 2377

RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 2770

RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 5458

RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 9437

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0386

RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC

RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC

RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC

SUBJ: SINGAPORE PROGRAM AND GUIDELINES ON GMO-RELATED ISSUES

TEXT:

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 003695

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: SINGAPORE PROGRAM AND GUIDELINES ON GMO-RELATED ISSUES

REF: SINGAPORE 2141

1. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE. PLEASE SEE PARA 13.

2. SUMMARY. TAKING THE LEAD IN ASEAN, SINGAPORE'S GENETIC
MODIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GMAC) ISSUED GUIDELINES IN
AUGUST GOVERNING THE RELEASE (AND IMPORTATION) OF AGRICULTURE-
RELATED GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S) INTO THE COUNTRY.
IT IS ALSO EXPECTED SHORTLY TO ISSUE MODEL GUIDELINES ON LABELING
AND LAUNCH PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMS BOTH IN SINGAPORE AND ACROSS
THE REGION WITH RESPECT TO GMO FOOD PRODUCTS. WITH MUCH AT
STAKE, SINGAPORE-BASED U.S. COMPANIES AND THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE
OFFICE (ATO) ARE SEEKING GREATER INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROCESS TO

HARMONIZE THE REGION'S GMO-RELATED REGULATIONS. END SUMMARY.

SINGAPORE TAKES THE LEAD ON GMO ISSUES

3. ASPIRING TO BE AN ASIAN BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER, SINGAPORE HAS TAKEN THE LEAD WITHIN ASEAN TO HARMONIZE REGIONAL FOOD PRODUCTION AND TRADE REGULATIONS (SEE REFTEL FOR MORE DETAILED BACKGROUND). APART FROM CHAIRING THE ASEAN WORKING GROUPS ON CROPS AND LIVESTOCK, SINGAPORE PROPOSED AND CREATED A NEW ASEAN TASK FORCE IN 1997 TO LOOK AT REGULATIONS GOVERNING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY, I.E., GMO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. THE TASK FORCE INCLUDED AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATORY AGENCIES OF EACH ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRY. ITS MANDATE WAS TO PRODUCE A SET OF HARMONIZED REGULATIONS ON GMO AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS FOR THE REGION WITHIN TWO YEARS.

4. WITH RAPID ADVANCES IN BIOTECHNOLOGY OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL ASEAN COUNTRIES HAVE PROCEEDED TO CONSIDER THEIR OWN GMO-RELATED REGULATIONS, EVEN BEFORE THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE HAS BEEN COMPLETED. ASEAN AGRICULTURAL EXPORTERS APPEAR TO BE CAUGHT BETWEEN THE NEED TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AND NGO PRESSURES AGAINST GMO PRODUCTS ON ONE HAND, AND THE DESIRE TO RAISE PRODUCTIVITY ON THE OTHER. IN THIS CONTEXT, SINGAPORE HAS DECIDED TO MOVE AHEAD TO DEVELOP ITS OWN "MODEL" REGULATIONS AS WELL, WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT THEY MAY EVENTUALLY BE ADOPTED BY THE REGION AS A WHOLE.

THE GENETIC MODIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GMAC)

5. IN APRIL 1999, SINGAPORE SET UP A GENETIC MODIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GMAC) TO ADVISE ITS OWN REGULATORY BODIES ON THE IMPORT, HANDLING AND USE OF GMO PRODUCTS. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE IS: PROFESSOR LIM PIN, VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE (NUS). THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IS: DR. NGIAM TONG TAU, DIRECTOR OF THE PRIMARY PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT UNDER THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THE COMMITTEE'S STATED OBJECTIVE IS TO DEVELOP NATIONAL GMO-RELATED REGULATIONS BASED ON SOUND SCIENCE. GMAC MEMBERS COME FROM A BROAD RANGE OF DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
PRIMARY PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BOARD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD
INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR AGROBIOLOGY
INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY
NATIONAL PARKS BOARD
SINGAPORE GENERAL HOSPITAL
TRADE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

6. TO CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE, GMAC HAS FURTHER CREATED FOUR SUBCOMMITTEES TO ADDRESS DIFFERENT SUBJECTS, INCLUDING:

A) BIOSAFETY GUIDELINES FOR AGRICULTURE-RELATED GMO'S

7. IN AUGUST 1999, GMAC ISSUED "GUIDELINES ON THE RELEASE OF AGRICULTURE-RELATED GMO'S" BASED ON THE WORK OF THE RELEVANT SUBCOMMITTEE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT REQUIRES THAT ANYONE INTENDING TO RELEASE SUCH GMO PRODUCTS INTO THE COUNTRY MUST FIRST SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE GMAC FOR APPROVAL. THE GUIDELINES PROVIDE A COMMON FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING RISKS OF AGRICULTURE-RELATED GMO'S TO HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT, AND ESTABLISH AN APPROVAL MECHANISM FOR THE RELEASE OF SUCH PRODUCTS. APPENDICES TO THE DOCUMENT LIST A SERIES OF QUESTIONS REGARDING A PRODUCT AND ITS INTENDED USE THAT NEED TO BE ANSWERED IN PROPOSALS AS WELL AS RISK ASSESSMENT CRITERIA TO BE USED BY EXPERT PANELS IN THEIR DELIBERATION. THE GUIDELINES ALSO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO FOOD SAFETY ON THE BASIS OF "SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE," THAT IS, "IF A NEW FOOD OR FOOD COMPONENT IS FOUND TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO AN EXISTING FOOD OR FOOD COMPONENT, IT CAN BE TREATED IN THE SAME MANNER WITH RESPECT TO SAFETY." THE GMAC HAS UP TO 150 DAYS TO ENDORSE OR REJECT A PROPOSAL. (NOTE: THE FULL DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE AT FAS IN WASHINGTON.)

LABELING GUIDELINES AND PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMS

8. ALTHOUGH GMAC WAS EXPECTED TO ISSUE ITS GUIDELINES FOR THE LABELING OF GMO AND GMO-DERIVED PRODUCTS BEFORE THE END OF 1999, WE HEARD FROM THE PRIMARY PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT (PPD) THAT THIS IS LIKELY TO BE DELAYED UNTIL SOMETIME INTO THE NEW YEAR. ACCORDING TO PPD DIRECTOR AND GMAC DEPUTY CHAIRMAN NGIAM, NONE OF THE OTHER ASEAN GOVERNMENTS, EXCEPT FOR SINGAPORE AND THAILAND, ARE EXPECTED TO ISSUE LABELING REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS. ONCE SINGAPORE GUIDELINES ARE ISSUED, THEY COULD BE USED AS MODELS FOR THE REGION.

9. MEANWHILE, THE GMAC SUBCOMMITTEE TASKED WITH DEVELOPING PUBLIC AWARENESS HAS DRAFTED A DETAILED PROPOSAL SEEKING FUNDING (INITIALLY ESTIMATED AT USD 70,000) TO FINANCE A BROAD-BASED PROGRAM TO DESSIMINATE "ACCURATE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION" AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE. THE STATED GOAL IS "TO HAVE AN EDUCATED PUBLIC THAT HAS THE CONFIDENCE IN MAKING A CONSCIOUS CHOICE IN CONSUMING FOOD DERIVED FROM GMO'S." THE SUBCOMMITTEE PROPOSES FIRST TO DO A BASELINE SURVEY OF PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND THEN DRAW UP A LIST OF "FRQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS" TO WHICH SCIENTIFIC ANSWERS WOULD BE PROVIDED. THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE DESSIMINATED THROUGH VARIOUS MEDIA, INCLUDING THE PRESS AND MAGAZINES, HANDBOOKS AND BROCHURES, A GMAC WEBSITE, FORA AND TALK SHOWS, AND PUBLIC LECTURES.

10. IN THIS CONNECTION, RESEARCHERS FROM THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE RECENTLY CONDUCTED A SURVEY OF SINGAPOREANS WHO ATTENDED A PUBLIC LECTURE ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) FOODS TO GAUGE THEIR PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES ON THE SUBJECT. THE STUDY-

-BASED ON OVER 400 RESPONSES--FOUND THAT ROUGHLY HALF OF THOSE SURVEYED WERE CONCERNED ABOUT GM FOODS, AND A LARGE MAJORITY FELT THAT GM FOODS SHOULD BE LABELED. THE RESPONDENTS WERE CONCERNED PRIMARILY ABOUT ISSUES RELATING TO HEALTH AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, ETHICS. MANY CONSIDERED THE BENEFITS OF GM FOODS AS WELL. THE RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES WERE ALSO FOUND TO BE RELATED TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT BIOTECHNOLOGY, AS THOSE BETTER INFORMED TENDED TO BE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT THE HEALTH RISKS OF GM FOODS, YET CONTINUED TO FAVOR LABELING. HENCE, THE STUDY CONCLUDED THAT EDUCATION IS A KEY FACTOR INFLUENCING ATTITUDES ON THIS SUBJECT.

11. APART FROM ITS OWN PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM, SINGAPORE HAS ALSO TAKEN THE LEAD IN THE REGION TO ORGANIZE AND FUND A TWO-DAY WORKSHOP (ENTITLED "CREATING PUBLIC AWARENESS ON GMO'S IN ASEAN") SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN JAKARTA NEXT MARCH UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT. ALTHOUGH THE ORIGINAL OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP WAS TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM DIRECTED ONLY AT THE GENERAL PUBLIC, SINGAPORE--ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF ATO SINGAPORE AND THE INTERNATIONAL LIFE SCIENCE INSTITUTE (ILSI)--WILL NOW PUSH FOR AN ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION TO TARGET DECISION-MAKERS, SCIENTISTS AND OTHER OPINION LEADERS AS WELL. THE PROGRAM TO BE DEVELOPED AT THE WORKSHOP IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AT THE NEXT SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING OF ASEAN MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY IN BRUNEI IN APRIL. ATO SINGAPORE--WHICH HAS BEEN CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH SINGAPORE'S PPD ON PLANNING FOR THE WORKSHOP--WILL BE ONE OF THE TEN NON-ASEAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE WORKSHOP. IT IS ALSO WORKING WITH THE U.S.-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL TO IDENTIFY U.S. INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS FOR THE WORKSHOP.

ATO AND U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITIES

12. WITH MUCH AT STAKE, U.S. ATO AND A NUMBER OF SINGAPORE-BASED U.S. COMPANIES HAVE SOUGHT INVOLVEMENT AT EVERY STAGE OF THIS DELIBERATIVE PROCESS. AS NOTED REFTTEL, ATO SINGAPORE INITIATED USDA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST TWO WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED BY THE ASEAN GMO TASK FORCE, PROVIDING SPEAKERS, INCLUDING ONE ON THE ISSUE OF LABELING REQUIREMENTS AT THE SECOND WORKSHOP IN JANUARY. EARLIER THIS YEAR, MONSANTO HAD PROPOSED FORMING A PRIVATE SECTOR COALITION (INCLUDING EUROPEAN COMPANIES) THAT WOULD DRAFT A CONSENSUS POSITION ON LABELING WHICH COULD BE APPLIED REGION-WIDE IN ORDER TO PREEMPT THE ISSUANCE OF NUMEROUS COUNTRY-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS. A NUMBER OF U.S. INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES WILL ALSO BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ASEAN PUBLIC AWARENESS WORKSHOP IN JAKARTA. FINALLY, AS NOTED ABOVE, ATO SINGAPORE IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH SINGAPORE PPD TO HELP ORGANIZE THE JAKARTA WORKSHOP. THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THIS EFFORT IS TO ESTABLISH AN ASEAN-BASED ORGANIZATION THAT COULD PURSUE A COORDINATED EDUCATION PROGRAM ON GMO ISSUES IN THE REGION.

CRITICAL ROLE OF ATO SINGAPORE

13. ACTION REQUEST. FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS AUGUST

GUIDELINES ON AGRICULTURE-RELATED GMO PRODUCTS, WE EXPECT SINGAPORE TO ISSUE NEW GUIDELINES ON GMO LABELING BEFORE TOO LONG INTO THE NEW YEAR. WE EXPECT SINGAPORE TO PUSH FOR ASEAN'S ADOPTION OF THESE GUIDELINES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL. SINGAPORE HAS ALSO TAKEN THE LEAD ON GMO PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMS, BOTH IN SINGAPORE AND REGION-WIDE. AS NOTED ABOVE, ATO SINGAPORE HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH SINGAPORE PPD, SINGAPORE-BASED U.S.-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL AND PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE EMBASSY CONTINUE TO STRONGLY SUPPORT SINGAPORE AND U.S. INDUSTRY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO HARMONIZE THE REGION'S GMO-RELATED POLICIES ON THE BASIS OF SOUND SCIENCE. GIVEN THE CRITICAL ROLE OF ATO SINGAPORE IN THIS PROCESS, WE WOULD URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT REVIEW WITH USDA/FAS THE PRESENT DECISION TO ELIMINATE THE POSITION OF THE ATO AMERICAN OFFICER IN SINGAPORE WHEN THE PRESENT OFFICER DEPARTS NEXT SUMMER.

GREEN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 3695

TOR: 991216041329 M4203982

DIST:

SIT: BOWLES HUSO KEITH LIEBERTHAL OSIUS PRITCHARD

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHBSA7556 3501509-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 161509Z DEC 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 161509Z DEC 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5767
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0392
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0505
SUBJ: VOLUNTARY LABELING OF NON-GMO FOOD IN BELGIUM

TEXT:
UNCLAS BRUSSELS 007556

STATE PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR
U/SEC/SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/TGALVIN;
FAS/ITP/PSHEIKH; FAS/ITP/EAME/RICHEY;
FAS/OFSTS/HARBERT;
FAS/CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHNEIDER/COTS/BLUM;

ERS/WES/MADELL; APHIS/OA; FSIS/OA;
FAA/GEERKEN/AO/NE

STATE PASS USTR, FDA, EPA
STATE PASS AGRICULTURE
GENEVA FOR USTR; ALSO AGRICULTURE
EU POSTS PASS AGCOUNSELOR
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD. BE
SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY LABELING OF NON-GMO FOOD IN BELGIUM

REF: SECSTATE 215241

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY
- THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM (GOB) FOLLOWS EU LEGISLATIVE
PROCEDURES. CONSEQUENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BEGIN TO
IMPLEMENT THE EU PROPOSAL ON LABELING FOODSTUFFS EXCEEDING
THE 1 THRESHOLD FOR GMO IF AND WHEN THE EU COMMISSION
DIRECTS THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT TO DO SO.
2. IN BELGIUM, A NATIONAL POLICY DOES NOT EXIST, AS IN
THE NETHERLANDS AND GERMANY, FOR LABELING NON-GMO
FOODSTUFFS. THE GERMANY AND DUTCH GOVERNMENTS ADOPTED
LEGISLATION THAT ALLOWS FOR THE VOLUNTARY LABELING OF
FOODS AS "PREPARED WITHOUT GENE TECHNOLOGY." THE LAW

SEEKS TO REGULATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS DESIGNATION MAY BE USED FOR FOODSTUFFS WHICH ARE NOT GENETICALLY MODIFIED. ACCORDING TO THE LAW, THIS DESIGNATION MAY ONLY BE USED FOR FOODS AND DRINKS WHICH:

- (A) DO NOT CONSIST OF, OR ARE DERIVED FROM GMO'S;
- (B) ARE NOT PREPARED BY MEANS OF SUBSTANCES WHICH (1) CONSIST OF, OR ARE DERIVED FROM ANIMAL FEED WHICH CONTAINS GENETICALLY MODIFIED ADDITIVES; OR (2) HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED DRUGS WHICH ARE PRODUCED USING MODERN BIOTECHNOLOGY, UNLESS COMPARABLE DRUGS WITH THE SAME EFFECTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE, AND WHICH DO NOT CONTAIN TRACES OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED DNA, UNLESS THIS IS UNINTENTIONAL AND UNAVOIDABLE.

3. THIS SYSTEM OF VOLUNTARY LABELING APPLIES TO THE ENTIRE CHAIN OF FOOD PRODUCTION. CONTROLS WILL BE BASED ON SHIPPING DOCUMENTS AND OTHER CERTIFICATES FROM SUPPLIERS. ACCORDING TO A WELL RESPECTED BELGIAN SOURCE, IT IS NOT UNLIKELY THAT BELGIUM WILL FOLLOW DUTCH LEGISLATION WITH REGARD TO THE LABELING OF FOODS "PREPARED WITHOUT GENE TECHNOLOGY." THE REASON IS THAT THE NEW BELGIAN MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, MAGDA ALVOET, IS FROM THE LEFTISTS GREEN PARTY. SHE WILL CERTAINLY TAKE ANY OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION AGAINST THE USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE.

4. COMMENT: THE BELGIANS ARE FOLLOWING CLOSELY THE IMPACT OF THE DUTCH LEGISLATION ON SALES OF PRODUCTS IN DUTCH SUPERMARKETS. THIS WILL INFLUENCE THE GOB'S DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO AUTHORIZE LABELING OF NON-GMO PRODUCTS IN BELGIUM.

CEJAS

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 7556

TOR: 991216102244 M4204608

DIST:

SIT: BOWLES NORLAND

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHKO A0326 3552358-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 212358Z DEC 99

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

OSRI: RUEHKO

DTG:

ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9942

RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 6042

RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1039

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8880

INFO: ////

SUBJ: FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE/TOKYO

AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY SEMINAR FOR MAJOR
MEDIA HELD ON DECEMBER 17

TEXT: UNCLAS TOKYO 010326

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USTR FOR SCHER, IVES, KELLY

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR FDA FOR MARYANSKI, FLAMM

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR NEC FOR BRAINARD

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR USDOC FOR AARON AND BIGGS

STATE PLEASE PASS FOR EPA

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 DUNAHAY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, WTRO, TBIO, SENV, ECON, KSCA, USTR, JA

SUBJECT: FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE/TOKYO

AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY SEMINAR FOR MAJOR
MEDIA HELD ON DECEMBER 17

1. ON DECEMBER 17, 1999 FAS/JAPAN HELD A BIOTECH FOOD
SAFETY SEMINAR AT THE EMBASSY FOR MAJOR PRINT AND
BROADCAST MEDIA. THE TWO-HOUR PROGRAM FEATURED
PRESENTATIONS BY THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTER-COUNSELOR AND
OTHER FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE/TOKYO STAFF AND
FOCUSED ON FDA'S SAFETY ASSESSMENT, STATUS OF U.S.
GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROP PRODUCTION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL
BENEFITS OF BIOTECH CROPS. SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS
INCLUDED A COMMENTATOR FROM NHK, THE LARGEST TELEVISION

NEWS NETWORK IN JAPAN, AND SEVERAL REPORTERS FROM THE NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, A HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL PUBLICATION THAT IS REGULARLY REPORTING ON THE ONGOING GM FOOD SAFETY DEBATE IN JAPAN. VIRTUALLY ALL QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON SAFETY ASSESSMENT AND MANY WERE TECHNICAL IN NATURE.

2. THE EVENT REPRESENTED A CONTINUATION OF THE FAS/JAPAN SEMINAR SERIES ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY. THIRTEEN SUCH EVENTS HAVE BEEN HELD SINCE EARLY 1998. PROGRAMS HELD SO FAR IN FY2000 INCLUDE SEMINARS IN OSAKA (WITH NEARLY 400 FOOD INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE) AND NORTHERN JAPAN. THE NEXT EVENT, ARRANGED BY THE USDA AGRICULTURAL TRADE OFFICE/OSAKA, WILL BE HELD JANUARY 20 IN FUKUOKA.
LAFLEUR

TOR: 12/21/99 22:02:43

DIST: SIT: NSC DUNCAN HAMMONDS HUSO KEITH LEE LIEBERTHAL OSIUS PRITCHARD

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA8858 3561042-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 221042Z DEC 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7127
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0827
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 4713
SUBJ: ITALY CONSIDERS THE BAN OF 7 GMO
VARIETIES
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 008858

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN;
ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE; OFSTS/SLUTSKY;
STATE PASS USDA ALSO FOR
CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHENEIDER; CMP/COTS/BLUM;
FAA/GEERKEN
DEPT PASS USTR
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE
MILAN FOR ATO

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EU, IT
SUBJECT: ITALY CONSIDERS THE BAN OF 7 GMO
VARIETIES

1. SUMMARY: IN A PRESS RELEASE DATED
DECEMBER 17, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED
THAT THE USE OF 7 GENETICALLY MODIFIED
PRODUCTS WILL BE SUSPENDED TEMPORARILY AS A
PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE BASED ON A PETITION
MADE BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR A GREEN
ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY. THE REASON FOR THE
SUSPENSION IS BASED ON ARGUMENTS THAT THE
VARIETIES SHOULD HAVE BEEN EVALUATED BY THE
MEMBER STATES AS OPPOSED TO BEING ACCEPTED
UNDER A PETITION OF SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE
UNDER EU REGULATION 258/97. DR. ROMANO
MARABELLI, HEAD OF THE NOVEL FOODS COMMITTEE
ASSURED THE EMBASSY THAT THE PRESS RELEASE
HAS "LITTLE CONNECTION TO REALITY" AND THAT
NO DECISION ON WHAT ACTION TO TAKE HAS BEEN
MADE. MARABELLI, SAID THAT THE MOH DOES
BELIEVE THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH THESE

PRODUCTS WERE APPROVED DOES NEED TO BE REVIEWED, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE MINISTRY MAY TURN THE ISSUE OVER TO THE EU COMMISSION TO MAKE A DETERMINATION. MARABELLI STRESSED THAT REACHING SUCH DECISION IS A TIME CONSUMING PROCESS, AND THAT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS WILL MAKE ARRIVING AT A DECISION EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. IF THE MOH DOES BAN THE IMPORT OF THE 7 PRODUCTS, IMPORTS OF U.S. PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS, PARTICULARLY IN PROCESSED FOOD, COULD BE SEVERELY RESTRICTED.

HOWEVER, AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF ANY EFFECT WILL DEPEND ON THE ULTIMATE DECISION TAKEN BY THE MOH. POST WILL FOLLOW THIS ISSUE CLOSELY AND REPORT BACK AS INFORMATION IS OBTAINED.
END SUMMARY.

2. ON DECEMBER 17, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH RELEASED THE FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT:
"FOLLOWING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERIOR HEALTH INSTITUTE AND THE SUPERIOR HEALTH COUNCIL, BASED ON A PETITION BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR A GREEN ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY (VERDE), THAT THE PROCEDURES FOLLOWED FOR MARKETING SEVEN GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS WERE NOT APPROPRIATE, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE MINISTRIES OF ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, WILL ADOPT A PROVISION TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING THE USE OF THESE PRODUCTS AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MECHANISM PROVIDED UNDER EU REGULATIONS". THE SEVEN PRODUCTS IN QUESTION ARE 4 CORN (MAIS BT11, MAIS MON 810, MAIS MON809, AND MAIS T25) AND 3 RAPESEEDS (RAPESEED GT 73, RAPESEED OIL MS1 RS1, AND RAPESEED OIL RF2 MS1).

3. THIS PRESS RELEASE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN BASED ON AN OPINION PROVIDED BY THE SUPERIOR HEALTH COUNCIL, AN ADVISING BODY TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, ON DECEMBER 16. THE OPINION ITSELF IS IN RESPONSE TO A PETITION FROM VERDE, WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FROM THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION "FRIENDS OF THE EARTH", CLAIMING THAT THE SEVEN GMO PRODUCTS WERE NOT PROPERLY APPROVED FOR MARKETING AT THE EU LEVEL. ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT, THE SEVEN PRODUCTS WERE TESTED AND SUBMITTED FOR EU APPROVAL BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT UNDER THE SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE FOR "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT" PRODUCTS UNDER EU REGULATION 258/971. VERDE ARGUES THAT THE INSERTED GENE COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT (ALLERGIC REACTION, PRODUCTION OF TOXINS, OR ACTIVATION OF PREVIOUSLY DORMANT GENES, ETC.) AND ARE THEREFORE NOT SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT. AS A RESULT, THE PRODUCTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN EVALUATED BY EACH MEMBER STATE PRIOR TO

APPROVAL. THE SUPERIOR HEALTH COUNCIL
SUPPORTS THIS ARGUMENT AND RECOMMENDS THAT
THE EU RULES REGARDING PRODUCTION AND
MARKETING OF NOVEL FOODS BE MODIFIED IN
ACCORDANCE TO THE NEW SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 008858

STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN;
ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE; OFSTS/SLUTSKY;
STATE PASS USDA ALSO FOR
CMP/GFD/RIEMENSCHENEIDER; CMP/COTS/BLUM;
FAA/GEERKEN
DEPT PASS USTR
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE
MILAN FOR ATO

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EU, IT
SUBJECT: ITALY CONSIDERS THE BAN OF 7 GMO
VARIETIES

AVAILABLE ON THE ISSUE OF SUBSTANTIAL
EQUIVALENCE.

4. DR. ROMANO MARABELLI, OF THE MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NOVEL FOODS
COMMITTEE, IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE
AGATTACHE, STRESSED THAT THIS PRESS RELEASE
"HAD LITTLE CONNECTION TO REALITY" AND THAT
THE MOH WAS STILL STUDYING THE ISSUE.
MARABELLI SAID THAT IT IS THE PRACTICE IN
EUROPE TO INTRODUCE PRODUCTS THROUGH THE
SIMPLIFIED NOTIFICATION SYSTEM THAT ARE
CONSIDERED TO BE SIMILAR TO TRADITIONAL
PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, SOME PRODUCTS THAT HAVE
BEEN NOTIFIED MAY NOT BE EQUIVALENT OR MAY
NOT HAVE HAD ADEQUATE RESEARCH DONE ON THEIR
POSSIBLE HEALTH AFFECTS. MARABELLI ALSO SAID
THAT THERE COULD BE A PUBLIC PERCEPTION THAT
THE PRODUCTS WERE NOT PROPERLY EVALUATED.
MARABELLI STRESSED THAT A BAN ON THE PRODUCTS
WAS AN OPTION THAT SHOULD NOT EVEN BE
DISCUSSED AT THIS TIME, AND THAT OTHER
OPTIONS, INCLUDING HANDING THE ISSUE OVER TO
THE EU COMMISSION TO RESOLVE, ARE MUCH MORE
LIKELY TO HAPPEN. MARABELLI ADDED THAT
REACHING ANY SUCH DECISION IS NORMALLY A TIME
CONSUMING PROCESS, BUT THAT THE CURRENT
GOVERNMENT CRISIS WILL MAKE ARRIVING AT A
DECISION EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. (NOTE: THE
ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER RESIGNED ON DECEMBER
18 AND IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO FORM A NEW
COALITION GOVERNMENT).

5. COMMENT: DR. MARABELLI HAD BEEN IN
MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS SINCE LAST WEEK AND JUST

RETURNED TO HIS OFFICE THE MORNING OF DEC. 21 WHEN HE TALKED WITH THE AGATTACHE. IT WAS APPARENT THAT HE WAS CAUGHT OFF GUARD, AND EMBARRASSED, BY THE PRESS RELEASE. MARABELLI GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE PROBABLY AGREES THAT THE SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES CURRENTLY FOLLOWED SHOULD BE REVIEWED, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF PUBLIC PERCEPTION THAT THERE MAY BE A PROBLEM. HOWEVER, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SUPPORTIVE, ALBEIT IN A CAUTIOUS WAY, OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND IT WOULD BE OUT OF CHARACTER FOR HIM TO GO ALONG WITH SUCH A KNEE-JERK PUBLIC ACTION. MARABELLI HAS OFTEN COAXED A MORE MODERATE LINE OUT OF HEALTH MINISTER ROSI BINDI, WHO LEANS TOWARD THE GREEN POINT OF VIEW. MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, EDO RONCHI, IS A MEMBER OF THE GREEN PARTY AND CAN BE ASSUMED TO BE FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF A BAN OF THE PRODUCTS. IF THE MOH DOES BAN THE IMPORT OF THE 7 PRODUCTS, IMPORTS OF U.S. PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS, PARTICULARLY IN PROCESSED FOOD, COULD BE SEVERELY RESTRICTED. HOWEVER, AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF ANY EFFECT WILL DEPEND ON THE ULTIMATE DECISION TAKEN BY THE MOH. POST WILL FOLLOW THIS ISSUE CLOSELY AND REPORT BACK AS INFORMATION IS OBTAINED. END COMMENT. FOGLIETTA

TOR: 12/22/99 06:23:56

DIST: SIT: BLINKEN NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON DUNCAN HAMMONDS KASS LEE MUNTER
NORLAND VONLIPSEY YEE