Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Negotiations on International Trade in Genetically Modified Organisms] (2 pages)	01/19/2000	P1/b(1)
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: [Discussions] (7 pages)~~	~~01/20/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NLC 4/3/2020
003. cable	Re: [Public Awareness on Genetically Modified Organisms] (2 pages)	01/21/2000	P1/b(1)
~~004. cable~~	~~Re: Brazil Refuses U.S. Corn Due to GMO Concerns (7 pages)~~	~~02/18/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NLC 4/3/2020
005. cable	Re: [Biotechnology/EU] (3 pages)	03/01/2000	P1/b(1)
006. cable	Re: [Policy on Biotechnology Issues] (3 pages)	03/29/2000	P1/b(1)
~~007. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Labeling] (4 pages)~~	~~04/03/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NLC 4/3/2020
008. cable	Re: [anti-GMO import barriers] (3 pages)	04/19/2000	P1/b(1)
~~009. cable~~	~~Re: [GMO Labeling] (4 pages)~~	~~05/05/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NLC 4/3/2020
~~010. cable~~	~~Re: Possible Action on GMO Seeds (2 pages)~~	~~06/06/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ NLC 11/26/2019

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

FOLDER TITLE:
[01/19/2000 - 06/29/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3017

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(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

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 1/26/2014
2016-0572-M (1.40)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHGPA0170 0200932-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 200932Z JAN 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
OSRI: RUEHGP
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7435
INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUCPDC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUEHZS/ASEAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9401
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2964
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 2415
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 9479
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 5485
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 2810
SUBJ: SENATOR BOND (R-MO) DISCUSSES WTO, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND GMO'S WITH SINGAPORE'S LEADERS

(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR STEVEN J. GREEN. REASON 1.5 (B).

TEXT: ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 SINGAPORE 000170

STATE FOR EAP/PIMBS, AND H

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/17/10
TAGS: PREL, EAGR, ATRD, TBIO, TSPA, ASEAN, WTRO, CH, ID, MY, SN
SUBJECT: SENATOR BOND (R-MO) DISCUSSES WTO, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND GMO'S WITH SINGAPORE'S LEADERS

(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR STEVEN J. GREEN. REASON 1.5 (B).

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. DURING SENATOR CHRISTOPHER BOND'S (R-MO) JANUARY 12-15 VISIT TO SINGAPORE HE MET WITH SENIOR MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW, DEPUTY PM LEE HSIEN LOONG, PRESIDENT S.R. NATHAN, MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY GEORGE YEO, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SECOND MINISTER FOR DEFENSE TEO CHEE HEAN, AND WITH LOCAL ACADEMICS AND SCIENTISTS. FOUR MAIN THEMES EMERGED FROM THIS SERIES OF MEETINGS. FIRST, SINGAPORE SHARED SENATOR BOND'S VIEW THAT POLICIES GOVERNING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S) SHOULD BE BASED UPON SOUND SCIENCE AND NOT DRIVEN BY UNFOUNDED PUBLIC CONCERNS. SECOND, SINGAPOREAN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE FAILURE TO LAUNCH A NEW WTO ROUND IN SEATTLE AND CHARACTERIZED CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF CHINA'S ENTRY TO THE WTO AS IMPORTANT TO THE ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF THE REGION. THIRD, SINGAPORE LEADERS OPINED THAT U.S. POLICY SHOULD BE AIMED AT CREATING A STABLE ENVIRONMENT IN INDONESIA THAT WILL RESULT IN

THE RETURN OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT TO SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH, NOT SIMPLY ON THE MECHANICS OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. FINALLY, SINGAPORE PROVIDED A READOUT ON THE RECENT CRACKDOWN ON MALAYSIA'S OPPOSITION FIGURES.

2. (U) ALSO DURING HIS VISIT, SENATOR BOND AND MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION ANNOUNCED A PROGRAM OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION ON PROTEIN CRYSTAL RESEARCH BETWEEN A MISSOURI AND A SINGAPOREAN INSTITUTE TO CULMINATE IN A JOINT EXPERIMENT TO BE LAUNCHED ABOARD THE U.S. SPACE SHUTTLE IN JANUARY 2001. SENATOR BOND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SINGAPORE'S DECISIONS TO PURCHASE U.S. WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND TO ALLOW U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL TO USE SINGAPOREAN FACILITIES, INCLUDING THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER CAPABLE PIER UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT CHANGI NAVAL BASE. END SUMMARY.

SENATOR BOND (R-MO) VISITS SINGAPORE

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3. (U) SENATOR CHRISTOPHER ("KIT") BOND (R-MO) VISITED SINGAPORE JANUARY 12-15. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS CHIEF COUNSEL JACK BARTLING, AND MILITARY ESCORT LTC. JOHN ELLSWORTH. SENATOR BOND ALSO BROUGHT ALONG A BUSINESS DELEGATION THAT INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM: MONSANTO; SOLUTIA (AN ADVANCED LAMINATED GLASS PRODUCER); UNITED PARCEL SERVICE; SPACEHAB (A FIRM THAT PRODUCES SELF-CONTAINED RESEARCH MODULES FOR THE SPACE SHUTTLE); THE DONALD DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER (A ST. LOUIS CENTER SPECIALIZING IN PLANT AND GMO RESEARCH); AND THE U.S.-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL. SENATOR BOND, AND VARIOUS MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION, MET DURING HIS STAY WITH SENIOR MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW (NOTE. NO EMBASSY NOTETAKER WAS PRESENT AT THE SM LEE MEETING. END NOTE.), DEPUTY PM LEE HSIEN LOONG, PRESIDENT S.R. NATHAN, MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY GEORGE YEO, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SECOND MINISTER FOR DEFENSE TEO CHEE HEAN, MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR AGROBIOLOGY, THE PRIMARY PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT (AKIN TO THE USDA), AND THE GENETIC MODIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

WTO: DISAPPOINTMENT IN SEATTLE, NEED FOR CHINA'S ACCESSION

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4. ~~(C)~~ RESPONDING TO SENATOR BOND'S QUESTION ABOUT SINGAPORE'S PERCEPTION OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL, DEPUTY PM LEE VOICED HOPES THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION COULD TAKE A STRONGER TACK IN PURSUING "INTERNATIONALIST" POLICIES AND RISING ABOVE LOCAL POLITICS. DESCRIBING THE RECENT SEATTLE WTO MINISTERIAL AS A "SAD CHAPTER," LEE REMARKED FRANKLY THAT, IF WE HAD KNOWN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR THE UNITED STATES NOT TO HAVE HOSTED THE MINISTERIAL. THE EVENT WAS A MAJOR SETBACK FOR FREE TRADE, HE LAMENTED. LEE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EUROPEANS AND THE JAPANESE WERE "ALMOST WILLING" TO MAKE THE NECESSARY COMPROMISES TO ALLOW THE LAUNCHING OF A NEW ROUND, ALTHOUGH THE PROCESS WOULD STILL HAVE BEEN LONG AND DIFFICULT. THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO OFFEND DOMESTIC LABOR AND STEEL INTERESTS, HOWEVER, MEANT THAT "A DEAL WAS OFF." THE EU AND JAPAN WERE "PLEASANTLY SURPRISED" BY THE TURN OF EVENTS, LEE NOTED, AS THEY WERE LET OFF THE HOOK WITHOUT HAVING TO "TAKE

THE RAP" FOR THE FAILURE IN SEATTLE.

5. ~~(C)~~ MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY GEORGE YEO DESCRIBED THE SEATTLE WTO MINISTERIAL AS "A DISAPPOINTMENT." RESPONDING TO SENATOR BOND'S COMPLAINTS ABOUT EU POSITIONS ON AGRICULTURE AT WTO, YEO REPLIED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE SO HARD ON THE EUROPEANS WHO HE FELT HAD BEEN REASONABLE ON AGRICULTURE ISSUES. (NOTE. MINISTER YEO SERVED AS CHAIR OF THE WTO AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE

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MEETINGS IN SEATTLE. END NOTE.) HE STATED THAT HE WAS SYMPATHETIC WITH THE EUROPEAN POINT OF VIEW THAT IF THEY MADE CONCESSIONS ON AGRICULTURE, THEY EXPECTED PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS. YEO COMMENTED THAT PROGRESS ON AGRICULTURE AND LAUNCHING A NEW WTO ROUND REQUIRED AN AGREEMENT BY THE "BIG PLAYERS:" THE U.S., EU, AND JAPAN. YEO EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT MUCH OF THE WTO PROCESS DEPENDED CRITICALLY ON WHAT HAPPENED IN U.S. DOMESTIC POLITICS. YEO CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY UNDERSCORING FOR SENATOR BOND HIS BELIEF THAT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF CHINA'S ENTRY TO THE WTO WAS CRITICAL TO ASIA'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND OUTWEIGHED IN IMPORTANCE THE FAILURE TO LAUNCH A NEW WTO ROUND IN SEATTLE.

INDONESIA -
SINGAPORE SEES STABILITY AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PROCESS

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6. ~~(C)~~ SENATOR BOND COMMENTED AT HIS MEETINGS THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE KEY ROLE THAT INDONESIA PLAYED IN THE REGION, ASSURED HIS HOSTS OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR A STABLE, PROSPEROUS, AND DEMOCRATIC INDONESIA, AND ASKED FOR THEIR VIEWS ON THE COUNTRY. DEPUTY PM LEE, IN A REPLY THAT PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF SINGAPORE'S VIEWS, NOTED THAT THE 30 YEARS OF SUHARTO'S RULE--THAT PROVIDED A BENIGN SETTING WITHIN WHICH SINGAPORE COULD GROW--HAD NOW BEEN SHATTERED. PRESIDENT WAHID'S PRIORITY AT THIS POINT SHOULD BE TO CONSOLIDATE POLITICAL CONTROL IN ORDER TO BUILD CONFIDENCE AND CREATE A COHESIVE TEAM TO ADDRESS THE COUNTRY'S MANY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. WAHID IS "BRIGHT" BUT HE MUST REALIZE THAT HE IS NO LONGER JUST THE LEADER OF A RELIGIOUS FACTION WITHIN THE COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH THEY MAY HAVE VOTED FOR WAHID, WIRANTO AND AMIEN RAIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE GANGING UP ON HIM. ALTHOUGH HABIBE HIMSELF CLEARLY HAS NO SUPPORT, LEE REMARKED, HE DOES HAVE MONEY. MEANWHILE, VICE PRESIDENT MEGAWATI DOES NOT SEEM TO BE PROVIDING MUCH HELP TO WAHID SO FAR.

7. ~~(C)~~ ASKED ABOUT A U.S. ROLE, LEE RESPONDED FRANKLY THAT THE STANDARD VIEW IS THAT U.S. POLICY IS SIMPLY ONE OF "GETTING PEOPLE TO VOTE" AND CREATING "CHECKS AND BALANCES." THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TO GO BEYOND THIS GOAL, HE SAID, TO HELP CREATE A

STABLE ENVIRONMENT THAT WILL ALLOW FOREIGN INVESTMENT TO RETURN AND THE ECONOMY TO GROW. THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA CERTAINLY HAS INFLUENCE IN INDONESIA, HE SAID, AND THE UNITED STATES COULD ALSO WORK WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) AND AMERICAN COMPANIES TO HELP ADVANCE ITS POLICIES. FOR HIS PART, PRESIDENT NATHAN STRESSED THAT BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND ASEAN SHOULD NOT CONDONE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN INDONESIA, BUT AT THE SAME TIME BOTH NEED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE UNITY OF THE COUNTRY MUST BE PRESERVED.

8. ~~(C)~~ MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SECOND MINISTER FOR DEFENSE TEO CHEE HEAN HELD THAT MUCH OF THE CURRENT STRUGGLES IN INDONESIA WERE ABOUT WHETHER THE COUNTRY WOULD MAINTAIN A SECULAR POLITICAL IDEOLOGY, OR TURN TOWARD ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM AS A GUIDING PHILOSOPHY. INDONESIA HAD HISTORICALLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY BEEN A SECULAR STATE. AS THE ISLAMISTS HELPED VOTE PRESIDENT WAHID INTO POWER, THEY NOW EXPECTED TO HAVE SOME SAY IN THE AFFAIRS OF STATE. AS A SECULAR STATE, INDONESIA HAD BEEN OPEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREE MARKETS. IF IT TURNED TOWARD FUNDAMENTALIST ISLAM, THIS OPENNESS COULD CHANGE. SINGAPORE, TEO OBSERVED, HAD TO DEAL WITH INDONESIA WHATEVER COURSE IT TOOK, THOUGH IT WOULD PREFER THAT IT REMAIN A SECULAR STATE. TEO ASKED SENATOR BOND TO WORK WITH HIS FELLOW CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO ENCOURAGE SECULARISM IN INDONESIA AS THIS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR THE UNITED STATES AND SINGAPORE.

ASEAN - NOT YET A TRUE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

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9. ~~(C)~~ SENATOR BOND ASKED PRESIDENT NATHAN IF HE BELIEVED THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE DEALING MORE WITH ASEAN THAN FOCUSING ON BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EAST ASIA. NATHAN SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO DEAL WITH ASEAN AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REGION. ASEAN WILL NEVER ASK ITS MEMBERS TO GIVE UP SOVEREIGNTY. THEREFORE, THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT WILL REMAIN WEAK. THE RECENT ECONOMIC CRISIS RAISED PROBLEMS FOR ASEAN. HOWEVER, ASEAN CONTINUES TO MEET AND THE ASEAN PLUS 3 AND ARF ARE ALSO USEFUL FORUMS, NATHAN ADDED. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSS REGIONAL PROBLEMS, ALBEIT QUIETLY. NATHAN NOTED THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THAILAND, THE COUNTRIES IN ASEAN ARE ALL YOUNG, LESS THAN 50 YEARS OLD. POINTING TO THE DEMISE OF SEATO, HE CAUTIONED THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT TRY TO LEAD ASEAN,

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BUT RATHER ALLOW ASEAN TO GROW AND DEVELOP ON ITS OWN.

MALAYSIA - CRACKDOWN ON OPPOSITION: DOES IT SIGNAL PROBLEMS FOR

MAHATHIR, OR IS IT A BID TO REBUILD UMNO AS A MALAY PARTY?
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10. ~~(C)~~ ASKED BY SENATOR BOND TO COMMENT ON THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT'S LATEST ARREST OF OPPOSITION FIGURES, DEPUTY PM LEE SURMISED THAT THIS CRACKDOWN WILL NOT WORK IN THE LONG TERM. WHILE THE LAST ELECTION DID PRODUCE A WIN FOR MAHATHIR, IT ALSO SIGNALLED A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT OF POWER AWAY FROM HIM. ALTHOUGH THE INVIGORATED MUSLIM OPPOSITION IS NOT LIKELY TO WIN FUTURE ELECTIONS AS LONG AS IT HOLDS ON TO ITS FUNDAMENTALIST VIEWS, IT IS CLEARLY BECOMING A FORCE THAT COULD ARTICULATE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS. ITS OFFICIAL PUBLICATION APPEARS NOW TO BE MORE POPULAR THAN THAT OF THE RULING PARTY. AS FOR THE ETHNIC CHINESE POPULATION, LEE SAID, IT IS CAUGHT BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE FOR THE MOMENT, AND HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING MAHATHIR AS LONG AS THE OPPOSITION REMAINS FUNDAMENTALIST MUSLIM. LEE PREDICTED THAT THERE COULD BE AN INTERNAL CHANGE WITHIN THE RULING PARTY BEFORE THE NEXT ELECTION.

11. ~~(C)~~ MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SECOND MINISTER FOR DEFENSE TEO CHEE HEAN ECHOED DEPUTY PM LEE'S VIEWS, BUT HE ALSO CHARACTERIZED THE CRACKDOWN ON MALAYSIA'S OPPOSITION AS A PART OF PM MAHATHIR'S PLAN TO RECONSOLIDATE MALAY ELECTORAL POWER WITHIN THE RULING UMNO PARTY. TEO RECALLED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A MAJOR INTERNAL SPLIT AND POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN UMNO IN THE MID-1980'S, AND HE SPECULATED THAT, AS HAPPENED THEN, THE PARTY WOULD RECONSTITUTE ITSELF AND ITS HOLD ON POWER. TEO NOTED THAT UMNO WOULD BE HOLDING ITS INTERNAL PARTY ELECTION IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. TEO SAW NO SIGNIFICANT INTERNAL OPPOSITION TO THE RE-ELECTION OF MAHATHIR AND HIS CHOSEN SUCCESSOR AS DEPUTY PM.

PRESIDENT NATHAN SAYS BURMA REMAINS UNPREDICTABLE
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12. ~~(C)~~ SENATOR BOND PREFACED HIS REQUEST FOR PRESIDENT NATHAN'S VIEW ON BURMA BY NOTING THAT HE HAD HEARD CONFLICTING STORIES ABOUT AUNG SAN SUU KYI BECOMING INCREASINGLY FEARFUL FOR HER SAFETY AND ADDED THAT HE HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT JUNIOR OFFICERS OF THE MILITARY MAY TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY. NATHAN OPINED THAT IT WAS HARD TO PREDICT WHAT THE BURMESE WERE UP TO. THEY HAVE JUST RE-OPENED THE POLYTECHNIC SCHOOLS AND ALSO RECENTLY BUILT HOTELS TO ATTRACT TOURISTS, BUT THEY THEN PLACED RESTRICTIONS ON TOURISM. HE POSITED THAT WITH THE CURRENT POOR STATE OF THE BURMESE ECONOMY, ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS WILL HAVE NO EFFECT. INSTEAD, HE HELD THAT A POLICY OF ENGAGEMENT SHOULD BE PURSUED TO COUNTER WHAT HE SAW AS THE GROWING INFLUENCE ON BURMA OF CHINA WHICH COULD USE BURMA TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE STRAITS OF MALACCA. NEVERTHELESS, NATHAN CONCLUDED, THERE WILL BE NO MAJOR CHANGES IN BURMA UNTIL KHIN NYUNT LEAVES THE SCENE.

SINGAPORE AGREES THAT GMO POLICY SHOULD BE SCIENCE BASED
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13. ~~(C)~~ SENATOR BOND, ALONG WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM MONSANTO AND THE DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER, MADE THE CASE IN NUMEROUS MEETINGS WITH SINGAPOREAN LEADERS, ACADEMICS, SCIENTISTS, AND

BUREAUCRATS, THAT POLICIES GOVERNING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO'S) SHOULD BE BASED UPON SOUND SCIENCE, AND NOT ON UNFOUNDED PUBLIC CONCERNS. MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY GEORGE YEO COMMENTED THAT THE GMO ISSUE WAS GOING TO BE A HUGE FIGHT. IN PARTICULAR, THE MOOD IN EUROPE IS AGAINST GMO'S, YEO SAID. PICKING UP ON A THEME ARTICULATED BY SENATOR BOND, YEO SPECULATED THAT SOME OF THE EUROPEAN OBJECTIONS TO GMO'S MAY INDEED BE FUELED BY PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENTS. ASKED TO CHARACTERIZE PERCEPTIONS OF GMO'S IN THE REGION, YEO THOUGHT THAT GMO'S WERE NOT A BIG ISSUE IN ASIA, THOUGH COVERAGE OF THE ISSUE FROM EUROPE AND THE U.S. WOULD DOUBTLESS INFLUENCE OPINIONS IN ASIA. YEO HELD THAT SINGAPORE GMO POLICIES WERE BASED ON GOOD SCIENCE. HE ADDED THAT DOCTORS, NUTRITIONISTS, AND HEALTH AUTHORITIES WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE SPOKESPEOPLE TO ATTEST TO THE SAFETY OF GMO FOOD.

14. (U) THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRIMARY PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT (PPD - AKIN TO USDA), DR. NGIAM, DESCRIBED FOR SENATOR BOND SINGAPORE'S GMO POLICY. THE PPD, ALONG WITH OTHER COMPONENTS OF ITS PARENT, THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT (MOE), IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING POLICIES RELATED TO RAW AND PROCESSED GMO FOODSTUFFS. THE MOE IS

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COMMITTED TO BASING ITS POLICY DECISIONS, INCLUDING ANY FUTURE GMO LABELING REQUIREMENTS, ON HARD SCIENTIFIC DATA. TO ASSIST IT IN DEVELOPING SCIENCE BASED GMO POLICIES, MOE ESTABLISHED THE GENETIC MODIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GMAC). GMAC IS MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIA, AND SCIENCE.

15. (SBU) DR. NGIAM NOTED THAT THE PPD'S ASEAN SECTION WAS CURRENTLY FUNCTIONING AS THE "SECRETARIAT" FOR THE ASEAN AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEES AND IT WAS DEVELOPING AN ASEAN PROGRAM ON GMO'S. THERE WAS AN ASEAN AGRICULTURE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 2 AT WHICH SINGAPORE HOPED TO PRESENT ITS GMO PROGRAM TO ASEAN. IN THE MEANTIME, PPD RECOGNIZED THAT THE PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO BE ADAPTED TO FIT THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WITHIN ASEAN. DR. NGIAM NOTED THAT USDA HAD AGREED TO ASSIST WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASEAN GMO PROGRAM.

SENATOR BOND AND DELEGATION SIGN RESEARCH MOU WITH SINGAPORE

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16. (U) MEMBERS OF SENATOR BOND'S DELEGATION REPRESENTING MONSANTO, THE DONALD DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER IN ST. LOUIS, AND SPACEHAB, HELD AN MOU SIGNING AND PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR AGROBIOLOGY TO ANNOUNCE A JOINT VENTURE EXPERIMENT SCHEDULED TO BE LAUNCHED ABOARD THE U.S. SPACE SHUTTLE IN JANUARY 2001. THE EXPERIMENT INVOLVES GROWING SELECT PROTEIN

CRYSTALS IN THE NEAR-ZERO GRAVITY OF EARTH ORBIT. NEAR-ZERO GRAVITY USUALLY ALLOWS FOR THE GROWTH OF MORE PURE PROTEIN CRYSTALS, FACILITATING A CLEARER MAPPING OF THEIR STRUCTURE. BETTER PROTEIN STRUCTURE MAPS HAVE NUMEROUS APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE EFFECTIVE MEDICINES.

17. (U) ADDITIONALLY, SPACEHAB, WHICH BUILDS EXPERIMENT MODULES FOR THE SPACE SHUTTLE, IS SETTING ASIDE A PORTION OF THE DONATED EXPERIMENT AREA FOR USE BY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN SINGAPORE. APPROXIMATELY TEN SINGAPOREAN SCHOOLS WILL BE SELECTED TO WORK WITH COUNTERPART SCHOOLS IN MISSOURI AND CHINA TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN EXPERIMENTS FOR LAUNCH INTO SPACE. THE STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE RESULTS OF THE EXPERIMENTS VIA INTERNET DOWNLOADS FROM THE SPACE SHUTTLE. THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAM IS TO FOSTER INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND TO GET STUDENTS EXCITED ABOUT A POSSIBLE CAREER IN THE SCIENCES.
GREEN

TOR: 01/20/00 05:35:32

DIST: SIT: Bowles NSC DUNCAN HUSO KEITH LACKEY LEE LIEBERTHAL OSIUS PRITCHARD TAVLARIDES

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHFRA0654 0201035-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 201035Z JAN 00
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7540
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1378
SUBJ: PARIS AGR OFFICE GMO OUTREACH IN 1999
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 000654

USDA FOR OSEC; UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS
FOR OA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIK;
ITP/WEIAD/BMACKE/BRICHEY; CMP/DA/GGROVES;
CMP/COTS/LBLUM; CMP/G&F/RRIEMENSCHNEIDER;
CMP/AGX/BERMAN; FAA/SEBRANEK/GEERKEN;
APHIS/CREED; FSIS/JPRUCHA

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, TBIO, KSCA, ETRD, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: PARIS AGR OFFICE GMO OUTREACH IN 1999

REF: (A) 99 PARIS 010029; (B) 99 PARIS 11313;
(C) 99 PARIS 11312; (D) 99 PARIS 12518; (E) 99
PARIS 15154; (F) 99 PARIS 16903; (G) 99 PARIS
17631; (H) 99 PARIS 017604; (I) 99 PARIS 18117;
(J) 99 PARIS 6774; (K) 99 PARIS 6984; (L) 99
PARIS 8090; (M) 99 PARIS 12103; (N) 99 PARIS
13695; (0) 99 PARIS 17187; (P) 99 PARIS 18266;
(Q) 99 PARIS 16915

1. SUMMARY: IN 1999, AGR/PARIS EXPANDED ITS
AND CONSUMER INDUSTRIES, AND WITH THE PRESS.
AGR/PARIS ALSO ORGANIZED MEETINGS FOR FDA AND
USDA OFFICIALS, INCLUDING SECRETARY GLICKMAN,
WITH FRENCH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
FISHERIES (MINAG) AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES;
SUPPORTED AMBASSADOR MEETINGS AND SPEECHES IN
WHICH THE SUBJECT OF GMO'S WAS COVERED; MET
WITH THE FRENCH BIOTECH INDUSTRY; SENT TO THE

UNITED STATES A KEY FRENCH GOVERNMENT BIOTECH SPECIALIST UNDER THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM; GAVE SPEECHES ON GMO'S TO THE FRENCH PUBLIC; AND ATTENDED A NUMBER OF CONFERENCES IN FRANCE ON GMO'S. AGR/PARIS ACTION ON GMO'S IN 1999 IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY U.S.-FRENCH DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING ON GMO'S. IN 2000, AGR/PARIS WILL CONTINUE ITS GMO OUTREACH EFFORTS IN THE SAME DIRECTION, INCLUDING THROUGH ACTIVITIES UNDER THE ANNUAL MARKETING PLAN, WHICH NEEDS TO BE FUNDED ACCORDINGLY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MAY 1999, THE AMBASSADOR HAD A BREAKFAST MEETING WITH LUC GUYAU, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH FARM BUREAU (FNSEA), WHO REQUESTED AND HOSTED IT (REF A). THEY DISCUSSED GMO'S AMONG OTHER AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES. THE TONE WAS PLEASANT AND THE FRENCH MADE AN EFFORT TO ENGAGE U.S. OFFICIALS IN CALM AND RATIONAL DIALOGUE ON DIFFICULT ISSUES.

3. ALSO IN MAY, AGR/PARIS SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZED THREE ROUND TABLES WITH USDA/FAS WASHINGTON BIOTECH SPECIALISTS, USEU SENIOR AGATTACHE AND FRENCH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMER COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, AND WITH JOURNALISTS. ALL 23 FRENCH PARTICIPANTS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS INITIATIVE; THE DISCUSSIONS WERE UNUSUALLY FRANK, OPEN AND FRIENDLY. FRENCH PARTICIPANTS SAID ONLY REGRET WAS THAT THE MEETINGS HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE TWO YEARS EARLIER (REF B). JOURNALISTS PARTICIPATING IN THE ROUND TABLES REPORTED ON THE EVENT IN THE FRENCH GENERAL AND AGRICULTURAL PRESS (REF C).

4. IN JUNE, SECRETARY GLICKMAN MADE A TRIP TO FRANCE SPECIFICALLY TO DISCUSS GMO ISSUES AT THE BEHEST OF AMBASSADOR ROHATYN. SECRETARY GLICKMAN DISCUSSED GMO TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE JEAN GLAVANY AND WITH OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS (REF D). THE SECRETARY AND THE MINISTER CREATED A U-S.-FRENCH WORKING GROUP ON BIOTECH ISSUES FOR FOOD. GLICKMAN NOMINATED HIS SPECIAL TRADE ADVISOR, ISI SIDDIQUI, TO HEAD THE U.S. EFFORT; GLAVANY NAMED MARION GUILLOU, HEAD OF THE DIRECTORATE FOR FOOD IN THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

5. ALSO IN JUNE, AGR/PARIS CANDIDATE ERIC SCHOONEJANS SPENT THREE WEEKS IN THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM (IVP). HIS PROGRAM FOCUSED ON THE RELATION BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY. SCHOONEJANS, WHO WAS THE KEY BIOTECH PERSON IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES,

RECENTLY MOVED TO THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WHERE HE HEADS THE BIOTECH OFFICE. HE OFTEN REPRESENTS THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN INTERNATIONAL GMO AND BIODIVERSITY NEGOTIATIONS.
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 PARIS 000654

USDA FOR OSEC; UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIK; ITP/WEIAD/BMACKE/BRICHEY; CMP/DA/GGROVES; CMP/COTS/LBLUM; CMP/G&F/RRIEMENSCHNEIDER; CMP/AGX/BERMAN; FAA/SEBRANEK/GEERKEN; APHIS/CREED; FSIS/JPRUCHA

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, TBIO, KSCA, ETRD, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: PARIS AGR OFFICE GMO OUTREACH IN 1999

6. IN SEPTEMBER, SIDDIQUI AND GUILLOU HELD THE FIRST OF SEVERAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS TO DISCUSS GMO ISSUES (REF E). AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING, WHICH INCLUDED PR. MARC FELLOUS, PRESIDENT OF THE BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING COMMITTEE (CGB), EACH SIDE DESCRIBED ITS APPROACH TO STUDYING AND REGULATING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY.

7. ALSO IN OCTOBER, FDA DEPUTY COMMISSIONNER SHARON HOLSTON VISITED FRANCE ON GMO AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES. THE AGR OFFICE ORGANIZED MEETINGS FOR HER WITH THE FRENCH MINAG, WHERE SHE DESCRIBED THE GOALS OF THE UPCOMING FDA TOWN MEETINGS ON GMO'S IN THE UNITED STATES (REF F) .

8. IN NOVEMBER, A SECOND GLICKMAN-GLAVANY MEETING ON GMO'S AND BEEF HORMONE ISSUES TOOK PLACE IN WASHINGTON. THE FRENCH AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR TO THE PRINE NINISTER CHARACTERTZED THE MINISTERIAL MEETING TO AGMINCOUNS AS CONTRIBUTING INPORTANTLY TO IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURE (REF G).

9. ALSO IN NOVEMBER, THE SECOND MEETING BETWEN THE AMBASSADOR AND LUC GUYAU, PRESIDENT OF FNSEA, TOOK PLACE (REF H). GMO'S WERE DISCUSSED AMONG OTHER AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES, AND GUYAU AND THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THEIR RESPECTIVE VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT. THIS MEETING WAS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH PARTS TO PRESENT THEIR POSITIONS PRIOR TO THE WTO MEETING IN SEATTLE.

10. AGAIN IN NOVEMBER, AGR/PARIS AND THE SCIENCE SECTION ORGANIZED A SERIES OF MEETINGS FOR U.S. AMBASSADOR CYNTHIA SCHNEIDER (NETHERLANDS). SHE CAME TO DISCUSS HER EMBASSY'S UPCOMING BIOTECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 2000 IN THE HAGUE AND TO GAIN PERSPECTIVE ON FRENCH CONCERNS ABOUT GMO'S. SHE MET WITH A LEADING FRENCH SUPERMARKET CHAIN, THE LEADING FRENCH FARMERS UNION, AND A FRENCH ASSOCIATION FOR ANIMAL FEEDS. HER FRENCH INTERLOCUTORS LEARNED ABOUT THE UPCOMING CONFERENCE IN THE HAGUE AND EXPLAINED FRANCE'S PERSPECTIVES ON GMO'S (REF

I).

11. AGAIN IN NOVEMBER, IN RESPONSE TO FRENCH CONSUMER/RETAILER CONCERNS ABOUT GMO'S (REFS J,K,L, M) AND THE ORGANIZATION OF A NON-GMO SECTOR (REF N), THE AGR OFFICE ORGANIZED A MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR ROHATYN AND CEOS FROM FOUR LARGE FRENCH SUPERMARKET CHAINS. THESE CEOS EXPLAINED THAT THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT GMO LABELING IS NECESSARY. THEY NOTED THEIR VIEW THAT THE DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY MUST YIELD TO CONSUMER CONCERNS BY MAKING EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR OWN-BRAND PRODUCTS ARE GMO-FREE (REF 0).

12. IN DECEMBER, AGR/PARIS AND THE SCIENCE OFFICE MET WITH AVENTIS (THE NEWLY MERGED RHONE-POULENC/HOECHST) (REF P). AVENTIS OFFICIALS DISCUSSED THEIR OUTREACH EFFORTS TO RESTORE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN BIOENGINEERED FOODS. THE DISCUSSION WAS SO USEFUL THAT THEY SUGGESTED HOLDING UPDATE MEETINGS EVERY SIX TO NINE MONTHS, TO WHICH AGR/PARIS AGREED.

13. THROUGHOUT 1999, AGR/PARIS ATTENDED A NUMBER OF CONFERENCES COORDINATED BY FRENCH ORGANIZATIONS ON GMO'S. THESE INCLUDED THE "BIOVISION" CONFERENCE IN MARCH; THE MEETING AT UNESCO IN APRIL ORGANIZED BY THE FRENCH BIOTECH ORGANIZATION ADEBIO; FRENCH OILSEED GROWERS'
UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 PARIS 000654

USDA FOR OSEC; UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS FOR OA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIK; ITP/WEIAD/BMACKE/BRICHEY; CMP/DA/GGROVES; CMP/COTS/LBLUM; CMP/G&F/RRIEMENSCHNEIDER; CMP/AGX/BERMAN; FAA/SEBRANEK/GEERKEN; APHIS/CREED; FSIS/JPRUCHA

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

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, KSCA, ETRD, EUN, FR
SUBJECT: PARIS AGR OFFICE GMO OUTREACH IN 1999

ANNUAL CONGRESS IN MAY; WOLFF LABORATORIES' CONFERENCE IN MAY; THE FORUM ON BIOTECHNOLOGY HELD BY THE FRENCH SENATE IN JUNE; THE FRENCH CORN GROWERS ANNUAL CONGRESS IN SEPTEMBER; THE ANNUAL COLMAR SYMPOSIUM FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES IN NOVEMBER (REF Q); AND THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION (ASA) CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER.

14. IN 1999, AGR/PARIS GAVE A NUMBER OF SPEECHES EXPLAINING THE U.S. VIEW ON GMO'S. AUDIENCES INCLUDED FRENCH STUDENTS IN AGRICULTURE, THE FRENCH FARM BUREAU, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE SECTOR REPS AT THE BI-ANNUAL FRENCH GRAIN CONGRESS, AND THE SANITARY OFFICE OF THE CITY OF PARIS.

15. IN 2000, POST WILL CONTINUE ITS GMO OUTREACH EFFORTS TO IMPROVE U.S.-FRENCH DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING ON GMO'S. POST RECOMMENDS THAT USDA/WASHINGTON OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES ACTIVELY WITH THEIR FRENCH CONTACTS IN THE BIOTECH SECTOR. AGR/PARIS WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR CLOSELY NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN GMO POLICY AND RESEARCH, IN RETAILER AND CONSUMER PERCEPTIONS. CONTINUATION OF HIGH-LEVEL U.S.-FRENCH TALKS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY IS INDISPENSABLE, INCLUDING THROUGH ACTIVITIES UNDER THE ANNUAL MARKETING PLAN, WHICH NEEDS TO BE FUNDED ACCORDINGLY. ROHATYN

TOR: 01/20/00 07:19:51

DIST: SIT: Bowles NSC

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003. cable	Re: [Public Awareness on Genetically Modified Organisms] (2 pages)	01/21/2000	P1/b(1)

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

FOLDER TITLE:
[01/19/2000 - 06/29/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3017

RESTRICTION CODES

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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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b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA0435 0241230-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 241230Z JAN 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7673
INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0843
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
RUEHXI/LABOR COLLECTIVE
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 1146
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 4848
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 3429
SUBJ: GMO'S: DISCUSSING ITS LABOR DIMENSION WITH CARITAS
TEXT: UNCLAS ROME 000435

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR G, DRL/IL, EUR/WE, EB/ATP
USDOC FOR 3133/USFCS/OIO/EUR/PBUCHER
4212/IEP/EUR/SED/ITALY/ACORRO/DDEFALCO
FAS FOR ITP
DOL FOR ILAB

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, ILO, WHO, IT, US
SUBJECT: GMO'S: DISCUSSING ITS LABOR DIMENSION WITH CARITAS

REFS: (A) 99 ROME 7519, (B) 99 ROME 5420

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (U) LABCOUN MET 1/20/00 WITH CARITAS (ITALY) DEPUTY DIRECTOR ROBERTO RAMBALDI TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS FOR MILLIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD'S AGRICULTURAL WORKERS OF INHIBITING RESEARCH ON GMO'S. (CARITAS IS AN OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE LOT OF THE WORLD'S NEEDY. AS OVERWHELMING NUMBERS OF THE NEEDY LIVE IN THE THIRD WORLD, CARITAS' MAIN FOCUS IS THERE.) LABCOUN REFERRED TO CONCERNS RAISED IN EUROPE, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IN THE U.S., ABOUT POTENTIAL RISKS OF GMO DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED ETHICAL/MORAL ISSUES. ACKNOWLEDGING IT IS APPROPRIATE TO ADDRESS SUCH CONCERNS, HE APPEALED FOR EQUAL ATTENTION TO BE DIRECTED TOWARD ACTUAL DANGERS RURAL WORKERS FACE FROM ROUTINE EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDES. ON THE ONE HAND, RELIANCE ON GMO'S INVOLVES POSSIBLE ADVERSE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES FOR CONSUMERS AND MAY

IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT. ON THE OTHER, DEVELOPING GMO'S WITH THEIR OWN PEST RESISTANCE COULD RELIEVE MILLIONS OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS FROM THE SCOURGE OF PESTICIDE EXPOSURE THAT CONFRONTS THEM NOW.

2. (SBU) RAMBALDI NOTED THAT CARITAS IS NOT CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN THE BIOETHICS DEBATE AND THAT OTHER NGO'S ARE MORE DIRECTLY FOCUSED ON AGRICULTURE. HE ASKED HOW CARITAS COULD HELP. LABCOUN SUGGESTED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP IS TO OPEN A DOOR TOWARD CONSIDERING THE MATTER: THE CAUSE OF PESTICIDE-POISONED RURAL WORKERS UNTIL NOW HAS NOT BEEN A FACTOR IN EUROPE'S GMO DEBATE. IF CARITAS CONCLUDES IT SHOULD BE, IT WILL BE FREE TO SPEAK OUT AND CALL FOR ITS INCLUSION. APPLYING THE BRAKES TO GMO RESEARCH, FOR FEAR OF HYPOTHETICAL CONSEQUENCES, MEANS DENYING MILLIONS OF HUMAN BEINGS AN EXIT FROM PESTICIDE POISONING'S REAL ONES. RAMBALDI REQUESTED PRINTED MATERIAL IN ANY LANGUAGE ON PESTICIDE POISONING AND SAID HE WOULD TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH CARITAS INTERNATIONAL (ALSO IN ROME). LABCOUN GAVE HIM A COPY OF AN ILO "WORLD OF WORK" ARTICLE OF DECEMBER 1997 AND REFERRED RAMBALDI TO THE ROME OFFICE OF THE ILO. LABCOUN NOTED THAT ILO AND WHO HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA HAVE AMPLE DOCUMENTATION ON THE CONSEQUENCES FOR RURAL WORKERS OF PESTICIDE EXPOSURE.

3. (SBU) COMMENT: DEPT MAY WISH TO ALERT LABOFFS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE CARITAS IS ACTIVE TO THE INTEREST OF THIS ORGANIZATION IN IMPROVING THE LOT OF THE WORLD'S NEEDY, INCLUDING THAT OF MILLIONS OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDES. IF CARITAS DETERMINES THAT (A) THE PROBLEM EXISTS, AND THAT (B) GMO RESEARCH OFFERS A MEANS TO ADDRESS IT, THEN (C) CARITAS INTERNATIONAL MAY DECIDE THAT RAISING ITS VOICE IN BEHALF OF CONTINUING GMO RESEARCH IS A MORAL NECESSITY.

FOGLIETTA

TOR: 01/24/00 07:52:31

DIST: SIT: BABBITT BLINKEN NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON FELDMAN GUARNIERI KASS MCLEAN MUNTER NAPLAN NORLAND PATTEN SCHWARTZ STROMSETH VACCARO VONLIPSEY YEE
SIT: BABBITT BLINKEN NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON FELDMAN GUARNIERI KASS MCLEAN MUNTER NAPLAN NORLAND PATTEN SCHWARTZ STROMSETH VACCARO VONLIPSEY YEE

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA0452 0241720-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 241720Z JAN 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7687
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0844
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1987
SUBJ: ITALIAN IMPLEMENTATION OF GMO LABELING REGULATION
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 000452

QQQQ
STATE PASS USDA OSEC; UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER

FAS FOR OA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIK; ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT
/SLUTSKY;

FAS ALSO FOR ITP/WEIAD/BMACKE/BRICHEY; CMP/DA/GGROVES;

FAS FOR CMP/COTS/LBLUM; FAA SEBRANEK/GEERKEN; APHIS/
CREED; FSIS/JPRUCHA

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY

STATE PASS FDA

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, KSCA, ETRD, EUN, IT
SUBJECT:ITALIAN IMPLEMENTATION OF GMO LABELING REGULATION

REF:(A) BRUSSELS 00363
(B) ROME 08858 (1999)

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO DR PAOLA PICOTTO,
DIRECTOR OF THE MINHEALTH NOVEL FOOD OFFICE
AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE ITALIAN NOVEL FOODS
COMMITTEE, MOH WILL NOT DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN
IMPORTED OR DOMESTICALLY IMPORTED FOOD IN
TESTING OF FOOD PRODUCTS FOR GENETICALLY
MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS).

THE GOI WAS IN FAVOR OF THE 1& THRESHOLD, ALTHOUGH IT WILL REQUIRE THAT ITALY INVEST IN NEW AND EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT IN ORDER TO CONDUCT THE TESTS ACCURATELY AND CONSISTENTLY. PICOTTO ADDED THAT THERE ARE MANY DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT, INCLUDING THE TYPE OF DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR INDUSTRY SELF-CERTIFICATION AND GUIDELINES ENSURING THAT TESTING PROTOCOLS ARE EQUIVALENT AMONG MEMBER STATES. ON THE SEVEN GMO VARIETIES TO BE SUSPENDED BY THE MOH (REPORTED IN REF B), PICOTTO SAID THAT THE CASE IS ON "STAND-BY" WITH THE SUPERIOR INSTITUTE OF HEALTH REVIEWING MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY THE INDUSTRY TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE PRODUCTS ARE SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THEIR NON-GMO COUNTERPARTS. ITALY SENT A LETTER TO THE COMMISSION SUGGESTING THAT THE NOTIFICATION PROCESS FOR GMO PRODUCTS NEEDED TO BE REVIEWED. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JANUARY 20, FAS OFFICERS MET WITH DR. PICOTTO TO DELIVER HER OFFICIAL INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM. DR. PICOTTO WILL TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES IN JULY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE U.S. REGULATORY SYSTEM, LABELING AND CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. DR. PICOTTO'S OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC REGULATIONS FOR NOVEL FOODS AS WELL AS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT EU REGULATIONS.

3. ITALY BEGAN QUALITATIVE TESTING FOR GMOS IN LATE 1999. WITH RESPECT TO QUANTITATIVE TESTING, DR. PICOTTO SAID THAT ITALY WAS IN FAVOR OF THE 1& THRESHOLD FOR GMO PRODUCTS EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS THAT ITALY WILL HAVE TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN NEW EQUIPMENT IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO ACCURATELY TEST TO THIS LEVEL IN A CONSISTENT MANNER. THE COST OF THE EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS ROUTINE TESTING WILL BE PAID BY THE GOI, ALTHOUGH COMPANIES REQUESTING MOH CERTIFICATION WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY A FEE.

PICOTTO ADMITTED THAT CURRENTLY TESTING METHODS FOR CONSUMER-READY PRODUCTS COULD VARY THROUGHOUT EUROPE, BUT ADDED THAT ITALY IS WORKING WITH THE EU TO HELP STANDARDIZE TESTING METHODS AMONG MEMBER STATES.

4. WHILE TESTING PROCEDURES HAVE NOT BEEN FINALIZED, PICOTTO ENVISIONS THAT TESTING WILL BE ON A RANDOM BASIS AND THERE WILL BE NO DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN DOMESTIC AND IMPORTED PRODUCTS. STRICTER TESTING REQUIREMENTS WILL BE ENFORCED FOR BABY FOOD, FOR WHICH NATIONAL LAW ESTABLISHES A ZERO GMO

TOLERANCE. STILL TO BE RESOLVED ALSO IS WHAT TYPE OF DOCUMENTATION WILL BE NECESSARY FOR INDUSTRY SELF-CERTIFICATION AND WHAT SHOULD BE EXPECTED OF SUPPLIERS UP THE CHAIN FROM FINAL FOOD PROCESSORS. PICOTTO FEELS THAT MARKET DEMAND WILL PROBABLY FORCE THESE SUPPLIERS TO VOLUNTARILY LABEL GMO CONTENT, BUT SHE BELIEVES THE PROCESS SHOULD BE
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 000452

STATE PASS USDA OSEC; UNDER SECRETARY SCHUMACHER

FAS FOR OA/TGALVIN; ITP/DA/PSHEIK; ITP/OFSTS/HARBERT/ SLUTSKY;

FAS ALSO FOR ITP/WEIAD/BMACKE/BRICHEY; CMP/DA/GGROVES;

FAS FOR CMP/COTS/LBLUM; FAA SEBRANEK/GEERKEN; APHIS/ CREED; FSIS/JPRUCHA

STATE PASS USTR FOR SCHER AND MURPHY

STATE PASS FDA

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, KSCA, ETRD, EUN, IT
SUBJECT:ITALIAN IMPLEMENTATION OF GMO LABELING REGULATION

REVIEWED. PICOTTO DOES NOT BELIEVE THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WILL REQUIRE RESTAURANTS TO LABEL GMO FOODS ON MENUS, ALTHOUGH SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE CURRENT REQUIREMENT TO LABEL FROZEN PRODUCTS IS THE RESULT OF A JUDICIAL DECISION, NOT A GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENT (AND THAT BIOTECH COULD END UP "FOLLOWING SUITE").

5. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE 7 GMO PRODUCTS THAT WERE TO BE SUSPENDED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (REF B), PICOTTO SAID THAT THE ISSUE WAS STILL ON "STAND-BY". WHILE THE HEALTH MINISTER BINDI WAS READY TO BAN THE PRODUCTS, SHE HAS BEEN PERSUADED TO WAIT UNTIL RECENTLY SUBMITTED INFORMATION ON THE PRODUCTS IS REVIEWED. PICOTTO EXPLAINED THAT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS HAD CONCERNS ABOUT THE EQUIVALENCY OF THESE PRODUCTS TO NON-GMO PRODUCTS FOR OVER 2 YEARS BUT REPEATED REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HAD BEEN IGNORED BY THE INDUSTRY.

ACCORDING TO PICOTTO, THE INDUSTRY IS EAGER TO PROVIDE INFORMATION WHEN A PRODUCT IS UP FOR APPROVAL, BUT IGNORES THEIR INFORMATION

REQUESTS AFTER APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN.
PICOTTO NOTED THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED THE
INFORMATION THEY HAD BEEN REQUESTING SHORTLY
AFTER THE BAN WAS ANNOUNCED. THE SUPERIOR
INSTITUTE OF HEALTH WILL REVIEW THE DATA AND
IS EXPECTED TO PRESENT ITS OPINION IN THE
NEXT WEEK OR SO TO THE MINISTRY AS TO THE
EQUIVALENCY OF THE PRODUCTS. IN THE
MEANTIME, MINISTER BINDI SENT A LETTER TO EC
PRESIDENT PRODI AND THE COMMISSION EXPRESSING
HER CONCERNS WITH THE DOCUMENTATION OF
EQUIVALENCY, AND STATING THAT THE
NOTIFICATION PROCESS FOR GMO PRODUCTS NEEDED
TO BE REVIEWED.
FOGLIETTA

TOR: 01/24/00 14:15:42

DIST: SIT: BLINKEN NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON KASS MUNTER NORLAND VONLIPSEY YEE
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RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS
RUESTO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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RUATTBU/CHOFO500MIBDE TORII STATION JA
RHHMHAA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N51//
RUEANTX/CJTF SIX FT BLISS TX//J2//
RUYNAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA
RUAYIAA/COMSUBGRU SEVEN//N601//
RUEPWDC/DA AMHS WASHINGTON DC
RUEADWD/DA WASHINGTON DC//DASG-MIR//
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RAYWBBK/DIO CANBERRA AS
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INFO: ////

SUBJ: Paris Paper: Biosafety Talks Threaten US GMO Business

TEXT: UNCLAS 7I

WARNING: FTS_DOC_ID: FTS20000125001162

WARNING: GENEVA: ARMS CONTROL

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, HEALTH, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

SERIAL: MS2501145000

COUNTRY: FRANCE,UNITED STATES,CANADA,MEXICO,JAPAN
SUBJ: Paris Paper: Biosafety Talks Threaten US GMO Business

SOURCE: Paris Liberation (Internet version-WWW) in French 25 Jan 00
TEXT:

[Report by Patrick Sabatier: "Worldwide Strong-Arm Contest on GMO's"]

[FBIS Translated Text]
Yet again, the show on in Montreal this week might be called "United States Versus the Rest of the World." The topic this time is biosafety: How to prevent the astounding progress made in biotechnology from giving rise to environmental or public health hazards. The representatives of over 130 nations have been assembled in the Canadian city since Monday in an attempt to negotiate a Memorandum on Biosafety before Friday is out. Such a text would establish international rules governing trade in genetically modified living organisms [GMO's] and products. When the negotiators met in Cartagena (Colombia) a year ago, they broke up on a resounding failure when a small group of cereal and soya exporting countries vetoed any agreement. This "Miami Group" numbers only five countries (Argenina, Australia, Canada, Chile, and Uruguay), but it has the backing of the planet's leading biotechnology and trading power: the United States.

Pulling Strings [subhead]
The paradox is that the Americans are pulling all the strings, although they are not entitled to take part directly in the talks and the voting. Indeed, the Senate has never ratified the 1992 Convention on Biodiversity, the international treaty of which the Memorandum on Biosafety is to be a component. "We are going to

Montreal to get a deal," David Sandalow, Assistant Secretary of State for Scientific Affairs and the Environment, who heads the

American delegation, nevertheless promised last week. "We can reach one if everyone shows flexibility," he maintained, meaning, "if the focus is placed on biodiversity and environmental conservation, leaving the food safety debate aside." And if the memorandum is not used as a weapon to undermine the World Trade Organization (WTO).

African Demands [subhead]

The United States, Sandalow claimed, remained "absolutely against" the demands put forward by the African countries: a requirement on all GM agricultural produce exporters to notify the importing countries in advance, and the right to ban GMO imports if they deem that they constitute a threat to the environment or health. Such a demand "would destabilize world trade in food commodities," David Sandalow considered, opening the door to protectionism.

The Secretary of State also rejected all the "absolute priorities" advanced by the Europeans: labeling and traceability, not only of genetically modified bacteria, livestock, or crops, but also of agricultural produce or foods such as Indian corn, soya, and cotton. "Impossible, unless billions of dollars' worth of new investments are made in the agricultural trade infrastructures," Sandalow retorted.

Above all, he will have none of a memorandum that would sideline the WTO. This is the crux of the Euro-American dispute: The WTO has hitherto prohibited bans on imports of goods not proved harmful by "sound scientific methods," whereas the Memorandum on Biosafety bases regulation on the "precautionary principle," thus authorizing bans on GMO's (as the EU moratorium is doing), even if they have not been proved harmful. "The protocol must in no way affect the rights and duties to which countries have put their signatures in other international agreements," the American delegate insisted.

Suspicion [subhead]

However, the situation in the United States has changed since the Cartagena fiasco. Suspicion of GMO's has spread well beyond the bounds of Europe. Mexico, Japan, and other countries have adopted measures making labeling of such products compulsory. Public opinion has taken hold of the debate in the United States itself. The FDA [Food and Drugs Administration] has had to organize public meetings. The EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] has just set new standards for the growing of Bt Indian corn (a seed that generates its own insecticide) so as to prevent it from wiping animal species out. In response to consumer anxiety, multinationals such as Gerber and Heinz have announced that they will cease using GMO's in their baby foods. As a result, farmers are becoming increasingly reluctant to plant GMO seed, as they fear they will be unable to sell their Indian corn and soya (more than half of all Indian corn and over a third of soya is grown from modified seed in the United States). According to the Corn Growers Association, the area sown with Bt Indian corn might shrink by 25 percent this year.

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(endall)

TOR: 01/25/00 10:11:56

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INFO: ////
SUBJ: MHW TO REQUIRE SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF ALL NEW GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANT VARIETIES AND FOOD ADDITIVES
TEXT: UNCLAS TOKYO 000681

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
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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: MHW TO REQUIRE SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF ALL NEW GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANT VARIETIES AND FOOD ADDITIVES

1. SUMMARY. BEGINNING APRIL 1, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (MHW) WILL REQUIRE A FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO MARKET INTRODUCTION IN JAPAN FOR ALL FOODS AND FOOD ADDITIVES PRODUCED BY RECOMBINANT (RDNA) TECHNIQUES. TO-DATE, MHW HAS OFFERED A VOLUNTARY SAFETY ASSESSMENT WITH 29 GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) PLANT VARIETIES APPROVED TO-DATE. NO CHANGES IN MHW'S SOUND-SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO EVALUATING SAFETY ARE

ANTICIPATED AS A RESULT OF THE DECISION.

WHILE THE DECISION TO REQUIRE A FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENT IS NOT EXPECTED TO SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT TRADE IN IMPORTED GM FOODS, MHW IS ALSO PROPOSING, SEPARATELY, NEW CUMBERSOME IMPORT NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES THAT WOULD REQUIRE IMPORTERS TO CONFIRM SHIPMENTS DO NOT CONTAIN UNAPPROVED GM VARIETIES. IF IMPLEMENTED, THE REQUIREMENTS COULD CREATE CONFUSION IN THE TRADE AND POTENTIALLY HARM IMPORTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JANUARY 21, 1999, THE MHW BIOTECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDED A MANDATORY FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENT FOR ALL NEW FOODS AND FOOD ADDITIVES PRODUCED BY RECOMBINANT (RDNA) TECHNIQUES. THE REGULATORY CHANGE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AFTER A PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND WTO NOTIFICATION, WITH ENFORCEMENT LIKELY TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT APRIL 1, 2000. THE DECISION WAS PARTLY IN RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS FROM CONSUMER GROUPS THAT UNAPPROVED GM PLANT VARIETIES ARE BEING MARKETED IN JAPAN. SINCE 1996, MHW HAS CONDUCTED A VOLUNTARY SAFETY ASSESSMENT, WITH 29 GM PLANT VARIETIES APPROVED TO-DATE. THE DECISION TO REQUIRE A SAFETY ASSESSMENT IS NOT EXPECTED TO ALTER MHW'S SOUND SCIENTIFIC APPROACH TO EVALUATING THE SAFETY OF GM PLANT VARIETIES.

NEW PROPOSED IMPORT CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR GM FOODS COULD POTENTIALLY DISRUPT TRADE

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3. WHILE MHW'S DECISION TO REQUIRE A SAFETY ASSESSMENT IS NOT EXPECTED TO NEGATIVELY IMPACT TRADE, MHW IS ALSO PROPOSING, SEPARATELY, NEW IMPORT CLEARANCE PROCEDURES WHICH, IF IMPLEMENTED, COULD CAUSE TRADE DISRUPTIONS. AS INDICATED IN SECTION (4) OF MHW'S PRESS RELEASE EXPLAINING THE REGULATORY CHANGES (FULL TRANSLATION PROVIDED BELOW), MHW PLANS TO REQUIRE IMPORTERS TO CONFIRM ("INDICATE") THAT IMPORTS DO NOT CONTAIN VARIETIES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SAFETY ASSESSED BY JAPAN. POST CONSIDERS THE PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS UNNECESSARY, DIFFICULT TO COMPLY WITH, AND EXCESSIVE. POST NOTES THAT MHW DOES NOT REQUIRE CONFIRMATION BY JAPANESE FOOD MANUFACTURERS AND IMPORTERS THAT FOODS DO NOT CONTAIN OTHER UNAPPROVED SUBSTANCES, INCLUDING UNAPPROVED FOOD ADDITIVES AND PESTICIDES.

4. AGATT EXPRESSED INITIAL U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING THE PROPOSED IMPORT CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS TO MHW OFFICIALS AND RECOMMENDED THAT MHW ENACT THE SAME PREVENTIVE MEASURES (I.E. MONITORING) TO PREVENT ENTRY OF UNAPPROVED GM VARIETIES AS MHW IS IMPLEMENTING TO PREVENT THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF OTHER UNAPPROVED SUBSTANCES. IN RESPONSE, HIDEKI YAMADA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FOOD SANITATION DIVISION, OFFERED HIS PERSONAL

VIEW "THAT UNINTENDED COMMINGLING OF UNAPPROVED VARIETIES SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED PUNISHABLE". HOWEVER, CURRENTLY, THERE ARE NO PLANS TO INCLUDE THIS EXEMPTION IN THE REGULATIONS.

5. THE FOLLOWING IS A FULL TRANSLATION OF THE MHW PRESS RELEASE EXPLAINING THE DECISION TO REQUIRE A SAFETY ASSESSMENT FOR NEW GM FOODS:

BEGIN TRANSLATION

A REPORT FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE SUBCOMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY ABOUT THE LEGALIZATION OF "SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF FOODS AND FOOD ADDITIVES PRODUCED BY THE RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNIQUES", JANUARY 21, 2000.

1. OUTLINE

IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION MADE ON 12 NOVEMBER, 1999 BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE TO THE FOOD SAFETY INVESTIGATION COUNCIL CONCERNING THE SAFETY ASSESSMENT, THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY HAS CARRIED OUT IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS FROM VARIOUS ASPECTS. TODAY, THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPILED A REPORT BASED ON THE DISCUSSIONS. BELOW IS AN OUTLINE OF THE REPORT.

(1) NEED TO THE LEGALIZATION OF SAFETY ASSESSMENT

THE SUBCOMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT THE SAFETY ASSESSMENT SHOULD BE LEGALIZED FOR SEVERAL REASONS MENTIONED BELOW:

A) FOODS AND FOOD ADDITIVES PRODUCED BY THE RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNIQUES (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO GM FOODS: GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS) ARE EXPECTED TO BE DISTRIBUTED GLOBALLY AND NEW TYPES OF FOODS ARE EXPECTED TO BE DEVELOPED.

B) UNDER THE LAW CONCERNING STANDARDIZATION AND PROPER LABELING OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY PRODUCTS, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES IS SUPPOSED TO CHANGE ITS LABELING REGULATIONS TO MANDATORY TO LABEL GM FOODS, FOR WHICH THE SAFETY ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE.

(2) THE WAY OF LEGALIZATION

TO LEGALIZE THE SAFETY ASSESSMENT, IT IS APPROPRIATE TO ADD THE PROVISION, GIVEN BELOW IN THE "SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS FOR FOODS AND FOOD ADDITIVES" UNDER ARTICLE 7 OF THE FOOD SANITATION LAW.

"IF A FOOD IS MADE OF ALL OR PART OF ORGANISM OBTAINED BY THE RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNIQUES, OR IF A FOOD CONTAINS ALL OR PART OF ORGANISM OBTAINED BY THE RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNIQUES, THE ORGANISM SHALL UNDERGO FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENT BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE"

(3) CONCEPT OF SAFETY ASSESSMENT

THE SCIENTIFIC CONCEPT OF THE EXISTING "GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF FOODS AND ADDITIVES PRODUCED BY THE RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNIQUES" AND "GUIDELINES FOR MANUFACTURING ASSESSMENT OF FOODS AND ADDITIVES PRODUCED BY THE RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNIQUES" SHOULD BE ADOPTED WITHOUT ANY CHANGES AS THAT OF THE SAFETY ASSESSMENT.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE COMPILED STANDARDS FOR SAFETY ASSESSMENT AS "DRAFT STANDARDS FOR SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF FOODS AND ADDITIVES PRODUCED BY THE RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNIQUES," BASED ON OPINIONS AND FINDINGS OBTAINED FROM DISCUSSIONS DURING CONDUCTED TO THE DATE.

(4) CERTIFICATION OF SAFETY ASSESSMENT AT EACH IMPORT POINT

CERTIFICATION THAT THE FOOD HAS UNDERGONE SAFETY ASSESSMENT IS NECESSARY, IN ORDER TO AVOID THE IMPORT OF GM FOODS SUBJECTED TO NO SAFETY ASSESSMENT. IN PRACTICE, A CERTAIN RESPECTIVE KIND OF INDICATION SHOULD BE MADE IN AN IMPORT NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 16 OF THE SAME LAW AT EACH.

IN ADDITION, IT IS NECESSARY TO MONITOR IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC GM FOODS BY RANDOM SAMPLING, TO CONFIRM THAT THE FOOD MEETS THE SAFETY ASSESSMENT STANDARDS.

(5) OTHERS

THE MHW WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO COLLECT LATEST SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AND WILL HAVE TO UTILIZE THEM INTO THE SAFETY ASSESSMENT.

THE MHW AND THE PEOPLE CONCERNED WILL HAVE TO PUBLISH SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON THE SAFETY OF GM FOODS IN A MANNER WHICH IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND.

THE MHW WILL HAVE TO CONVEY "WHY AND HOW THE SAFETY ASSESSMENT SHOULD BE CONDUCTED" TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO PROMOTE ADEQUATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAFETY ASSESSMENT. THE MHW SHOULD ALSO WORK TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM TO OBTAIN FOREIGN INFORMATION PROMPTLY.

2. SCHEDULE OF THE MHW

(1) TO INVITE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE REPORT
(2) TO NOTIFY WTO
(3) TO HOLD A SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE UNDER THE FOOD SAFETY INVESTIGATION COUNCIL
(4) TO RECEIVE AN OPINION FROM THE COUNCIL
(5) TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE(KANPO)
FOLEY

TOR: 01/27/00 02:10:43

DIST: SIT: Bernard Bowles NSC HUSO KEITH LIEBERTHAL OSIUS PRITCHARD
SIT: Bernard Bowles NSC HUSO KEITH LIEBERTHAL OSIUS PRITCHARD

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RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0713
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0086
SUBJ: GMOS: INTERNATIONAL GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS PROTEST GMO FEED AT DANISH PORT
TEXT: UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 000585

STATE ALSO FOR EUR/NB, EB/TPP/ATT
USDA FAS FOR ITP/MACKE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, SENV, DA
SUBJECT: GMOS: INTERNATIONAL GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS PROTEST GMO FEED AT DANISH PORT

1. GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS AGAINST TRADE IN GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS HAVE CONTINUED SPORADIC PROTESTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES IN DENMARK IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, WITH DANISH USE OF GMO'S IN FEED A TARGET. BEFORE CHRISTMAS 1999, GREENPEACE WROTE TO DANISH AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS, REQUESTING THEIR POSITIONS ON USE OF GMO FEED. REPLYING FOR ALL ITS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS, THE DANISH AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL RESPONDED IN GENERAL TERMS THAT DANISH AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS ADHERE TO EUROPEAN UNION AND NATIONAL LEGISLATION.

2. IN ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE, GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS OCCUPIED A CRANE AT AARHUS HARBOR ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 23. THE CRANE WAS SCHEDULED TO UNLOAD 45,000 METRIC TONS OF SOYBEAN MEAL INTENDED FOR FEED. THE OCCUPATION OF THE CRANE WAS AN INTERNATIONAL ACTION WITH PARTICIPANTS FROM SWEDEN, FINLAND, NORWAY, FRANCE, GERMANY, AND DENMARK. THE PROTESTORS WERE EQUIPPED TO STAY OVERNIGHT ON TOP OF THE 40-METER HIGH CRANE. THE SHIP CARRYING THE SOYBEAN MEAL WAS RELOCATED TO ANOTHER HARBOR CRANE FOR UNLOADING ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 24, AND THE DEMONSTRATION ENDED

PEACEFULLY. GREENPEACE NEVER CLAIMED THAT THE UNLOADING OF GMO SOYBEAN MEAL WAS ILLEGAL, BUT JUST WANTED TO FOCUS ON THE USE OF GMO FEED.
BUTLER

TOR: 01/28/00 11:21:42

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RUEHXI/LABOR COLLECTIVE
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 1318
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 4981
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 3530
SUBJ: GMO'S: VATICAN ETHICIST ACKNOWLEDGES BENEFITS TO WORKERS
TEXT: UNCLAS ROME 000984

DEPT FOR G-LOY, OES FOR SANDELOW, DRL/IL, EUR/WE, EB/ATP
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4212/IEP/EUR/SED/ITALY/ACORRO/DDEFALCO
FAS FOR ITP
DOL FOR ILAB

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, FAO, ILO, WHO, IT, VT
SUBJECT: GMO'S: VATICAN ETHICIST ACKNOWLEDGES BENEFITS TO WORKERS

REFS: (A) 99 ROME 8188, (B) ROME 435, (C) 99 ROME 7519, (D) 99 ROME 5420

THIS IS A JOINT EMBASSY ROME/EMBASSY VATICAN MESSAGE.

SUMMARY
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1. EMBOFFS FROM EMBASSY ROME AND EMBASSY VATICAN ENCOUNTERED A SYMPATHETIC HEARING DURING A 2/15/00 CALL ON VATICAN ETHICIST, ARCHBISHOP ELIO SGRECCIA, TO DISCUSS CHURCH POLICY ON GMO'S. DRAWING UPON A 1999 REPORT FROM THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY FOR LIFE, MONS. SGRECCIA NOTED THREE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR GMO RESEARCH TO HAVE THE CHURCH'S SUPPORT: ADEQUATE RISK ASSESSMENT AND CONTROL, MAKING INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC (INCLUDING PRODUCT LABELING), AND SHARING THE BENEFITS OF RESEARCH WITH THE WORLD'S MOST NEEDY. EMBASSY ROME WILL SEEK TO INCLUDE CHURCH OFFICIALS (ALONG WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM FAO AND THE ILO'S ROME OFFICE) IN FUTURE GMO-RELATED PUBLIC

PROGRAMMING AND INFORMATION OUTREACH. END SUMMARY.

2. AT EMBASSY ROME REQUEST, AND CONSISTENT WITH EMBASSY BIOTECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP ACTION PLAN (REF A), EMBASSY VATICAN ARRANGED FOR LABCOUN AND SCIATT, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY VATICAN POLOFF, TO MEET VATICAN ETHICIST ARCHBISHOP ELIO SGRECCIA FOR A 2/15/00 DISCUSSION OF CHURCH POLICY ON GMO'S. SGRECCIA IS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY FOR LIFE, AS WELL AS DIRECTOR OF THE CATHOLIC SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY'S BIOETHICS INSTITUTE. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY.

LABCOUN'S CONCERNS

3. LABCOUN SAID THE GMO ISSUE COULD ALMOST BE SEEN IN METAPHYSICAL TERMS: IF PEOPLE SUFFER, BUT NO ONE NOTICES, DOES THEIR PAIN EXIST? (ANS: "IT EXISTS.") PUT IN ETHICAL TERMS, LABCOUN SUGGESTED THE METAPHOR OF "LAY" PERSONS IN A VEHICLE, TRAVELING ALONG A DESERTED ROAD, WHO COME UPON AN ACCIDENT SCENE WHERE PEOPLE ARE HURT; IS THERE A MORAL OBLIGATION FOR THEM TO STOP AND OFFER HELP? (ANS: "CERTAINLY.") AND WHAT IF THE PERSONS ARE MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND THEIR VEHICLE IS AN AMBULANCE? (ANS: "ALL THE MORE SO.")

4. LABCOUN EXPRESSED DISTRESS OVER CURRENT DISCUSSION OF THE GMO ISSUE WHICH TAKES NO NOTE OF THE PAIN SUFFERED BY MILLIONS OF THE WORLD'S AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, POOR PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES ARE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY ROUTINE CONTACT WITH PESTICIDES, WHOSE FATE GOES UNOBSERVED BY PARTICIPANTS IN EUROPE'S AND AMERICA'S DEBATE OVER GMO'S. TECHNOLOGY'S PROGRESS, HE SAID, HAS PUT IN OUR HANDS A MEANS NEVER BEFORE AVAILABLE TO DEAL WITH THIS PAIN. GENETIC MODIFICATION OF CROPS GROWN BY THE THIRD WORLD'S HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF RURAL WORKERS CAN IMBUE THEM WITH SELF-PROTECTION AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE PESTS AND DISEASES, SPARING WORKERS THE NEED TO DEFEND THEIR CROPS WITH PESTICIDES. LABCOUN SAID THAT, IF ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, GMO RESEARCH IN TWO, FIVE, OR TEN YEARS' TIME COULD BRING A LIFE-OR-DEATH DIFFERENCE TO THE WAY FARMING IS CONDUCTED IN EVEN THE REMOTEST CORNERS OF THE WORLD.

THE CHURCH'S VIEW

5. MONS. SGRECCIA SAID THE CHURCH'S ATTITUDE TOWARD GMO RESEARCH IS "PRUDENT, BUT OPEN." HE LAMENTED THAT SOME SECTORS (E.G., THE GREENS) HAD "DEMONIZED" THE ISSUE. MONS. SGRECCIA CITED KEY CONCLUSIONS FROM A 1999 REPORT, "BIOTECHNOLOGY - ANIMALS AND PLANTS," PRODUCED BY THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY FOR LIFE, TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE CHURCH'S POSITION REGARDING GENETIC RESEARCH ON PLANTS AND ANIMALS DIFFERS FROM RESEARCH PERFORMED ON HUMANS. THE FORMER IS ACCEPTABLE WHEN:

-- ON THE BASIS OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE, THERE IS ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR RISK ASSESSMENT AND CONTROL (MONS. SGRECCIA OBSERVED THAT SOME ELEMENT OF RISK IS ALWAYS PRESENT - EVEN, FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN BAKING BREAD);

-- THE PUBLIC IS INFORMED, AS WITH LABELING, AND PROVIDED AN ASSURANCE THAT THE PRODUCT IS RISK FREE (MONS. SGRECCIA OFFERED THE EXAMPLE OF MINERAL CONTENT LABELS PLACED ON BOTTLED WATER);

-- THE BENEFITS ACCRUE NOT JUST TO THE WEALTHY AND THE MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES MARKETING SUCH PRODUCTS, BUT ALSO TO THE WORLD'S MOST NEEDY PEOPLE.

5. MONS. SGRECCIA OBSERVED THAT THE RISK OF PESTICIDE CONTAMINATION POSES A DOUBLE DANGER. IN ADDITION TO ENDANGERING PEOPLE WHO COME IN CONTACT WITH SUCH POISONS NOW, PESTICIDES - BY LINGERING IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENGENDERING BIRTH DEFECTS - ALSO AFFECT FUTURE GENERATIONS.

RELATIONS WITH PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
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6. SCIATT ADDED THAT BIOTECHNOLOGY PROVIDES BENEFITS IN OTHER MAJOR FIELDS (E.G., HEALTH AND PHARMACEUTICALS, ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION) WHERE THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN MORE RECEPTIVE AND THE DEBATE LESS CONTROVERSIAL. HE REPORTED TO SGRECCIA THAT THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE IS SLATED TO TREAT BIOTECHNOLOGY MORE BROADLY IN A SEMINAR LATER IN THE YEAR, AND THAT INTERNATIONALLY WELL REGARDED DR. PETER RAVEN, DIRECTOR OF THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN, WILL BE CHAIRING THE EFFORT. SCIATT ASKED SGRECCIA IF THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY FOR LIFE MIGHT WORK WITH ITS COUNTERPART SCIENCE ACADEMY TO TREAT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE ISSUE OF RISK ASSESSMENT AND RELATIVE RISK AT SOME FUTURE TIME. MONS. SGRECCIA RESPONDED THAT THE MORE COMPLEX SCIENTIFIC MATTERS OF THIS NATURE WOULD BE LEFT EXCLUSIVELY TO THE SCIENCE ACADEMY.

ILO AND FAO LINK
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7. LABCOUN PRESENTED MONS. SGRECCIA WITH A COPY OF AN ILO "WORLD OF WORK" ARTICLE OF DECEMBER 1997 (SEE REF B), AS WELL AS A CD-ROM AND OTHER PUBLISHED MATERIAL OBTAINED FROM A 2/10/00 CALL ON FAO'S DR. ALEMAYEHU WODAGENEH. (DR. WODAGENEH IS THE COORDINATOR OF FAO'S OBSOLETE PESTICIDE PREVENTION AND DISPOSAL PROGRAM. HE CONFIRMED TO LABCOUN AND FODAG AGATT HIS AVAILABILITY TO BE INTERVIEWED BY ITALIAN NEWS MEDIA ON THE SUBJECT.) LABCOUN SUGGESTED TO MONS. SGRECCIA THAT, FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, HE CONTACT ILO ROME OFFICE DIRECTOR MAURIZIO SACCONI OR DR. WODAGENEH (SEE INTERNET ADDRESS: HTTP://WWW.FAO.ORG). DR. WODAGENEH'S E-MAIL ADDRESS IS: ALEMAYEHU.WODAGENEH#FAO.ORG, FAX: (39)(06) 5705-6347.

COMMENT
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8. POST BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO COMMUNICATE TO ITALIAN AUDIENCES THAT GMO RESEARCH HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BENEFIT NOT ONLY FOR-PROFIT MULTINATIONALS, BUT ALSO - AS MONS. SGRECCIA EMPHASIZED - MILLIONS OF THE WORLD'S NEEDIEST PEOPLE. WE BELIEVE THIS MESSAGE CAN BE REINFORCED THROUGH TESTIMONY EMANATING NOT ONLY FROM THE COMMUNITY OF SCIENCE

RESEARCHERS, BUT ALSO FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE STATURE OF THE FAO, ILO, WHO, AND THE HOLY SEE. FOR THESE REASONS, POST WILL SEEK TO INCLUDE SUCH GROUPS IN FUTURE GMO-RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMMING AND INFORMATION OUTREACH.

FOGLIETTA

TOR: 02/16/00 09:57:18

DIST: SIT: Bernard BOWLES NSC ORFINI Yee
SIT: Bernard BOWLES NSC ORFINI Yee

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHBRA0600 0491857-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 181857Z FEB 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
OSRI: RUEHBR
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8773
INFO: RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 7371
RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 1268
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 2772
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 2094
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 2103
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0169
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0696
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0502
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 6190
SUBJ: BRAZIL RFUSES U.S. CORN DUE TO GMO CONCERNS - THE
IEW FROM THE TRADE
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 BRASILIA 000600

SENSITIVE

USDA FOR FAS/OFFICE OF THE ADMIN.;ITP/BSIMMONS;CMP/GFD
STATE PASS USTR FOR PSCHER/KMEIMAN/SEARLY/DSHARK
STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATAT/ATP (ACETO/GARRO)
STATE FOR EB/ATT/ATP/MBRUNO
STATE FOR OES/ETC
GENEVA, BRUSSELS FOR USTR AND FAS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, KSCA, ETRD, BR, XT
SUBJECT: BRAZIL RFUSES U.S. CORN DUE TO GMO CONCERNS - THE
IEW FROM THE TRADE

REF: A) BRASILIA 0239 (JULY 11, 1999)

1. SUMMARY. PERDIGAO, THE SECOND LARGEST BRZILIAN POULTRY PRODUCER AND EXPORTER, RECENTLYDECIDED TO NOT ACCEPT A SHIPMENT OF U.S. CORN DUE TO CONCERNS THAT THE EXPORTER WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATION THAT THE SHIPMENT DID NOT CONTAIN GMO CORN VARIETIES AND MIGHT NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER BRAZIL WITHOUT SUCH CERTIFICATION. PERDIGAO SAID THAT THEY TOOK THIS ACTION BECAUSE THE SHIPMENT DID NOT HAVE A CERTIFICATE STATING THAT THE CORN WAS "GMO-FREE". GREENPEACE

WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN THE EPISODE AND WAS REPORTEDLY INTENDING TO BOARD THE VESSEL IF IT ARRIVED IN THE PORT. BRAZILIAN POULTRY AND PORK PRODUCERS STILL WANT TO IMPORT U.S. CORN IF ACCEPTABLE CERTIFICATION CAN BE PROVIDED AS THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT LOSS OF SALES IN IMPORTANT BUT GMO-SENSITIVE MARKETS LIKE THE EU AND JAPAN. POST RECOMMENDS THAT A U.S. TEAM TRAVEL TO BRAZIL TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES. END SUMMARY.

WHAT HAPPENED?

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2. AGATT CALLED TWO INDUSTRY CONTACTS FROM MAJOR TRADING COMPANIES ABOUT THE STORY IN THE PRESS THAT PERDIGAO, THE SECOND LARGEST BRAZILIAN POULTRY PRODUCER AND EXPORTER, HAD DECIDED TO NOT ACCEPT A SHIPMENT OF U.S. CORN DUE TO CONCERNS THAT THE EXPORTER WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATION THAT THE SHIPMENT DID NOT CONTAIN GMO CORN VARIETIES AND MIGHT NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER BRAZIL WITHOUT SUCH CERTIFICATION. ONE TRADING COMPANY CONTACT STATED THAT PERDIGAO HAD NOT ANTICIPATED THE POSSIBILITY THAT GREENPEACE WOULD MAKE A MEDIA EVENT OVER CORN SHIPMENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES. WHEN CONFRONTED WITH SUCH AN EVENT DECIDED TO DIVERT THE SHIPMENT ELSEWHERE BEFORE IT LANDED IN THE PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO DO SUL, SANTA CATARINA. BOTH TRADING CONTACTS STATED THAT THE SHIPMENT HAD BEEN DIVERTED TO SOUTH AFRICA.

3. FAS' AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST ALSO CONTACTED A HIGH RANKING CONTACT WITHIN PERDIGAO ABOUT THE INCIDENT (PLEASE PROTECT SOURCES AS THEY HAVE BEEN VERY OPEN WITH REGARD TO THIS INCIDENT). THE PERDIGAO OFFICIAL SAID THAT PERDIGAO HAD ORIGINALLY ASKED FOR CERTIFICATION THAT THE SHIPMENT WAS FREE OF GMO CORN IN THE CONTRACT AND THAT THAT HAD BEEN PROMISED. ACCORDING TO THIS OFFICIAL, AS THE ARRIVAL DATE APPROACHED, WHEN PRESSED ABOUT THE PROMISED CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS, THE EXPORTING COMPANY SAID THAT IT WAS HAVING TROUBLE GETTING SUCH CERTIFICATION AND THAT THE USG WAS NOT ABLE TO GIVE SUCH AN OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION. PERDI!DkxAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN SENT; JUST THAT THEY HAD ASKED FOR THE SHIPMENT TO BE RETURNED.

4. ACCORDING TO THE PERDIGAO OFFICIAL, PERDIGAO'S DECISION TO REFUSE DELIVERY OF THE CORN WAS BASED ON THE ABOVE EVENTS, NOT STRICTLY ON THE ACTIONS OF GREENPEACE, ALTHOUGH PERDIGAO HAD BEEN INFORMED OF GREENPEACE'S PLANNED ACTIONS AGAINST THE UNLOADING OF THE SHIPMENT. PERDIGAO HAD ALSO CONSIDERED ALLOWING THE SHIP TO ARRIVE AND FORCE THE GOB TO TEST THE CORN, UNTIL THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE TESTING WOULD TAKE 20 OR MORE DAYS AND THAT THE IMPORTER WOULD BEAR THE COST OF THE TESTING AS WELL AS DEMURRAGE AND PORT COSTS FOR THE TIME PERIOD. PERDIGAO WAS NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT THAT LEVEL OF DAMAGES SO TOOK THE ACTION THEY DID.

GREENPEACE'S ROLE

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5. WITH REGARD TO THE SHIP ITSELF, THE PERDIGAO OFFICIAL SAID THAT GREENPEACE WAS PLANNING A "CARNIVAL" AT THE PORT WHEN THE SHIP ARRIVED. HE SAID THAT GREENPEACE HAD HIRED BOATS, HELICOPTERS, PAID FOR JOURNALISTS TO COME TO SAN FRANCISCO DO

SUL, AND PAID FOR HOTEL ROOMS. WHILE THE SHIPMENT DID NOT ENTER BRAZILIAN NATIONAL WATERS, NEITHER DID GREENPEACE GET THE MEDIA EVENT THEY WERE HOPING FOR. THE TRADING CONTACTS
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 BRASILIA 000600

SENSITIVE

USDA FOR FAS/OFFICE OF THE ADMIN.;ITP/BSIMMONS;CMP/GFD
STATE PASS USTR FOR PSCHER/KMEIMAN/SEARLY/DSHARK
STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATAT/ATP (ACETO/GARRO)
STATE FOR EB/ATT/ATP/MBRUNO
STATE FOR OES/ETC
GENEVA, BRUSSELS FOR USTR AND FAS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, KSCA, ETRD, BR, XT
SUBJECT: BRAZIL REFUSES U.S. CORN DUE TO GMO CONCERNS - THE VIEW FROM THE TRADE

CONFIRMED THAT GREENPEACE WAS WAITING AT THE PORT FOR THE SHIP TO ARRIVE REPORTEDLY WITH PLANS TO BOARD THE VESSEL. WITH REGARD TO THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE EVENT, GREENPEACE MADE A REQUEST TO A FEDERAL PROSECUTOR/ATTORNEY GENERAL IN THE STATE OF SANTA CATARINA STATING THAT THE SHIPMENT WAS "SUSPECTED" TO CONTAIN GMO CORN AND THAT THAT WAS CONTRARY TO BRAZILIAN LEGISLATION. THIS INFORMATION WAS ALSO PRESENTED TO THE PORT AUTHORITY IN SAN FRANCISCO DO SUL; THE FEDERAL DELEGATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE BASED IN SANTA CATARINA; AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IN BRASILIA. THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR THEN REPORTEDLY ALSO CONTACTED MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS IN BRASILIA WHO CONFIRMED THAT THE ENTRY OF BIOTECH PRODUCTS WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL WAS ILLEGAL.

"GMO-FREE" POULTRYMEAT DRIVING THE ACTION?
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6. ONE TRADING CONTACT STATED THAT SEVERAL OF THE MAJOR BRAZILIAN POULTRY EXPORTERS HAVE VERBAL AGREEMENTS WITH EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AND JAPANESE CLIENTS THAT BRAZIL WOULD PROVIDE "GMO-FREE" POULTRYMEAT TO THOSE MARKETS AND WERE THEREFORE PUTTING PRESSURE ON THEIR FEED SUPPLIERS TO PROVIDE GMO-FREE INPUTS. HIS UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THE POULTRY COMPANIES WERE APPARENTLY FOCUSING MORE ON SOYBEANS SINCE THAT IS THE COMMODITY THAT IS GETTING ALL THE NEGATIVE GMO PRESS IN BRAZIL, AND THUS NEGLECTED TO THINK ABOUT THE CORN PORTION OF THE FEED RATION. THE OTHER TRADING CONTACT DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT TO MEET EU AND JAPANESE DEMAND FOR GMO-FREE POULTRYMEAT. HE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS MORE PERDIGAO'S FEAR OF A MEDIA CIRCUS, THE CONCERN THAT THE SHIPMENT MIGHT NOT BE CLEARED BY BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE ADDITIONAL COSTS THAT PERDIGAO WOULD INCUR THAT MADE THEM TAKE THE DECISION THEY DID. THE PERDIGAO OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT THE PUBLICITY DID IMPACT SALES TO THE EU AND THAT COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES HAD BEEN SENT TO THE EU TO REASSURE CLIENTS THERE.

BRAZILIAN LEGISLATION
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7. THIS CONTACT ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO PURCHASE U.S. CORN ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS BECAUSE WHILE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAD TOLD HIM THAT GMO CORN FOR ANY PURPOSE WAS NOT ALLOWED BY BRAZILIAN REGULATION THERE WAS IN HIS WORDS "NO CLEAR LEGAL PICTURE" ABOUT WHAT CERTIFICATION REGARDING GMO FREEDOM FOR THE SHIPMENT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOB. WITHOUT CONFIDENCE THAT THE SHIPMENT COULD BE OFFLOADED, AND GIVEN THIS LEVEL OF UNCERTAINTY HE HAD OPTED NOT TO TRADE ANY U.S. CORN.

8.BRAZIL'S LAW 8,974/95 OF JANUARY 6, 1995, (PUBLISHED ON JAN. 6, 1995)PROHIBITS THE ENTRY OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS IN BRAZIL WITHOUT PRIOR GOVERNMENT APPROVAL. ART. 7, POINT III STATES THAT "THE ISSUANCE OF REGISTRATIONS FOR PRODUCTS CONTAINING GMOS OR DERIVED FROM GMOS WHICH ARE TO BE MARKETED FOR HUMAN, ANIMAL OR PLANT USE OR FOR RELEASE INTO THE ENVIRONMENT" AND ART. 7, POINT V, STATES THAT "THE ISSUANCE OF AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ENTRY INTO THE COUNTRY OF ANY PRODUCT CONTAINING GMOS OR DERIVED FROM GMOS" IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INSPECTION AGENCIES OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT "WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS AND CONSIDERING THE FINAL TECHNICAL OPINION OF THE CTNBIO" (CTNBIO - THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMISSION ON BIOSAFETY WHICH IS PART OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY).

9. IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION DECREE 1,752/95 OF DECEMBER 20, 1995 (PUBLISHED DEC. 21, 1995) ALSO STATES IN ART.2, POINT V THAT THE CTNBIO HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY "TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS FOR ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS INVOLVING THE MAKING, CULTURE, HANDLING, USE, TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE, MARKETING, CONSUMPTION, RELEASE AND DISPOSAL OF GMOS". ART. 2, POINT XII GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE CTNBIO ALSO HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY "TO ISSUE A CONCLUSIVE PRIOR EXPERT TECHNICAL OPINION ON THE REGISTRATION, USE, TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE, UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 BRASILIA 000600

SENSITIVE

USDA FOR FAS/OFFICE OF THE ADMIN.;ITP/BSIMMONS;CMP/GFD
STATE PASS USTR FOR PSCHER/KMEIMAN/SEARLY/DSHARK
STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATAT/ATP (ACETO/GARRO)
STATE FOR EB/ATT/ATP/MBRUNO
STATE FOR OES/ETC
GENEVA, BRUSSELS FOR USTR AND FAS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, KSCA, ETRD, BR, XT
SUBJECT: BRAZIL REFUSES U.S. CORN DUE TO GMO CONCERNS - THE VIEW FROM THE TRADE

MARKETING, CONSUMPTION, RELEASE, AND DISPOSAL OF PRODUCT CONTAINING A GMO OR DERIVATIVE, REFERRING IT TO THE COMPETENT INSPECTION AGENCY".

10. ON THE BASIS OF THESE POINTS POST UNDERSTANDS THAT THE LAW DOES NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN GMOS FOR PLANTING AND RELEASE

INTO THE ENVIRONMENT AND GMOS FOR PROCESSING AND CONSUMPTION. AGCOUN WILL BE MEETING WITH BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS ON MONDAY FEB 21, TO CONFIRM THIS. POST DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO BRAZIL'S NOTIFICATIONS TO THE WTO REGARDING THIS REQUIREMENT BUT SUSPECTS THAT NOTIFICATION WAS PROBABLY NOT DONE. WE WILL ENQUIRE OF BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES. (COMMENT: IN 1997, THE BRAZILIAN VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (ABIOVE) REQUESTED AND RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM THE CTNBIO TO IMPORT SOYBEANS FROM THE UNITED STATES AS DESCRIBED IN THE ABOVE LEGISLATION. THIS OPTION MAY NOT BE PRACTICABLE FOR THE BRAZILIAN POULTRY INDUSTRY AS A LARGE PROPORTION OF ITS CLIENTS IN THE EU ARE APPARENTLY DEMANDING "GMO-FREE" PRODUCT. FOR THIS REASON THE POULTRY INDUSTRY IS INTERESTED IN CERTIFICATION AS TO THE GMO STATUS OF THE IMPORTED PRODUCT. END COMMENT.)

BUSINESS LOST

11. BOTH TRADING CONTACTS SHARED INFORMATION REGARDING OTHER CONTRACTS FOR U.S. CORN THAT HAVE BEEN CANCELED BEFORE THE CORN WAS LOADED ONTO SHIPS. ONE CONTACT MENTIONED ONE SPECIFIC SHIPMENT OF 25,000-30,000 MT THAT HAD BEEN CANCELED. THE OTHER CONTACT UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO AND POSSIBLY THREE OTHER SHIPMENTS THAT WERE CANCELED BEFORE SHIPMENT AND THAT THERE IS POSSIBLY ONE SHIPMENT OF 5,000-10,000 MT ON THE WATER TO BRAZIL.

BUT WHAT ABOUT ARGENTINA??

12. POST IS CURRENTLY ESTIMATING TOTAL BRAZILIAN IMPORTS OF CORN TO BE 2.5 MILLION MT, WITH ARGENTINA SUPPLYING THE BULK OF THE EXPORTS DUE TO ZERO-DUTY ACCESS TO THE BRAZILIAN MARKET AGAINST THE ELEVEN PERCENT DUTY FOR CORN FROM NON-MERCOSUL SUPPLIERS. (COMMENT. CONAB IS ESTIMATING 1.8 MILLION MT OF IMPORTS WHILE THE INDUSTRY IS SAYING THAT IMPORT COULD BE AS HIGH AS 3-4 MILLION. POST BELIEVES THAT CONAB'S PRODUCTION ESTIMATE IS NOT TAKING ENOUGH ACCOUNT OF THE DROUGHT IN THE SOUTH OF BRAZIL AND THAT IS WHY THEIR IMPORT FORECAST IS GENERALLY BELIEVED TO BE TOO LOW. END COMMENT.)

13. POST UNDERSTANDS THAT ARGENTINA HAS ASSURED BRAZILIAN BUYERS OF CORN, I.E., THE PORK AND POULTRY INDUSTRIES, THAT ARGENTINA CAN SUPPLY ALL THE CORN THAT BRAZIL NEEDS TO MAKE UP THE EXPECTED SHORTFALL IN BRAZIL'S DOMESTIC PRODUCTION THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, BOTH TRADING CONTACTS NOTED THAT ARGENTINA ALSO HAS PLANTED SOME GMO CORN VARIETIES BUT THEIR VIEWS OF WHETHER OR NOT THERE MIGHT BE PROBLEMS WITH ARGENTINE SHIPMENTS DIFFERED. ONE CONTACT STATED THAT ARGENTINA "HAD A KIND OF GMO VARIETY THAT WAS ALLOWED IN THE EU" AND THEREFORE SHOULD HAVE PRODUCT THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FOR BRAZIL. THE OTHER CONTACT THOUGHT PROBLEMS WITH ARGENTINE SHIPMENTS MIGHT ALSO ARISE, THOUGH BOTH BELIEVED THAT ARGENTINA WOULD BE MAKING SOME KIND OF CERTIFICATION STATEMENT AS TO THE ARGENTINE CORN. ONE TRADING CONTACT STATED THAT HIS INFORMATION WAS THAT ARGENTINE OLD CROP CORN WAS ABOUT ONE PERCENT GMO BUT THAT THE NEW CROP CORN IS ABOUT SEVEN-TEN PERCENT GMO CORN.

13. POST WAS ALSO TOLD BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS THAT THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR HAD MET WITH AGRICULTURE MINISTER PRATINI AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT ARGENTINE CORN WOULD BE TREATED LIKE CORN FROM OTHER ORIGINS AND THAT IT WOULD BE SAMPLED. (COMMENT. THE AGMIN IS UNDER PRESSURE AS IT HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY EU ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND BEEN TOLD THAT THESE GROUPS WOULD BE MONITORING THE GMO CONTENT OF ALL COMMODITIES IMPORTED INTO THE EU FROM BRAZIL. END COMMENT.)

14. A TRADING CONTACT ALSO STATED THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT
UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 BRASILIA 000600

SENSITIVE

USDA FOR FAS/OFFICE OF THE ADMIN.;ITP/BSIMMONS;CMP/GFD
STATE PASS USTR FOR PSCHER/KMEIMAN/SEARLY/DSHARK
STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATAT/ATP (ACETO/GARRO)
STATE FOR EB/ATT/ATP/MBRUNO
STATE FOR OES/ETC
GENEVA, BRUSSELS FOR USTR AND FAS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, KSCA, ETRD, BR, XT
SUBJECT: BRAZIL REFUSES U.S. CORN DUE TO GMO CONCERNS - THE VIEW FROM THE TRADE

OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL AND THE BRAZILIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAVE PURCHASED TESTING KITS FROM A COMPANY CALLED GHKAUFMAN (OR GHK KAUFMAN) IN ORDER TO TEST FOR THE PRESENCE OF GMOS BUT THAT AS FAR AS HE KNOWS THERE IS NO TESTING BEING DONE AT THE PORTS AT THIS TIME. (COMMENT. RIO GRANDE DO SUL, SOUTHERNMOST STATE OF BRAZIL WHICH BORDERS ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY, HAS DECLARED ITSELF A "GMO-FREE ZONE" IN THE HOPES OF PREFERENTIAL ACCESS TO THE EU SOYBEAN MARKET. END COMMENT. SEE REF A.)

POST RECOMMENDATION
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15. AGCOUN RECOMMENDS THAT A GROUP OF U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POSSIBLY INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES TRAVEL TO BRAZIL TO DISCUSS WITH RELEVANT GOB OFFICIALS THE POSSIBILITY THAT BRAZIL WOULD ACCEPT CERTIFICATION FROM SOME USG ORGANIZATION, E.G., USDA, OR OTHER THAN THE U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IF FEDERAL CERTIFICATION IS NOT POSSIBLE. THE U.S. GROUP MIGHT WELL INCLUDE A USDA/GIPSA INSPECTION OR INDUSTRY GMO TESTING AUTHORITY WHO COULD TALK IN PRACTICAL TERMS TO GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY ABOUT IDNTIFICATION/TESTING, AND VISIT PORTS AND LAND TRANSIT POINTS FOR ARRIVAL OF ARGENTINE AND U.S. CORN TO ASSESS WHETHER LAND TRANSIT POINTS CAN REALLY CARRY OUT TESTING ON ARGENTINE CORN EQUALLY STRINGENT TO THAT WHICH MIGHT BE APPLIED TO ARRIVING VESSELS FROM THE UNITED STATES. POST ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT THIS GROUP MEET WITH POULTRY AND PORK INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES IN SAO PAULO. POST IS CONCERNED THAT A MEDIA COUNTER-ATTACK WOULD ONLY RAISE THE VISIBILITY OF THIS ISSUE, RESULTING IN MORE PUBLICITY IN THE EU AND JAPAN WHICH WOULD ONLY MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE BRAZILIAN POULTRY EXPORTERS TO SELL IN THESE MARKETS AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO BUY U.S. CORN THIS SEASON, WHICH THEY VERY CLEARLY STILL WANT TO DO.

HARRINGTON

TOR: 02/18/00 15:24:48

DIST: SIT: AVERY Bernard BOWLES BRUNS NSC DUNCAN HOLLIS LEE MERLETTI ORFINI SHANNON VALENZUELA
SIT: AVERY Bernard BOWLES BRUNS NSC DUNCAN HOLLIS LEE MERLETTI ORFINI SHANNON VALENZUELA

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RESTRICTION CODES

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P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
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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]
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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHBRA0751 0621857-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
OSRI: RUEHBR
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ORIG: AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
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INFO: RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 7488
RUEHAC/AMEMBASSY ASUNCION 1301
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 2804
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 2120
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0517
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO 6298
SUBJ: DELIVERY OF DEMARCHE ON BRAZIL'S FAILURE TO NOTIFY NEW GMO LABELING TO THE WTO
TEXT: UNCLAS BRASILIA 000751

USDA FOR FAS/OFFICE OF THE ADMIN.;ITP/BSIMMONS/FSTSD
STATE PASS USTR FOR PSCHER/KMEIMAN/SEARLY/DSHARK
STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATAT/ATP (ACETO/GARRO)
STATE FOR EB/ATT/ATP/MBRUNO
STATE FOR OES/ETC
GENEVA, BRUSSELS FOR USTR AND FAS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, KSCA, ETRD, BR
SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF DEMARCHE ON BRAZIL'S FAILURE TO NOTIFY NEW GMO LABELING TO THE WTO

REF: STATE 30830

1. AGCOUN AND AGATT DELIVERED TALKING POINTS INCLUDED IN REFTEL REGARDING PUBLIC CONSULTATION (PC) NUMBER 2 (CONTAINS THE PROPOSED RULES FOR LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS - GMOS) TO ACTING CHIEF MARIA IZABEL VIEIRA AND LUCIANO L.MACIEIRA OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S (FORMIN)BASIC PRODUCTS DIVISION ON FEBRUARY 24, 2000.

2. VIEIRA AND MACIEIRA WERE FRANKLY PUZZLED BY THE USG CONCERN. THEY STATED THAT BRAZIL WAS NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC BY PUBLISHING A PROPOSAL IN THE DIARIO OFICIAL (EQUIVALENT OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER) FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. THEY NOTED THAT THE COMMENT PERIOD WAS OPEN UNTIL MARCH 9, 2000, AND THAT IMPLEMENTATION AS SPECIFIED IN THE PC WAS STILL MONTHS AWAY YET. THEY STATED THAT WHEN THE RULE WAS FINAL THEY WOULD NOTIFY THE WTO TBT COMMITTEE OF THE MEASURE. THE

IMPLICATION OF THE CONVERSATION WAS THAT AS THE WTO/TBT NOTIFICATION WOULD OCCUR SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE THE ACTUAL SCHEDULE IMPLEMENTATION DATE, BRAZIL WAS IN COMPLIANCE WITH ITS WTO OBLIGATIONS IN THIS MATTER. THEY NOTED THAT THE INFORMATION WAS PUBLIC AND THAT THEY HAD ALREADY RECEIVED COMMENTS FROM SOME OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. AGCOUN AND AGATT RESPONDED THAT THE USG INTERPRETATION OF THE WTO NOTIFICATION OBLIGATION IS THAT THE NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE MADE AT THE EARLY PROPOSAL OR DRAFT STAGE AS IT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO EFFECT CHANGES/MODIFICATIONS AFTER A RULE IS FINAL.

4. AS THE WTO/TBT MEETING IN GENEVA WAS TO BE HELD ON FEB 25, 2000, FAS/BRASILIA CALLED FAS/GENEVA ON FEB 24 REGARDING THE FORMIN VIEWS SO THAT USG INTERVENTIONS COULD TAKE BRAZIL'S INTERPRETATION OF THE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATION INTO ACCOUNT.

5. (COMMENT. THE FORMIN EXPLANATION ABOVE EXPLAINS WHY SO MANY OF BRAZIL'S TBT AND SPS NOTIFICATION ARE DONE "INCORRECTLY" AND GENERALLY DO NOT ALLOW FOR A 60 DAY COMMENT PERIOD FROM THE DATE THAT THE WTO IS NOTIFIED. POST CONSIDERS THIS A GENERIC PROBLEM WITH BRAZIL'S NOTIFICATIONS. END COMMENT.)
HARRINGTON

TOR: 03/02/00 16:33:02

DIST: SIT: AVERY NSC HOLLIS MERLETTI ORFINI SHANNON VALENZUELA
SIT: AVERY NSC HOLLIS MERLETTI ORFINI SHANNON VALENZUELA

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006. cable	Re: [Policy on Biotechnology Issues] (3 pages)	03/29/2000	P1/b(1)

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

FOLDER TITLE:
[01/19/2000 - 06/29/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3017

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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

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

Cable

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2015
2016-0529-M (2.66)

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHSAA2554 0941520-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 031520Z APR 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
OSRI: RUEHSA
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1025
INFO: RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0397
SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN GMO LABELING PLANS
TEXT: ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 PRETORIA 002554

DEPT FOR AF/S (MKOPLOVSKY)
DEPT PASS USDA FAS
AGRICULTURE FOR FAS/ITP
DEPT FOR OES (BTOBIAS)
DEPT PASS USTR FOR RWHITAKER, BSCHWARTZ
USDOC FOR 4510/ITA/ANESA/OA/SMILLER
GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/10/2005
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, SF
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN GMO LABELING PLANS

REF: PRETORIA 948

(U) CLASSIFIED BY ECON M-C ROBERT GODEC FOR REASONS 1.5 (B,D).

SUMMARY
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1. (SBU) IN A MEETING ON MARCH 30 WITH ECONOFFS, DR. VAN DE VENTER, DIRECTOR OF FOOD CONTROL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, OUTLINED THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE SAG'S EFFORT TO INTRODUCE LABELING FOR FOOD CONTAINING GMOS. VAN DE VENTER EXPLAINED THAT HIS UNIT WILL BE PROPOSING A COMPROMISE LABELING PLAN WHEREBY LABELING WILL BE MANDATORY FOR FOODS CONTAINING CERTAIN GENES OR FOR FOODS THAT ARE NOT "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT." MANUFACTURERS WILL ALSO BE ALLOWED TO LABEL THEIR FOOD AS EITHER "ENHANCED BY BIOTECHNOLOGY" OR "GMO FREE", BUT WILL HAVE TO BE ABLE TO PROVE THEIR CLAIMS. HE EXPECTS THE LABELING REGULATIONS TO BE IN PLACE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

GMO ACT
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2. (SBU) IN A MEETING WITH ECONOFFS ON MARCH 30, VAN DE VENTER EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE NEW GMO ACT (SEE REFTEL), THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON WHICH HE SITS WILL SET THE GUIDELINES FOR REGULATING LGMOS. AS PART OF THE REGULATION OF THE TRADE OR PRODUCTION OF LGMOS, LABELING OF FOOD EXPORTS WILL BE CONTROLLED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WILL IMPLEMENTED CONSISTENT WITH THE BIODIVERSITY TREATY. THE COMMITTEE HAS MET TWICE SO FAR AND IS STILL IN THE EARLY STAGES OF REGULATING THE LGMOS.

FOOD LABELING

3. (SBU) FOOD IN GENERAL, VAN DE VENTER EXPLAINED, IS GOVERNED UNDER THE FOOD STUFFS AND COSMETICS ACT OF 1972. UNDER THAT ACT THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR REGISTRATION OF GMOS, BUT THE ACT DOES FORBID THE SELLING OF "HARMFUL FOODS" AND PROVIDES FOR LABELING OF FOODS WHENEVER THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT TO BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

4. (SBU) WORKING UNDER THE AUTHORITY IN THAT ACT, VAN DE VENTER SAID THAT HIS UNIT IS PLANNING TO PROPOSE A MIX OF MANDATORY AND VOLUNTARY LABELING FOR GMOS IN FOOD. AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH PUBLIC, HIS UNIT CONCLUDED THAT THE SAG SHOULD NOT REQUIRE ALL FOOD TO BE LABELED FOR GMOS BECAUSE IT IS NOT COST EFFECTIVE OR PRACTICAL. IF THE GOVERNMENT DID REQUIRE TOTAL LABELING, VAN DE VENTER ASKED RHETORICALLY WHO WOULD CHECK THAT THE LABELS ARE ACCURATE? THE SAG, HE ANSWERED, WOULD HAVE TO PAY A STANDARDS BODY SUCH AS THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OR THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUREAU OF STANDARDS TO CHECK ALL THE FOOD IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND THE SAG HAS NOT AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BUDGET FOR THIS.

5. (U) VAN DE VENTER NOTED THAT IN AUSTRALIA, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT ONLY 5 PERCENT OF PUBLIC READS LABELS ON FOOD. FURTHERMORE, AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS FOUND THAT IF ONLY PRODUCTS WITH CANOLA OIL OR SOYBEANS WERE REQUIRED TO BE LABELED FOR GMOS, IT WOULD RAISE THE COST OF FOOD IN AUSTRALIA 18 PERCENT OVERALL. WITH THESE KINDS OF FIGURES, SOUTH AFRICA IS IN NO POSITION TO REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELING FOR GMOS, HE CONCLUDED.

THE PLAN

6. (SBU) THEREFORE, HIS UNIT IS PROPOSING A COMPROMISE THAT WOULD MAKE IT MANDATORY TO LABEL A FOOD IF IT:
1) CONTAINED A GENE FROM A FOREIGN ANIMAL OR A HUMAN (A CIRCUMSTANCE VAN DE VENTER DOUBTS WOULD ARISE),
2) WAS NOT SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT, OR
3) CONTAINED A GENE LIKELY TO CAUSE ALLERGIC REACTIONS (THE LIST OF GENES IN THIS CATEGORY WOULD BE TAKEN FROM THE CODEX LIST).

7. (SBU) MANUFACTURERS COULD ALSO PROVIDE VOLUNTARY LABELS WHICH VAN DE VENTER ENVISIONS SAYING SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF "ENHANCED BY BIOTECHNOLOGY" FOR THOSE PRODUCTS WITH GMOS, AND "GMO FREE" FOR THOSE WITHOUT GMOS. HE NOTED THAT HIS UNIT WILL INSIST THAT ANY MANUFACTURER CLAIMING ITS FOOD IS "GMO FREE" WILL HAVE TO PROVE ITS CLAIM BY BEING ABLE TO TRACE ITS PRODUCT'S COMPONENTS.

TIMING

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8. (SBU) VAN DE VENTER EXPECTS HIS PROPOSAL TO GO FORWARD TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL UNIT IN A FEW MONTHS AND THEN START A THREE MONTH COMMENT PERIOD. HE PLANS FOR THE FINAL ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 PRETORIA 002554

DEPT FOR AF/S (MKOPLOVSKY)
DEPT PASS USDA FAS
AGRICULTURE FOR FAS/ITP
DEPT FOR OES (BTOBIAS)
DEPT PASS USTR FOR RWHITAKER, BSCHWARTZ
USDOC FOR 4510/ITA/ANESA/OA/SMILLER
GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/10/2005
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, SF
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN GMO LABELING PLANS

REGULATIONS TO BE IN PLACE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

9. ~~(C)~~ POLITICIANS, HE CAUTIONED, HAVE THE FINAL SAY ON THE REGULATIONS AND COULD CHANGE THE PROPOSAL IF THEY WERE UNDER ENOUGH PRESSURE TO DO SO. HE NOTED THAT THOSE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UP TO THE LEVEL OF DG WERE VERY POSITIVE ABOUT THE PROPOSAL AS ARE THE OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY. THERE ARE SOME POLITICIANS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WHO ARE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE PROPOSAL. HE BELIEVES THAT THE ANC POLITICIANS ARE SEEKING MORE INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT TO ENSURE THAT, WHEN THE PROPOSAL IS MADE PUBLIC, THEY ARE NOT TO BE EMBARRASSED ON ANY POINT.

ENFORCEMENT
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10. (SBU) ENFORCEMENT OF ANY NEW REGULATIONS ON GMO LABELING WOULD BE HANDLED BY HEALTH INSPECTORS IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES. THERE ARE ONLY 2,500 OF THESE INSPECTORS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF HEALTH INSPECTIONS, NOT JUST FOOD LABELING. THUS, IN REALITY, VAN DE VENTER COMMENTED FOOD INSPECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED MORE BY OPPOSITION FOOD COMPANIES THAN BY ANYONE ELSE. HE EXPECTS RIVAL FOOD PRODUCERS WILL BE THE MOST VIGILANT IN CHECKING OTHER COMPANIES' GMO CLAIMS.

THE REGION
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11. (SBU) TURNING TO SENTIMENT TOWARDS GMOS ON THE WORLD SCENE, VAN DE VENTER NOTED SOME OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE TAKING A HARD LINE, WITH FOR EXAMPLE BRAZIL LEANING TOWARD FULL GMO LABELING. FORMER BRITISH COLONIES ARE TAKING A STRICT LINE BECAUSE THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT MAINTAINING THEIR EXPORTS TO EU. HIS SADC COLLEAGUES ARE VERY WORRIED ABOUT THIS ISSUE, BUT VAN DE VENTER THINKS ONCE THE BENEFITS OF GMOS ARE SEEN, OTHER SADC COUNTRIES WILL FOLLOW SOUTH AFRICA'S LEAD. VAN DE VENTER URGED COMPANIES LIKE MONSANTO TO BRING OTHER AFRICAN FARMERS TO SOUTH AFRICA TO SEE THE PROMISE GMOS HOLD FOR AFRICA.

COMMENT

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12. ~~(C)~~ VAN DE VENTER HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO US POSITIONS ON FOOD REGULATION IN CODEX AND ELSEWHERE. HIS SELECTION OF A WOMAN WHO IS MARRIED TO A KEY BIOTECHNOLOGY PROPONENT TO LEAD HIS EFFORT IN DEVELOPING THE GMO LABELING PROPOSAL INDICATES THAT FROM THE BEGINNING HE WAS SYMPATHETIC TO BIOTECHNOLOGY. HIS OBVIOUS BIAS MAY PROVE A PROBLEM AS HIS PROPOSAL GOES THROUGH THE APPROVAL PROCESS ALTHOUGH HE IS A SEASONED OFFICIAL WHO SEEMS WELL AWARE OF THE PITFALLS THE GMO ISSUE CAN CREATE.

LEWIS

TOR: 04/03/00 11:58:21

DIST: SIT: BABBITT BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY FELDMAN MCLEAN NAPLAN PATTEN SCHWARTZ SMITH VACCARO WILCOX

SIT: BABBITT BYRNE NSC DEMPSEY FELDMAN MCLEAN NAPLAN PATTEN SCHWARTZ SMITH VACCARO WILCOX

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008. cable	Re: [anti-GMO import barriers] (3 pages)	04/19/2000	P1/b(1)

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

FOLDER TITLE:
[01/19/2000 - 06/29/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3017

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]
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Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHBKA2856 1111002-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 201002Z APR 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
OSRI: RUEHBK
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3708
INFO: RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0156
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUDKIA/AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI 5687
SUBJ: THAI-SAUDI TUNA-GMO FLAP: THE VIEW FROM BANGKOK
TEXT: UNCLAS BANGKOK 002856

SENSITIVE

IN DEPT FOR EAP/BCLTV
DEPT PASS TO USTR FOR SEAN MURPHY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD SENV, TH, SA
SUBJECT: THAI-SAUDI TUNA-GMO FLAP: THE VIEW FROM BANGKOK

REF: BANGKOK 00534

1. SUMMARY: SAUDI ARABIA HAS ANNOUNCED A REGULATION BANNING IMPORTS OF THAI TUNA DUE TO ALLEGATIONS THAT IT CONTAINS A GMO PRODUCT (AMERICAN SOY OIL). THAI FOOD INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE APPEALED BY PRESENTING CERTIFICATIONS OF PURITY AND LOCAL ORIGIN TO SAUDI ARABIA. THEY AWAIT THE SAUDI DECISION. THOUGH IT UNDERSTANDS THE POTENTIAL BENEFIT OF TO THAI AGRICULTURE, THE RTG RESPONSE TO GMO ISSUES THUS FAR HAS BEEN TO TRY TO ACCOMMODATE BOTH SIDES AND PRESERVE ITS OPTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AN IMPORT BAN ON THAI CANNED TUNA FISH WAS ANNOUNCED BY SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT IN EARLY MARCH DUE TO ALLEGATIONS THAT THE OIL IN WHICH THE TUNA IS PACKED IS A GMO (AMERICAN) PRODUCT. REPORTEDLY, KUWAIT HAS LIFTED THE BAN AFTER SOME HARD LOBBYING BY AMERICAN AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS THERE. THE SAUDI BAN REMAINS IN PLACE AND THE THAI SEAFOOD PACKER'S ASSOCIATION HAS TOLD POST THAT ABOUT 6.4 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF TUNA IS HELD UP ON THE DOCKS IN SAUDI ARABIA, AWAITING THE RESULTS OF A DECISION BY THE SAUDI OFFICE OF QUALITY CONTROL. A GROUP OF THAI FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE GONE TO SAUDI ARABIA, WHERE THEY PRESENTED CERTIFICATES FROM THE THAI SOY BEAN OIL ASSOCIATION AND THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE STATING THAT THE SOY BEAN OIL WAS PRODUCED IN THAILAND AND CONTAINS NO GMOS. THE SAUDI

DECISION IS EXPECTED SOON. THE AG ATTACHE IN BANGKOK HAS FURNISHED CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE USDOA OFFICIAL WHO IS TRACKING THIS MATTER (PROVIDED TO EAP/BCLTV SEPARATELY).

3. THE FULL SAUDI MOTIVATION IN ANNOUNCING THE BAN IS NOT ALTOGETHER CLEAR. SOME OBSERVERS HERE NOTE THAT SAUDI-THAI RELATIONS HAVE BEEN STRAINED SINCE 1989-90, OVER THE THEFT OF SAUDI GEMS AND THE SUBSEQUENT MURDER OF SAUDI DIPLOMATS.

4. THE RTG IS AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF GMOS TO THAI AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, BUT IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO THE VOCAL OPPOSITION FROM THAI NGOS AND THE DANGER OF LOSING EUROPEAN MARKETS. THAILAND PRODUCES A SPECIES OF PAPAYA THAT IS A GMO, THOUGH IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER IT IS DISTRIBUTED FOR CONSUMPTION. THAILAND IMPORTS SOYBEAN MEAL AND OIL AS WELL AS COTTON PRODUCED FROM GMOS AND THESE ARE PROCESSED INTO OTHER PRODUCTS. THAI REGULATIONS RESTRICT THE IMPORTATION OF LIVE GMO SEEDS BUT PERMIT IMPORTS OF GMO PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS AND SOME GRAINS. THERE ARE FREQUENT PROPOSALS TO CHANGE THE REGULATIONS, HOWEVER.

5. DURING THE VISIT OF CODEL BOND TO THAILAND, JANUARY 10-11, SENIOR RTG OFFICIALS LISTENED TO EXPERTS ACCOMPANYING THE SENATOR AND AGREED THAT THEY WISHED TO SEE A RATIONAL, SCIENCE-BASED DIALOGUE ON GMOS (REFTEL). THE ISSUE HAS BEEN KEPT IN THE PUBLIC EYE IN THAILAND BY MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE NEGATIVE OPINIONS OF NGOS, WHICH DEPICT GMOS AS A HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL MENACE.

6. COMMENT: THE RTG HAS MUCH TO GAIN FROM A HEALTHY GMO INDUSTRY, IN PARTICULAR, THE ABUSE OF PESTICIDES IN THE COUNTRY COULD BE REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY. THEIR STANCE THUS FAR HAS BEEN AMBIVALENT, HOWEVER. APPARENTLY THE STRATEGY IS TO WAIT OUT THE STORM RATHER THAN TAKE ISSUE WITH THE OPPONENTS OF GMOS. END COMMENT.
HUHTALA

TOR: 04/20/00 06:34:19

DIST: SIT: BOLAN BRUNS NSC CAMP DUNCAN HUSO KEITH LEE LIEBERTHAL MALLEY MCADEN OSIUS POLLACK PRITCHARD RIEDEL SMITHH

Cable

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By NL NARA, Date 11/26/2019
2018-0058-M (2.68)

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHWLA0547 1260417-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 050417Z MAY 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
OSRI: RUEHWL
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2986
INFO: RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1464
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 0105
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 0019
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0201
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0204
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0077
SUBJ: GMO LABELING: DELAY OF ANZFSC MEETING GIVES FEDS TIME TO LOBBY AUSTRALIAN STATES

CLASSIFIED BY THE AMBASSADOR. REASONS: 1.5(B) AND (D).

TEXT: ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000547

USDA FOR ITP/SHEIKH, DEATON, HARBERT, SLUTSKY
USDA ALSO FOR FAA/HUETE
STATE PASS TO USTR STILLMAN AND MURPHY
STATE PASS TO FDA MARYANSKI
STATE PASS TO USDA FAS WASHDC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/05/10
TAGS: SENV, ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: GMO LABELING: DELAY OF ANZFSC MEETING GIVES FEDS TIME TO LOBBY AUSTRALIAN STATES

CLASSIFIED BY THE AMBASSADOR. REASONS: 1.5(B) AND (D).

1. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY: NEW ZEALAND HEALTH OFFICIALS CONFIRMED MAY 4 THAT A DECISION ON LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS (GMFS) WILL BE DEFERRED TO THE JULY 28 MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FOOD STANDARDS COUNCIL (ANZFSC) IN WELLINGTON. LLOYD FALCK, HEALTH MINISTER ANNETTE KING'S SENIOR ADVISER, TOLD US THAT THE NZ AND AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL HEALTH MINISTERS INTEND TO MEET IN LATE MAY IN BRISBANE TO ESTABLISH A COMBINED FEDERAL POSITION ON FOOD LABELING. THEY WOULD THEN LOBBY THE AUSTRALIAN STATE GOVERNMENTS TO MOVE TOWARD THIS POSITION. FALCK EXPRESSED SPECIAL CONCERN THAT ANZFSC AND THE AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY (ANZFA) OPERATE OUTSIDE NZ POLITICAL CONTROL. HE SAID THE AUSTRALIAN STATES ARE A STRONGER FORCE PUSHING ANZFSC TOWARD AGGRESSIVE LABELING STANDARDS THAN ANY

ENVIRONMENTALIST PRESSURES IN NEW ZEALAND. END SUMMARY.

A MINIMUM TOLERANCE STANDARD?
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2. (C) HUGH BABER, THE NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVE TO ANZFA, CONFIRMED MAY 4 THAT ANZFSC'S MAY MEETING IN AUSTRALIA WILL BE CANCELLED AND A DECISION ON A FOOD LABELING REGIME WILL BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE JULY 28 MEETING IN WELLINGTON. IN A CONVERSATION WITH AG ATTACHE, BABER SAID THAT AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE IS CONSIDERING THE SCOPE OF THE GM LABELING REQUIREMENT, INCLUDING POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF ADDITIVES AND ENZYMES. THIS WOULD IMPLY A MINIMUM TOLERANCE LEVEL LIKE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION. BABER ADMITTED TO THE DIFFICULTIES AND COSTS INVOLVED IN SUCH A STANDARD, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FEW PRODUCTS ARE GM FREE. THE COMMITTEE IS ALSO LOOKING AT HOW PRODUCTS SHOULD BE TESTED TO DETERMINE THEIR GM STATUS. IMPORTERS AND LOCAL FOOD BUSINESSES ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE DILIGENT EFFORTS TO DEFINE THE GM STATUS OF A PRODUCT. FINALLY, ENFORCEMENT IS ALSO A CONCERN, BUT GIVEN LIMITED RESOURCES, BABER EXPECTS ENFORCEMENT TO BE BASED ON CONSUMER COMPLAINTS. BABER'S COMMENTS REFLECT SOME CONSIDERATION OF USG CONCERNS RAISED IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY DEMARCHES, BUT STILL SUGGEST A STANDARD FAR BELOW U.S. INTERESTS.

NZ POSITION: A BATTLE BETWEEN THE PRAGMATISTS AND GREENS
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3. (C) IN A MAY 4 MEETING WITH ESTOFF AND AG ATTACHE, LLOYD FALCK, SENIOR ADVISOR TO HEALTH MINISTER ANNETTE KING, TOLD US THAT SENIOR NZ CABINET MINISTERS AGREE WITH THE U.S. THAT GMF LABELING IS NOT A FOOD SAFETY ISSUE, BUT RATHER IS AN ISSUE OF CONSUMER INFORMATION. HIS BOSS, HEALTH MINISTER KING, IS WELL AWARE OF THE TRADE AND BUSINESS IMPLICATIONS OF A STRICT LABELING REGIME. WHILE FALCK WAS THIN ON DETAILS OF THE NZ POSITION, HE SAID KING HOPES TO WORK OUT A CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL POSITION WITH HER AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL COUNTERPART AT A MEETING IN LATE MAY IN BRISBANE ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY. HE AGREED TO MEET WITH US AFTER THIS SESSION TO PROVIDE A FURTHER UPDATE.

4. (C) FALCK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GREENS AND MINISTER FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION PHILLIDA BUNKLE OF THE LEFT-WING ALLIANCE PARTY ARE VERY INTERESTED IN A POSITION WHICH TIGHTLY RESTRICTS GMFS, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THIS INFLUENCE HAS BEEN BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION. CONTRARY TO SOME PREVIOUS REPORTING, HE EMPHASIZED THE ROLE OF THE RIGHT-LEANING MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR PARTY ON THIS ISSUE -- INCLUDING AGRICULTURE MINISTER SUTTON AND FOREIGN MINISTER GOFF, ALONG WITH HEALTH MINISTER KING. HE SAID THIS "PRAGMATIC BLOC" WILL ADVOCATE A NZ POSITION CONSISTENT WITH WTO RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH MINIMIZES COSTS FOR CONSUMERS AND MARKETERS. OF COURSE, PM CLARK WILL HAVE THE FINAL SAY.

ANZFA AND ANZFSC SPINNING OUT OF NZ'S CONTROL
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5. ~~(C)~~ FALCK WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ANZFSC'S STRUCTURE, POINTING OUT THAT IT TRAPS BOTH THE NZ AND AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS. (NOTE: IN ANZFSC, THE ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 WELLINGTON 000547

USDA FOR ITP/SHEIKH, DEATON, HARBERT, SLUTSKY
USDA ALSO FOR FAA/HUETE
STATE PASS TO USTR STILLMAN AND MURPHY
STATE PASS TO FDA MARYANSKI
STATE PASS TO USDA FAS WASHDC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/05/10
TAGS: SENV, ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, AS, NZ
SUBJECT: GMO LABELING: DELAY OF ANZFSC MEETING GIVES FEDS TIME TO LOBBY AUSTRALIAN STATES

SEVEN AUSTRALIAN STATE HEALTH MINISTERS, THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL HEALTH MINISTER, AND THE NZ HEALTH MINISTER HAVE ONE VOTE EACH). FALCK NOTED THAT THE AUSTRALIAN STATES ARE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT WTO OBLIGATIONS OR COSTS OF LABELING. "THE AUSTRALIAN STATES HAVE NO WTO OBLIGATIONS, SO WHY SHOULD THEY CARE ABOUT THAT PART OF THE EQUATION," FALCK SAID. "WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO WORK OUT A RESPONSIBLE POSITION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL HEALTH MINISTER THAT CONSIDERS THESE VIEWS AND THEN PUSH THE AUSSIES TO LOBBY THEIR STATE PREMIERS. BUT EVEN IF WE HAVE THE BEST INTENTIONS ON WTO OBLIGATIONS WE COULD STILL BE OUTVOTED BY NON-SOVEREIGN REPRESENTATIVES."

6. ~~(C)~~ FALCK SAID COST WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR AFFECTING NZ'S DECISION ON LABELING. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SECOND CONSULTANTS' COST STUDY PREPARED FOR ANZFA IS VERY USEFUL -- BUT HE REFERRED GENERALLY TO A FIVE PERCENT COST FOR LABELING. HE ADDED THAT MINISTER KING IS CONCERNED THAT SHE CANNOT FEEL CONFIDENT THAT ANZFA CAN PROVIDE A SOUND ESTIMATE ON THE COSTS OF MANDATORY GM LABELING.

7. ~~(C)~~ FALCK WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF ANZFA OFFICIALS, WHOM HE POINTED OUT ARE AUSTRALIAN CIVIL SERVANTS WITH LITTLE RESPONSIVENESS TO NEW ZEALAND POLITICIANS. (NOTE: ANZFA OFFICIALS MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ANZFSC). FALCK EMPHASIZED THAT MINISTER KING IS RELUCTANT TO DELEGATE ANY FOOD STANDARDS' DECISIONS TO AUSTRALIA-NZ BODIES WITHOUT EITHER A NZ "OPT-OUT" CLAUSE OR A TYPE OF VETO THAT ALLOWS NZ TO FORCE ANY DECISION OUT OF THE PROFESSIONALS' HANDS AND BACK TO THE POLITICAL LEVEL.

COMMENT: CLARK MAY STRIKE THE BALANCE -- AGAIN
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8. ~~(C)~~ FALCK'S TAKE ON THE GMF ISSUE IS ONE OF THE MORE PRO-U.S. VIEWS WE HAVE HEARD FROM A NZ HEALTH OFFICIAL. IT PROVIDES SOME BASIS FOR OPTIMISM -- HE CLEARLY HAS THE EAR OF THE OVERWORKED HEALTH MINISTER,

NZ'S VOTING REPRESENTATIVE ON ANZFSC. LIKE WITH SO MANY ISSUES IN THIS GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, THIS ONE WILL LIKELY DEPEND ON PM CLARK'S VIEW OF HOW TO BALANCE THE PRAGMATISTS ON LABOUR'S RIGHT WING WITH HER NEED FOR SUPPORT FROM COLLEAGUES IN THE GREEN AND ALLIANCE PARTIES. ON ANOTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE THIS WEEK, CLARK SIDED WITH THE GREENS IN FAVOR OF BREAKING SIGNED CONTRACTS AND ENDING LOGGING OF NATIVE RIMU TREES -- OVERRULING THE RECOMMENDATION OF HER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FINANCE MINISTER, AND ACCUSING BOTH SIDES OF FIGHTING "LIKE BOYS ON A PLAYGROUND." WE WILL SEE IF MINISTER KING CAN PRODUCE A DIFFERENT OUTCOME ON GMF LABLEING, BUT THE GREENS RODE INTO PARLIAMENT BASED ON PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT GM FOODS, SO THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO BACK DOWN ON THIS ISSUE. MOSELEY BRAUN

TOR: 05/05/00 00:58:08

DIST: SIT: BRUNS NSC DUNCAN HUSO KEITH LEE LIEBERTHAL MCADEN OSIUS PRITCHARD SMITHH
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHOKA0234 1580542-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 060542Z JUN 00
LINE4: FM AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE
OSRI: RUEHOK
DTG:
ORIG: AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6554
INFO: RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 5675
RUEHKO/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 1993
RUEHKO/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 1664
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 0062
RUEHKO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 1945
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
SUBJ: WESTERN JAPAN SUPERMARKETS AND GMO PRODUCTS
TEXT: UNCLAS OSAKA KOBE 000234

USDOC FOR 4410/IEA/EAP/OT

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, JP
SUBJ: WESTERN JAPAN SUPERMARKETS AND GMO PRODUCTS

1. SUMMARY: WHILE IKARI, A SMALL, UPSCALE GROCERY CHAIN IN THE KANSAI REGION, HAS INCREASED THE NUMBER OF ITEMS MARKETED AS "NON-GMO" IN ITS STORE, OTHER LOCAL SUPERMARKET CHAINS ARE WAITING FOR CLEARER INDICATIONS OF CONSUMER ANXIETY ABOUT GMO PRODUCTS BEFORE ESTABLISHING THEIR OWN "NON-GMO" LINES. THE HYOGO PREFECTURE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE, WHICH PROVIDES INPUTS AND MARKETING FOR THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF FARMERS IN THE REGION, DETECTS LITTLE INTEREST IN ITS MEMBERS IN REPLACING GMO FEEDSTOCKS WITH NON-GMO PRODUCTS. A LOCAL EXPERT ON GMO PRODUCTS IS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT UPCOMING GOVERNMENT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS. END SUMMARY

2. IKARI SUPERMARKET: IKARI IS AN UPSCALE SUPERMARKET WITH 21 STORES LOCATED IN THE MORE AFFLUENT AREAS OF ASHIYA AND KOBE. IN ITS EFFORTS TO DIFFERENTIATE ITSELF FROM ITS MORE MAINSTREAM COMPETITORS, IKARI TOP MANAGEMENT HAVE INCREASED THE NUMBER OF ITEMS MARKETED AS "NON-GMO" IN ITS STORE. OTHER SUPERMARKET CHAINS ARE CLOSELY WATCHING THE MOVE BY IKARI, BUT APPEAR TO BE WAITING FOR CLEARER INDICATIONS OF CONSUMER ANXIETY ABOUT GMO PRODUCTS BEFORE ESTABLISHING A "NON-GMO" PRODUCT LINE. JUSCO, A NATIONAL SUPERMARKET CHAIN, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL REQUIRE LABELING OF GMO PRODUCTS ON 23 FOOD CATEGORIES, IN ADVANCE OF A MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, AND FORESTRY (MAFF) MANDATORY GMO LABELING REQUIREMENT (ON THE SAME PRODUCTS).

3. IMPORTERS, HYOGO PREFECTURE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE ECONOMIC MANAGER ICHITARO MOTONO, AND A GMO EXPERT , PROFESSOR SHINMYO OF THE NARA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ALL NOTED THAT A DECISION TO BAN GMO PRODUCTS IS IMPRACTICAL. INTENSE PRICE COMPETITION AND A LACK OF NON-GMO PRODUCTS WOULD CREATE A STOCKING NIGHTMARE FOR ALL RETAILERS. THE HYOGO JA COOPERATIVE REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTED THAT A KOBE CENTERED SUPERMARKET CHAIN CURRENTLY PONDERING ITS GMO POLICIES, COOP, HAD CONSULTED WITH HYOGO JA ABOUT WHAT PROPORTION OF ITS GMO PRODUCTS COULD BE REPLACED. COOP ULTIMATELY CONCLUDED THAT AT BEST IT COULD FIND NON-GMO ALTERNATIVES AT A REALISTIC PRICE FOR ONE THIRD OF THE GMO PRODUCTS CURRENTLY STOCKED. CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS, COOP HAS APPARENTLY NOT MADE A FINAL DECISION ON ITS GMO POLICY.

4. PROFESSOR SHINMYO COMMENTED THAT HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN TWO YEARS OF INTENSIVE FACT-FINDING ABOUT GMO SAFETY ISSUES THAT ULTIMATELY FOUND NO HAZARD TO CONSUMERS. HE FOUND IT "FRUSTRATING" THAT THE MASS MEDIA CONSISTENTLY FAILED TO INCLUDE THOSE FINDINGS IN ITS REPORTING, BUT NOTED THAT A BOOK SUMMARIZING THE STUDY'S CONCLUSIONS WAS SELLING WELL. HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ABOUT UPCOMING GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON GMO ISSUES AND HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO APPLY SOME PRESSURE TO NHK, JAPAN'S PUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, TO ENSURE THAT GMO ISSUES WERE HANDLED OBJECTIVELY. HE CAUTIONED ABOUT THE USG ENGAGING IN AGGRESSIVE, PRO-PRACTIVE PUBLIC RELATIONS. SHINMYO FELT AGGRESSIVE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT PR WOULD AROUSE PUBLIC INTEREST ABOUT GMO "DANGERS" AND HELP FUEL ANXIETY. SHINMYO FELT THE USG COULD WORK BEST BEHIND THE SCENES, QUIETLY PRESENTING THE FACTS.

5. OUR CONTACTS FELT THAT PUBLIC CONCERN ON GMO SAFETY CENTERED PRIMARILY ON SOYBEANS, WIDELY USED IN JAPANESE CUISINE. MOTOMO NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH KOBE IS A TRADITIONAL CENTER FOR JAPAN'S BEEF PRODUCTION, HIS ORGANIZATION HAD NOT DETECTED ANY CONSUMER ANXIETY ABOUT BEEF, PORK, OR POULTRY DERIVED FROM GMO FEEDSTOCKS. STILL, MOTOMO STATED THAT THERE WAS A SMALL DEMAND FROM MEMBERS FOR NON-GMO FEEDSTOCKS AND CONSEQUENTLY JA HYOGO HAD ESTABLISHED SEPARATE SHIPPING FOR NON-GMO GRAINS.

6. COMMENT: IKARI HAS LONG DISTINGUISHED ITSELF FROM THE COMPETITION BY OFFERING PRODUCE MARKETED AS ORGANIC, "PESTICIDE FREE." ITS COMPETITORS HAVE NOT FOLLOWED SUIT. THE OVERALL IMPRESSION HERE IS THAT IKARI'S ANNOUNCEMENT BY ITSELF IS NOT LIKELY TO CAUSE A SUDDEN SHIFT BY COMPETITORS TO STRICTER GMO POLICIES. THE NEUTRAL STANCE OF OTHER CHAINS AND JA HYOGO TOWARD GMO PRODUCTS INDICATES THAT THESE ORGANIZATIONS SEE LITTLE PROFIT IN STIRRING THE POT ON GMO, BUT WOULD TAKE PRODUCTS OFF THE SHELVES OR INTRODUCE LABELING IN RESPONSE TO CONSUMER ANXIETY IF NECESSARY.
LUDAN

TOR: 06/06/00 02:41:07

DIST: SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA3280 1581229-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 061229Z JUN 00
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG:
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
SUBJ: POSSIBLE ACTION ON GMO SEEDS
TEXT: UNCLAS BRUSSELS 003280

STATE PASS USTR MURPHY, MOWREY, IVES, SLOAN
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 OES, EUR/ERA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, EUN, OREP
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ACTION ON GMO SEEDS

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT ACCIDENTAL IMPORT AND PLANTING OF UNAPPROVED GMO SEEDS IN EUROPE, THE HEALTH AND CONSUMER DG (SANCO)HAS DRAFTED A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT (SENT 6/6 TO FAS/ITP AND USTR AND EUR/ERA) PROPOSING TOLERANCES AND IMPORT PROCEDURES FOR GMO SEEDS. IT IS UNCLEAR IF THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN SHARED WITH MEMBER STATES. ALSO DG SANCO HAS APPARENTLY NOT PROVIDED IT TO OTHER DIRECTORATE-GENERALS OF THE COMMISSION (AG, TRADE, ECT) FOR REVIEW. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO DG SANCO SOURCES THIS DISCUSSION DOCUMENT MAY BE TRANSPOSED INTO A PROPOSAL WHICH COULD BE VOTED ON AND PASSED AT THE NEXT STANDING COMMITTEE ON SEEDS, JUNE 19. (AT THE LEAST, IT MAY BE PRESENTED AS A "DISCUSSION DOCUMENT" AT THE JUNE 19 MEETING). THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SEEDS IS A MEMBER STATE REGULATORY COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSION THAT ADMINISTERS SEED POLICY.

2. THE DOCUMENT REQUIRES ALL IMPORTED SEED WHICH POTENTIALLY CONTAINS GMOS TO BE SUBJECT TO SAMPLING AND TESTING. LOTS CONTAINING UNAPPROVED VARIETIES WILL BE REJECTED. AN INTERIM TOLERANCE

OF 0.5 PERCENT FOR APPROVED VARIETIES WILL BE ESTABLISHED. THIS INTERIM TOLERANCE WILL STAND UNTIL THE GMO SEED REGULATION IS COMPLETE (A DRAFT WAS EXPECTED BY THE END OF 2000).

3. THE DOCUMENT ALSO MAKES THE RECOMMENDATION THAT ACCIDENTAL PLANTINGS OF GMOS BE SUBJECT TO MEMBER STATE MONITORING AND DESTRUCTION OF THE CROP BE CONSIDERED. ANY UNAPPROVED PLANTS WHICH ARE HARVESTED ARE TO BE USED OUTSIDE THE FOOD AND FEED CHAIN AND SEEDS MAY NOT BE RECYCLED. THE DRAFT INDICATES THAT THE COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING RAPID LEGISLATIVE ACTION UNDER AN "EMERGENCY CLAUSE;" AND MIGHT TABLE A DRAFT VERY SOON.

4. COMMENT. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS DRAFT DOCUMENT WAS DRAFTED BY DG SANCO AND IT APPEARS ONLY SELECT OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF THIS DRAFT, THEREFORE, FURTHER AMENDMENTS MAY BE FORTHCOMING. END COMMENT. MORNINGSTAR

TOR: 06/06/00 19:46:50

DIST: SIT: BLINKEN NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON KASS MUNTER Naplan NORLAND VONLIPSEY YEE
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHTVA3055 1600742-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 080742Z JUN 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
OSRI: RUEHTV
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9002
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 4801
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 8642
SUBJ: GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS
ISRAEL AWAKENS SLOWLY
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 003055

FAS FOR DLPD
FAS ALSO PASS ITP/JHESSE
STATE FOR NEA/IAI
STATE PLEASE PASS USTR
CAIRO PASS AGCOUNSELOR
JERUSALEM FOR ECON/JDESROCHER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, KPAL, IS
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS
ISRAEL AWAKENS SLOWLY

1. ISRAEL'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO PUBLISH REGULATIONS REQUIRING THAT ALL FOOD PACKAGES CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO) BEAR A STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT.

2. POST AG SPECIALIST MET WITH THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOOD INSPECTION SERVICE, REGARDING NEW FOOD IMPORT REGULATIONS WHICH ARE ABOUT TO BE PUBLISHED. (SEE SEPTEL REGARDING NEW DAIRY IMPORT REQUIREMENTS.) THE DEPUTY INFORMED HIM THAT A REGULATION IS BEING PREPARED WHICH WILL REQUIRE THAT THE HEBREW LABEL ON ANY FOOD WHICH ITSELF IS GENETICALLY MODIFIED, OR CONTAINS GENETICALLY MODIFIED INGREDIENTS, MUST SO INDICATE. IF THE PRODUCT IS A GMO THE LABEL MUST STATE SO NEXT TO THE PRODUCT NAME. IF A COMPONENT OR RAW MATERIAL IS GENETICALLY MODIFIED, THE HEBREW LABEL WILL BE REQUIRED TO STATE THIS NEXT TO THE COMPONENT ON THE LIST OF INGREDIENTS E.G.

"SOY PROTEIN - GENETICALLY MODIFIED"). THE LABELING REQUIREMENT WILL APPLY ONLY TO THE HEBREW TEXT. THIS IS AN EXCEPTION TO ISRAEL'S STANDARD LABELING REQUIREMENTS WHICH ALLOW FOR LABELING IN OTHER LANGUAGES IN ADDITION TO HEBREW ON CONDITION THAT THE LABEL IS IDENTICAL IN ALL LANGUAGES. ANOTHER EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE IS THE REQUIREMENT FOR NUTRITIONAL LABELING, WHICH MAY BE SOLELY IN HEBREW.

3. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR COULD NOT INDICATE AN EXPECTED DATE FOR PUBLICATION OF THE REGULATION. PAST EXPERIENCE WOULD INDICATE THAT THE DELAY COULD BE CONSIDERABLE, ESPECIALLY IF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS TO OBTAIN THE AGREEMENT OF OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.

4. ISRAELI CONSUMERS HAVE NOT EXPRESSED EXCESSIVE INTEREST IN THE GMO ISSUE. SIMILARLY, NEWSPAPERS HAVE NOT DEVOTED MUCH SPACE TO IT. HOWEVER, MANY ISRAELI FOOD MANUFACTURERS EXPORT THEIR PRODUCTS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION. THEIR CUSTOMERS IN THE EU GENERALLY DEMAND CERTIFICATES INDICATING THAT THE PRODUCT IS FREE OF GMO. A NUMBER OF MANUFACTURERS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN SUCH CERTIFICATION FOR AMERICAN PRODUCTS AND, E.G. IN THE CASE OF SOYBEANS AND CORN, IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO IDENTIFY AMERICAN SUPPLIERS OF GMO-FREE RAW MATERIALS.

5. A POSSIBLE HARBINGER OF WHAT IS IN STORE FOR U.S. EXPORTERS IS AN ISRAELI MANUFACTURER OF MODIFIED STARCHES WHO, UNTIL LAST YEAR ORDERED BETWEEN 50 AND 70 THOUSAND METRIC TONS OF U.S. CORN. AFTER UNSUCCESSFULLY SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY-PRESERVED NON-GMO U.S. CORN AT AN ACCEPTABLE PRICE, PLANT MANAGEMENT DECIDED TO CONTRACT WITH EAST EUROPEAN FARMERS TO RAISE CORN UNDER THE PLANT AGRONOMIST'S SUPERVISION AND GUIDANCE, AND SUPPLY IT TO THE ISRAELI FIRM. OF COURSE, IF THE SYSTEM WORKS THE NEXT STEP WILL BE TO MOVE THE PLANT TO HUNGARY OR ROMANIA TO AVOID TRANSPORT COSTS OF RAW MATERIALS FROM THE FARM IN EUROPE TO THE FACTORY IN ISRAEL, AND OF THE FINISHED PRODUCT BACK TO THE EU AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF EUROPE.
COMMITTEES STUDYING GMOS. THEY ARE CHARGED WITH PREPARING A PROPOSAL FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIDERATION BUT HAVE YET TO PUBLISH ANY INTERIM CONCLUSIONS OR CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DEBATE.

7. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS GOI OFFICIALS

EXPRESS A POSITIVE APPROACH TOWARDS THE
INTRODUCTION OF GMOS IN AGRICULTURE AND IN
THE FOOD INDUSTRY. IN SOME CASES THEY WOULD
SUPPORT POSITIVE LABELING SO AS TO PROVIDE
CONSUMERS WITH THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 TEL AVIV 003055

FAS FOR DLPD
FAS ALSO PASS ITP/JHESSE
STATE FOR NEA/IAI
STATE PLEASE PASS USTR
CAIRO PASS AGCOUNSELOR
JERUSALEM FOR ECON/JDESROCHER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, KPAL, IS
SUBJECT: GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS
ISRAEL AWAKENS SLOWLY

CHOOSE.

8. BECAUSE OF THE ISRAELI PUBLIC'S PRESENT
LACK OF COMMITMENT TO A DEFINITE POSITION ON
GMOS, NOW WOULD BE A STRATEGICALLY S
UITABLE
TIME TO PREPARE A JOINT CONFERENCE ON THE
SUBJECT WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF U.S. AND
ISRAELI SCIENTISTS, ISRAELI
INDUSTRIALISTS,JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS. THE
MODEL EMPLOYED IN THE 1999 SEMINAR ORGANIZED
BY THE FCS IN THE NETHERLANDS CAN SERVE AS A
SUITABLE FRAMEWORK FOR SUCH A MEETING.
PRESENTATION OF AN ENLIGHTENED VIEW AND A
BALANCED APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS AND
POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF GMOS CAN HELP ISRAEL'S
SIX MILLION CONSUMERS DEVELOP A RATIONAL
APPROACH TO THE ISSUE. INDYK

TOR: 06/08/00 04:05:18

DIST: SIT: BOLAN Bowles NSC CAMP MALLEY POLLACK RIEDEL
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,06}

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHHEA2614 1641401-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 121401Z JUN 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
OSRI: RUEHHE
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1971
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: MORE ON CANADIAN GMO SEED: DEVELOPMENTS IN FINLAND
TEXT: UNCLAS HELSINKI 002614

DEPT PLEASE PAS TO FDA

DEPT PLEASE ALSO PASS TO USDA FOR FAS/OA/GALVIN, ITP/DA/SHEIKH, ITP/OFSTS, AND ITP/EAMED

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FI
SUBJECT: MORE ON CANADIAN GMO SEED: DEVELOPMENTS IN FINLAND

REF. STOCKHOLM 01157

1. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, THE FINNISH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MINAG) REPORTED THAT GM RAPE WAS ALSO FOUND IN FINLAND. THE 1100 KG OF RAPE SEED IMPORTED FROM CANADA WAS PLANTED BY MILDOLA (A COMPANY CO-OWNED BY INTERNATIONAL UNILEVER, DANSICO AND FINNISH CENTRAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR TRADE). MILDOLA DELIVERED THE GM RAPE TO TEN FARMS IN SOUTHERN FINLAND. THE HARVEST WENT INTO PRODUCTION OF VEGETABLE OIL FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY, SOME FOR ANIMAL FODDER.

2. THE IMPORTED SEED HAD A MIXTURE OF 0.4& GM RAPE SEED AND WAS PLANTED ON APPROXIMATELY 100 HECTARES. MILDOLA USUALLY USES FINNISH SEED, BUT WAS FORCED LAST YEAR TO IMPORT DUE TO LACK OF DOMESTIC SEED. THE SEED WAS LABELED, "NOT CONTAINING GMO SEED". ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT PRESS ACCOUNTS, MILDOLA IS NOW RECOMMENDING THAT A CROP OTHER THAN RAPE BE CULTIVATED IN THE FIELDS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS. THIS TO HINDER THE GM SEED FROM SPREADING. MINAG IS CONSIDERING INSPECTING THE FIELDS IN ORDER TO FIND POSSIBLE CROSS BREEDS.

3. MINAG CHIEF INSPECTOR KIRSI HEINONEN POINTS OUT THAT GM RAPE IS NOT A THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH AND THAT ALSO ECOLOGICAL THREATS ARE MINIMAL. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CATEGORICALLY RULE OUT THAT GMO SEEDS WILL NOT CROSS-BREED WHEN LEFT IN NATURE, SHE SAYS. MINAG ALSO POINTED OUT THAT "THIS INCIDENT WAS EXPECTED, SINCE SO MANY GMO PLANTS

ARE CULTIVATED IN NORTH AMERICA AND IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME WHEN GMO SEEDS GOT MIXED WITH NORMAL SEEDS."

4. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT ON JUNE LOTH THE EU COMMISSION ANNOUNCED THAT IT DECIDED TO GIVE FULL COMPENSATION TO THOSE FARMERS THAT WERE FORCED TO DESTROY THEIR RAPE CROP THAT BY MISTAKE WAS GENETICALLY MODIFIED. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, FARMERS IN FINLAND, SWEDEN, FRANCE, BELGIUM AND UK HAD BEEN FORCED TO DESTROY HUNDREDS OF HECTARES OF RAPE DUE TO THIS INCIDENT. FARMERS WILL RECEIVE 82 EURO PER TON OF RAPE, IF THE CROP IS DESTROYED OR HARVESTED BEFORE JUNE 30.

EDELMAN

TOR: 06/12/00 10:44:30

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

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHBSA3602 1721600-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 201600Z JUN 00
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG:
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
SUBJ: GMO SEEDS DISCUSSION TO BE REVISITED
TEXT: UNCLAS BRUSSELS 003602

STATE PASS USTR MURPHY, MOWREY, IVES, SLOAN
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: GMO SEEDS DISCUSSION TO BE REVISITED

REF: BRUSSELS 3280

1. THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SEEDS MET JUNE 19 TO REVIEW THE COMMISSION'S DISCUSSION DOCUMENT WHICH PROPOSED A 0.5& TOLERANCE FOR ADVENTITIOUS CONTAMINATION FOR GM SEEDS AND REQUIRED TESTING FOR SHIPMENTS SUSPECTED TO CONTAIN GMOS(REFTEL). MEMBER STATES REQUESTED MORE TIME BEFORE MAKING A DECISION AND SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMISSION FINE TUNE THE DISCUSSION PAPER FOR THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 19. OFFICIALS AT DG SANCO SPECULATE THAT AN INTERIM DECISION WILL BE TAKEN AT THE NEXT MEETING AND IT WILL LIKELY INCLUDE THE 0.5 & TOLERANCE. WHEN QUESTIONED ON THE AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH THE DECISION WILL BE TAKEN, AN OFFICIAL RESPONDED THAT, AS SEEDS LEGISLATION IS NOT YET HARMONIZED, THE TOLERANCE WILL BE A "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" AMONG MEMBER STATES AND ENFORCED INDEPENDENTLY BY EACH MEMBER STATE UNTIL THE COMMISSION CAN COMPLETE THE DIRECTIVE ON GMO SEEDS OUTLINED IN THE FOOD SAFETY WHITE PAPER. ACCORDING TO THIS SANCO CONTACT THE EARLIEST THE FINAL REG COULD BE PASSED WOULD BE DECEMBER.

2. DG TRADE CONTACTS MAINTAIN THAT SUCH A "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" IS EXTREMELY RARE AND OUT OF THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMISSION TO UPHOLD OR PROHIBIT. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT NO ENFORCEABLE COMMUNITY ACTION CAN BE TAKEN IN THE JULY MEETING AS THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT HAVE ANY LEGAL POWER TO MAKE A LEGISLATION ON GMO SEEDS AT THIS TIME. ENACTING SUCH A REGULATION WOULD REQUIRE A MANDATE FROM THE COUNCIL AND CO-DECISION BY PARLIAMENT. MORNINGSTAR

TOR: 06/21/00 14:15:17

DIST: SIT: BLINKEN NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON KASS MUNTER NORLAND SPENCE VONLIPSEY YEE
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

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INFO: ////
SUBJ: Brazil To Decide on Fate of Genetically Modified Organisms This Week
TEXT: UNCLAS

WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGY

SERIAL: LAP20000627000036

COUNTRY: ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: Brazil To Decide on Fate of Genetically Modified Organisms This Week

SOURCE: Sao Paulo Folha de Sao Paulo in Portuguese 27 Jun 00

TEXT:

[Article by Fabio Eduardo Murakawa and Sergio Ripardo]
[FBIS Translated Text] Two events scheduled for this week in Brasilia could define the path Brazil will follow regarding the planting and marketing of transgenics.

Tomorrow morning the Regional Federal Court [TRF] will, in a second round, decide on the Monsanto company's appeal against the decision that forbids the sale of Roundup Ready soybeans. By next Friday, the CTNBio [National Technical Committee on Biosafety] will issue an opinion on the importation of transgenic corn.

Once released by the courts, Roundup Ready soybeans will still have to be approved by the Agriculture, Health and Environment Ministries.

Everything indicates that the Agriculture Ministry, which has shown itself to be in favor of transgenic products, will present no obstacles.

Two years ago CTNBio issued an opinion in favor of liberating the Monsanto soy beans.

Idec [Brazilian Consumer Protection Institute] and Greenpeace then filed a civil suit with the TRF, in Sao Paulo, against the decision.

They were supported by Ibama [Brazilian Institute for the Environment], an entity linked to the Environment Ministry.

The court issued a decision forbidding the commercial cultivation of Roundup Ready soybeans until a decision was taken regarding labeling rules and a preliminary study made of the product's environmental impact.

Monsanto appealed the decision, which will be tried again tomorrow in Brasilia in a session presided over by Judge Assusete Magalhaes, rapporteur of the legal proceedings.

Greenpeace and Idec are looking into the possibility of organizing protests
over the next three days in Brasilia. They also promise to go to the Court of Appeals [STJ] if the TRF's decision is in favor of Monsanto.

Corn imports

Folha has learned that the Brazilian Government is expected to liberate the import of transgenic corn from Argentina and the United States, with CTNBio's approval.

The measure benefits the food industry, which since the start of the month has had to face shipments suspected of containing the genetically modified product being held back.

According to an Agriculture Ministry source, Brazil's requests to U.S. authorities for results of studies on food safety are part of a "stage setup". The Brazilian Government knows that studies sponsored in the U.S. favor biotechnology firms, since they indicate that consumption of transgenic foods carries no health risks. It nevertheless wants to demonstrate strict technical rigor in decisions on the issue.

The climate at CTNBio is favorable to bringing transgenics into the country. "Every geneticist in the world has practically no doubt that transgenics are as safe as varieties obtained through conventional methods," says CTNBio member and agronomist Ernesto Paterniani, a retired Esalq/USP [Higher School of Agriculture Luiz de Queiroz - University of Sao Paulo] professor.

Critics of biotechnology, however, contest the validity of these studies. They assert that they are not conclusive and are sponsored by the companies, which are in a hurry to expand the market.

In Brazil, federal Agriculture posts do not inspect either the entry or the experimental cultivation of transgenics by biotechnology companies.

Agriculture Ministry inspectors merely demand health certificates for the imported shipments that only attest to the absence of pests and diseases.

It is up to CTNBio to define the inspection procedures to be adopted by the Agriculture, Environment and Science and Technology Ministries for transgenic products.

The first official authorization for the importation of a transgenic product in Brazil came in October 1997. Abiove [Brazilian Association of Vegetable Oil Industries], which unites the vegetable oil industries, imported 1.5 million tons of soybeans from the U.S. Around 15 percent of the shipment consisted of transgenic soybeans.

[Description of Source: Sao Paulo Folha in Portuguese --- Center-left daily, critical of government in general; top-circulation newspaper]

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INFO: ////
SUBJ: Brazil: Ruling on GMO Orders Environmental Impact Study
TEXT: UNCLAS

WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENT, TECHNOLOGY

SERIAL: LAP20000629000037

COUNTRY: BRAZIL

SUBJ: Brazil: Ruling on GMO Orders Environmental Impact Study

SOURCE: Sao Paulo Agencia Estado in Portuguese 0033 GMT 29 Jun 00

TEXT:

[Report by Demetrio Weber]
[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 28 Jun (AE) -- Judge Antonio Souza Prudente of the Sixth Federal Court in Brasilia on 26 June handed down a decision forcing the federal administration to require studies on environmental impact (EIS) prior to authorizing the sowing of genetically modified produce in the country. The decision is a victory for the Consumer Defense Institute (Idec), which had filed a public civil lawsuit against the federal government and the Monsanto Company. The government announced that it would file an appeal.

The decision has put on hold the release of the Roundup Ready transgenic soybean of Monsanto, the commercial sowing of which had been authorized on technical grounds by the National Biosafety Technical Commission (CTNBio) without a study on environmental impact. The judge characterized as unconstitutional President Fernando Henrique Cardoso's decree authorizing the CTNBio to dispense with the EIA requirement.

The decision also states that the federal government shall demand that the CTNBio -- which is subordinated to the Science and Technology Ministry -- draft rules concerning food safety, marketing, and consumption of transgenic foodstuffs within 90 days. The CTNBio should not issue any conclusive technical opinion on any request for authorization of sowing of transgenic food products without first complying with this requirement. The decision states that regulations for consumption, marketing, and safety of transgenic products must conform to the Constitution, the Consumer Defense Code, and environmental laws. Failure to comply with this decision will entail a fine equivalent to 10 minimum wages (R1, 500) per day.

Safety -- In its lawsuit, the Idec contends that the very CTNBio favorable technical decision favoring Monsanto admits the possiblity of the sowing of transgenic soybean provoking significant alterations in terms of biosafety. Furthermore, Idec states that no study has been conducted regarding this type of food item on Brazilian soil and argued that "there is absolutely no information about the consequences that consumption of these types of food containing genetic alterations could bring to the health of consumers.

In the opinion of Aldir Guimaraes Passarinho, attorney for Monsanto, "major studies" had already been conducted in the United States, where Monsanto has large-scale crops of transgenic soybean. He also cited Argentina, which also uses the same type of seeds. Passarinho said: "There are no reports of this type of soybean having harmed the environment, animals, or human

health."

Postponement [subhead]

The decision handed on 26 June by Judge Prudence focused on the merits of the lawsuit filed by Idec. Earlier, the courts had already issued an injunction requested by Idec and Greenpeace. The federal government and Monsanto filed an appeal against the injunction before the Regional Federal Court (TRF) of the first region in Brasilia.

The appeal is being heard starting today at the second chamber of the TRF, but the hearing was interrupted because Judge Jirair Aram Meguerian requested that he be allowed to review the case. Thus, the hearing will not be resumed until August after the July court recess. Prior to Judge Meguerian's request, Judge Assusete Magalhaes -- who is serving as rapporteur in this case -- issued her vote, turning down the appeal filed by the federal government and Monsanto. According to advisers of Judge Magalhaes, Judge Prudente's ruling on the merits of the case has rendered the hearing of the appeal on the injunction a secondary issue. [Description of Source: Center-right, largely pro-administration news agency]

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