

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Accidental Introduction of Genetically Modified Corn Variety into Human Food Supply] (3 pages)	10/17/2000	P1/b(1)
~~002. cable~~	~~Re: Italian GMO Corn Ban: Scant Enforcement (5 pages)~~	~~10/18/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ <i>✓ 4/3/2010</i>
~~003. cable~~	~~[duplicate of 002] (5 pages)~~	~~10/18/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ <i>✓ 4/3/2010</i>
004. cable	Re: [Food Supply] (2 pages)	10/18/2000	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Re: [Future for Genetically-Modified Products] (2 pages)	10/18/2000	P1/b(1)
006. cable	[duplicate of 005] (2 pages)	10/19/2000	P1/b(1)
007. cable	Re: [Starlink Genetically Modified Corn] (3 pages)	10/20/2000	P1/b(1)
~~008. cable~~	~~Re: [Italian GMO Corn Ban] (2 pages)~~	~~10/23/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ <i>✓ 4/3/2010</i>
009. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Corn Affair] (3 pages)	10/23/2000	P1/b(1)
010. cable	Re: [Italian GMO Corn Prohibition] (3 pages)	10/26/2000	P1/b(1)
011. cable	Re: [GMO Directive] (2 pages)	10/30/2000	P1/b(1)
~~012. cable~~	~~Re: Italian GMO Corn Ban: What Next? (5 pages)~~	~~11/08/2000~~	~~P1/b(1)~~ <i>✓ 4/3/2010</i>

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[10/12/2000 - 11/27/2000]

2013-0836-F

ke3019

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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

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

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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013- cable	Re: Update on the Saudi GMO Labeling Requirements (4 pages)	11/27/2000	P1/b(1) VL
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
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OA/Box Number: 530000

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHWA2722 2860536-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH(CCY ADX913521 UTS4941 425A)
LINE3: R 120536Z OCT 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BERN
OSRI: RUEHSW
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BERN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1287
INFO: RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
SUBJ: U.S.-SWISS BIOTECH/GMO CONSULTATIONS SCHEDULED FOR
NOVEMBER 10
TEXT: UNCLAS BERN 002722

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA NUMBERING)

STATE PLEASE PASS TO FDA
STATE PLEASE PASS TO EPA
STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EUR/ERA, AND EB/TPP/ATT

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, SENV, ETRD, TBIO, SZ
SUBJECT: U.S.-SWISS BIOTECH/GMO CONSULTATIONS SCHEDULED FOR
NOVEMBER 10

1. THIS CABLE CONTAINS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA 6.
2. SUMMARY: SENIOR SWISS OFFICIALS AGREED OCTOBER 5 TO AN AGENDA FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON BIOTECH/GMO ISSUES IN BERN NOVEMBER 10. THESE TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE U.S.-SWISS JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION'S (JEC) ACTION PLAN AGREED LAST JANUARY IN DAVOS. SEVERAL SWISS MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES WILL TAKE PART IN THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, INCLUDING TRADE, AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, FOOD SAFETY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY
3. SWITZERLAND'S INTERAGENCY GMO WORKING GROUP HEADED BY THE ECONOMIC MINISTRY APPROVED OCTOBER 5 A SCHEDULE FOR U.S.-SWISS BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE CHALLENGES OF FOOD SAFETY/BIOTECHNOLOGY. THE SWISS DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE AGRICULTURE, PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND BIOTECHNOLOGY ETHICS COMMISSION OFFICIALS. THE SWISS SIDE WILL BE PREPARED TO DESCRIBE THE BACKGROUND TO THEIR GMO POLICIES, THE PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTING THESE POLICIES, AND THE SPECTRUM OF ISSUES AFFECTING FARMER AND CONSUMER ATTITUDES TOWARDS GMO PRODUCTS.

4. THE NOVEMBER 10 CONSULTATION OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GAUGE U.S. AND SWISS POSITIONS ON A RANGE OF ISSUES, INCLUDING LABELING, REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS, ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, LEGAL PERSPECTIVES, AND TRADE IN GMO PRODUCTS. THE MEETING WILL SEEK TO IDENTIFY ISSUES FOR FURTHER BILATERAL CONSULTATION TO EXPLORE AREAS OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE BERN DISCUSSIONS WILL TACKLE ISSUES ALSO ADDRESSED IN THE U.S.-EU BIOTECH DIALOGUE. IN LIGHT OF SWITZERLAND'S MAJOR PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY AND ITS STAKE IN BIOTECH RESEARCH, SWISS OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED TO US READINESS TO SEARCH FOR PRAGMATIC APPROACHES ALTHOUGH SWISS CONSUMERS ARE GENERALLY VIGILANT ABOUT GMO PRODUCTS. PHARMACEUTICAL/CHEMICAL GIANTS LIKE NOVARTIS AND ROCHE AND FOOD PRODUCT MULTINATIONAL NESTLE REPRESENT A HIGHER SHARE OF THE COUNTRY'S GDP THAN DO THESE INDUSTRIES IN ANY OTHER EU COUNTRY. WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SECTOR IN MIND, EVEN THE GENERAL PUBLIC APPEARS TO APPROACH GMO/BIOTECH ISSUES WITH A MEASURE OF OBJECTIVITY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE PUBLIC CONVINCINGLY VOTED DOWN A POPULAR INITIATIVE IN 1998 WHICH SOUGHT TO BAN MOST GMO RESEARCH AND GMO PRODUCTS FOR CONSUMPTION. IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT'S LATEST PROPOSED LEGISLATION ADDRESSING GMOS SPECIFICALLY REJECTS THE NOTION OF A MORATORIUM ON PRODUCT APPROVAL GMO CULTIVATION.

5. OFFICIAL SESSIONS OF THE NOVEMBER 10 CONSULTATIONS WILL BE LIMITED TO GOVERNMENT ATTENDEES, ALTHOUGH A RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE AMBASSADORSHIP LEADERS. SENIOR NOVEMBER 10 DISCUSSIONS ARE SUSTAINED DIALOGUE. FOR STAKEHOLDERS IN THE SUBSEQUENT BILATERAL CONSUMER, FARM GROUP, AND FOOD INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES. THE AMBASSADOR SEEMS TO BE COMMITTED TO THE MISSION AS A PLATFORM FOR EXPANDING JOINT PROJECTS AND COOPERATION.

ORTBLAD

TOR: 10/13/00 06:14:42

DIST: SIT: Bernard BLINKEN Bowles NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON GREENWOOD KASS MUNTER NORLAND YEE

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

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Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHROA6365 2920614-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 180614Z OCT 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3677
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 1222
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2848
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 6341
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 4491
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 2850
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: SCANT
ENFORCEMENT
TEXT: UNCLAS ROME 006365

EB/TPP/ATT/ATP - APEREZ
EB FOR SHAUN DONNELLY
FOR U/S LOY; OES FOR BRILL
STATE FOR PA
STATE PASS USTR
WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER,
OA/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE/SLUTSKY
FAS/ITP/EAMED AND USTR
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU
PLEASE PASS TO CONSULAR POSTS
PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, KSCA, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: SCANT
ENFORCEMENT

REF: (A) ROME 5038 (E) BRUSSELS 5000
(B) ROME 6048 (F) MCBRIDE-PEREZ 10/4
(C) ROME 5627 E-MAILS (NOTAL)
(D) BRUSSELS 5451 (G) ROME 5553

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: THE GOI BAN ON FOUR GMO CORN

VARIETIES REMAINS TECHNICALLY ON THE BOOKS, BUT ITS OSTENSIBLE ENFORCERS HAVE NO INTENTION OF ACTIVELY IMPLEMENTING IT ON A NATIONAL LEVEL, GOI SOURCES ASSURE US. THE SINGLE EPISODE WHERE A CORN PRODUCT WAS SEIZED (AND LATER RELEASED) INVOLVED A MAVERICK REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE HEALTH MINISTRY. THE PM EXPECTS THAT THE EU WILL THIS WEEK ASK ITALY TO RESCIND THE BAN. FINALLY, WE OFFER SOME THOUGHTS ON NEXT STEPS. END SUMMARY.

THE BAN IS A NUISANCE...

2. (U) THE ITALIAN DECREE (TEXT REF A) BANNING FOUR GMO CORN VARIETIES HAS BEEN THEORETICALLY IN FORCE SINCE AUGUST 23. THE COALITION POLITICS THAT GAVE RISE TO THE BAN (REF B) ARE LARGELY MOOT IN THE AFTERMATH OF PM AMATO'S ANNOUNCED ABDICATION. (THE GREENS CAN'T CREDIBLY THREATEN TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT WHEN THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION LIKELY WOULD BE HEADED BY A DECIDEDLY NONGREEN CENTER-RIGHT COALITION.) ALTHOUGH THE DECREE LACKS STRONG GOI SUPPORT, NEITHER HAS THERE BEEN SUFFICIENT OPPOSITION TO IT TO ATTEMPT A REVOCATION.

BUT LITTLE MORE, SO FAR...

3. (SBU) THE RESULT OF THESE POLITICAL DYNAMICS IS A GMO CORN BAN THAT WAS ESSENTIALLY STILL-BORN; IT REMAINS ON THE BOOKS BUT WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT EFFECT. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH CONTINUES TO DECLINE TO ISSUE IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES (REF C), AND THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT SEEMS CONTENT TO WAIT FOR THEM INDEFINITELY (REF D).

4. (U) WE ARE AWARE OF ONLY A SINGLE INSTANCE WHERE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES INTERCEPTED A CORN SHIPMENT. PER REF E, MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS FROM THE EMILIA ROMAGNA REGIONAL OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 28 HELD UP A SHIPMENT OF 5,000 TONS OF U.S. CORN GLUTEN IN THE PORT OF RAVENNA. SOME 100 SAMPLES WERE TAKEN FOR GMO TESTING USING THE (FREQUENTLY INACCURATE) PCR METHOD. WHEN THE TESTS PROVED NEGATIVE FOR THREE OF THE FOUR GMO CORN VARIETIES AND INCONCLUSIVE FOR THE FOURTH, THE SHIPMENT WAS RELEASED ON OCTOBER 3.

5. (SBU) MOH DIRECTOR GENERAL ROMANO MARABELLI ASSURED AGMINCOUNS THAT THE ORDER TO TEST THE RAVENNA SHIPMENT CAME FROM THE EMILIA ROMANGA REGIONAL OFFICE WITHOUT GUIDANCE FROM THE ROME HEADQUARTERS. EMPHASIZING THAT HIS MINISTRY HAD OPPOSED THE BAN, MARABELLI ADDED THAT HE,

NEVERTHELESS, COULD NOT HAVE THE REGIONAL ORDER RESCINDED SINCE THE BAN REMAINS OFFICIALLY IN FORCE.

6. (SBU) THE IMPORTER (TOEPFER) WHOSE CORN GLUTEN WAS SEIZED IN RAVENNA SEEMED RELATIVELY PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT THE EPISODE. HE IMPLIED TO FAS THAT HE MAY SIMPLY START USING A DIFFERENT PORT TO AVOID THE JURISDICTION OF MOH'S REGIONAL OFFICE IN EMILIA ROMANGA. COMMENT. WE HAVE SEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY INTENT TO SEIZE OTHER CORN SHIPMENTS NOR HAVE WE SEEN ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, THE ONLY REAL SUPPORTER OF THE BAN WITHIN THE GOI, PUT THE REGIONAL MOH OFFICE UP TO THIS. WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE EMILIA ROMANGA MOH OFFICE DIRECTOR (DOCTOR GANDINI) WILL REALIZE THERE IS NO UP SIDE IN CONTINUING HIS SOLITARY ENFORCEMENT EFFORT AND A SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL DOWNSIDE (EXPENSE OF TESTING, DIVERSION OF TRADE FROM HIS JURISDICTION, CHILLY SILENCE FROM THE HOME OFFICE). END COMMENT.

AND IT MAY BE SHORT-LIVED

7. (SBU) THE EU'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOODSTUFFS IS DUE TO CONSIDER LATER THIS WEEK THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE'S SEPTEMBER 7 REPORT THAT ITALY HAD NOT PROVIDED "DETAILED SCIENTIFIC GROUNDS" FOR THE BAN (REF E). THE ITALIAN PM'S OFFICE (REF B) EXPECTS THAT THE EU WILL ASK ITALY TO REVOKE THE BAN. IN THAT EVENT, THE LAME DUCK AMATO GOVERNMENT WOULD RERUN THE POLITICAL CALCULUS AND DECIDE WHETHER TO COMPLY, RESIST, OR CONTINUE WITH ITS DE FACTO "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" APPROACH TO THE BANNED VARIETIES.

8. (U) THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, UMBERTO VERONESI, WHO OPPOSED THE BAN, HAS TAKEN TO PUBLICLY BRINGING THE DEBATE ON GMOS TO A MORE SCIENTIFIC LEVEL. IN A WIDELY-PUBLICIZED RECENT STATEMENT, VERONESI, A HIGHLY-REGARDED ONCOLOGIST, ASSERTED THAT FOOD PRODUCTS COULD BE GENETICALLY MODIFIED TO ENHANCE THEIR CANCER-COMBATING ATTRIBUTES. HE ALSO RECENTLY FORMED A BIOTECH WORKING GROUP, COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF SCIENTISTS, INCLUDING TWO NOBEL LAUREATES, WHICH DG MARABELLI WILL CHAIR. WHILE THE GROUP'S FUNCTION IS NOT YET FULLY DEFINED, MARABELLI RECENTLY INTIMATED TO AGMINCOUNS THAT THE MINISTER COULD USE THE ADVICE OF THE GROUP TO COMBAT UNSCIENTIFICALLY-BASED ATTACKS ON BIOTECH.

9. (U) COMPLEMENTING VERONESI EFFORTS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE SUPERIOR INSTITUTE OF HEALTH (SII), UPON WHOSE FINDINGS THE GMO CORN BAN IS OSTENSIBLY BASED, WILL SEND A LETTER TO THE BRITISH PUBLICATION "NATURE BIOTECHNOLOGY" THAT WILL DISPUTE PARTS OF A RECENT ARTICLE ALLEGING THAT SII HAD FOUND NO "SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE" BETWEEN THE BANNED GMO CORN VARIETIES AND THEIR CONVENTIONAL COUNTERPARTS.

NEXT STEPS

10. (SBU) COMMENT. IN THE IMMEDIATE TERM, WE AGREE WITH THE EMERGING CONSENSUS (REF F) THAT THE RAVENNA INCIDENT SHOULD BE SEEN AS AN ABERRATION AND RECOMMEND NO INTERVENTION

REGARDING IT. WE REMAIN READY, OF COURSE, TO RESPOND TO IMPORTER OR U.S. SHIPPER COMPLAINTS SHOULD TRADE BECOME IMPEDED OR CHILLED AS A RESULT OF THE BAN. WE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY MINDFUL OF ANY DISCRIMINATORY ENFORCEMENT PREJUDICING CORN PRODUCTS ARRIVING BY SEA (THE ROUTE OF MOST U.S. SHIPMENTS) VERSUS OVERLAND FROM THE BORDERLESS EU. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, OUR PRIVATE SECTOR CONTACTS BELIEVE THAT AS LONG AS TRADE CAN PROCEED, IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR THE USG TO ENGAGE IN A "TABLE-POUNDING" APPROACH. SIMILARLY, PRIVATE SECTOR BIOTECH ENTERPRISES ARE AWAITING THE RESULTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING BEFORE SEEKING LEGAL RECOURSE AT THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE OR ITALIAN COURT (REF G).

11. (SBU) COMMENT CONTINUED. IF, AS EXPECTED, THE EU CENSURES ITALY THIS WEEK IN SOME FASHION FOR THE BAN, WE WOULD ADVISE TWO USG REACTIONS. A TRUSTED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE CONTACT, RECOGNIZING THE PROBABLE VIOLATION OF ITALY'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE OBLIGATIONS INHERENT IN THE BAN, RECENTLY COUNSELED US THAT "PRESSURE FROM THE U.S. WOULD BE USEFUL" IN THE AFTERMATH OF ANY EU ACTION. WE SUGGEST A POLICY LEVEL DEMARCHE WOULD BE IN ORDER, EXPRESSLY BUILDING ON THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT COMMENTS TO PM AMATO. WE ALSO SUGGEST ISSUANCE OF A PUBLIC STATEMENT SECONDING THE EU ACTION AND URGING ITALY TO COMPLY.

12. (SBU) COMMENT CONTINUED. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THE EU DOES NOT REPROVE ITALY FOR THE GMO CORN BAN, THE POINT OF INTERVENTION OBVIOUSLY SHIFTS TO BRUSSELS.

FOGLIETTA

TOR: 10/18/00 02:31:54

DIST: SIT: Blinken NSC Davidson Yee
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6} lane
SIT: Bowles BRUNS DUNCAN SAMANS

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHROA6366 2920615-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 180615Z OCT 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3680
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 1225
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 2851
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 6344
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 4494
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 2853
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
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TEXT: UNCLAS ROME 006366

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5. (SBU) MOH DIRECTOR GENERAL ROMANO MARABELLI ASSURED AGMINCOUNS THAT THE ORDER TO TEST THE RAVENNA SHIPMENT CAME FROM THE EMILIA ROMANGA REGIONAL OFFICE WITHOUT GUIDANCE FROM THE ROME HEADQUARTERS. EMPHASIZING THAT HIS MINISTRY

HAD OPPOSED THE BAN, MARABELLI ADDED THAT HE, NEVERTHELESS, COULD NOT HAVE THE REGIONAL ORDER RESCINDED SINCE THE BAN REMAINS OFFICIALLY IN FORCE.

6. (SBU) THE IMPORTER (TOEPFER) WHOSE CORN GLUTEN WAS SEIZED IN RAVENNA SEEMED RELATIVELY PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT THE EPISODE. HE IMPLIED TO FAS THAT HE MAY SIMPLY START USING A DIFFERENT PORT TO AVOID THE JURISDICTION OF MOH'S REGIONAL OFFICE IN EMILIA ROMANGA. COMMENT. WE HAVE SEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY INTENT TO SEIZE OTHER CORN SHIPMENTS NOR HAVE WE SEEN ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, THE ONLY REAL SUPPORTER OF THE BAN WITHIN THE GOI, PUT THE REGIONAL MOH OFFICE UP TO THIS. WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE EMILIA ROMANGA MOH OFFICE DIRECTOR (DOCTOR GANDINI) WILL REALIZE THERE IS NO UP SIDE IN CONTINUING HIS SOLITARY ENFORCEMENT EFFORT AND A SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL DOWNSIDE (EXPENSE OF TESTING, DIVERSION OF TRADE FROM HIS JURISDICTION, CHILLY SILENCE FROM THE HOME OFFICE). END COMMENT.

AND IT MAY BE SHORT-LIVED

7. (SBU) THE EU'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOODSTUFFS IS DUE TO CONSIDER LATER THIS WEEK THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE'S SEPTEMBER 7 REPORT THAT ITALY HAD NOT PROVIDED "DETAILED SCIENTIFIC GROUNDS" FOR THE BAN (REF E). THE ITALIAN PM'S OFFICE (REF B) EXPECTS THAT THE EU WILL ASK ITALY TO REVOKE THE BAN. IN THAT EVENT, THE LAME DUCK AMATO GOVERNMENT WOULD RERUN THE POLITICAL CALCULUS AND DECIDE WHETHER TO COMPLY, RESIST, OR CONTINUE WITH ITS DE FACTO "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" APPROACH TO THE BANNED VARIETIES.

8. (U) THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, UMBERTO VERONESI, WHO OPPOSED THE BAN, HAS TAKEN TO PUBLICLY BRINGING THE DEBATE ON GMOS TO A MORE SCIENTIFIC LEVEL. IN A WIDELY-PUBLICIZED RECENT STATEMENT, VERONESI, A HIGHLY-REGARDED ONCOLOGIST, ASSERTED THAT FOOD PRODUCTS COULD BE GENETICALLY MODIFIED TO ENHANCE THEIR CANCER-COMBATING ATTRIBUTES. HE ALSO RECENTLY FORMED A BIOTECH WORKING GROUP, COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF SCIENTISTS, INCLUDING TWO NOBEL LAUREATES, WHICH DG MARABELLI WILL CHAIR. WHILE THE GROUP'S FUNCTION IS NOT YET FULLY DEFINED, MARABELLI RECENTLY INTIMATED TO AGMINCOUNS THAT THE MINISTER COULD USE THE ADVICE OF THE GROUP TO COMBAT UNSCIENTIFICALLY-BASED ATTACKS ON BIOTECH.

9. (U) COMPLEMENTING VERONESI EFFORTS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE SUPERIOR INSTITUTE OF HEALTH (SII), UPON WHOSE FINDINGS THE GMO CORN BAN IS OSTENSIBLY BASED, WILL SEND A LETTER TO THE BRITISH PUBLICATION "NATURE BIOTECHNOLOGY" THAT WILL DISPUTE PARTS OF A RECENT ARTICLE ALLEGING THAT SII HAD FOUND NO "SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE" BETWEEN THE BANNED GMO CORN VARIETIES AND THEIR CONVENTIONAL COUNTERPARTS.

NEXT STEPS

10. (SBU) COMMENT. IN THE IMMEDIATE TERM, WE AGREE WITH THE EMERGING CONSENSUS (REF F) THAT THE RAVENNA INCIDENT SHOULD BE SEEN AS AN ABERRATION AND RECOMMEND NO INTERVENTION

REGARDING IT.

WE REMAIN READY, OF COURSE, TO RESPOND TO IMPORTER OR U.S. SHIPPER COMPLAINTS SHOULD TRADE BECOME IMPEDED OR CHILLED AS A RESULT OF THE BAN. WE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY MINDFUL OF ANY DISCRIMINATORY ENFORCEMENT PREJUDICING CORN PRODUCTS ARRIVING BY SEA (THE ROUTE OF MOST U.S. SHIPMENTS) VERSUS OVERLAND FROM THE BORDERLESS EU. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, OUR PRIVATE SECTOR CONTACTS BELIEVE THAT AS LONG AS TRADE CAN PROCEED, IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR THE USG TO ENGAGE IN A "TABLE-POUNDING" APPROACH. SIMILARLY, PRIVATE SECTOR BIOTECH ENTERPRISES ARE AWAITING THE RESULTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING BEFORE SEEKING LEGAL RECOURSE AT THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE OR ITALIAN COURT (REF G).

11. (SBU) COMMENT CONTINUED. IF, AS EXPECTED, THE EU CENSURES ITALY THIS WEEK IN SOME FASHION FOR THE BAN, WE WOULD ADVISE TWO USG REACTIONS. A TRUSTED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE CONTACT, RECOGNIZING THE PROBABLE VIOLATION OF ITALY'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE OBLIGATIONS INHERENT IN THE BAN, RECENTLY COUNSELED US THAT "PRESSURE FROM THE U.S. WOULD BE USEFUL" IN THE AFTERMATH OF ANY EU ACTION. WE SUGGEST A POLICY LEVEL DEMARCHE WOULD BE IN ORDER, EXPRESSLY BUILDING ON THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT COMMENTS TO PM AMATO. WE ALSO SUGGEST ISSUANCE OF A PUBLIC STATEMENT SECONDING THE EU ACTION AND URGING ITALY TO COMPLY.

12. (SBU) COMMENT CONTINUED. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THE EU DOES NOT REPROVE ITALY FOR THE GMO CORN BAN, THE POINT OF INTERVENTION OBVIOUSLY SHIFTS TO BRUSSELS.

FOGLIETTA

TOR: 10/18/00 07:49:45

DIST: SIT: Bernard BLINKEN BOWLES BRUNS NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON DUNCAN GREENWOOD
KASS MUNTER NORLAND ORFINI SAMANS YEE
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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004. cable	Re: [Food Supply] (2 pages)	10/18/2000	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[10/12/2000 - 11/27/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3019

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]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005. cable	Re: [Future for Genetically-Modified Products] (2 pages)	10/18/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[10/12/2000 - 11/27/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3019

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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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]
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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]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006. cable	[duplicate of 005] (2 pages)	10/19/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[10/12/2000 - 11/27/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3019

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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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)]

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

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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007. cable	Re: [Starlink Genetically Modified Corn] (3 pages)	10/20/2000	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[10/12/2000 - 11/27/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3019

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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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.

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

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHGPA2884 2970726-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 230726Z OCT 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
OSRI: RUEHGP
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9551
INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHXS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3321
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 9770
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0750
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0013
RUEHTM/AMCONSUL TIJUANA 0004
SUBJ: SINGAPORE - NO CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR GMO
PRODUCTS, EXCEPT FOR TACO BELL TACO SHELLS
TEXT: UNCLAS SINGAPORE 002884

SENSITIVE

KUALA LUMPUR FOR BORRIS

USTR FOR DICK WHITE AND ELENA BRYAN

STATE FOR EB (AMB. DONNELLY); EB/ATT (PEREZ) AND EAP/PIMBS

STATE PASS HHS FOR FDA/CFSAN (MARYANSKI)

USDA FAS FOR ITP (SLUTSKY/DUNAHAY)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, BEXP, SN

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE - NO CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR GMO
PRODUCTS, EXCEPT FOR TACO BELL TACO SHELLS

REF: A) SINGAPORE 2736; B) SINGAPORE 2691; C) SINGAPORE 2644;
D) SINGAPORE 2626

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) ANGELINE LAU, STAFF OFFICER AT THE SECRETARIAT OF SINGAPORE'S GENETIC MODIFICATION ADVISORY COUNCIL, CONFIRMED TO US OCTOBER 20 THAT THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT HAS NOT/NOT IMPOSED ANY CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT ON GMO PRODUCTS. THE ONLY CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT - AN INFORMAL ONE - APPLIES TACO BELL TACO SHELLS. WE HAD SOUGHT GMAC'S CONFIRMATION AFTER SEEING

REPORTS, INCLUDING ONE REFERENCED IN A SPEECH BY U/S LARSON, THAT SINGAPORE WAS "SEEKING GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATION OF ALL FOOD SHIPMENTS."

2. (SBU) REF B NOTED THAT THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT HAD REQUESTED USG CERTIFICATION THAT A SHIPMENT OF TACO BELL TACO SHELLS DID NOT CONTAIN THE STARLINK CORN VARIETY. AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBOFFS, MINISTRY OFFICIALS AGREED TO ACCEPT NOTARIZED CERTIFICATIONS FROM THE U.S. MILLER AND THE MEXICAN MANUFACTURER THAT THE TACO SHELLS DO NOT CONTAIN THE STARLINK CORN VARIETY. TACO BELL'S LOCAL DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, TNG BOO KWANG, TOLD US OCTOBER 20 THAT NEITHER THE MILLER NOR THE MANUFACTURER WERE WILLING TO PROVIDE SUCH A NOTARIZED CERTIFICATION. HE SAID THE COMPANY IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPLY FOR TACO SHELLS, INCLUDING FROM AUSTRALIA. WE ADVISED OUR COUNTERPARTS AT THE EMBASSY OF MEXICO OF THIS SITUATION AND SUGGESTED THAT, SINCE A MEXICAN PRODUCT IS INVOLVED, THEY MIGHT WANT TO RAISE THIS ISSUE ON THE MARGINS OF THEIR ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH SINGAPORE ON A FREE TRADE AGREEMENT. HECTOR HUERTA NAVA, TRADE COUNSELOR AT THE MEXICAN EMBASSY, SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT THE PROBLEM, AND APPRECIATED OUR INFORMATION.

3. (SBU) COMMENT: OUR GOS INTERLOCUTORS REMAIN VERY INTERESTED IN WHAT SANCTIONS U.S. REGULATORY AGENCIES PLAN TO TAKE AGAINST AVENTIS OR USERS FOR INTRODUCING INTO FOOD PRODUCTS A CORN VARIETY THAT WAS NOT APPROVED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. END COMMENT.

GREEN

TOR: 10/23/00 03:48:33

DIST: SIT: NSC

PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHBSA5887 2971152-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 231152Z OCT 00
LINE4: FM USEU BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG:
ORIG: USEU BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
SUBJ: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: NO VOTE TAKEN
TEXT: UNCLAS BRUSSELS 005887

SENSITIVE

STATE PASS USTR FOR FRAZIER, MURPHY
USDA/OSEC/SIDDIQUI
FAS FOR OA/GALVIN; ITP/SIMMONS/MACKE/RICHEY/SCHWARTZ
FAS FOR OFSTS/HARBERT/SLUTSKY
FAS FOR CMP/LEE/RIEMENSCHNEIDER
STATE FOR E - PENCE, EUR/ERA, EB/TPP, OES/ETC
USDOC FOR DAS/LUDOLPH

GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
POSTS PASS AGRICULTURE AND ECON
CONGEN MILAN PASS AGR OFFICE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, WTRD, WTRO, TBIO, PGOV, SENV
SUBJECT: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: NO VOTE TAKEN

REF:

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.

1. SUMMARY: THE EU'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOODSTUFFS
MADE NO DECISION ON ITALY'S BAN OF GMO CORN BECAUSE
THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH VOTES TO OVERTURN THE BAN. ONCE
GERMANY JOINED ITALY, GREECE AND DENMARK, THE QUALIFIED
MAJORITY NEEDED TO REJECT THE BAN WAS NOT THERE.

COMMISSION SOURCES SAY THEY HOPE TO TRY AGAIN AFTER THE REVISED DIRECTIVE 90/220 IS IN PLACE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EU'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOODSTUFFS MET OCTOBER 18 AND 19. ON THE AGENDA WAS THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL TO OVERTURN ITALY'S BAN ON FOUR GMO CORNS (REF). WHEN AN INFORMAL POLL SHOWED NOT ENOUGH VOTES TO PASS THE PROPOSAL BY QUALIFIED (I.E. WEIGHTED) MAJORITY, IT WAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA. IF AN INCONCLUSIVE VOTE HAD BEEN TAKEN -WITH NO QUALIFIED MAJORITY FOR OR AGAINST- THE PROPOSAL WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE TAKEN DIRECTLY TO THE COUNCIL WITH PROSPECTS OF AN EQUALLY NEGATIVE OUTCOME.

3. A COMMISSION SOURCE TOLD AGATT THAT SEVERAL MEMBER STATES HAD SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT AGREE WITH THE ITALIAN BAN, THEY DID NOT SUPPORT THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL EITHER. APPARENTLY WHEN GERMANY ANNOUNCED IT WOULD VOTE AGAINST THE PROPOSAL IT BECAME CLEAR THAT A QUALIFIED MAJORITY WAS IMPOSSIBLE, SEVERAL MEMBER STATES WHO MIGHT HAVE SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL CHANGED THEIR POSITION TO "ABSTAIN."

4. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE COMMISSION HOPED TO PUT THE PROPOSAL BACK ON THE AGENDA SOMETIME AFTER THE REVISION OF DIRECTIVE 90/220 IS COMPLETE AND OTHER ASPECTS OF NEW REGULATIONS ARE IN PLACE. WHEN PRESSED BY AGATT WHETHER THIS MIGHT MAKE A DIFFERENCE, THE SOURCE OPINED THAT IT WOULD FAVORABLY INFLUENCE THE VOTES OF SEVERAL MEMBER STATES.

5. APPARENTLY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT MADE A STRONG LOBBYING EFFORT, INCLUDING A PARTY FOR THE COMMITTEE AND SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT PRODI. AN INDUSTRY SOURCE SAID THAT THE COMMISSION HAD FAILED TO DO ANY LOBBYING OF MEMBER STATES BEFORE THE MEETING. HE OFFERED NO COMMENT ON WHETHER THE USG DEMARCHE (REF B) HAD HAD ANY EFFECT.

6. ALTHOUGH SOME MEMBER STATES CHANGED THEIR VOTES, A COMMISSION SOURCE INDICATED THAT HAD A VOTE TAKEN PLACE THE OUTCOME WOULD HAVE RESEMBLED THE FOLLOWING TABLE. 62 VOTES WOULD HAVE BEEN NECESSARY TO PASS THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO OVERTURN THE BAN.

7. FOR THE PROPOSAL TO OVERTURN THE BAN: FINLAND, IRELAND, NETHERLANDS, SPAIN, UK (31 VOTES)

8. AGAINST THE PROPOSAL TO OVERTURN THE BAN: DENMARK, GERMANY, GREECE, ITALY (28 VOTES).

9. ABSTAIN: AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, PORTUGAL, SPAIN (30 VOTES).

TOR: 10/23/00 08:20:15

DIST: SIT: BLINKEN BRUNS NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON DUNCAN GREENWOOD KASS MUNTER
NORLAND SAMANS YEE
PRT: USTR{P\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,06}

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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009. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Corn Affair] (3 pages)	10/23/2000	P1/b(1)
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COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[10/12/2000 - 11/27/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3019

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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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.

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHRLA4353 2981536-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 241536Z OCT 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
OSRI: RUEHRL
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8145
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0084
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUCNFRG/FRG COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GERMAN REASONS FOR BACKING ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN
TEXT: UNCLAS BERLIN 004353

SENSITIVE

STATE PASS USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, GM, EUN

SUBJECT: GERMAN REASONS FOR BACKING ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN

REF: A. BRUSSELS 5887
B. BRUSSELS 4909
C. STATE 156317

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED, PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) DR. MICHAEL WINTER FROM THE HEALTH MINISTRY'S NOVEL FOODS OFFICE CONFIRMED REF. A'S ACCOUNT THAT GERMANY HAD DECIDED TO SUPPORT ITALY IN THE EU STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOODSTUFFS, THUS PREVENTING THE COMMITTEE FROM OVERTURNING ITALY'S BAN ON FOUR GMO CORN PRODUCTS.

2. (SBU) ACCORDING TO WINTER, THE SCIENTIFIC REGULATORY AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR APPROVALS OF PRODUCTS UNDER THE EU NOVEL FOOD REGULATION (FEDERAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH-RELATED CONSUMER PROTECTION AND VETERINARY MEDICINE) INFORMED THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IN AN OFFICIAL ANALYSIS THAT THE BANNED PRODUCTS ARE NOT "SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT" BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN IDENTIFIABLE QUANTITIES OF ALTERED DNA OR PROTEINS. THE GERMANS THEREFORE SUPPORT THE ITALIAN ALLEGATION THAT THE GMO CORN SORTS WERE NOT PROPERLY APPROVED ACCORDING TO THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION.

3. (SBU) WINTER ALSO SAID THAT GERMANY OPERATED ON THE BASIS OF THE EU'S "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" (REF. B) THAT STIPULATES THAT PRODUCTS CONTAINING ALTERED PROTEIN OR DNA CANNOT BE DEEMED SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT. AT THE SAME TIME, GERMANY

HOPES THAT THE NON-VOTE IN THE STANDING COMMITTEE WILL FORCE AN END TO THE GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT IN FAVOR OF A CONCRETE COMMISSION PROPOSAL SUGGESTING A UNIFIED DEFINITION OF SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE. IN ESSENCE, THE GERMANS HOPE TO PUSH THE DISCUSSION TO A HIGHER LEVEL AND PUT THE BALL BACK IN THE COMMISSION'S COURT.

4. COMMENT: ALL GMO REGULATION (INCLUDING DIRECTIVE 90/220 AND THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION) FALLS UNDER THE HEALTH MINISTRY'S PORTFOLIO (HEADED BY THE GREENS PARTY'S ANDREA FISCHER), WHICH PLAYED A ROLE IN THE GERMAN POSITION. THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY WOULD LIKELY HAVE VOTED DIFFERENTLY IF THEY HAD THE LEAD ON THIS ISSUE. IT IS NOT SURPRISING, HOWEVER, THAT GERMANY IS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE STATUS-QUO. GERMAN LEGAL CULTURE HAS AN EXTREMELY LOW TOLERANCE FOR AMBIVALENCE, SO THERE IS A STRONG INCENTIVE TO TRY TO REACH CONCRETE, DETAILED DEFINITIONS TO REPLACE FUZZY "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENTS." THE DECISION ALSO IMPLIES A GERMAN PREFERENCE FOR ALLOWING MEMBER STATES GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN IMPLEMENTING EU LAW, AND FOR LOCKING IN THE PRESENCE OF ALTERED DNA OR PROTEINS AS THE DEFINING CRITERION FOR DETERMINING SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE.
KORNBLUM

TOR: 10/24/00 12:06:07

DIST: SIT: BLINKEN BOWLES BRUNS NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON DUNCAN GREENWOOD KASS
MUNTER NORLAND ORFINI SAMANS YEE
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,06}

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
010. cable	Re: [Italian GMO Corn Prohibition] (3 pages)	10/26/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[10/12/2000 - 11/27/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3019

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]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
011. cable	Re: [GMO Directive] (2 pages)	10/30/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[10/12/2000 - 11/27/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3019

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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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]

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHGVA5778 3050921-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 310921Z OCT 00
LINE4: FM USMISSION GENEVA
OSRI: RUEHGV
DTG:
ORIG: USMISSION GENEVA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7688
INFO: RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHRC/DEPTAGR WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDO/DEPTCOMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
SUBJ: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND MEETING OF
THE AARHUS CONVENTION GMO TASK FORCE
TEXT: UNCLAS GENEVA 005778

DEPARTMENT PASS USEPA FOR OIA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, ETRD, SENV, KSCA, UN

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND MEETING OF
THE AARHUS CONVENTION GMO TASK FORCE

1. THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS TWO ACTION REQUESTS--PLEASE SEE
PARAGRAPHS 5 AND 6.

2. THE SECRETARIAT OF THE AARHUS CONVENTION ISSUED AN
INVITATION VIA THE US MISSION FOR A USG EXPERT TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE SECOND MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON GENETICALLY
MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS). THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE 4-5
DECEMBER IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS EXPAND ON THE WORK DONE AT
THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE. THE REPORT OF THE FIRST
MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE UN/ECE WEBSITE AT
WWW.UNECE.ORG/ENV/PP/. IN PARTICULAR, THE TASK FORCE WILL
LOOK AT PROCEDURAL OPTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN
DECISION-MAKING ON GMOS, FOCUSING ON THE MERITS OF THE
FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

- (A) A DECISION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES (TO THE AARHUS
CONVENTION) SETTING OUT ITS VIEWS ON HOW ARTICLE 6, PARAGRAPH
11, SHOULD BE CONSTRUED;
- (B) A DECISION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO AMEND THE
CONVENTION BY INCLUDING A REFERENCE TO GMO-RELATED ACTIVITIES
IN ANNEX I AND AMENDING ARTICLE 6, PARAGRAPH 11, ACCORDINGLY;
- (C) GUIDELINES ON BEST PRACTICES, ON IMPROVING THE LEGAL
FRAMEWORK AND ON THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS;
- (D) A PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION COVERING GMO ISSUES;
- (E) A NEW ANNEX TO THE CONVENTION RELATED TO GMOS; AND
- (F) POTENTIAL OTHER OPTIONS, YET TO BE DISCUSSED.

4. THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES ALSO ASKED THE TASK FORCE TO PROVIDE A DEFINITION OF (QUOTE) DELIBERATE RELEASE (END QUOTE) OF GMOS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE CONVENTION.

5. ACTION REQUEST: THE SECRETARIAT HAS ASKED THAT DELEGATIONS AND TASK FORCE EXPERTS PROVIDE SHORT PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING FIVE QUESTIONS BY 15 NOVEMBER 2000 BY E-MAIL TO THE CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE, MR. HELMUT GAUGITSCH, AT GAUGITSCH@UBAVIE.GV.AT, WITH A COPY TO THE UN/ECE SECRETARIAT AT JEREMY.WATES@UNECE.ORG. THE QUESTIONS ARE:

(A) WHICH OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED OR NOT YET DISCUSSED OPTIONS IS YOUR PREFERRED ONE, WHY, AND WHICH FURTHER STEPS DO YOU THINK ARE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT IT?

(B) WHICH DEFINITION OF (QUOTE) DELIBERATE RELEASE OF GMOS (END QUOTE) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION WOULD YOU PROPOSE? PLEASE INDICATE CLEARLY WHETHER YOUR PROPOSAL WOULD ALSO INCLUDE (QUOTE) PLACING ON THE MARKET (END QUOTE).

(C) HOW DO YOU THINK THAT (QUOTE) CONTAINED USE (END QUOTE) ACTIVITIES WITH GMOS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH UNDER THE CONVENTION?

(D) WITH RESPECT TO PUBLIC INFORMATION, HOW DO YOU THINK THE GMO-RELATED LABELING INFORMATION ON PRODUCTS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH UNDER THE CONVENTION?

(E) WHICH OTHER ISSUES, IF ANY, SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE SECOND MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE?

6. FURTHER ACTION REQUEST: THE SECRETARIAT WOULD LIKE AN INDICATION OF PARTICIPATION BY 5 NOVEMBER 2000 VIA E-MAIL TO JEREMY.WATES@UNECE.ORG AND TO KAISER@UBAVIE.GV.AT.
MOOSE

TOR: 10/31/00 04:49:37

DIST: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY BOWLES NSC MCLEAN NAPLAN ORFINI PATTEN SCHWARTZ
SHEA SMITHP WILCOX

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHLOA7937 3081530-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 031530Z NOV 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
OSRI: RUEHLO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO: RUCLRFA/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHINGTON DC
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9953
INFO: ////
SUBJ: TECHNICAL STANDARD FOR IDENTITY PRESERVED SYSTEMS
IN THE SUPPLY OF NON-GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS
TEXT: UNCLAS LONDON 007937

DEPT FOR EB/TPP/ATT/TPA
PLEASE PASS TO FDA
AGRICULTURE FOR ITP/RICHE
COMMERCE FOR 4200/ITA/EUR/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, EAGR, ECON, KSCA, UK
SUBJECT: TECHNICAL STANDARD FOR IDENTITY PRESERVED SYSTEMS
IN THE SUPPLY OF NON-GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS

1. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE.

2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM SAFEWAY STORES FOR COMMENTS ON SUBJECT DRAFT STANDARD. THE DRAFT STANDARD WAS ISSUED ON 20 MARCH 2000 AND CAN BE FOUND ON THE BRITISH RETAIL CONSORTIUM (BRC) (WWW.BRC.ORG.UK) AND FOOD AND DRINK FEDERATION (FDF) (WWW.FDF.ORG.UK) WEBSITES.

3. THE DRAFT STANDARD WAS DEVELOPED IN RESPONSE TO THE DEMAND OF UK AND EUROPEAN CONSUMERS, ACCORDING TO SAFEWAY, TO ACCURATELY LABEL PRODUCT CONTAINING INGREDIENTS FROM GM SOURCES. THIS CONCERN HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF UK AND EU LEGISLATION. THE STANDARD DEFINES A SYSTEM, TO BE USED BY COMPANIES PROCESSING OR USING SOYA AND MAIZE, TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF ILLEGALLY LABELED FINISHED PRODUCT BEING OFFERED TO THE CONSUMER. THE DRAFT STANDARD IS MEANT TO REFLECT THE BEST PRACTICE IN THE INDUSTRY FOR TRACEABILITY FROM SEED TO FINAL PRODUCT.

4. IT IS IMPERATIVE, SAYS SAFEWAY, THAT SYSTEMS ARE IN PLACE THROUGHOUT THE SUPPLY CHAIN TO ENSURE THAT FINISHED PRODUCTS ARE CORRECTLY LABELED. THE DRAFT STANDARD WILL BE EXTENSIVELY REVIEWED IN NOVEMBER, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE AMENDED, FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH APPROPRIATE BODIES. THE

WORKING GROUP PRODUCED THIS STANDARD WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN "TRIALED". IF THE STANDARD IS TOO DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT THESE CONCERNS SHOULD BE MADE KNOWN SO THAT POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS CAN BE CONSIDERED.

5. THE SAFEWAY LETTER REFERS TO RECENT PROBLEMS SURROUNDING THE INTRODUCTION INTO THE FOOD CHAIN OF CORN NOT APPROVED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND THE CONTROVERSY RELATING TO THE DETECTION METHODOLOGY OF GM INGREDIENTS IN FINISHED PRODUCTS.

IN RELATION TO BOTH ISSUES, SAFEWAY SAYS, THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENT TO ENSURE IDENTITY PRESERVED (IP) SYSTEMS ARE IN PLACE AND THERE IS A MEANS BY WHICH THE CORRECT CONTROL OF THE SUPPLY CAN BE DEMONSTRATED.

6. COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS IN RELATION TO THE DRAFT STANDARD (FOUND ON THE WEBSITES MENTIONED IN PARA 1) ARE INVITED. THESE WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE BRC/IOP WORKING GROUP AND USED AS A BASIS FOR REVISION WITH A VIEW TO FULL PUBLICATION IN EARLY 2001. COMMENTS, DUE NO LATER THAN 24 NOVEMBER, MAY BE SENT TO EMBASSY OR DIRECTLY TO MR. J. MORRIS, BRITISH RETAIL CONSORTIUM, 5 GRAFTON STREET, LONDON W1X 3LB

LADER

TOR: 11/03/00 11:10:13

DIST: SIT: BLINKEN NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON GREENWOOD KASS MUNTER NORLAND YEE

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: PAACZYUW RUEHROA6752 3131037-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: P 081037Z NOV 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4076
INFO: RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 6416
RUEHRON/AMCONSUL NAPLES 4537
RUEHROF/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 2952
SUBJ: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: WHAT NEXT?
TEXT: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 006752

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/26/2014
7016-0524-11 (3.02)

STATE PASS USTR
WHITE HOUSE FOR NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER
OA/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACHE/SLUTSKY
FAS/ITP/EAMED
FAS FOR CMP/G&FD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/6/05
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: WHAT NEXT?

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 5887 (B) ROME 6365
(C) BRUSSELS 6087

CLASSIFIED BY ECMIN MARGARET DEAN; REASON 1.5 B/D.

1. (C) SUMMARY. POST OFFERS SOME THOUGHTS FOR NEXT STEPS FOR DEALING WITH THE ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN AND THE EU'S RECENT FAILURE TO CENSURE ITALY FOR ENACTING THE BAN. IN THE SHORT TERM, POST RECOMMENDS TARGETED, HIGH-LEVEL MESSAGES TO BIOTECH FRIENDLY GOI MINISTRIES, PERHAPS FOLLOWED BY A POTUS PHONE CALL TO THE PRIME MINISTER. WE RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY PRESS CAMPAIGN AS LONG AS THE GOI REFRAINS FROM SERIOUSLY IMPLEMENTING THE DECREE. FINALLY, WE OFFER SOME BRIEF THOUGHTS ON A LONGER-TERM STRATEGY. END SUMMARY

ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

2. (C) IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE EU NON-VOTE (REF A) ON THE ITALIAN GMO BAN, THE SITUATION ON THE

GROUND HERE REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FROM THAT DESCRIBED REF B. ITALY STILL HAS A LAME DUCK GOVERNMENT WITH LITTLE CAPACITY FOR DEALING WITH TOUGH ECONOMIC ISSUES. RELEVANT MINISTRIES REMAIN DEEPLY DIVIDED OVER THE BAN WITH THE RESULT THAT IT REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNENFORCED. THE PRESS HERE, NOT TO MENTION THE GREEN PARTY, HAS SPUN THE EU NON-VOTE AS A GOI VICTORY. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE GOI CAN HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO REVERSE ITSELF ON THE BAN. THE BEST WE CAN REALISTICALLY HOPE FOR IN THE SHORT-TERM IS CONTINUED NON-ENFORCEMENT. TO THAT END WE HAVE A FEW CARDS TO PLAY.

OUR SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

3. ~~(C)~~ WE RECOMMEND A SHORT-TERM STRATEGY FOCUSED ON SHORING-UP OUR ALLIES WITHIN THE GOI AND ELSEWHERE WITHIN ITALY. WE SUGGEST, IN PARTICULAR, SUPPLEMENTING POST'S ONGOING CONTACTS WITH THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH AND FOREIGN TRADE WITH HIGH-LEVEL WASHINGTON COMMUNICATIONS. MFA HAS BEEN A NONFACTOR ON THIS ISSUE, BUT WE WOULD INCLUDE A STOP THERE IN KEEPING WITH OUR EFFORTS TO ENGAGE THEM AS MUCH OF THE BAN ACTION HAS SHIFTED TO BRUSSELS.

4. ~~(C)~~ OUR CONTACTS AT THE FOREIGN TRADE AND HEALTH MINISTRIES READILY CONCEDE THAT THE BAN LIKELY VIOLATES ITALY'S WTO OBLIGATIONS. IN ADDITION TO CONFIRMING THAT THE USG SHARES THAT ANALYSIS, WASHINGTON SHOULD LET OUR ALLIES IN THE GOI KNOW THAT WE APPRECIATE THE POLITICAL DELICACY OF THEIR SITUATION AND, ACCORDINGLY, WE DO NOT SEE LITIGATION OR OTHER DIRECT CONFRONTATION AS THE SOLUTION IN THE SHORT-TERM. AT THE SAME TIME, WASHINGTON SHOULD ASSURE THE GOI THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO ACT IF U.S. EXPORTS ARE INTERRUPTED OR CHILLED AND THAT WE WOULD BE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT ANY NATIONAL-LEVEL ENFORCEMENT OF THE BAN, ESPECIALLY, BUT NOT ONLY, IF THAT ENFORCEMENT DISPROPORTIONATELY TARGETED U.S. PRODUCTS.

5. ~~(C)~~ HAVING STARED DOWN THE EU, THE GOI IS NOT ABOUT TO CAPITULATE TO THE USG BILATERALLY. A PUBLIC CONFRONTATION OR AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGN, WE BELIEVE, WOULD ONLY STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THE GREEN PARTY, WHICH WOULD LOVE TO PLAY DAVID TO OUR GOLIATH. THUS WE ADVISE AGAINST PRESS COMMENTARY BEYOND ANY STRAIGHTFORWARD EXPRESSION OF CONCERN WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY CARE TO ISSUE ABOUT EU NON-ACTION ON THE BAN.

6. ~~(C)~~ ALTHOUGH WE SEE NO TRUMP CARD IN OUR HAND, WE DO HAVE AN ACE IN THE HOLE. PM AMATO ADMITS PRIVATELY THAT HE SIGNED THE BAN AS A CONCESSION TO THE GREEN PARTY IN ORDER TO AVOID DISTURBANCE WITHIN HIS FRAGILE COALITION. HE TOLD THE POTUS LAST

AUGUST THAT HE FULLY EXPECTED THE EU WOULD EFFECTIVELY REVERSE THE BAN. CLEARLY THAT STRATEGY HAS FAILED. WE RECOMMEND HIGH-LEVEL FOLLOW-UP TO AMATO'S OFFICE (1) TO EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE GOI (REF B) ACTIVELY LOBBIED THE EU TO BACK OFF, ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 006752

STATE PASS USTR
WHITE HOUSE FOR NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER
OA/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACHE/SLUTSKY
FAS/ITP/EAMED
FAS FOR CMP/G&FD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/6/05
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: WHAT NEXT?

NOTWITHSTANDING AMATO'S COMMITMENT TO POTUS, (2) TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE EXPECT CONTINUED NON-ENFORCEMENT OF THE BAN GIVEN ITS EVIDENT INCONSISTENCY WITH ITALY'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, AND (3) TO OFFER TO WORK TOGETHER QUIETLY ON NEXT STEPS.

7. ~~(C)~~ AS TO THE VEHICLES OF COMMUNICATION, WE CAN OF COURSE DELIVER THE BASIC MESSAGES BUT INVITE VISITS FROM HIGH-LEVEL USG OFFICIALS TO REINFORCE THEM. WE WOULD ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGE A VISIT BY U/S LARSON AS WELL AS VISITS BY HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS FROM OTHER INVOLVED USG AGENCIES SUCH AS USDA AND EPA.

8. ~~(C)~~ GUIDED BY THE RESULTS OF A PM DEMARCHE, WE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER POTUS INTERVENTION BUILDING ON THE POTUS-AMATO CONVERSATION PRIOR TO THE EU CONSIDERATION OF THE BAN. RECALLING THAT OUR GOAL IS NON-ENFORCEMENT OF THE BAN -- I.E., A STATUS QUO CHARACTERIZED BY NON-ACTION BY THE GOI -- WE RECOMMEND POTUS INTERVENTION SHOULD THE EARLIER DEMARCHES YIELD ANYTHING OTHER THAN CLEAR GOI ASSURANCES THAT THE BAN WILL REMAIN A DEAD LETTER ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL. IN PARTICULAR, A DELAY IN POTUS INTERVENTION UNTIL ENFORCEMENT OF THE BAN IS UNDERWAY WOULD SEVERELY LIMIT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS. AMATO, URGED ON BY POTUS, COULD FAR MORE EASILY PREEMPT ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS WITHIN HIS CABINET THAN HE COULD REVERSE A COURSE ON WHICH THE GOI OR ONE OF HIS MINISTERS IS ALREADY PUBLICLY EMBARKED.

9. ~~(C)~~ WE RECOMMEND THAT ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE GOI ON THIS ISSUE BE ORAL. A PAPER TRAIL WOULD BE PERILOUS. INASMUCH AS AMATO CAN HARDLY ACKNOWLEDGE PUBLICLY THAT HE HAD HOPED THE EU WOULD SAVE ITALY FROM ITSELF, THIS POINT CLEARLY CANNOT BE REDUCED TO WRITING AND POSSIBLE LEAK. SIMILARLY, WE ADVISE AGAINST A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR NON-ENFORCEMENT AS POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING TO THE GOI AND DAMAGING TO OUR PROSPECTS IF PUT IN THE WRONG HANDS EVEN WITHIN

THE CABINET.

TIMING OF USG INTERVENTIONS

10. ~~(C)~~ THE GREENS ARE FEELING THEIR OATS IN THE AFTERMATH OF PASSAGE OF THE BAN, THE EU NON-VOTE, AND THE STARLINK SITUATION. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WHOSE MINISTER, ALFONSO PECORARO-SCANNIO, IS OF COURSE A GREEN PARTY MEMBER, HAS A NATIONAL NETWORK OF PEST INSPECTION OFFICES CO-LOCATED WITH CUSTOMS OFFICES. SHOULD PECORARO-SCANNIO GROW FRUSTRATED WITH MOH AND CUSTOMS NONENFORCEMENT OF THE BAN, HE COULD ATTEMPT TO IMPLEMENT IT THROUGH THESE RESOURCES AT HIS DISPOSAL. SHORT OF SYSTEMATIC ENFORCEMENT, HE COULD TAKE A PAGE FROM THE STARLINK BOOK AND SIMPLY TARGET A CORN SHIPMENT LIKELY CONTAINING GMO CORN (I.E., A U.S. SHIPMENT) AND, SHOULD GMOS IN FACT BE UNCOVERED, ORCHESTRATE PRESS COVERAGE THAT WOULD FORCE THE GOI'S HAND. IN ORDER TO FORESTALL THAT OR OTHER IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

LONGER TERM

11. (SBU) THE ITALIAN BAN, IF ENFORCED, COULD WREAK HAVOC WITHIN THE EU UNIFIED MARKET. IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE ITALIAN BAN, CORN PROCESSORS IN EUROPE WOULD LIKELY HAVE TO BEGIN TO SEGREGATE BY SOURCE THE CORN THEY PURCHASE, AT LEAST REGARDING CORN WITH ANY POTENTIAL FOR FINDING ITS WAY TO ITALY. THESE EU PROCESSORS MAY WELL BE UNAWARE OF THE BAN. THEY ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY UNAWARE THAT THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS DETERMINED THAT ANY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAN WOULD BE LEFT TO PRIVATE SECTOR SELF-CERTIFICATION, AN EXPENSIVE PROPOSITION FOR THE PROCESSORS AT BEST AND LOGISTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE AT WORST. UNDER A SELF-CERTIFICATION SCHEME, THE PROCESSORS WOULD HAVE TO TEST THEIR CORN FOR GMOS BEFORE EXPORT TO ITALY. AVAILABLE TESTING METHODS ARE PRONE TO FALSE POSITIVES. EVEN PROCESSORS USING NO GMO CORN IN

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 ROME 006752

STATE PASS USTR
WHITE HOUSE FOR NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER
OA/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACHE/SLUTSKY
FAS/ITP/EAMED
FAS FOR CMP/G&FD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/6/05
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN: WHAT NEXT?

THEIR OPERATIONS, THEREFORE, WOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO GENERATE THE TEST RESULTS NEEDED TO SUPPORT A CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE. FURTHER COMPLICATING PROSPECTS FOR COMPLIANCE, THE BAN DOES NOT ESTABLISH A TRACE THRESHOLD LEVEL OF PERMISSIBLE GMO CONTENT, LEAVING CORN IMPORTS POTENTIALLY FACING A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY.

12. (SBU) EU CORN PROCESSORS WOULD THEN SEEM TO BE OUR NATURAL ALLIES. THEIR INTERESTS CLEARLY WERE OVERLOOKED BY THEIR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AS THE EU MEMBER STATES CONSIDERED THE ITALIAN BAN. IN REACHING OUT TO EDUCATE THESE PROCESSORS, PERHAPS THE BEST VEHICLES WOULD BE PRIVATE SECTOR FORA SUCH AS THE TABD.

13. (SBU) IN THE SOMEWHAT LONGER TERM, WE HAVE STARTED WORK ON A FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE SLATED FOR PARMA NEXT YEAR THAT COULD PLAY AN EDUCATIONAL ROLE IN DEVELOPING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SAFETY OF U.S. FOOD AND ULTIMATELY OF THE PROCESSES WE USE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR FOOD SUPPLY. WASHINGTON SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT IN MAKING THIS CONFERENCE A SUCCESS, ONE THAT MIGHT BE REPEATED ELSEWHERE.

POPE

TOR: 11/08/00 05:14:03

DIST: SIT: BRUNS NSC Davidson DUNCAN SAMANS Yee
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,06}

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHVIA4934 3140810-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 090810Z NOV 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
OSRI: RUEHVI
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8321
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0608
INFO: RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: MORE GMO TESTING - AUSTRIA LIKELY TO OPPOSE THE
APPROVAL OF MONSANTO GA21 CORN

STCABLE 026

TEXT: UNCLAS VIENNA 004934

STATE FOR EB/TPP/ATT/ATP/MARILYN BRUNO
USDA FAS FOR FSTSD/HARBERT, SLUTSKY, POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE
STATE PASS EPA AND FDA

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PGOV, SENV, TBIO, AU
SUBJECT: MORE GMO TESTING - AUSTRIA LIKELY TO OPPOSE THE
APPROVAL OF MONSANTO GA21 CORN

STCABLE 026

1. ACCORDING TO THE AUSTRIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION
GLOBAL 2000, NON-APPROVED GENETICALLY MODIFIED SUBSTANCES
WERE FOUND IN 8 PRODUCTS (OF 31 TESTED) FROM VARIOUS
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. AMONG THESE PRODUCTS WERE SANTA
MARIA TORTILLA CHIPS, WHICH ALLEGEDLY INCLUDED TRACES OF
MONSANTO'S GA21 CORN.

2. IN THE OPINION OF GLOBAL 2000, THE "LARGE" NUMBER OF
FOODS CONTAINING NON-APPROVED GENETICALLY MODIFIED
SUBSTANCES SHOWS THAT THE MEASURES TAKEN TO PROTECT
CONSUMERS ARE UNSATISFACTORY. GLOBAL 2000 WAS NOT
SPECIFIC ABOUT THE DANGERS CONSUMERS FACE FROM THESE
PRODUCTS.

3. GLOBAL 2000 ALSO CLAIMS TO HAVE INSIDE KNOWLEDGE THAT
AUSTRIA IS AMONG SEVEN EU COUNTRIES OPPOSED TO THE
APPROVAL OF MONSANTO'S GA21 CORN VARIETY, WHICH IS
CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION IN BRUSSELS. IF TRUE, THIS
WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH AUSTRIA'S NATIONAL BAN ON THE
RELEASE OF THE PRODUCTS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. DEUTSCH

TOR: 11/09/00 04:10:46

DIST: SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHMOA0203 3141518-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 091518Z NOV 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
OSRI: RUEHMO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3206
INFO: RUEARDF/DIRAFMIC FORT DETRICK MD//MA-1A//
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC//ITP/HARBERT 1696
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//ASD-STR/CTR//
RUEAEPA/HQ EPA WASHINGTON DC
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC//NHTC/DO/ORMS/NRD/DI/CRES//
SUBJ: FIRST RELEASE OF GMO'S IN RUSSIA - MONSANTO BT
POTATO AND THE RUSSIAN CENTER FOR BIOENGINEERING
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 020203

DEPT ALSO FOR AID (G.INGRAM)

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, TSPL, RS

SUBJECT: FIRST RELEASE OF GMO'S IN RUSSIA - MONSANTO BT
POTATO AND THE RUSSIAN CENTER FOR BIOENGINEERING

REF: MOSCOW 19846

ENTIRE CABLE SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. NOT FOR
DISSEMINATION ON THE INTERNET. CONTAINS BUSINESS
PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

SUMMARY

1. (SBU) DURING A MEETING AT THE RUSSIAN CENTER FOR
BIOENGINEERING ON OCTOBER 27TH, EST REPRESENTATIVES
WERE ALSO ABLE TO MEET WITH DR. WOJCIECH KANIEWSKI,
SCIENTIST FROM THE MONSANTO CORPORATION. MONSANTO IS
CURRENTLY WORKING TO PRODUCE A RUSSIAN VARIETY GMO
POTATO, AND HAS EXTENSIVE PLANS UNDERWAY, IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE CENTER FOR BIOENGINEERING, TO
INTRODUCE GMO CROPS IN RUSSIA. THE PROPOSED
ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE OF THE MONSANTO GMO POTATO WILL
BE THE FIRST SUCH RELEASE IN THE RF.

BACKGROUND

2. (SBU) EACH YEAR RUSSIAN FARMERS PRODUCE AN ESTIMATED SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF POTATOES - EIGHTY TO NINETY PERCENT OF WHICH ARE GROWN ON SMALL, PRIVATE FARMS. ONLY FIVE PERCENT OF RUSSIAN FARMERS USE 'GOOD' SEED POTATOES EACH SEASON, THE RESULT OF WHICH IS SMALLER YIELDS. ADDITIONALLY, ONLY THREE PERCENT OF RUSSIAN POTATOES GO TO PROCESSORS, AS OPPOSED TO SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE U.S. YEARLY POTATO YIELD. TO DATE, ALL GMO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO LABORATORIES AND GREENHOUSES. MONSANTO ASSERTS THAT THEIR NEW RUSSIAN CULTIVAR GMO POTATO WILL BE THE FIRST GMO ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE IN THE RF. IT IS SCHEDULED FOR SPRING 2001.

MONSANTO IN RUSSIA

3. (SBU) MONSANTO RESEARCHERS HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE RUSSIAN CENTER FOR BIOENGINEERING FOR THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS. THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CENTER IS CURRENTLY BEING USED BY MONSANTO FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RUSSIAN CULTIVAR BT POTATOES. DURING THE MEETING OF EST REPRESENTATIVES AND CENTER DIRECTOR DR. KONSTANTINE SKRYABIN, MONSANTO RESEARCHERS SAID THEY WERE EXTREMELY PLEASED TO HAVE ENGINEERED WHAT INITIAL RESULTS SHOW IS A RUSSIAN BT POTATO WHICH IS NOT EXHIBITING ANY ANTIBIOTIC TRACES.

4. (SBU) MONSANTO, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CENTER, PLANS TO MARKET THE NEW RUSSIAN GMO POTATO IN THE SPRING OF 2001. MONSANTO ALREADY HAS TWO U.S. VARIETIES OF POTATO REGISTERED IN RUSSIA, ALONG WITH ONE TYPE OF RUSSIAN CULTIVAR GMO POTATO. FOUR MORE VARIETIES ARE IN THE LABORATORY TESTING STAGE AND WILL THEN FOLLOW CONTINUED TESTING IN THE GREENHOUSE.

5. (SBU) IT IS YET UNDECIDED EXACTLY HOW THE BT SEED POTATOES WILL FIRST BE MARKETED TO THE RUSSIAN FARMER, ALTHOUGH MONSANTO DID AGREE THAT THEIR SEED POTATOES WILL COST MORE THAN THOSE CURRENTLY IN USE IN RUSSIA. DR. SKRYABIN FOCUSED HEAVILY ON THE NEED TO EDUCATE FARMERS ON THE BENEFITS OF GMO POTATOES, AND THE FACT THAT THE REWARDS OF YEARLY PURCHASE OF BT SEED POTATOES WILL OUTWEIGH THE COSTS. BOTH PARTNERS AGREE THAT FOR A YIELD OF APPROXIMATELY TWO TO THREE TIMES NORMAL SIZE, FARMERS WILL BE WILLING TO PAY APPROXIMATELY TWENTY PERCENT MORE. FARMERS WHO INSIST ON SAVING SEED POTATOES FOR USE IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS WILL FIND THAT THEIR POTATO YIELD DEGENERATES BACK TO THE LEVELS OF REGULAR POTATOES.

6. (SBU) COMMENT. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE NEED FOR A GMO-FREE ZONE AROUND AREAS WHERE THE BT POTATO WILL BE

GROWN, AND THE SUBSEQUENT ADDITIONAL COMPLICATIONS DUE TO THE FACT THAT NUMEROUS PRIVATE FARMERS WILL POTENTIALLY GROW GMO POTATOES ON SMALL PLOTS, NEITHER THE MONSANTO REPRESENTATIVES NOR DR. SKRYABIN HAD AN UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 020203

DEPT ALSO FOR AID (G.INGRAM)

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, TSPL, RS

SUBJECT: FIRST RELEASE OF GMO'S IN RUSSIA - MONSANTO BT POTATO AND THE RUSSIAN CENTER FOR BIOENGINEERING

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE. EST REPRESENTATIVES DID NOT PRESS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS ISSUE AT THAT TIME. END COMMENT.

7. (SBU) IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE MEETING THAT CENTER DIRECTOR DR. SKRYABIN HAS PLACED A GREAT AMOUNT OF TRUST AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF RUSSIAN BT IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH MONSANTO. HE WAS PARTICULARLY ENTHUSED ABOUT MONSANTO'S PLANS TO REALLOCATE, AT LEAST INITIALLY, THE ROYALTIES FROM RUSSIAN SALES OF BT SEED POTATOES, TO FURTHER BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH IN RUSSIA. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT MENTIONED, IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT THE CENTER FOR BIOENGINEERING WOULD BE ONE OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THIS RESEARCH MONEY. THE MONSANTO REPRESENTATIVE IN TURN SAID THAT HIS COMPANY BELIEVED THAT THEY WOULD ALSO BENEFIT FROM SUBSEQUENTLY BEING ABLE TO INTRODUCE MORE GMO PRODUCTS IN RUSSIA.

8. (SBU) THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MONSANTO AND THE CENTER IS A VERY CLOSE ONE. MONSANTO IS PROPOSING, ALTHOUGH THE CONCEPT IS STILL IN ITS INFANCY, THE DONATION OF NEARLY ONE MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF BIOTECHNOLOGY LABORATORY EQUIPMENT TO THE CENTER FOR BIOENGINEERING. THE EQUIPMENT WOULD COME FROM A NUMBER OF U.S. BASED MONSANTO LABORATORIES WHICH ARE CONSOLIDATING. DR. SKRYABIN PROMISED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH EST ON THIS PROPOSAL.

9. (SBU) POINT OF CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION IS SHARON LAAHS, OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY, U.S. EMBASSY MOSCOW. PHONE: 011-7-095-728-5000 X5646; FAX: 011-7-095-728-5033; EMAIL: LAAHSS@STATE.GOV.

COLLINS

TOR: 11/09/00 10:28:29

DIST: SIT: BLACK BRUNS NSC DAVIDSON DUNCAN ELKIND FISHEL HARRISON HINCKLEY
MEDISH SAMANS STRICKLAND WEISS WOLOSKY

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUQMDHA0558 3201201-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 151201Z NOV 00
LINE4: FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
OSRI: RUQMDH
DTG:
ORIG: AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2181
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC 0887
INFO: RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEORYW/OPM/SANG RIYADH SA 0264
RUEORYW/CHUSMTM RIYADH SA 0281
RUEOEIII/CJTF SWA 0207
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL 0218
SUBJ: COMMERCE MINISTER DEFENDS G.M.O. LABELING
TEXT: UNCLAS DHAHRAN 00558

DEPT. PASS TO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDOC FOR 4520/ITA/IEP/ONE
USDOC FOR 3131/CS/OIO/ANESA

RIYADH AND DUBAI FOR ATO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, BEXP, SA

SUBJECT: COMMERCE MINISTER DEFENDS G.M.O. LABELING

1. NOVEMBER 14, COMMERCE MINISTER OSAMA FAQUIH DEFENDED SAUDI ARABIAN IMPOSITION OF REQUIREMENTS TO LABEL FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO). RESPONDING TO A QUESTION POSED AT THE "GLOBAL SUPER PROJECTS CONFERENCE" BEING HELD IN JUBAIL NOV. 13-15, FAQUIH SAID GMO PRODUCTS ARE A TOPIC OF SCIENTIFIC DISPUTE. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON THE SUBJECT HAD BEGUN ESTABLISHING COMMON RULES ON HOW TO DEAL WITH SUCH SUBSTANCES. CONSUMERS, HE EMPHASIZED, HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT THEY ARE BUYING. ALTHOUGH A CONFERENCE HELD LAST MAY IN TORONTO DID NOT MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL SIDES OF THE ISSUE, HE SUGGESTED THAT CERTAIN BASIC PRINCIPLES COULD BE DERIVED, INCLUDING THE LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS. CONSUMERS SHOULD KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN MODIFIED AND THEN COULD DECIDE TO ASSUME WHATEVER RISKS THAT MAY EXIST.

2. USING CIGARETTES FOR COMPARISON, FAQUIH SAID THEY HAVE HAD WARNING LABELS FOR YEARS, AND DESPITE THE KNOWN RISKS, LAWSUITS WERE MULTIPLYING AROUND THE WORLD AGAINST CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS. HOLDING A BOTTLE OF WATER IN

THE AIR, HE POINTED TO THE LABEL AND SAID THAT CONSUMERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE ON ANY PRODUCT WHETHER IT CONTAINS GMO. THE REQUIREMENT SHOULD NOT IRRITATE MANUFACTURERS OR PRODUCING COUNTRIES. HE CHARACTERIZED THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT AS SIMPLY SEEKING BASIC INFORMATION AS TO WHAT PRODUCTS CONTAIN. HE CLOSED BY NOTING THAT IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE THERE IS CLEARLY A MARKET FOR PRODUCTS NOT CONTAINING GMO. VEGETABLES THAT ARE NOT MODIFIED COMMAND DOUBLE THE PRICE OF THOSE THAT ARE. SAUDI CONSUMERS SHOULD HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE THE SAME TYPE OF CHOICES.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE MINISTER EFFECTIVELY SAID HE SUPPORTS INDIVIDUAL LABELING OF EACH RETAIL ITEM, HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBE GOVERNMENT LABELING REQUIREMENTS. END COMMENT

DESJARDINS

TOR: 11/15/00 08:10:48

DIST: SIT: BOLAN BRUNS NSC CAMP DUNCAN MALLEY POLLACK RIEDEL SAMANS

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHRHA3303 3321459-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 271459Z NOV 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
OSRI: RUEHRH
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO: RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY 1693
RUCLRFA/USDA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3080
INFO: RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: UPDATE ON THE SAUDI GMO LABELING
REQUIREMENTS:
TEXT: UNCLAS RIYADH 003303

DUBAI FOR ATO
USDA/FAS/EAMED/GALVIN
DEPT FOR EB/TPP/ATT
USDOC 3131/CS/OIO/ANESA
USDOC LOOO/OC/KALICKI
USDOC ITA/MAC/OMA
STATE PASS TO USTR FOR BUNTIN/WHITE

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, BEXP, USTR, WTRD, SA
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE SAUDI GMO LABELING
REQUIREMENTS:

REFS: (A) DHAHRAN 558; (B) RIYADH 2734;
(C) STATE 183238; (D) RIYADH 2601

CLEARED: ECON

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. NOT FOR
INTERNET DISTRIBUTION.

1. (SBU) THE SAUDI MINISTRY OF COMMERCE CONTINUES
TO REJECT REPEATED CALLS FROM THE SAUDI
PRIVATE SECTOR, FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS BASED IN
RIYADH, AND FOREIGN EXPORTERS TO DELAY THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GMO LABELING
REQUIREMENTS AND TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILED
INFORMATION ON HOW THE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE
IMPLEMENTED. THE NEW LABELING REQUIREMENTS
ARE SET TO GO INTO EFFECT FEBRUARY 1, 2001.

JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF

THE JEDDAH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MET WITH THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE TO ASK FOR A DELAY. THE MEETING WAS REPORTEDLY HEATED AND LASTED FOR ONE HOUR AND A HALF. THE MINISTER IS SAID TO HAVE FLATLY REJECTED THE PROPOSED DELAY. A FEW DAYS AFTER THIS MEETING, THE EU EMBASSIES IN RIYADH SENT A LETTER TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE REQUESTING THAT THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS BE DELAYED UNTIL YEAR 2002 AND THAT ONLY POSITIVE LABELING BE REQUIRED. TO DATE, THE EU EMBASSIES HAVE NOT RECEIVED A RESPONSE. SIMILARLY, MANY TRADERS AND IMPORTERS HAVE EITHER SENT LETTERS TO THE MINISTRY AND/OR HAVE REQUESTED MEETINGS WITH MOC OFFICIALS. IN EVERY CASE, THE MOC REPORTEDLY HAS REFUSED THOSE MEETINGS AND HAS GIVEN NO NEW INFORMATION ON THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS.

2. (SBU) U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES: IN AN EFFORT TO EDUCATE THE SAUDI PRIVATE SECTOR ON GMO ISSUES, THE U.S. GRAINS COUNCIL, THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION, AND THE ATO/RIYADH OFFICE SPONSORED GMO INFORMATION FORUMS IN JEDDAH (NOVEMBER 13) AND IN RIYADH (NOVEMBER 14). THE FORUMS FEATURED TWO U.S. GMO EXPERTS: MICHAEL J. PHILLIPS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION, AND DAVID JOHANSON, ATTORNEY AT LAW, STEWART AND STEWART LAW FIRM. MR. PHILLIPS DISCUSSED HOW GMO TECHNOLOGY EVOLVED, THE PREVALENCE OF GMO PRODUCTS IN THE WORLD, AND TALKED ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES OF LABELING GMO PRODUCTS. MR. JOHANSON TALKED ABOUT THE LEGAL ISSUES IMPACTING LABELING OF GMO PRODUCTS AND THE DIFFICULTIES THEY PRESENT.

THE TWO FORUMS WERE WELL ATTENDED IN BOTH CITIES WITH ABOUT 30 REPS OF THE MAJOR IMPORTING COMPANIES ATTENDING IN JEDDAH AND ABOUT 25 IN RIYADH. BOTH SESSIONS WERE ACTIVE WITH THE BUSINESSMEN ASKING THE SPEAKERS MANY QUESTIONS. THE CONSENSUS VIEW FROM THE MEETINGS WAS THAT THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE MISREAD THE RESULTS OF THE CODEX LABELING MEETING IN OTTAWA CANADA AND FALSELY GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT MANY COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED TO GMO LABELING. ALSO, THE COMPANIES ALL PLANNED TO PUSH BOTH THE JEDDAH AND RIYADH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN TRYING TO GET THE MOC TO CHANGE ITS POSITION. IN BOTH MEETINGS, SEVERAL COMPANIES VOWED TO TAKE SEPARATE INITIATIVES ON THIS ISSUE AND TO FOLLOW UP WITH THE CHAMBERS.

3. (SBU) APPREHENSION IN THE SAUDI FOOD SECTOR: THE SAUDI FOOD SECTOR IS IN A STATE OF HIGH

ANXIETY OVER THE GMO ISSUE. SAUDI IMPORTERS HAVE INFORMED ATO/RIYADH THAT U.S. EXPORTERS ARE SAYING THAT IN ORDER TO MEET THE FEBRUARY 1, 2001 COMPLIANCE DATE, THEY NEED MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS FROM THE MOC WITHIN THE NEXT 5 - 10 DAYS. UNFORTUNATELY, MOC OFFICIALS ARE REFUSING TO TALK TO ANYONE ON THE ISSUE. SAUDI IMPORTERS FEAR THAT IF THE MOC DOESN'T CHANGE ITS POSITION, MANY STORE SHELVES MAY GO EMPTY IN FEBRUARY AS EXPORTERS BEGIN REFUSING

TO SHIP TO SAUDI ARABIA WITHOUT CLEAR GUIDELINES ON THE LABELING ISSUE. EARLIER TODAY, THE REP OF A MAJOR U.S. COMPANY EXPORTING FOOD PRODUCTS TO SAUDI ARABIA SAID THAT AT THIS TIME, HIS COMPANY REFUSES TO LABEL ITS PRODUCTS AND WILL WAIT UNTIL JANUARY BEFORE MAKING ANY CHANGES TO ITS NORMAL OPERATING PROCEDURES.

4. (SBU) THE RUMOR MILL: THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE JEDDAH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND ATO/RIYADH BUSINESS CONTACTS BELIEVE THAT IN A FEW DAYS THE MINISTER WILL ISSUE NEW GMO LABELING GUIDELINES. THE NEW GUIDELINES WILL REPORTEDLY REQUIRE POSITIVE LABELING ONLY AND WILL GRANT AN EXTENSION FOR AN UNSPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME. SINCE MOC OFFICIALS ARE UNWILLING TO TALK PUBLICLY ON THIS ISSUE, ATO/RIYADH CANNOT CONFIRM THIS RUMOR.

5. (SBU) THE U.S. EMBASSY'S NEXT MOVE: SINCE RAMADAN HAS STARTED, LITTLE ACTION IS EXPECTED FROM THE MOC OVER THE COMING MONTH. HOWEVER, BASED ON ATO/RIYADH'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR FOWLER EARLIER TODAY, THE AMBASSADOR FAVORS THE IDEA PROPOSED BY ATO/RIYADH A FEW WEEKS AGO OF THE U.S. EMBASSY DELIVERING AN OFFICIAL PROPOSAL TO THE MOC STATING THE U.S. POSITION ON THIS ISSUE AND SUGGESTING A COMPROMISE POSITION FOR THE SAUDIS. IN SHORT, THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THAT THE US SHOULD PRESENT VARIOUS OPTIONS TO THE SAUDIS AND SHOULD CLEARLY SHOW AS BEST POSSIBLE THE CONSEQUENCES OF GOING THROUGH WITH THIS LABELING REQUIREMENT. THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTS THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE SAUDI CONCERNS ABOUT THE CONSUMER'S RIGHT TO KNOW WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PRESENTING VARIOUS OPTIONS SHORT OF LABELING THAT THE SAUDI'S MIGHT CONSIDER. IN SUM, THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THAT THE SAUDI'S ARE MORE LIKELY TO RESPOND TO AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT RATHER THAN TO FURTHER MEETINGS ON THE GMO ISSUE. THE AMBASSADOR HAS AGREED TO DELIVER SUCH A PROPOSAL DIRECTLY TO THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AFTER RAMADAN DURING

THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY IF WASHINGTON
AGENCIES AGREE TO THIS APPROACH AND DRAFT SUCH
A PROPOSAL.
FOWLER

TOR: 11/27/00 21:38:38

DIST: SIT: Bolan BRUNS NSC DUNCAN Pollack Riedel SAMANS
SIT: Bowles