

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Greenpeace] (2 pages)	12/04/2000	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: [GMO Corn Ban Issues] (4 pages)	12/04/2000	P1/b(1) <i>4/3/2020</i>
003. cable	[duplicate of 001] (2 pages)	12/05/2000	P1/b(1)
004. cable	Re: [Blocking Approval of Genetically-Modified Organisms] (3 pages)	12/06/2000	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Re: [Animal Meal] (2 pages)	12/07/2000	P1/b(1)
006. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Corn Issue] (2 pages)	12/22/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[12/01/2000 - 12/22/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3020

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]
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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.

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Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHFRA3582 3361657-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 011657Z DEC 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
OSRI: RUEHFR
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0756
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0047
RUEHRC/DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC
SUBJ: FRENCH VIEWS ON ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN
TEXT: UNCLAS PARIS 013582

SENSITIVE

USDA FOR FAS/EAMED; STATE PLEASE PASS USTR FOR FRAZIER,
NOVELLI

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, TBIO, PREL, WTRO, EUN, IT, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEWS ON ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN

REF: STATE 221031

1. (SBU) DRAWING ON REFTTEL POINTS, EMBASSY HAS RAISED WITH CONTACTS AT THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE, FINANCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ITALY'S FORMAL BAN ON GMO CORN VARIETIES APPROVED BY THE EU AND POSSIBLE RELATED ACTIONS IN BRUSSELS. WHILE UNABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC MOVES UNDERWAY IN EU BODIES, OUR CONTACTS INDICATED THAT IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT SENSITIVITY HERE OVER FOOD SAFETY ISSUES, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AT THIS TIME FOR THE GOF TO TAKE A STAND CRITICAL OF THE ITALIAN ACTION.

2. (SBU) MINAG CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FRANCOIS DE LA GUERONNIERE TOLD AGMINCOUNS ON NOVEMBER 22 THAT FRANCE DISAGREES WITH THE ITALIAN ACTION. DE LA GUERONNIERE IMPLIED THAT ROME'S POSITION IS DRIVEN NOT BY SCIENCE BUT BY POLITICS, REFLECTING THE POSITION TAKEN BY ITALY'S GREEN AGRICULTURE MINISTER. ITALY'S ACTION RAISED THE ISSUE OF NONCOMPLIANCE BY A MEMBER STATE WITH EU RULES WHICH WAS TROUBLING FOR THE EU ITSELF, NOT ONLY FOR THIRD PARTIES SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES. AGMINCOUNS NOTED THE INTENSE AND GROWING U.S. INTEREST IN RESOLVING AN ISSUE OF POTENTIALLY GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR ITS EXPORTS. WHILE EXPRESSING UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. POSITION, DE LA GUERONNIERE CITED THE HEATED CONTROVERSY RAGING OVER MAD COW DISEASE IN THE EU

AND THE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT POSITION OF FRANCE. NOW WAS NOT THE TIME FOR FRANCE OR THE EU TO MOUNT AN OFFENSIVE TO REVERSE ITALY'S VIOLATION OF EU REGULATIONS ON GMO CORN OR TO ATTEMPT TO REVISE EU POLICY ON GMOS.

3. (SBU) FOREIGN MINISTRY DESK OFFICER FOR MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES IN THE DIRECTORATE OF EUROPEAN EXTERNAL COOPERATION, LAURENT VIGIER, TOLD ECONOFF ON NOVEMBER 29 THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT TAKEN A FORMAL POSITION ON THE ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN. HOWEVER, THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOF TO CRITICIZE ROME'S ACTION, HE SAID, AND IF PRESSED PUBLICLY THE FRENCH MIGHT BE FORCED TO ENDORSE THE ITALIAN ACTION.

4. (SBU) THOMAS DEVEDJIAN, DREE DESK OFFICER FOR EXTERNAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE, TOLD ECONOFF ON NOVEMBER 21 THAT IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT BSE CONTROVERSY, THE GOF WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO CRITICIZE THE ITALIAN ACTION, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE BSE PROBLEM WAS NOT RELATED TO GMOS AND THAT THE GM CORN IN QUESTION WAS EU-APPROVED. LIKE VIGIER, HE BELIEVED THAT PARIS MIGHT BE FORCED TO SUPPORT THE ITALIANS IF THE ISSUE ATTRACTED PUBLIC ATTENTION. DEVEDJIAN SAID THAT IN THE LONGER TERM, THE GOF WOULD HAVE TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON FOOD SAFETY ISSUES, BUT THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE OF "PARANOIA" LEFT THE GOVERNMENT LITTLE LEEWAY IN THE SHORT TERM.

ROHATYN

TOR: 12/01/00 12:03:58

DIST: SIT: NSC

PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,06}

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: PAACZYUW RUEHROA7180 3392336-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: P 042336Z DEC 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4487
INFO: RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 6505
RUEHRON/AMCONSUL NAPLES 4584
RUEHROF/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 3047
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GOI DISTRACTED FROM GMO CORN BAN ISSUES
TEXT: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 007180

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526, Sec. 3.5 (b)
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 11/16/2019
7016-0529-22 (3.05)

STATE PASS USTR
WHITE HOUSE FOR NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER
OA/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACHE/SLUTSKY

FAS/ITPEAMED
FAS FOR CMP/G&FD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/1/05
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, IT
SUBJECT: GOI DISTRACTED FROM GMO CORN BAN ISSUES

REF: (A) STATE 221031 (B) ROME 6752

1. (U) ACTION REQUEST -- SEE PARA 5.

2. (SBU) SUMMARY. OUR RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI ELEMENTS ON THE ITALIAN GMO CORN BAN REINFORCE OUR SENSE THAT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WILL STRATEGIZE QUIETLY WITH US TO REVERSE THE BAN BUT THAT THE OTHER MINISTRIES HAVE LITTLE TO OFFER. WE WERE PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTED TO FIND THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE LARGELY UNINTERESTED IN THE ISSUE AND CONTENT TO OFFER FUZZY-HEADED REFERENCES TO MAD COW DISEASE AND THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE IN WARDING OFF OUR DEMARCHE. WE SUGGEST THE TIME FOR POTUS INTERVENTION IS FAST APPROACHING. END SUMMARY.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH: HELP US TO HELP YOU

3. ~~(C)~~ WE PRESENTED REF A DEMARCHE TO SEVERAL STOPS

AROUND THE GOI, USING THE VISIT OF USDA UNDERSECRETARY AUGUST SCHUMACHER TO ENSURE DELIVERY AT APPROPRIATE POLICY LEVELS. IN A NOVEMBER 23 MEETING WITH HEALTH MINISTER UMBERTO VERONESI TOLD SCHUMACHER, DCM, AGMINCOUNS, AND ECONOFF "AS A SCIENTIST, I AM EMBARRASSED" ABOUT ITALY'S BAN ON FOUR GMO CORN VARIETIES. HE SAID HE HAS BEEN "FIGHTING WITHIN MY GOVERNMENT FOR THREE OR FOUR MONTHS" AGAINST THE BAN AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO DURING A SCHEDULED MEETING WITH PM AMATO LATER THAT EVENING.

4. ~~(C)~~ VERONESI'S COMMENTS WERE INVARIABLY STRAIGHTFORWARD. HE CALLED "NONSENSE OF COURSE" THE VIEW THAT SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE SHOULD BE PRONOUNCED ONLY WHEN TWO PRODUCTS ARE ESSENTIALLY IDENTICAL IN STRUCTURE RATHER THAN "COMPARABLE IN EFFECT." ROMANO MARABELLI, MOH'S DG OF THE FOOD AND NUTRITION DIVISION, SAID THAT THE EU HAS TO FIND ULTIMATELY A SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR ITS DECLARATIONS OF SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE. APOLOGIZING THAT HIS COMMENTS WERE A "BIT BUREAUCRATIC," MARABELLI ADDED THAT ITALY "NEEDS TO SUPPORT SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE UNTIL THE EU CAN UNIFY ITS TWO DIFFERENT GMO PRODUCT APPROVAL PROCEDURES." (NOTE. MARABELLI HAS CONSISTENTLY EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE SIMPLIFIED APPROVAL PROCESS SHOULD BE ELIMINATED AND THAT ALL PRODUCTS SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE FULL APPROVAL PROCESS UNDER WHICH, HE CONCEDES, NO PRODUCTS HAVE EVER BEEN APPROVED. END NOTE.)

5. ~~(C)~~ VERONESI'S CANDOR APPLIED EQUALLY WHEN STRATEGIZING WITH US ABOUT THE BAN. HE ASKED SCHUMACHER "TO INSIST TO (DAVID) BRYNE THAT THE EU MAKE A DECISION AGAINST ITALY; THIS IS ESSENTIAL TO US, BUT I CANNOT DO IT MYSELF." SCHUMACHER READILY AGREED TO CARRY THE MESSAGE. NOTING THAT THE ITALIAN BAN IS PROVISIONAL, VERONESI SUGGESTED THAT HE COULD GO BACK TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WITH ANY EVIDENCE THE U.S. HAD GENERATED IN CONNECTION WITH ITS APPROVAL OF THESE SAME PRODUCTS. ACTION REQUEST. POST WOULD WELCOME ANY SUCH DATA AND WOULD PASS TO VERONESI. END ACTION REQUEST.

6. ~~(C)~~ AGMINCOUNS ASKED ABOUT ANY MOH PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE BAN. IN AN INDIRECT THOUGH CLEAR RESPONSE, MARABELLI EXPLAINED HOW SCARCE MOH RESOURCES ARE ALLOCATED. HE SAID THE BSE EMERGENCY WILL DEMAND SERIOUS RESOURCES AS ITALY IMPLEMENTS A BEEF BAN AND TESTING PROGRAM, AND THESE RESOURCES ARE BEING FOUND. "JUST YESTERDAY," HE SAID, "100 BILLION LIRE WAS DEDICATED TO UPGRADING MOH'S MEAT INSPECTION CAPACITY." ANOTHER COMMON METHOD OF RESOURCE ALLOCATION, HE ADDED, WAS TO UPGRADE REGIONAL INSPECTION FACILITIES IN PREPARATION FOR A VISIT BY U.S. INSPECTORS. COMMENT. BY CONTRAST, MARABELLI SAID NOTHING ABOUT RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE GMO CORN BAN, CLEARLY IMPLYING THAT

MOH HAS TO DEAL WITH REAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS
OVER IMAGINED ONES. END COMMENT.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE: LITTLE RESPONSE

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 007180

STATE PASS USTR
WHITE HOUSE FOR NEAL LANE
STATE PASS USDA FOR U/S SCHUMACHER
OA/GALVIN, FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACHE/SLUTSKY

FAS/ITPEAMED
FAS FOR CMP/G&FD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/1/05
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, IT
SUBJECT: GOI DISTRACTED FROM GMO CORN BAN ISSUES

7. ~~(C)~~ FAR FROM CONFIRMING THAT PM AMATO WAS
DISAPPOINTED THE EU HAD NOT CHASTISED ITALY FOR THE
BAN (REFS), PM DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR FRANCESCO OLIVIERI
ALLOWED ONLY THAT, "IF THE EU FEELS ITALY'S DECREE
IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH EU RULES, THEY WILL TELL US
SO, AND WE WILL HAVE TO ADAPT." HE WENT ON TO DRAW
AN UNFORTUNATE COMPARISON BETWEEN BIOTECHNOLOGY AND
BSE, SAYING THAT "BSE COMES OUT OF NON-TRADITIONAL
CATTLE FEED AND IS THEREFORE A DEPARTURE FROM
TRADITIONAL PRACTICE." U/S SCHUMACHER POINTED OUT
THAT THESE CORN VARIETIES HAD BEEN APPROVED AFTER
RIGOROUS REVIEWS IN BRUSSELS TO WHICH OLIVIERI
REPLIED THAT SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE WAS CONFLICTING,
BOTH BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE AND AMONG THE
GOI MINISTRIES. HE SAID AMATO, FACED WITH THIS
CONFLICT, TOOK A CAUTIOUS APPROACH.

8. ~~(C)~~ COMMENT. IN REF B POST RECOMMENDED
CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO POTUS INTERVENTION SHOULD
THIS ROUND AND THE DONNELLY ROUND (DECEMBER 7) OF
DEMARCHES FAIL TO YIELD GOI ASSURANCES THAT THE BAN
WILL NOT BE ENFORCED. WE FOUND ONLY THE PM'S
DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR WILLING TO TAKE OUR DEMARCHE
RATHER THAN THE OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE ORIGINAL
DECISION TO ADOPT THE BAN. FURTHER, OLIVIERI
DEFENDED THE BAN RATHER THAN EXPRESSING SURPRISE THE
EU DECLINED TO CRITICIZE IT. WE THEREFORE ADVISE
THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO POTUS
INTERVENTION WITH THE PM IN FOLLOW-UP TO THEIR
CONVERSATION OF LAST AUGUST BEFORE THE EU "NONVOTE"
ON THE BAN.

9. (SBU) WE HAVE ALSO PRESENTED REF A POINTS AT THE
MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AGRICULTURE, AND
FOREIGN TRADE WITH LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE.
NONE OF OUR CONTACTS, IT IS SAFE TO SAY, SEE THIS
FILE AS HOLDING PARTICULAR PROSPECTS FOR CAREER
ENHANCEMENT. WE INTEND TO FOCUS THE FORTHCOMING

VISIT OF SPECIAL NEGOTIATOR SHAUN DONNELLY ON UPPER
LEVEL CONTACTS AT MFA AND FOREIGN TRADE WHO,
ALTHOUGH NOT OVERLY ACTIVE ON THIS FILE TO DATE,
NEVERTHELESS HAVE AN APPRECIATION FOR ITS POTENTIAL
TO DISRUPT THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM.

FOGLIETTA

TOR: 12/04/00 17:53:57

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

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHRLA4925 3431255-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 081255Z DEC 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
OSRI: RUEHRL
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8805
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUCNFRG/FRG COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GERMAN THOUGHTS ON ITALIAN GMO BAN
TEXT: UNCLAS BERLIN 004925

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, EUN, GM
SUBJECT: GERMAN THOUGHTS ON ITALIAN GMO BAN

REF: A. STATE 221031
B. TRICK-PEREZ/BURTON E-MAIL 11/9/00
C. BERLIN 4353

1. GERMANY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE ITALIAN BAN OF FOUR GMO-BASED PRODUCTS. THIS SUPPORT IS BASED SOLELY ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES, HOWEVER, NOT BECAUSE GERMANY AGREES WITH ITALIAN SAFETY CONCERNS. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, THE ISSUE WAS THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF WHAT PROCEDURE IS NECESSARY FOR A GMO PRODUCT TO BE PUT ON THE MARKET UNDER THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION. THE REGULATION FORESEES TWO POSSIBILITIES: NOTIFICATION OR APPROVAL. IT DOES NOT, ACCORDING TO GERMANY, CLEARLY DELINEATE WHEN WHICH PROCEDURE IS TO BE USED. THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE APPROVAL PROCESS MUST BE USED IF ALTERED DNA OR PROTEINS CAN BE FOUND IN THE MARKETED PRODUCT. THE GMO PRODUCTS IN QUESTION WERE ADMITTED TO THE MARKET BASED ON THE SIMPLER NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE, EVEN THOUGH THE GENETICALLY-ALTERED PROTEINS CAN STILL BE FOUND IN THE PRODUCT. THIS DOES NOT MATCH GERMAN CONCEPTIONS OF "SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE."

2. GERMANY IS DEMANDING THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ISSUE AN OFFICIAL DECISION REGARDING THIS FUNDAMENTAL PROCEDURAL ISSUE; MEANING THAT THE COMMISSION NEEDS TO DEFINE IN CONCRETE TERMS WHAT IS "SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE" UNDER THE NOVEL FOODS REGULATION. OUR INTERLOCUTORS IN THE HEALTH MINISTRY WERE ADAMANT THAT GERMANY HAD NO SAFETY CONCERNS WHATSOEVER WITH THE PRODUCTS IN QUESTION, AND THAT THIS PRONG OF THE ITALIAN JUSTIFICATION HAD BEEN ROUNDLY REJECTED BY ALL MEMBER STATES AND THE EU SCIENCE COMMITTEE.

3. AS SUGGESTED IN REF. B, THE GERMAN DECISION IN THE

STANDING FOOD COMMITTEE SEEMS TO BE THE WORK OF THE HEALTH MINISTRY ALONE. OUR INTERLOCUTORS IN THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY, WHICH IS THE LEAD AGENCY ON TRADE AND THE SINGLE MARKET, WERE UNAWARE OF THIS ISSUE. WE FLAGGED IT FOR THEM AND NOTED U.S. INTEREST IN THE CASE AS A REFLECTION OF HOW RELIABLE THE EU IS AS A LEGAL AND MARKET ENVIRONMENT.

4. COMMENT: IT MAY BE A HOPEFUL SIGN THAT THE HEALTH MINISTRY WANTS THE COMPARATIVELY GMO-FRIENDLY COMMISSION -- AS OPPOSED TO THE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL -- TO ISSUE THE DECISION ON SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCE AND PROCEDURE. OUR INTERLOCUTORS NOTED THAT THEY SAW NO REASON FOR THE COUNCIL TO BE INVOLVED. THIS SUGGESTS THAT -- ON THIS POINT, AT LEAST -- GERMANY REALLY IS MORE CONCERNED WITH CLARIFYING A MUDDY LEGAL ISSUE THAN THROWING ANOTHER ROADBLOCK IN THE WAY OF MARKET ACCESS.
KORNBLUM

TOR: 12/08/00 08:54:25

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

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHRLA4923 3431156-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 081156Z DEC 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
OSRI: RUEHRL
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8803
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUCNFRG/FRG COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER'S GMO INITIATIVE GETS UNDERWAY
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 004923

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, TBIO, GM
SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER'S GMO INITIATIVE GETS UNDERWAY

REF: BERLIN 2889

SUMMARY

1. (U) DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE AGRICULTURAL GENETIC ENGINEERING INDUSTRY AND THE GOVERNMENT BEGAN ON NOVEMBER 23 TO ARRIVE AT A COMMON WAY FORWARD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, CULTIVATION, AND MARKET ACCESS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS). THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE THE RESULT OF AN INITIATIVE ANNOUNCED BY CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER IN JULY (REFTEL) DESIGNED TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS OF PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF GMOS AND SPUR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GMO INDUSTRY IN GERMANY. THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS ARE SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 12. INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT ARE TRYING TO AGREE ON THE DESIGN OF A THREE-YEAR RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM AND PARALLEL PUBLIC INFORMATION PROCESS. THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BE SPLIT IN ITS APPROACH TO THE TALKS, WITH CLEAR DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN THE ECONOMICS AND HEALTH MINISTRIES. THE CHANCELLERY REMAINS THE LEAD AGENCY FOR THIS INITIATIVE, HOWEVER, WHICH PROBABLY BENEFITS THE PRO-BIOTECH FORCES. END SUMMARY.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM

2. (U) THE PROXIMATE GOAL OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IS TO DESIGN AN AGREED THREE-YEAR RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM FOR GMO

CULTIVATION. ANY APPROVED OR TO BE APPROVED GMO VARIETY WOULD THEN ONLY BE GROWN "WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROGRAM." EXACTLY WHAT THAT MEANS IS THE PRIMARY SUBJECT OF THE TALKS. THREE ISSUES APPEAR TO BE CONTROVERSIAL: WHICH VARIETIES ARE SUBJECT TO THE AGREEMENT, HOW LARGE THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE (I.E. COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION OR SMALL-SCALE RESEARCH ONLY), AND WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE HARVEST (DESTROYED OR MARKETED?).

3. (U) ALL SIDES EMPHASIZE THAT THIS RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM MUST BE RESULT NEUTRAL. PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF GMOS WILL ONLY RISE IF THE PUBLIC IS CONVINCED THAT THE PROGRAM'S END RESULT WAS NOT PRE-DETERMINED. SIMILARLY, THE INDUSTRY WOULD HAVE TO RECOGNIZE ANY EVIDENCE OF RISK DISCOVERED BY THE PROGRAM.

PUBLIC INFORMATION PROCESS

4. (U) IN ADDITION TO THE RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM, INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT MUST AGREE ON A PUBLIC INFORMATION PROCESS THAT WILL DISSEMINATE THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM IN A TRANSPARENT FASHION, AS WELL AS OFFER A FORUM FOR ALL AFFECTED SOCIAL GROUPS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES INVOLVED. THESE CONCERNS WOULD THEN BE WORKED BACK INTO THE RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM, AS WELL AS ANY SUBSEQUENT REGULATORY CHANGES.

INTER-MINISTERIAL DIFFERENCES APPARENT

5. (SBU) THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BE DEEPLY SPLIT ON THIS ISSUE, HOWEVER, AS WAS APPARENT IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH TWO KEY MINISTRIES INVOLVED. ACCORDING TO BAERBEL VOGEL-MIDDELDORF, OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY, THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY CLEARLY VIEWS THIS INITIATIVE AS A MEANS FOR INCREASING PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF GMOS AND FACILITATING THE GROWTH OF THE GERMAN PLANT GENETICS INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS HELPING TO OVERCOME THE VARIOUS GMO-RELATED TRADE DISPUTES WITHIN THE EU AND BETWEEN THE EU AND THIRD PARTIES. THE INITIATIVE CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO BECOME A "HINDRANCE" OF GMOS. THE THREE-YEAR PROGRAM IS NOT A MORATORIUM.

6. (SBU) THE TONE WAS QUITE DIFFERENT AT THE HEALTH MINISTRY. DR. GERNOT SCHUBERT, OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR GENETIC ENGINEERING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY, REMINDED US THAT HEALTH IS A GREEN PARTY-CONTROLLED MINISTRY, AND THAT THE GREENS ARE CLEARLY OPPOSED TO AGRICULTURAL BIOTECH. THE PUBLIC INFORMATION PROCESS SHOULD ADDRESS ALL ISSUES RELATED TO GMOS: SAFETY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONCERNS, AND ETHICAL QUESTIONS. IT NEEDS TO HAVE A BROAD REPRESENTATION OF ALL INTERESTED SOCIAL GROUPS. FURTHERMORE, IT IS THE SOCIAL GROUPS THAT SHOULD LEAD THE DISCUSSION, NOT SCIENTISTS OR POLITICIANS. AS SCHUBERT NOTED, "THE SCIENTISTS HAVE THE RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM AS THEIR PLAYGROUND." SCIENTISTS AND POLITICIANS WILL NEED TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS OF THE SOCIAL GROUPS WITHIN A PUBLIC FORUM.

7. (U) THE CHANCELLERY HAS MAINTAINED LEAD OVER THIS INITIATIVE, AND CHAIRS THE NEGOTIATIONS. DR. FRANZ-WALTER STEINMEIER, CHIEF OF THE CHANCELLERY, LEADS THE GOVERNMENT UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BERLIN 004923

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, TBIO, GM

SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR SCHROEDER'S GMO INITIATIVE GETS UNDERWAY

TEAM, WHICH IS COMPRISED OF THE STATE SECRETARIES (UNDER SECRETARY EQUIVALENT) OF ALL INVOLVED MINISTRIES: HEALTH, ECONOMICS, AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND EDUCATION AND RESEARCH. THE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH MINISTRY WILL BE THE LEAD AGENCY FOR THE RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAM (ONCE IT IS UP AND RUNNING), AND THE HEALTH MINISTRY WILL BE LEAD ON THE PUBLIC INFORMATION PROCESS, ALTHOUGH IT WILL LIKELY "OUTSOURCE" THIS TASK TO AN INDEPENDENT FOUNDATION TO BE DETERMINED.

COMMENT

8. (SBU) OUR INTERLOCUTORS AT BOTH THE ECONOMICS AND HEALTH MINISTRIES TOLD US THAT THE ATMOSPHERICS OF THE FIRST MEETING WERE VERY GOOD, AND THAT INDUSTRY CONTINUED TO BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE INITIATIVE. IT IS SIGNIFICANT -- AND BENEFICIAL TO OUR INTERESTS -- THAT THE CHANCELLERY CONTINUES TO HOLD THE LEAD ON THIS ISSUE, AS IT LIKELY NUDGES THE BALANCE OF POWER TOWARD THE PRO-BIOTECH FACTIONS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. THE HIGH LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AT THE NEGOTIATIONS IMPLIES THAT THIS ISSUE CONTINUES TO BE CONSIDERED A PRIORITY WITHIN THE CHANCELLERY.
KORNBLUM

TOR: 12/08/00 07:31:40

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

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHWRA7967 3431629-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 081629Z DEC 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
OSRI: RUEHWR
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8985
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 1767
INFO: RUEHKW/AMCONSUL KRAKOW 7463
RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHXE/EASTERN EUROPEAN COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: POLISH APPROVAL FOR GMO SOYBEANS

SUMMARY

TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WARSAW 007967

STATE FOR EUR/NCE (WOJTASIEWICZ), EB/ATP
DEPT PASS TO COMMERCE, NSC/MUNTER, USTR (RDRISCOLL, NOVELLI)
USDA FOR U/SEC SCHUMACHER, FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/MACKE,
MEYER, COMMODITY DIVISIONS, FAA/BURST
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE AND ECON

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PL
SUBJECT: POLISH APPROVAL FOR GMO SOYBEANS

SUMMARY

1. POLAND IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE THE REGISTRATION OF ROUND-UP READY GMO SOYBEANS FOR DOMESTIC USE BY JANUARY 2000. ONCE APPROVED, GMO SOYBEANS AND SOYBEAN PRODUCTS WOULD BE ABLE TO ENTER POLAND LEGALLY. THE APPROVAL WOULD ALLAY IMPORTER CONCERNS WITH GMO LABELING REGULATIONS APPROVED IN OCTOBER 1999 BUT WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN ENFORCED THE REGULATIONS. GMO PRODUCTS, PARTICULARLY SOYBEAN MEAL, HAVE BEEN IMPORTED TO POLAND WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION DURING THIS TIME. HOWEVER, IMPORTERS HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT POLISH OFFICIALS COULD BEGIN TO ENFORCE THE LABELING REGULATIONS AT ANY TIME. ALTHOUGH GMO SOYBEANS AND PRODUCTS WOULD BE PERMITTED UNDER THE ANTICIPATED JANUARY DECISION, U.S. EXPORTERS WILL CONTINUE TO FACE POLAND'S ZERO TOLERANCE FOR RAGWEED WHICH HAS EFFECTIVELY BLOCKED U.S. SHIPMENTS OF GRAINS AND OILSEEDS. END SUMMARY.

DOMESTIC PRESSURE

2. POLISH IMPORTERS AND PROCESSORS, WORKING THROUGH THE POLISH GRAIN CHAMBER, HAVE BEEN PRESSURING POLISH AUTHORITIES TO ACCELERATE THE REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR GMO SOYBEANS. A U.S. COMPANY APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION OF GMO SOYBEANS IN POLAND JANUARY 2000. THE REGISTRATION PROCESS HAD BEEN RELATIVELY SLOW BUT NOW SEEMS TO BE ON THE FAST TRACK AS A RESULT OF THE GRAIN INDUSTRY CHAMBER'S INITIATIVE. COMMENT. GIVEN THE OVERALL DEFICIT IN PROTEIN FEED IN THE POLAND COUPLED WITH NEW PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH MEAT AND BONE MEAL (BSE), THIS APPEARS TO BE AN OPPORTUNE TIME FOR EXPORTERS/IMPORTERS TO PURSUE THIS ISSUE. END COMMENT.

3. ACCORDING TO TRADE CONTACTS, AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO APPROVE THE REGISTRATION FOR GMO SOYBEANS FOR USE IN POLAND. SINCE EARLY OCTOBER, THE TRADE HAS BEEN MEETING WITH SENIOR POLISH PARLIAMENT REPRESENTATIVES, THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGARDING THE APPROVAL PROCESS. AS A RESULT, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAS PREPARED A POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION ON THE REGISTRATION THAT WILL BE SENT TO THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT. THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT HAS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR GMOS DECISION UNDER THE 1997 LEGISLATION.

FIRST SOY, THEN CORN

4. THE TRADE EXPECTS THAT FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL FOR GMO SOYBEANS, A SIMILAR REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR GMO CORN WILL BE INITIATED. THEY PREDICT THAT THE PROCESS FOR GMO CORN, IN FACT, WILL BE EVEN LESS TIME CONSUMING AND EASIER.

NO PROBLEMS IMPORTING, SO FAR

5. THUS FAR, IMPORTERS HAVE NOT ENCOUNTERED ANY PROBLEMS IMPORTING GMO SOYBEAN MEAL, THE PRIMARY IMPORTED SOYBEAN PRODUCT. MORE PRECISELY, PROTEIN MEAL IMPORTERS HAVE NOT BEEN REQUESTING ANY GMO-FREE DECLARATIONS FROM EXPORTERS. THE TRADE, HOWEVER, IMPORTERS WERE CONCERNED THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF THE GMO APPROVAL, IMPORTERS WOULD REQUEST SUCH A DECLARATION. THE MAJORITY OF POLISH IMPORTED SOYBEAN MEAL IS FROM EUROPE WHERE EUROPEAN CRUSHERS ARE PRIMARILY USING U.S.- ORIGIN SOYBEANS WHICH WOULD MOST LIKELY BE GENETICALLY MODIFIED.

OIL AND LECITHIN ARE A DIFFERENT STORY

6. IN THE CASE OF SOY OIL AND LECITHIN WHICH WOULD BE USED PRIMARILY FOR FOOD USE, IMPORTERS ARE CURRENTLY REQUIRING A DECLARATION THAT THE PRODUCTS ARE GMO-FREE. SINCE NO GMO SOYBEANS HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR DOMESTIC USE, THIS HAS RESULTED IN ONE MULTINATIONAL FOOD PROCESSING COMPANY TO CEASE UTILIZATION OF SOYBEAN OIL. ONCE THE POLISH GOVERNMENT APPROVES THE REGISTRATION, HOWEVER, FOOD PROCESSORS WILL, THEORETICALLY, BE ALLOWED TO IMPORT AND USE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 WARSAW 007967

STATE FOR EUR/NCE (WOJTASIEWICZ), EB/ATP
DEPT PASS TO COMMERCE, NSC/MUNTER, USTR (RDRISCOLL, NOVELLI)
USDA FOR U/SEC SCHUMACHER, FAS FOR OA/GALVIN, ITP/MACKE,
MEYER, COMMODITY DIVISIONS, FAA/BURST
POSTS FOR AGRICULTURE AND ECON

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PL
SUBJECT: POLISH APPROVAL FOR GMO SOYBEANS

GMO SOYBEAN PRODUCTS WHICH ARE LABELED. OF COURSE, ACCORDING TO POLISH REGULATIONS, ANY PRODUCT WHICH CONTAINS A TRACE OF A GMO INGREDIENT, MUST BE CLEARLY LABELED.

COMMENT: ON THE WHOLE, GOOD NEWS - BUT....

7. THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING GMO SOYBEANS ARE AN ENCOURAGING SIGN THAT A MORE PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO TRADE NEEDS AND CONSUMER CONCERNS IS BEING ESTABLISHED. THE REGULATIONS PASSED IN OCTOBER 1999 WERE ADOPTED TO BRING POLAND IN LINE WITH EU DIRECTIVES TO SUPPORT POLAND'S PROCESS OF INTEGRATION WITH THE EU. HOWEVER, THE ABSENCE OF ANY THRESHOLD LEVEL AS WELL AS THE OFTEN CONFLICTING REQUIREMENTS MADE POLAND'S REGULATIONS STRICTER THAN THOSE IN PLACE IN THE EU.

8. THERE WAS AND REMAINS CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY WITHIN THE POLISH FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY CONCERNING ENFORCEMENT OF THE CURRENT REGULATIONS. THE ABSENCE OF A THRESHOLD LEVEL AND ACCURATE TESTING PROCEDURES MEAN EVEN PRODUCTS WITH UNDETECTABLE LEVELS OF GMOS COULD BE SUBJECT TO THE GMO REGULATIONS. THE POLISH FEDERATION OF FOOD INDUSTRY (PFFI) HAS REQUESTED THAT THE REGULATIONS BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE A THRESHOLD LEVEL.

9. ONE FOREIGN PROCESSOR NOTED THAT THE REGULATIONS WERE NOT CLEAR REGARDING WHETHER THE PRODUCER OF A GMO OR ALL FOOD PRODUCERS WHO USE THE GMO IN THEIR PRODUCTION PROCESSES AS AN INGREDIENT NEED TO APPLY FOR APPROVAL. THE INABILITY TO CHECK GMO CONTENT MEANS THAT APPLICATION AND PACKAGING DECLARATIONS ARE BASED LARGELY ON THE GOOD WILL AND STATEMENTS OF THE IMPORTERS AND FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS. AT PRESENT, PFFI HOPES TO OBTAIN MODIFICATION OF THE REGULATIONS BY AMENDING THE LAW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

10. THE RECOGNITION BY BOTH THE POLISH GOVERNMENT AND

POLISH INDUSTRY OF THE NEED TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION AND TO REACH A PRAGMATIC RESOLUTION QUICKLY IS ENCOURAGING. IT WAS IMPERATIVE FOR THE TRADE TO CLARIFY TRADING CONDITIONS AND TO ACHIEVE A PRAGMATIC RESOLUTION. THEY APPEAR TO HAVE SUCCEEDED AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO HAVE ESTABLISHED AN ACCEPTABLE PROCESS AND FORMAT IN WHICH TO REASONABLY ADDRESS TRADE NEEDS AND CONSUMER CONCERNS.

11. DESPITE THESE DEVELOPMENTS, U.S. EXPORTS OF GRAINS AND OILSEEDS, GMO VARIETIES OR NOT, WILL STILL BE RESTRICTED FROM THIS MARKET DUE TO POLISH RESTRICTIONS ON WEED SEEDS. NEVERTHELESS, THE APPROVAL OF GMO VARIETIES FOR USE IN POLAND IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE LONG TERM.

HILL

TOR: 12/08/00 11:34:30

DIST: SIT: Bowles BRUNS NSC Davidson DUNCAN Munter SAMANS

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHRHA3471 3471416-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 121416Z DEC 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
OSRI: RUEHRH
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO: RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY 1718
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3267
INFO: RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: SAUDI ARABIA GRANTS ONE-YEAR GMO
LABELING REQUIREMENT EXTENSION
TEXT: UNCLAS RIYADH 003471

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: SAUDI ARABIA GRANTS ONE-YEAR GMO
LABELING REQUIREMENT EXTENSION

REFS: (A) DHAHRAN 558; (B) RIYADH 2734;
(C) STATE 183238; (D) RIYADH 2601
(E) RIYADH 03303

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. NOT FOR
INTERNET DISTRIBUTION.

1. EARLIER TODAY, SAUDI ARABIA MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE OFFICIALS INFORMED ATO/RIYADH THAT THE
MOC HAS ISSUED A DECREE EXTENDING THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GMO LABELING REQUIREMENT
FOR ONE YEAR EFFECTIVE YESTERDAY (12/11/00) AND
THAT THE LABELING WILL BE FOR FOOD PRODUCTS
THAT CONTAIN GMO INGREDIENTS ONLY. THIS DECREE
IS CONSISTENT WITH THE RUMOR THAT HAS BEEN
TALKED ABOUT IN THE SAUDI FOOD SECTOR FOR THE
PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. HOWEVER, MOC OFFICIALS
REFUSE TO PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS OR A COPY OF
THE DECREE BEFORE THE DECREE IS MADE PUBLIC BY

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ACCORDING TO
ATO CONTACTS IN THE MFA, THE DECREE SHOULD BE
MADE PUBLIC IN A FEW DAYS. ATO/RIYADH WILL
FORWARD ENGLISH TRANSLATION TO WASHINGTON
AGENCIES WHEN AVAILABLE.

BRAYSHAW

TOR: 12/12/00 09:38:34

DIST: SIT: BERNARD BOLAN BOWLES BRUNS NSC CAMP DUNCAN EFROS MALLEY ORFINI
POLLACK RIEDEL SAMANS
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,06}

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHWLA1469 3560245-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 210245Z DEC 00
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
OSRI: RUEHWL
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3953
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0182
INFO: RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1867
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0118
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0103
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0296
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
SUBJ: ANZFA PUBLISHES GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD
LABELING STANDARD
TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 001469

STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY AND STILLMAN
USDA FOR FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, SLUTSKY, DEATON, FAA/HUETE

E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, NZ
SUBJECT: ANZFA PUBLISHES GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD
LABELING STANDARD

REF: WELLINGTON 931

1. SUMMARY. THE NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE AUSTRALIAN NEW ZEALAND FOOD AUTHORITY (ANZFA) HAS GAZETTED AMENDMENTS TO STANDARD 18 OF THE FOOD STANDARDS CODE THAT WILL RESULT IN MANDATORY LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) FOODS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 7, 2001. AGREEMENT BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL AND STATE HEALTH MINISTERS TO REQUIRE MANDATORY LABELING OF GM FOODS (COVERING IMPORTED AS WELL AS DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED FOOD) WAS MADE AT A MEETING IN JULY (REFTEL). A COMPLIANCE GUIDE TO ASSIST BUSINESSES IN COMPLYING WITH THE NEW REQUIREMENTS IN THE AMENDED

STANDARD IS ON THE ANZFA WEBSITE, WITH COMMENTS ON THE GUIDE ACCEPTED UNTIL EARLY FEBRUARY. END SUMMARY.

2. ANZFA GAZETTED ON DECEMBER 7, 2000, AMENDMENTS TO STANDARD 18 OF THE FOOD STANDARDS CODE, WHICH WILL RESULT IN MANDATORY LABELING OF GM FOODS WHERE INTRODUCED NOVEL DNA OR PROTEIN IS PRESENT IN THE FINAL FOOD. BUSINESSES

HAVE TWELVE MONTHS FROM THE STANDARD'S GAZETAL (UNTIL DECEMBER 7, 2001) TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW REQUIREMENTS. NEW ZEALAND'S HEALTH MINISTER ANNETTE KING HAS STATED THAT AMENDED STANDARD WAS IN RESPONSE TO CONSUMER CONCERNS ABOUT GM FOODS AND THEIR DESIRE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

3. UNDER THE STANDARD, GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD MEANS FOOD WHICH IS, OR CONTAINS AS AN INGREDIENT, INCLUDING A PROCESSING AID, A FOOD PRODUCED USING GENE TECHNOLOGY WHICH: A) CONTAINS NOVEL DNA AND/OR NOVEL PROTEIN OR B) HAS ALTERED CHARACTERISTICS. BUT IT DOES NOT INCLUDE C) HIGHLY REFINED FOODS, OTHER THAN THAT WITH ALTERED CHARACTERISTICS, WHERE THE EFFECT OF THE REFINING PROCESS IS TO REMOVE NOVEL DNA AND/OR NOVEL PROTEIN; D) A PROCESSING AID OR FOOD ADDITIVE, EXCEPT WHERE NOVEL DNA AND/OR NOVEL PROTEIN FROM THE PROCESSING AID OR FOOD ADDITIVE REMAINS PRESENT IN THE FOOD WHICH HAS BEEN ADDED; E) FLAVORS PRESENT IN THE FOOD IN A CONCENTRATION NO MORE THAN LG/KG (0.1 PERCENT), OR F) A FOOD, INGREDIENT OR PROCESSING AID IN WHICH THE GM FOOD IS UNINTENTIONALLY PRESENT IN A QUANTITY NO MORE THAN LOG/KG (1 PERCENT) PER INGREDIENT.

4. THE LABEL ON OR ATTACHED TO THE PACKAGE OF GM FOOD MUST INCLUDE THE STATEMENT "GENETICALLY MODIFIED" IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NAME OF THAT FOOD, INGREDIENT OR PROCESSING AID. FOR EXAMPLE, A SINGLE INGREDIENT LABEL COULD READ "SOY FLOUR GENETICALLY MODIFIED OR FROM GENETICALLY MODIFIED SOYA BEANS". A LABEL FOR GM FOOD INGREDIENTS COULD READ "INGREDIENTS: SOY PROTEIN ISOLATE (GENETICALLY MODIFIED), MALTODEXTRIN, VEGETABLE OIL".

5. ALSO, WHERE GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD IS DISPLAYED FOR RETAIL SALE OTHER THAN IN A PACKAGE, ANY INFORMATION THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN REQUIRED UNDER THE LABELING CLAUSE (CLAUSE 5) OF THE STANDARD ON THE LABEL OR ATTACHED TO THE FOOD IF IT WAS PACKAGED, MUST BE DISPLAYED ON OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISPLAY OF THE FOOD. ACCORDING TO ANZFA'S GENERAL MANAGER IN NEW ZEALAND, HUGH BABER, THIS APPLIES TO PRODUCTS SUCH AS LOOSE FRUIT AND VEGETABLES; THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE INDIVIDUALLY LABELED IF THEY ARE GM, BUT WOULD REQUIRE SOME MENTION OF THEIR GM NATURE ON A SIGN OR OTHER WRITTEN METHOD NEAR THE FOOD DISPLAY. CLAUSE 6 NOTES THAT PACKAGED FOOD NOT DEFINED AS GENETICALLY MODIFIED DOES NOT NEED TO INCLUDE ANY STATEMENT ON ITS STATUS (IN SHORT, FOOD WHICH IS NOT GM REQUIRES NO NEW LABELING). ALSO, A FOOD DERIVED FROM AN ANIMAL OR OTHER

FOOD PRODUCING ORGANISM THAT HAS BEEN FED ON A GM FOOD DOES NOT NEED HAVE A GM LABEL APPLIED.

6. ANZFA ALSO HAS DRAFTED A COMPLIANCE GUIDE TO STANDARD A18, WHICH IS TO ASSIST BUSINESSES IN COMPLYING WITH THE NEW REQUIREMENTS (THIS GUIDE AS WELL AS THE STANDARD ARE AVAILABLE FROM ANZFA'S WEBSITE ON WWW.ANZFA.GOV.TZ). THE GUIDE AND STANDARD HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO USDA/FAS/ITP. THE GUIDE NOTES THAT FOOD BUSINESSES SUCH AS MANUFACTURERS, PACKERS, IMPORTERS AND RETAILERS MUST TAKE ALL REASONABLE STEPS TO A) FIND OUT IF THEIR FOOD IS GM OR

HAS A GM INGREDIENT (THIS INCLUDES ADDITIVES AND PROCESSING AIDS; B) FIND OUT IF THE GM FOOD OR INGREDIENT IS APPROVED (ANZFA'S WEBSITE CONTAINS THIS LIST); AND C) DETERMINE WHAT THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS ARE FOR THE FOOD. THE GUIDE NOTES THAT THE FOOD BUSINESS APPLYING THE FOOD LABEL UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 WELLINGTON 001469

STATE PASS USTR FOR MURPHY AND STILLMAN
USDA FOR FAS/ITP/SHEIKH, SLUTSKY, DEATON, FAA/HUETE

E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SENV, NZ
SUBJECT: ANZFA PUBLISHES GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD LABELING STANDARD

OR RELABELING THE FOOD TO MEET THE STANDARD'S REQUIREMENT (E.G. A FOOD IMPORTER) HAS THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THE ACCURACY OF THE LABEL. THE GUIDE NOTES THAT BUSINESSES MUST EXERCISE DUE DILIGENCE IN COMPLYING WITH FOOD STANDARDS AND THE BEST WAY FOR A BUSINESS TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS IS USE A PAPER OR AUDIT TRIAL SIMILAR TO A QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM (MORE DETAILS ARE PROVIDED IN SECTION C OF THE GUIDE). IN SOME CASES, TESTING MAY BE REQUIRED AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION D. COMMENTS ON THE COMPLIANCE GUIDE CAN BE PROVIDE TO ANZPA BY EARLY FEBRUARY. MOSELEY BRAUN

TOR: 12/21/00 00:12:16

DIST: SIT: BOWLES BRUNS NSC CHRISTY DUNCAN JARRETT ORFINI OSIUS PRITCHARD
ROSEN SAMANS SMITHH TIGHE
PRT: USTR{P\\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,06}

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006. cable	Re: [Genetically Modified Corn Issue] (2 pages)	12/22/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

[12/01/2000 - 12/22/2000]

2013-0836-F
ke3020

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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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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