

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Biotechnology] (2 pages)	01/05/2001	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: [U.S. Secretary of Agriculture-designate] (2 pages)	01/09/2001	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: Greek AG Ministry Establishes Zero Percent Threshold for GMO Presence in Cottonseed (5 pages)	01/10/2001	P1/b(1) v 4/3/1.2

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 2001 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 5400000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/05/2001 - 01/19/2001]

2013-0836-F

ke3021

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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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.

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHTCA0042 0051427-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 051427Z JAN 01
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
OSRI: RUEHTC
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7327
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 0696
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHFR/AMCONSUL STRASBOURG 0156
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0547
SUBJ: USG MESSAGE ON GMO SOYBEANS - REF.
SECSTATE 243707, PARA.9
TEXT: UNCLAS THE HAGUE 000042

USDA FOR OSEC; UNDERSECRETARY SCHUMACHER; FAS
FOR OA/TGALVIN;
STATE PASS USDA FOR FAS/CMP/DLP/HARDYBASS//
CMP/G&F/RIEMENSCHNEIDER//CMP/COT/BLUM//ITP/
SHEIKH/GRUEFF//ITP/EAMED/MACKE/RICHEY/
SCHWARTZ//OFSTS/HARBERT//APHIS/ATORRES//STATE
PASS TO USTR FAA/SEBRANEK/JWILSON//

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

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, NL
SUBJECT: USG MESSAGE ON GMO SOYBEANS - REF.
SECSTATE 243707, PARA.9

1. BASED ON FAO TRADE DATA, THE NETHERLANDS AND JAPAN SHARE THE POSITION AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST IMPORTERS OF SOYBEANS. THE NETHERLANDS IMPORTS ABOUT 5.0 MILLION MT OF SOYA PER YEAR. THE NETHERLANDS IS THE EU'S LARGEST CRUSHER OF SOYBEANS. DUE TO THEIR HIGH SOYBEAN CRUSH, THE DUTCH ARE ALSO AMONG THE WORLD'S TOP 5 EXPORTERS OF SOYBEAN PRODUCTS. ALSO, DUE TO THEIR HIGH DAIRY, PORK AND CHICKEN PRODUCTION, THE DUTCH USE 70 PERCENT OF THE 15 MILLION MT OF SOY-BASED FEEDS PRODUCED IN THE NETHERLANDS.
2. THE NETHERLANDS INCORPORATES ABOUT 300,000 MT OF MBM IN COMPOUND FEEDS ANNUALLY.

IF THE MBM IS REPLACED BY SOYA THIS WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL IMPORTS OF 375,000 MT SOYBEAN MEAL EQUIVALENT (SME), OR 500,000 MT OF RAW SOYBEANS. CONSEQUENTLY, AS NOTED IN REPORT NL0074, DUTCH TRADERS, FEED COMPOUNDERS AND THE DAIRY INDUSTRY FEEL THAT TOTAL SOYBEAN IMPORTS WILL RISE BY ABOUT 10 PERCENT HERE UNLESS THE CURRENT MBM BAN IS LIFTED. THE TRADE THINK THAT THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF MBM HERE IS UNNECESSARY, SINCE COMPOUND FEED PRODUCERS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE SEPARATE LINES FOR MBM AND VEGETABLE PROTEIN FEEDS. EVEN IF THE BAN IS LIFTED FOR THE NETHERLANDS ALONE, WHICH IS UNLIKELY AT THIS MOMENT, HIGHER SOYA IMPORTS ARE EXPECTED FOR THIS YEAR.

3. WE FEEL THAT ANY U.S. COMMENTS OR MESSAGES CONCERNING THE PURCHASE AND USE OF GM SOYBEAN FEEDS WOULD BE CONSTRUED AS COMMERCIALY MOTIVATED AND COULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICULAR NGOS AND THE PRESS TO DISTORT THESE COMMUNICATIONS. THIS COULD EXACERBATE FOOD SAFETY FEARS AND MIGHT EVEN RESULT IN THE ABRUPT DECLINE OF NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES HERE FOR SOYBEANS.

4. AS THE EU'S MAIN IMPORTER OF SOYBEANS AND ITS MAIN EXPORTER OF SOY OIL, THE GON IS FULLY AWARE OF THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF GM SOYBEANS. THE EU AND CERTAIN MEMBER STATES HAVE INTERVENED IN A MAJOR WAY TO SHIFT THE MARKET DEMAND FOR MBM BASED FEEDS TO VEGETABLE PROTEIN FEEDS. IT IS OUR OPINION THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO INTERVENE BY THE USG TO FURTHER SPUR THIS POSITIVE TREND MIGHT BE DETRIMENTAL TO CURRENT DEMAND FOR SOYBEANS.
RJFENDRICK

TOR: 01/05/01 11:15:55

DIST: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY NSC MCLEAN SCHWARTZ WILCOX
PRT: USTR{P\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,06}

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHMOA0187 0051537-UUUU--RHEHAAX.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: R 051537Z JAN 01

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

OSRI: RUEHMO

DTG:

ORIG: AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5871

INFO: RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 1741

RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC

RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE

RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 1628

RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS 2384

RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA 4618

RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN 1997

RUEHLN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG 6265

RUEHVK/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK 5176

RUEHYG/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG 3929

SUBJ: SNAPSHOT 84: GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD
PRODUCTS IN RUSSIA

TEXT: UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 000187

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, RS

SUBJECT: SNAPSHOT 84: GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD
PRODUCTS IN RUSSIA

1. SUMMARY. THIS IS ONE OF A SERIES OF "SNAPSHOT" CABLES UNDERTAKEN WITH THE APPROACHING CHANGE OF U.S. ADMINISTRATIONS IN MIND. SEEN AS A WHOLE, THE SERIES IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF U.S.-RUSSIAN RELATIONS, SIGNIFICANT INTERNAL ISSUES IN RUSSIA, AND THE OPERATIONS OF THE U.S. MISSION IN RUSSIA. THIS CABLE DEALS WITH RUSSIAN ATTITUDES TO GENERICALLY MODIFIED FOOD PRODUCTS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY REMAINS RELATIVELY UNCONTROVERSIAL IN RUSSIA DESPITE THE INTENSE DEBATE IN THE NEARBY EU. THIS RELATIVE QUIESCENCE IS DUE IN PART TO THE NEUTRAL-TO-FRIENDLY ATTITUDE MOST OFFICIALS AND SCIENTISTS HAVE TOWARD BIOTECHNOLOGY. DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS), ALSO KNOWN AS TRANSGENIC ORGANISMS, IS SEEN AS A WAY TO INCREASE RUSSIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND IMPROVE FOOD AVAILABILITY FOR THE POPULATION. THE LOCAL FOOD INDUSTRY'S CONCERNS TEND TO FOCUS ON HOW AN ARBITRARY BUREAUCRACY MIGHT USE THE PRESENCE OF GMOS IN PRODUCTS TO HARASS COMPANIES WITH MORE COSTLY "INSPECTIONS".

3. INTEREST IN GMOS HAS ALSO BEEN MUTED IN THE RUSSIAN MEDIA. ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS REPRESENT THE MOST LIKELY SOURCE OF NEGATIVE PUBLICITY FOR GMOS. RECENT EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT ATTEMPTS BY TELEVISION AND THE NEWSPAPERS TO GENERATE CONTROVERSY ON THIS ISSUE ARE MET WITH APATHY BY THE GENERAL POPULATION.

4. ALTHOUGH GMOS HAVE GENERATED LITTLE PUBLIC DEBATE TO DATE, THAT COULD CHANGE RAPIDLY BECAUSE OF CONTROVERSIES IN THE EU AND INCREASED ACTIVITIES BY OUTSIDE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS. IN ADDITION, SOME EUROPEAN COMPANIES FOLLOW A NON-GMO POLICY EVEN IN RUSSIA. OTHER RECENT EVENTS THAT COULD TRIGGER A REACTION AGAINST GMO'S ARE UKRAINE'S STOPPING THE APPROVAL OF GMO POTATOES AND A RECENT NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION'S REPORT ATTACKING RUSSIA'S GMO REGULATIONS AS BEING TOO LAX.

5. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH ISSUED A CONSUMER LABELING LAW EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2000, FOR GM FOOD PRODUCTS. ALL PROTEIN-CONTAINING PRODUCTS (SUCH AS VEGETABLE OILS, STARCHES, ETC.) CONTAINING MORE THAN 5 PERCENT GMO'S MUST BE LABELED ACCORDINGLY. IN NOVEMBER, HOWEVER, THOSE REQUIREMENTS WERE MADE OPTIONAL. AS A RESULT, THERE IS AT THIS TIME VIRTUALLY NO LABELING OF GMO'S.

6. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) CURRENTLY REQUIRES GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD PRODUCTS TO BE REGISTERED. AN APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED TO MOH WITH ALL RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC DATA AND TESTING PROCEDURES ALREADY COMPLETED. THE APPLICANT MUST SUBMIT TESTING DATA AND PRODUCT SAMPLES. IF THE PRODUCT IS DEEMED TO BE UNSAFE, A CERTIFICATE WILL NOT BE ISSUED. THERE ARE DIFFERENT PROCEDURES FOR REGISTERING GMOS FOR FOOD AND FOR ANIMAL FEED USE.

7. TO GET PERMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE, THE GMO MUST BE APPROVED FIRST FOR FOOD USE AND THEN SEPARATELY FOR CROP USE. THE RECENT ELIMINATION OF THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO APPROVE GMOS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE, HAS COMPLICATED THE APPROVAL PROCESS, BECAUSE THERE IS NO BODY PREPARED TO APPROVE GMOS. REGISTRATION IS INITIALLY VALID FOR THREE YEARS, BUT RENEWALS MAY BE ISSUED FOR FIVE YEARS. RENEWALS FOR USE IN ANIMAL FEED ARE MADE YEARLY AND AT MUCH HIGHER COST.

8. GM PRODUCTS APPROVED FOR FOOD USE ARE ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS AND RELATED PRODUCTS. IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT ROUNDUP READY SUGAR BEETS AND CORN, AND COLORADO BEETLE RESISTANT POTATOES WILL BE APPROVED FOR PLANTING IN RUSSIA IN 2001 OR 2002. BECAUSE OF CONCERNS ABOUT CROSS-POLLINATION WITH NATIVE VARIETIES, THERE ARE AT THIS TIME NO PLANS TO REGISTER ROUNDUP READY SOYBEANS FOR PRODUCTION IN RUSSIA.

9. WHEN DEBATE ABOUT GMO'S BECOMES MORE PROMINENT, THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO MAKE THE CASE IN FAVOR OF THEIR

PROPER USE WILL BE FOR KNOWLEDGEABLE RUSSIANS TO TAKE THE LEAD, RATHER THAN THE EMBASSY OR OTHER NON-RUSSIANS. THE EMBASSY PLANS TO USE THE TIME REMAINING BEFORE THE EMERGENCE OF SUCH A DEBATE TO PREPARE AND UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 000187

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, RS

SUBJECT: SNAPSHOT 84: GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD PRODUCTS IN RUSSIA

PROVIDE SUPPORT TO POTENTIAL GMO INTERLOCUTORS. THE EMBASSY HAS ALREADY MET WITH INTERESTED PRIVATE FIRMS, INSTITUTES AND RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO BUILD UP REASONED SUPPORT FOR GMO USE, AND INTENDS TO INSTITUTE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THESE PARTIES.
ORDWAY

TOR: 01/05/01 11:14:09

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

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: [Biotechnology] (2 pages)	01/05/2001	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 2001 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 5400000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/05/2001 - 01/19/2001]

2013-0836-F

ke3021

RESTRICTION CODES

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Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHLJA0065 0091538-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 091538Z JAN 01
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA
OSRI: RUEHLJ
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7793
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB 1490
SUBJ: AGRICULTURE RESPONDS TO APHIS ACTION AND
INDICATES GMO LABELING LAW IN PREPARATION
TEXT: UNCLAS LJUBLJANA 000065

DEPT FOR EUR/NCE
USDA FOR FAS/W, APHIS/VS

ZAGREB FOR RFCS PHUGHES
VIENNA FOR AGATT

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EUN, SI
SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE RESPONDS TO APHIS ACTION AND
INDICATES GMO LABELING LAW IN PREPARATION

REF: A. 00 SECSTATE 234728
B. 00 SECSTATE 243707

1. (U) JANUARY 5, ECONOFF VISITED THE MINISTRY
OF
AGRICULTURE TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF THE DEC 6
APHIS ACTION (REFA) FOR SLOVENIA. STATE SECRETARY
DR. VIDA CADONJIC SPELIC ASSURED ECONOFF THAT
SLOVENIA DOES NOT EXPORT BEEF MEAL, OFFAL OR
SIMILAR PRODUCTS (LISTED IN REFA) TO THE US, BUT
AGREED TO DISTRIBUTE THE NOTIFICATION TO ALL
APPROPRIATE PARTIES IN SLOVENIA. SHE EXPLAINED
THAT THE GOS HAD BANNED THE USE OF BONE MEAL IN
FEED OF RUMINANT LIVESTOCK IN 1996, AND HAD
SWITCHED LARGELY TO SOYBEAN PROTEIN SOURCES FOR
CATTLE FEED AT THAT TIME. CADONJIC EXPLAINED THAT
GOS WOULD BE LIKELY TO FOLLOW THE EU LEAD SHOULD
CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE.

2. (U) CADONJIC FELT THE LATEST EPISODES OF BSE
IN
EUROPE WOULD NOT CAUSE AN INCREASE IN THE IMPORT
OF US SOYBEANS TO SLOVENIA (REFB). IN THE

DISCUSSION OF SOY-PROTEINS SOURCES, CADONJIC INFORMED ECONOFF THAT THE GOS MINISTRY FOR ENVIRONMENT IS CURRENTLY DRAFTING A LAW THAT WILL MANDATE THE LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS). SHE SAID THAT THIS DRAFT WOULD LIKELY BE PRESENTED TO THE GOS IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS.

ELY-RAPHEL

TOR: 01/09/01 10:51:45

DIST: SIT: ALMON BRUNS BRZEZINSKI NSC CULLOM DAVIDSON DUNCAN GREENWOOD HURLEY MCCARTHY MITCHELL PITTMAN ROSEN SAMANS SCHULTE SMITHJ

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 2001 ([GMO...])
OA/Box Number: 5400000

FOLDER TITLE:

[01/05/2001 - 01/19/2001]

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Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA0173 0101710-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 101710Z JAN 01
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5120
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 1340
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3087
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHSS/OECD POSTS COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GREEK AGMINISTRY ESTABLISHES ZERO
PERCENT THRESHOLD FOR GMO PRESENCE IN
COTTONSEED.
TEXT: UNCLAS ROME 000173

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

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, KSCA, EU, IT
SUBJECT: GREEK AGMINISTRY ESTABLISHES ZERO
PERCENT THRESHOLD FOR GMO PRESENCE IN
COTTONSEED.

1. (U) THE GREEK MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
ISSUED A NOTICE ON DECEMBER 28 THAT APPEARS
TO ESTABLISH A ZERO TOLERANCE FOR GMO
PRESENCE IN IMPORTED COTTON SEED. THIS
ACTION CAME ABOUT DESPITE INTENSIVE EFFORTS
BY THE EMBASSY AND GREEK SEED TRADE INDUSTRY
TO CONVINCE THE MINISTRY THAT ANY LEVEL BELOW

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

1 PERCENT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE

SEED INDUSTRY TO MEET. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE DECREE IS PROVIDED IN PARA 6.

2. (SBU) THIS DECREE CAME IN THE FORM OF A RESPONSE TO THE ROUTINE REQUEST BY THE IMPORTERS TO IMPORT SEED, AS OPPOSED TO A MINISTERIAL DECISION THAT HAD BEEN EXPECTED. IN THE PAST 6 WEEKS, AGMINISTER ANOMERITIS HAD GIVEN VERBAL ASSURANCES TO BOTH THE EMBASSY AND U.S. EXPORTERS THAT HE WOULD SIGN A DECREE PROVIDING A 1% TOLERANCE. HOWEVER, IT IS SURMISED THAT HE RENEGED ON THESE ASSURANCES AND OPTED FOR THIS AMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE DUE TO PRESSURE FROM LOWER LEVEL FUNCTIONARIES CONCERNED ABOUT AN ADVERSE REACTION FROM THE EU COMMISSION AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, AND FROM PRODUCERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF DOMESTIC SEED. COMMENT: GREEK DOMESTIC SEED, WHILE CHEAPER, GENERALLY HAS A GERMINATION RATE OF APPROXIMATELY 50% AND HAS DIFFICULTY COMPETING AGAINST HIGH QUALITY IMPORTED SEED. EMBASSY ESTIMATES ARE THAT THERE ARE ONLY 4,000 MTS OF SEED (BOTH DOMESTIC AND UNSOLD SEED FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR) AVAILABLE TO MEET AN ANNUAL DEMAND FOR 12,000 MTS. END COMMENT.

3. (SBU) AS WRITTEN, THE DECREE SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZES EXPORTS OF U.S. COTTONSEED FOR THIS PLANTING SEASON. HOWEVER, THE GREEK IMPORTERS ARE CURRENTLY EVALUATING THEIR OPTIONS AND ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING TAKING THE ISSUE TO COURT. COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THIS NOTICE WAS SIGNED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL ECONOMOPOULOS, (PLEASE PROTECT) THE SAME PERSON WHO SIGNED THE DECREE REQUIRING TESTING OF ALL COTTONSEED IMPORTS LAST SPRING. A SUBSEQUENT COURT RULING ON THAT DECREE FOUND THAT ECONOMOPOULOS DID NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE THE DECREE. END COMMENT.

4. (U) BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SEED TRADE INDUSTRY AND AGMINISTRY CONTACTS, WE NOTE SEVERAL CONCERNS THAT ARE RAISED BY THIS NOTICE: 1) THE DECISION IS BASED ON EU DIRECTIVE 90/220. CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN THE AGMINISTRY HAVE STRESSED TO THE MINISTER THAT, WHILE THIS DIRECTIVE COVERS THE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR NEW GE PRODUCTS, INCLUDING SEED, IT DOES NOT MANDATE THRESHOLDS FOR EITHER APPROVED OR UNAPPROVED VARIETIES, MEMBER STATES ARE EMPOWERED TO ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE THRESHOLD LEVELS; 2) THE DECISION IS VAGUELY WRITTEN, REFERRING ONLY TO "COMMINGLING" WITHOUT ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN INTENTIONAL OR ACCIDENTLY MIXING OF

SEED VARIETIES OR THE ADVENTITIOUS PRESENCE OF GM POLLEN OR SEED FRAGMENTS, BRINGING INTO QUESTION WHAT KIND OF CERTIFICATION LANGUAGE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE; AND 3) THIS DECISION TARGETS ONLY IMPORTED SEED AND APPEARS TO ALLOW THE SALE OF DOMESTIC AND PREVIOUSLY IMPORTED SEED, SOME OF WHICH WAS FOUND TO CONTAIN ADVENTITIOUS LEVELS OF GM MATERIAL UP TO 1%.

5. (U) ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED A MEETING TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH MINISTER ANOMERITIS THE WEEK OF JANUARY 15. WASHINGTON GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED ON AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THE DECREE AND THE CONCERNS RAISED IN PARA 3, THAT CAN BE DELIVERED AT THIS MEETING.

6. (U) INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE MINISTERIAL DECISION FOLLOWS (NOTE: EACH IMPORTER RECEIVED AN INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE FROM THE MINISTRY BASED ON THEIR IMPORT APPLICATION):

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR CROP PRODUCTION
DIRECTORATES OF: (1) PROPAGATION & AG. INPUTS
- (2) PLANT PROTECTION
MAILED TO ALL SEED IMPORTERS AND TRADERS

CC: HELLENIC COTTON BOARD
- MIN. AG. SEED CONTROL STATIONS

SUBJECT: IMPORT LICENSE OF PLANTING SEEDS
FOR COMMERCIALIZATION
TO BE EFFECTIVE FOR THREE MONTHS

IN RESPONSE TO YOUR APPLICATION DATED
....., WE ARE INFORMING YOU THAT WE
APPROVE IMPORTS FOR TRADE FROM USA AND ...
(DEPENDING ON APPLICATION), OF THE FOLLOWING
SPECIES AND AMOUNTS, FROM THE USA.

TABLE:

(A TABLE IS PROVIDED BASED ON THE LICENSE APPLICATION LISTING THE COTTON SEED SPECIES, VARIETY, CATEGORY OF PROPAGATION MATERIAL, QUANTITY, AND COUNTRY OF ORIGIN).

NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR IMPORT:

(1). IMPORT MUST COMPLY WITH TECHNICAL REGULATIONS FOR INTRA-COMMUNITY SUPPLY AND IMPORTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES CONCERNING PROPAGATION MATERIAL OF CULTIVATED CROP SPECIES (MINISTERIAL DECREE NO 366884, 16/5/94, GAZETTE NO 409 VOL.B', 3/6/94) AND

FROM THE COUNTRY'S POINTS OF ENTRY ACCORDING TO PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO.332/GAZETTE 178/A'/29.8.1995, ANNEX IX.

(2). WITHIN ONE MONTH'S TIME FROM THE IMPORT YOU SHOULD PAY A DUTY BY WAY OF FEES EQUAL TO THE 3% OF THE VALUE OF THE SEEDS, SPECIFIED ACCORDING TO REFERENCE VALUES DETERMINED BY MINISTERIAL DECREES 608/14.1.86, AS AMENDED BY MINISTERIAL DECREE 10465/18.3.88, GAZETTE 213/B'/21.4.98.

(3). A COMPLIANCE IS NECESSARY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF PART II OF THE ANNEX DECREE NO. 85/356/EEC (L. 195/26.7.05) OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, CONCERNING THE EQUIVALENCE OF SEEDS FOR FIELD CROP VARIETIES PRODUCED IN THIRD COUNTRIES, AS AMENDED AND ACTUALLY IN FORCE. IT IS STRESSED THAT THE SEED LOTS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SEED ANALYSIS CERTIFICATE ACCORDING TO ISTA OR AOSA, AS THE CASE MAY BE.

(4). THE ABOVE COTTON SEEDS SHOULD NOT PRESENT MINGLING WITH GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS, AS ISSUED BY:

G. THE ACTION PLAN OF THE EU COMMISSION FOR UNIFORM ACTIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES IN THE CASES OF COMMINGLING CONVENTIONAL SEEDS WITH GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS.

H. THE FACT THAT, FOR THE TIME BEING, NO GENETIC MODIFICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR INTENTIONAL RELEASE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EU COUNCIL DIRECTIVE NO 90/220/EEC, AS THIS WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE NATIONAL LEGISLATION BY THE JOINT MINISTERIAL DECREE 88740/1883/16.11.95 (GAZETTE 1008B') "DETERMINATION OF MEASURES FOR THE INTENTIONAL RELEASE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS TO THE ENVIRONMENT", THE ABOVE COTTON SEEDS FOR PLANTING SHOULD NOT PRESENT MINGLING WITH GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS.

(5). THE ABSENCE OF SUCH COMMINGLING SHOULD BE CERTIFIED BY AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT ACCOMPANYING THESE SHIPMENTS AND FOR EACH SEED LOT SEPARATELY, WHICH WILL BE ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITIES COMPETENT TO ISSUE THE CERTIFICATES OF PARAGRAPH 3 HEREOF.

NOTE: ANOTHER 3 PARAGRAPHS FOLLOW PERTAINING TO ROUTINE PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS. END NOTE.

SIGNED

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

E.ECONOMOPOULOS

FOGLIETTA.

TOR: 01/12/01 16:42:56

DIST: SIT: BERNARD Blinken BOWLES BRUNS NSC Davidson DUNCAN EFROS Kass ORFINI
ROSEN

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

Cable

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: RAAUZYUW RUEHROA0348 0191704-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: R 191704Z JAN 01
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG:
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5295
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 1353
INFO: RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3110
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHSS/OECD POSTS COLLECTIVE
SUBJ: GREEK AGMINISTRY ESTABLISHES 0.5
PERCENT THRESHOLD FOR GMO PRESENCE IN CORN
TEXT: UNCLAS ROME 000348

STATE EB/TPP/ATT/ATP
FOR U/S LOY; OES FOR BRILL
STATE FOR PA
STATE PASS USDA FOR US/SCHUMACHER, OA/GALVIN
FAS/ITP/SHEIKH/MACKE/SLUTSKY, COTS/PJOSEPH
GENEVA FOR USTR, ALSO AGRICULTURE
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU
POST COLLECTIVE PLEASE PASS TO CONSULAR POSTS
PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TBIO, SENV, KSCA, EU, IT
SUBJECT: GREEK AGMINISTRY ESTABLISHES 0.5
PERCENT THRESHOLD FOR GMO PRESENCE IN CORN
SEED.

REF: ROME 00173

1. THE GREEK MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ISSUED
A NOTICE ON DECEMBER 28 THAT CALLS FOR A 0.5
PERCENT TOLERANCE FOR GMO PRESENCE IN
IMPORTED CORN SEED. THIS ACTION WAS MADE IN
CONJUNCTION WITH A SIMILAR NOTICE ISSUED THE
SAME DAY THAT PROVIDED A ZERO PERCENT
TOLERANCE FOR GMO PRESENCE IN IMPORTED
COTTONSEED (REF).

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

WHILE THE CORN DECISION DOES PROVIDE MORE
FLEXIBILITY THAN THE COTTONSEED DECREE,

IMPORTERS ARE STILL CONCERNED OVER POTENTIAL DIFFICULTY IN CLARIFYING AND MEETING THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. WASHINGTON GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED ON AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THE DECREE.

2. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE MINISTERIAL DECISION FOLLOWS (NOTE: EACH IMPORTER RECEIVED AN INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE FROM THE MINISTRY BASED ON THEIR IMPORT APPLICATION).

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR CROP PRODUCTION
DIRECTORATES OF: (1) PROPAGATION & AG. INPUTS
- (2) PLANT PROTECTION

MAILED TO ALL SEED IMPORTERS AND TRADERS

CC.: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SEED CONTROL STATIONS

SUBJECT: IMPORT LICENSE OF PLANTING SEEDS
FOR COMMERCIALIZATION
TO BE EFFECTIVE FOR THREE MONTHS

IN RESPONSE TO YOUR APPLICATION DATED
WE ARE INFORMING YOU THAT WE APPROVE IMPORTS
FOR COMMERCIALIZATION OF SEEDS FROM THE USA
AND (DEPENDING ON APPLICATION), OF THE
FOLLOWING SPECIES AND AMOUNTS:

TABLE:
(A TABLE IS PROVIDED BASED ON THE LICENSE
APPLICATION LISTING THE CORN SEED SPECIES,
VARIETY, CATEGORY OF PROPAGATION MATERIAL,
QUANTITY, AND COUNTRY OF ORIGIN).

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR IMPORT:

(1) IMPORT MUST COMPLY WITH TECHNICAL
REGULATION FOR INTRA-COMMUNITY SUPPLY AND
IMPORTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES CONCERNING
PROPAGATION MATERIAL OF CULTIVATED CROP
SPECIES (MINISTERIAL DECISION NO 366884,
16/5/94, GAZETTE NO 409 VOL.B', 3/6/94) AND
FROM THE COUNTRY'S POINTS OF ENTRY ACCORDING
TO PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO.332/GAZETTE
178/A'/29.8.1995, ANNEX IX.

(2) WITHIN ONE MONTH'S TIME FROM THE IMPORT,
YOU SHOULD PAY A DUTY BY WAY OF FEES EQUAL TO
THE 3PERCENT OF THE VALUE OF THE SEED,
SPECIFIED ACCORDING TO REFERENCE VALUES
DETERMINED BY THE RELEVANT MINISTERIAL

DECREES 608/14.1.86 AS AMENDED BY
MINISTERIAL DECREE NO 10465/18.3.88, GAZETTE
213/B'/21.4.98.

(3) COMPLIANCE IS NECESSARY WITH THE

PROVISIONS OF PART II OF THE ANNEX DECREE NO.
85/356/EEC (L. 195/26.7.05), OF THE COUNCIL
OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, CONCERNING THE
EQUIVALENCE OF SEEDS FOR FIELD CROP
VARIETIES PRODUCED IN THIRD COUNTRIES, AS
AMENDED AND ACTUALLY IN FORCE. IT IS
STRESSED THAT THE SEED LOTS SHOULD BE
ACCOMPANIED BY SEED ANALYSIS CERTIFICATE
ACCORDING TO ISTA OR AOSA (AOSCA), AS THE
CASE MAY BE.

(4) THE ABOVE CORN SEED FOR PLANTING, BASED
ON THE INTERIM ACTION PLAN OF THE EU
COMMISSION FOR UNIFORM ACTIONS OF ITS
MEMBERS, IN CASES OF COMINGLING OF
CONVENTIONAL SEEDS WITH GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS: (NOTE: THIS DIFFERS FROM THE
LANGUAGE OF THE COTTONSEED DECR
EE WHICH

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REFERRED TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEEDS, AS
OPPOSED TO ORGANISMS. IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE
TO ASK FOR A CLARIFICATION OF THIS DIFFERENCE
IN ANY DEMARCHE PREPARED BY WASHINGTON. END
NOTE.)

A. MUST NOT EXHIBIT SUCH MINGLING AT A
PERCENTAGE TO EXCEED 0.5 PERCENT OF
PREVIOUSLY APPROVED GENETIC MODIFICATIONS IN
ACCORDANCE TO THE EU COUNCIL'S DIRECTIVE NO
90/220 AS THIS WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE
NATIONAL LEGISLATION UNDER THE JOINT
MINISTERIAL DECREE 88740/1883/16.11.95
(GAZETTE 1008B'), "DETERMINATION OF MEASURES
FOR THE INTENTIONAL RELEASE OF GENETICALLY
MODIFIED ORGANISMS TO THE ENVIRONMENT" AND;

B. THE ABOVE CORN SEEDS FOR PLANTING SHOULD
NOT PRESENT MINGLING WITH GENETICALLY
MODIFIED SEEDS WHICH ARE NOT APPROVED, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE EU DIRECTIVE AND COMMON
MINISTERIAL DECISION CITED IN THE
SUB-PARAGRAPH A), ABOVE.

5. THE SEED CITED IN PARAGRAPH 4) ABOVE,
SHOULD BE CERTIFIED BY A DOCUMENT
ACCOMPANYING THESE SHIPMENTS AND FOR EACH
SEED LOT, WHICH WILL BE ISSUED BY THE
AUTHORITIES COMPETENT TO ISSUE THE

CERTIFICATES OF PARAGRAPH 3 HEREOF.

NOTE: ANOTHER 3 PARAGRAPHS FOLLOW PERTAINING
TO THE ROUTINE PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS IN
COMPLIANCE WITH EU REGULATION 77/93,
PERTAINING TO DELINTING REQUIREMENTS AND THE
ABSENCE OF SYMPTOMS OF GLOMERELLA GOSSYPII
ELGERTON.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

SIGNED

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
E. ECONOMOPOULOS

FOGLIETTA

TOR: 01/19/01 14:30:25

DIST: SIT: Blinken BRUNS NSC Davidson DUNCAN Kass ROSEN
PRT: USTR{P\SOCKS\GRD-2PS,O6}