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US Embassy recommends retaliation for GM rejection

Five more cables related to GM crops were published on the Wikileaks website last night.

Probably the most chilling recommendation came from the Paris embassy in 2007 following France's persistent rejection of Monsanto's GM corn:

"Country team Paris recommends that we calibrate a target retaliation list that causes some pain across the EU since this is a collective responsibility, but that also focuses in part on the worst culprits." [07PARIS4723]

In cables GM looks more like a US strategic interest than science and a way to feed the world. A cable written a few weeks earlier on key policy issues with France covered:

Iraq, Iran, NATO, Afghanistan, Climate Change, Democracy/Burma, Russia Georgia, Kosovo, Missile Defence, Conventional Armed Forces of Europe, Lebanon, Middle East, France/EU, Colombia, **GMO Moratorium**, and Darfur [07PARIS4357].

There is one cable from the Vatican Embassy with a frightening statement showing trade-offs between support for GM and criticism of the Iraq war:

"A Martino deputy told us recently that the cardinal had cooperated with Embassy Vatican on biotech over the past two years in part to compensate for his vocal disapproval of the Iraq war and its aftermath -- to keep relations with the USG" [05VATICAN514]

The cables also demonstrate direct corporate lobbying at the highest government levels:

In a cable briefing for US President Obama's visit to French President Sarkozy the issue of the French ban on Monsanto's MON810 corn was raised [08PARIS957].

A cable briefing for the US Deputy Secretary visit to Spain read "we are seeking to obtain approval for Monsanto's NK 603 variety..." [05MADRID1141]

There is good news however; the cables also show a resignation on the part of the US where the population actively opposes GM.

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