

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## JAPAN - IMPORTS OF BOVINE MEAT

The following information on the recent situation of beef imports into Japan is being circulated at the request of the Japanese Delegation.

*Ann. 1.*

1. The grant of import licences of bovine meat (BTN 02.01.1) for the current fiscal year (April 1974-March 1975) has been deferred up to this date since the beginning of this fiscal year.

2. This measure has been taken as a temporary and emergency action to cope with the following circumstances:

- (1) The demand for bovine meat has decreased substantially as a result of the unexpected and serious deterioration of the general economic conditions since the end of 1973.
- (2) In spite of such domestic measures as promotion of consumption and withholding of surplus quantity from the market, there has been little sign of recovery in demand and the price has been continuously depressed.
- (3) It has been necessary to prevent further aggravation of the critical market situation in the bovine meat sector created by the recent developments.

3. Since the measure has been taken the Government of Japan has been discussing bilaterally with exporters having substantial interest in the question.

4. The Government of Japan is now prepared to enter into consultation under Article XXII:1 of the GATT with contracting parties having substantial interest as exporters to Japan that may wish to have such a consultation.

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