

RESTRICTED

IMC/W/48
6 December 1985

Special Distribution

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

Original: English

INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

For discussion under agenda item No. 6 of the draft agenda, the following questions have been submitted by Australia:

EEC

Question 1

What is the EC Commission's estimate of the likely short-term increase in EC beef production resulting from their proposal that annual EC dairy quotas be reduced by a further 3 million tonnes? What is the expected longer-term impact on EC beef production of restructuring in the EC dairy sector particularly if those displaced from dairy production turn to beef production?

Question 2

What further plans does the EC Commission have to make large heavily subsidized sales to markets such as the USSR? What longer-term impact do such sales have in reducing the level of EC stock which are overhanging markets?

Question 3

What were the reasons for the EC Commission introducing export restitutions for beef to various markets in Asia? What are the EC objectives with regard to servicing these markets, particularly since the extension of restitutions at the current levels appear not to have generated additional sales?

JAPAN

Question

What specific measures have been introduced to open up the Japanese market for beef in successive market opening measures introduced by the Japanese Government? To what extent have those measures been effective in expanding Japan's beef imports? Which supplying countries have benefited or can be expected to benefit from market opening measures affecting beef?

./.

SWEDEN

Question

In view of information that Sweden is undercutting Australian beef in Taiwan by up to US\$280 per tonne, could the Swedish representative explain the level of assistance which is being given to its beef exports, the long-term nature of its supplies to Taiwan and give an indication of the levels of supply?

UNITED STATES

Question 1

We understand that proposals before Congress for inclusion in the United States Farm Bill and related legislation include provisions for a dairy cull programme and for the introduction of a levy on beef transactions in the United States to be used for promotion and research. If these provisions are passed into law, what is the expected impact on beef production and consumption in the United States? Is the dairy cull programme likely to trigger restraints on imports? Will imported beef benefit from promotion campaigns? Will the promotion campaign extend to export markets where US beef may compete directly with other third country suppliers?

Question 2

We note that the Export Enhancement Program has recently been extended to include exports of poultry. Could the United States representative indicate whether there are any plans to extend the programme further to include beef?