

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

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## INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

For discussion under agenda item (v) of the draft agenda, the following questions have been submitted by New Zealand:

### JAPAN

#### Question 1

In the last eighteen months Japan has announced several initiatives incorporating strategies to liberalize agricultural import régimes. Would the Japanese delegate comment on how these strategies will affect the beef sector, in particular in the context of the forthcoming GATT round and commitments on standstill/rollback.

#### Question 2

The "simultaneous buying/selling transaction tender system" (SBS) represents a move towards a more open import régime for beef, with no restrictions on quality or specification and no requirement for registration of tenderers with the Japanese Government. Would the Japanese delegate therefore comment on the extent to which government intervention in the tender, through LIPC maximum price setting, is necessary or, indeed, is hindering the obvious intentions of the SBS to liberalize imports further, what is the rôle of the LIPC in the tender, and how is the maximum price limit established?

### UNITED STATES

#### Question 1

Could the United States delegation comment on the expected effect of the high slaughter levels under the whole herd buy-out scheme on the 1987 trigger level?

#### Question 2

Section 1128 of the Food Security Act of 1985 states that the Secretary of Agriculture shall seek to expend annually 15 per cent of funds or commodities available under export enhancement programmes on encouraging export sales of meat and meat products. Could the United States delegation indicate what total value this would represent in 1986 and whether this level of export assistance is likely to be implemented?

EEC

Question 1

The Commission's proposals for withdrawal of the intervention support mechanism for the Community's beef market and the establishment of a system of "single premiums" have, we understand, been shelved until later in the year, although it is intended that a decision be taken before 31 December. What effect are the proposed changes expected to have on beef production in the short and longer term assuming they are implemented? How would they take account of increased culling of dairy herds under the milk out-goers scheme?