

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Special Distribution

Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

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INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

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

JAPAN

Question 1

Japan has indicated it will notify the GATT that beef will be placed under "state control", in terms of Article XVII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Could the delegation comment on the reasons behind, and implications of, this decision?

Question 2

According to Japan's 1986 inventory of domestic policies and trade measures for beef, as submitted to the IMC in May 1986 (IMC/INV/10/Rev.3), both central and local governments have introduced measures to expand the consumption of beef. Could the delegation provide more detail on these measures, and comment on their success?

UNITED STATES

Question 1

The United States is understood to have allocated funds under the Targetted Export Assistance Programme to promote red meat in Japan and Hong Kong. Could the United States delegation advise how these funds will be used?

Question 2

It is understood that one initiative under the United States Export Enhancement Programme involves a proposal for sales of dairy cattle to five Gulf countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates). Could the United States delegate confirm that such sales are to take place, and if so at what price levels? Will the sales be subsidized with commodities from CCC stocks, and if so, to what extent, and which commodities would be likely to be involved?

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EEC

Question 1

Despite an anticipated decrease in beef cattle slaughterings in 1987, it has been predicted that the Dairy Outgoers Scheme could increase EC beef production by up to 125,000 tonnes in 1987 through to early 1988. Does the Commission anticipate, given the structural surplus in the beef sector, that beef intervention stocks will increase as a result? What is the estimated budgetary cost under the beef régime for traditional intervention purchasing and storage costs through 1987 and 1988?

Question 2

Is the EC provision of an additional import quota of 8,000 tonnes of high quality (Hilton) beef from Latin America to be repeated in future years? On what basis would the EC similarly improve quantitative access for such meat from other suppliers?

Question 3

Given the Community's experience with the beef and dairy régimes what will be done to prevent the development of surplus stocks in other meat sectors where production is already increasing independent of market forces - as is happening with sheepmeat?