

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## IMPORTS OF BEEF INTO JAPAN

On 20 February 1980 the secretariat received the following communication, dated 20 November 1979, from the delegation of Japan, with the request that it be circulated to the Contracting parties.

I have the honour to refer to the discussions held between the representatives of the Government of Japan and the Government of Australia within the framework of the Tokyo Round of Negotiations under the auspices of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT and to record the following statements made by the representative of the Government of Japan during the course of the discussions in regard to the importation of beef into the Japanese market, provided that the Geneva (1979) Protocol will have come into force between the two parties:

1. The Japanese Government, based on its current assessment of the supply-demand situation of beef for the years up to JFY 1982, estimates Japan's imports in JFY 1982 to be 135,000 tons and will endeavour, through the available mechanisms under the relevant laws and regulations in Japan, to bring the actual supply-demand (including imports) in line with this estimate.
2. In case the market condition in Japan warrants further imports over the estimate mentioned in paragraph 1, imports of beef over the said level from external suppliers including Australia will not be hindered.
3. (a) The two Governments will exert mutual efforts to exploit the demand in the Japanese market for high quality beef which will be imported on a global basis, with a view to realizing an increase in the imports by 14,000 tons by JFY 1983.

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The Government of Japan is prepared to enter into consultations at expert-level with the Government of Australia at an appropriate time before JFY 1980 with regard to the imports of high quality beef from Australia. The two Governments will assess the possibilities for imports of high quality beef on a full sets basis.

(b) The Government of Japan is of the view that demand for beef used for manufacturing will increase substantially up to JFY 1983. The two Governments will examine the nature of the Japanese market for such beef and measures to facilitate orderly growth of this product.

4. The Japanese Government is of the view that Japan's beef imports will increase steadily during the period to the end of JFY 1982. In case of unforeseen circumstances it is possible that the actual level of quota may fluctuate to a limited extent. The two Governments therefore will hold Japan/Australia beef consultations in JFY 1980 and thereafter with the aim of ascertaining on an annual basis, inter alia, the relationship between actual imports and the estimates and assessments referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above. The consultations will be held between senior officials of the two Governments.

5. Should problems arise concerning the relationship between actual imports and the estimates, the two Governments will enter into consultations in pursuit of mutually acceptable and trade facilitating solutions.

6. The Japanese Government states that, taking into account the points set out above and the results of the exchange of views in the consultations mentioned in paragraph 4 above, the practices to fix the import quota on a global basis twice annually will be maintained.

7. The Japanese Government is of the view that imports of beef will increase in the years after JFY 1982. The Government of Japan is prepared to enter into consultations with the Government of Australia by the end of JFY 1982 to examine how Japan's imports of beef will increase in and after JFY 1983 taking fully into account the supply-demand situation and estimates becoming available at that time.