

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5636

10 April 1984

Limited Distribution

INTERNATIONAL DAIRY PRODUCTS COUNCIL

TENTH SESSION

Note by the Chairman

1. The International Dairy Products Council held its tenth session on 29 March 1984.
2. Mr. D. Greenfield (New Zealand) was elected Chairman and Mr. L. Bartha (Hungary), Vice-Chairman of the Council.
3. Under Rules 11 and 14 of its Rules of Procedure, the Council invited the representatives of Mexico and Panama, and representatives of OECD, UNCTAD, FAO and the Economic Commission for Europe, to attend the session's proceedings as observers.
4. The Council reviewed the functioning of the Arrangement. It took note of reports on the implementation of the Protocol Concerning Certain Milk Powders, the Protocol Regarding Milk Fat and the Protocol Regarding Certain Cheeses, and of the concern expressed with regard to the situation in the market for those products.
5. The Council was informed of the work of the Committees in regard to government measures to expand domestic consumption of dairy products. It underlined the importance of those measures and the need to continue the study of consumption. It took note of a proposal by New Zealand to examine in addition the extent of market imbalance and will revert to that proposal at its next session.
6. The Council was notified of information furnished in reply to questionnaires 4 and 5.
7. For its evaluation of the situation in and outlook for the world market for dairy products, the Council had before it two documents prepared by the secretariat, namely a status report on the world market for dairy products (DPC/W/35) and a note on food-aid operations (DPC/W/36). During that evaluation, the Council gave particular consideration to dairy policies and food aid. In that context, it agreed to give special attention at its next session to transactions other than normal commercial transactions.

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8. The Council noted that the situation in the world market for dairy products remained serious. Notwithstanding measures already taken or envisaged in order to control production, it seems clear that availabilities will again be in excess of demand in 1984. Accordingly, despite the note of optimism in some statements, the Council was of the opinion that the current situation would not permit any relaxation of the vigilance that is being exercised. In that connection, it underlined the importance of strict observance of all the provisions of the Arrangement as a condition for furthering the objectives set by that instrument.