

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5690

8 November 1984

Limited Distribution

## INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

### Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES prepared by the Chairman on his own responsibility

1. Since its 1983 report<sup>\*</sup>, the International Meat Council has held two regular meetings, 8-9 December 1983, and 18-19 June 1984, and one special meeting on 9 April 1984. Both regular meetings were preceded by meetings of the Meat Market Analysis Group chaired by Mr. Patrick Robertson (Australia). At its June 1984 meeting, the IMC reelected Ambassador Federico Grünwaldt Ramasso (Uruguay) as its chairman and elected Mr. Minoru Nose (Japan) as its vice-chairman.\*\* At present the Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat has 26 signatories.
2. In accordance with its terms of reference as stated in the Arrangement Regarding Bovine meat, both regular meetings discussed the functioning of the Arrangement, the bovine meat market situation and outlook, and questions of a policy nature of special concern to participants. Moreover, at its June 1984 meeting the IMC discussed, as a result of the special meeting held in April 1984, the setting up of a working party.
3. At the December 1983 meeting of the IMC several participants expressed concern about the situation and outlook of the international bovine meat market, fearing that the market was heading towards a serious imbalance or threat thereof. These concerns led one participating country (Argentina) to request, in the first months of 1984, a special meeting of the IMC in accordance with the terms of the Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat. This special meeting took place in April 1984 and concluded that the current situation and probable development warranted special attention to prevent a crisis. To that end participants agreed that the special meeting would recommend to the

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\* L/5545 of 10 October 1983

\*\* Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belize, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, European Economic Community, Egypt, Finland, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United States, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

June 1984 meeting of the IMC, the setting up of a working party. The terms of reference of the working party would be decided upon by the IMC in June. However, it was agreed that these would take into account, in particular, the provisions of Article IV, paragraph 2, of the Arrangement. It was noted that the IMC itself was to proceed to the identification of possible solutions for examination and decision by governments, on the basis of the work and the proposals by the working party.

4. Since the situation on the international bovine meat market had not shown any improvement the IMC decided, at its June 1984 meeting, to establish a working party and adopted terms of reference to assist the International Meat Council in carrying out its functions under, in particular, Article IV paragraph 2 of the Arrangement. The working party shall complete its work by December 1984.

5. To date the working party has met once in June 1984, twice in September 1984 and once in October 1984. The working party agreed that there was a serious imbalance or threat thereof on the international bovine meat market and recognized that this situation had its origins in the developments of the last several years. The working party will, at its next meeting, inter alia, investigate the effects, in particular on traditional exporting countries, of such an imbalance or threat thereof. Its next meeting will take place on 12 November 1984.

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\* IMC/11

\*\* IMC/14