

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

IMC/W/43

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Special Distribution

Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

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INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

For discussion under agenda item No. 7 of the draft agenda, the following questions have been submitted by Australia:

SWEDEN

Question

In the light of stated Swedish agricultural policy which we understand is aimed at a balance between beef production and consumption, how long is it envisaged that beef exports will continue to be subsidized?

BRAZIL

Question

Can the Brazilian delegation explain the current level and type of assistance provided for beef exports and whether there has been any change in assistance over the past two years?

JAPAN

Question 1

Recent statistical indicators suggest that Japanese domestic beef production is not growing as quickly as the trend which was set out in the official long term forecasts of 1980. If this is correct what are the implications for the supply/demand estimates and for imports?

Question 2

What is the basis for Japanese estimates that demand for grain fed beef will grow more rapidly than for grass fed beef?

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EEC

Question 1

At the Council meeting in June the EC delegation advised that the introduction of "guarantee thresholds" was not envisaged, as production surpluses were of a "cyclical" rather than "structural" nature. In the light of recent estimates that EEC subsidized beef exports are likely to exceed 800,000 tons in 1984, that stocks are likely to be around 600,000 tons by the end of 1984, that beef production is likely to increase to over 7.2 million tons in 1985 and that dairy cow slaughterings under the milk quota scheme are likely to increase in 1985, does the Commission still maintain the view that beef production surpluses are of a "cyclical" nature? Are any changes envisaged to the beef regime in 1985 in order to curtail, what appears increasingly to be in fact a structural surplus?

Question 2

Can the EEC delegation provide any estimates of the likely effect on beef?

UNITED STATES

Question

Can the US delegation give any indication of the likely effect of the US caribbean basin initiative on levels of beef production and export availability in the countries of the region over the next few years?