

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5897

4 November 1985

Limited Distribution

INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES prepared by the Chairman of the International Meat Council on his own responsibility

1. Since the 1984 report¹, the International Meat Council (IMC) has held two regular meetings on 13 December 1984 and 13-14 June 1985, and two special meetings on 27 February and 1 March 1985, and on 15 May 1985. Both regular meetings were preceded by meetings of the Meat Market Analysis Group (MMAG). At its June 1985 meeting, the IMC elected Mr. István Major (Hungary) as its Chairman and re-elected Mr. Minoru Nose (Japan) as its Vice-Chairman. The MMAG elected at its June 1985 meeting Mr. Claes Hammar (Sweden) as its Chairman. Since last year's report, there have been no new adherents to the Arrangement² Regarding Bovine Meat, which currently has twenty-six signatories².
2. In accordance with its terms of reference as set out 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, the June 1985 meeting had draft proposals by the IMC's Working Party on its agenda, proposals on which no consensus was reached.
3. The special meeting held on 27 February and 1 March 1985 was called in order to discuss the results of the International Meat Council's Working Party, set up by the IMC in June 1984 to assist the Council in carrying out its functions under the Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat and in particular, its Article IV, paragraph 2. The IMC noted "that the Working Party had not been able to make mutually acceptable proposals to it for remedying the situation of imbalance or threat thereof in the international meat market, notably for lack of a common assessment of the situation as well as of the effects of factors influencing the international meat trade"³. It was, however, decided that the draft proposals should be available for discussion at the June 1985 meeting of the IMC.

¹L/5690 of 8 November 1984

²Argentina, 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.

³IMC/15, paragraph 17

4. The special meeting held on 15 May 1985 was called in response to the invitation by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to examine "the adequacy and effectiveness of ... the Arrangement ... and the obstacles to acceptance which contracting parties may have faced, providing an opportunity to non-signatory contracting parties to express their views in the discussion"(L/5756)¹. There was a consensus that the provisions in the Arrangement concerning exchange of information and transparency worked satisfactorily. As concerns the objectives of the Arrangement, several participants were of the view that some of them had not yet been met. Some other participants thought, however, that the overall balance of the work undertaken in the IMC and MMAG was nevertheless positive. On the question of obstacles to acceptance of the Arrangement, participants agreed that there did not seem to be any particular obstacles inherent in the Arrangement or its functioning to keep interested countries from signing it.

¹ IMC/16, paragraph 1