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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

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INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

For discussion under agenda item No. 6 of the draft agenda, the following questions have been submitted by New Zealand:

EEC

Question 1

A number of countries expressed their concern at the EC's decision in July this year to extend the geographical boundaries for beef restitutions to include ten asian countries. Could the Commission delegate indicate whether the EC would be prepared to consider restricting the quantities of beef eligible for restitution destined for these ten asian countries?

Question 2

The EC has contended that its beef production surpluses are of a "cyclical" nature, and that its exports have served to fill the gap created by a period of lower slaughter level in southern hemisphere producing countries. In the absence of policy-induced production restraints, could the Commission delegate indicate what factors the EC considers will operate to complete the production "cycle", given that current EC beef stocks stand at around 750,000 tonnes, exports in 1985 are likely to exceed 750,000 tonnes, and southern hemisphere producers have entered a phase of herd rebuilding?

Question 3

Could the Commission delegate indicate what proposals are under current consideration by the EC in respect of the CAP review, which could affect the beef sector?

JAPAN

Question 1

Can the Japanese delegate explain whether there is any relationship between the total quota allocation for imports of beef and the "simultaneous selling/buying transaction tender system" (SBS)? If a relationship exists, what effect will SBS tender results have on overall quota figures?

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Question 2

Is the Japanese delegation in a position to indicate factors which will be taken into consideration when determining those countries to be directly consulted at the next round of negotiations on its global beef import quota?

UNITED STATES

Question

The 1985 Farm Bill includes a proposal to impose a levy on imported and domestic beef to fund a programme promoting consumption. Could the United States delegation indicate whether it is intended that the levy be imposed on imported beef during periods of import restraint under the Meat Import Law? Should the levy be introduced as proposed, how would a rate equivalent to the US$1 per head levy on domestic cattle be calculated for imported beef?