

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY - THIRD-COUNTRY MEAT DIRECTIVE

Recourse to Article XXIII:2 by the United States

The following communication, dated 25 September 1987, has been received from the Permanent Representative of the United States, with the request that it be circulated to contracting parties and included as an item on the agenda of the Council meeting scheduled for 7 October 1987, and with the indication that the communication might be supplemented with additional information prior to the Council meeting.

The United States believes that the European Community's Third-Country Meat Directive is inconsistent with Article III of the General Agreement. The application of the Third-Country Meat Directive to the United States on 1 January 1988 will require all meat exporters from the United States and other third countries to comply with detailed requirements which are more stringent than those imposed on domestic producers within the EC.

Implementation of the Third-Country Meat Directive will severely disrupt United States meat exports to the EC. United States meat plants wishing to continue their exports to the EC will be forced to make expensive modifications in facilities and meat handling procedures which will needlessly duplicate equivalent United States requirements.

This issue has been discussed many times bilaterally, both formally and informally. Consultations under Article XXIII:1 were held on 22 September, but no satisfactory adjustment was effected.

The Government of the United States therefore requests that the GATT Council at its 7 October meeting establish a panel under Article XXIII:2 of the General Agreement to examine the matter and to make such findings or recommendations as may be appropriate.