

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.88.247

28 November 1988

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1. Party to Agreement notifying: <u>SWEDEN</u>
2. Agency responsible: Ministry of Agriculture
3. Notified under Article 2.5.2 [x], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], Other:
4. Products covered (HS where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading): Irradiated foods
5. Title: Draft Amendment of the Swedish Food Act
6. Description of content: According to Swedish food legislation from 1971 food must not be treated in Sweden with ionizing radiation without a permission from the National Food Administration. One such permission has been applied for but it was called back. However, at present there is no regulation in force prohibiting or limiting the importation and selling of irradiated foods and there are no labelling or other requirements on information to the consumers as to such imported foods. In a report on import control of irradiated foods, made by an official investigator, the negative effects of irradiation of foods, such as difficulty for consumers to estimate the quality of foods by, for example, their senses of smell or taste, weigh more heavy than the opinion that there are no hazards of human health if the irradiation is carried out properly. The investigator has made the judgement that the overall negative effects of irradiation motivate a prohibition on the importation of irradiated foods. To make such a prohibition compatible with the national legislation, an amendment of paragraph 11 of the Swedish Food Act (SFS 1971:511) is proposed to the effect that, in addition to health and nutrition aspects, consumer interest can also be a motive for the Government to regulate on the importation of certain foods into the country.
7. Objective and rationale: General consumer interest
8. Relevant documents: Swedish Food Act, 11 § (SFS 1971:511). Report on import control of irradiated foods (Ministry of Agriculture)
9. Proposed dates of adoption and entry into force: Not yet decided
10. Final date for comments: 1 February 1989
11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [x] or address of other body: