

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

DPC/W/11

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Special Distribution

International Dairy Arrangement

MEETING AT THE LEVEL OF EXPERTS

Note by the Chairman

1. A meeting of experts was held on 17 and 19 June 1981 to examine the adequacy of the questionnaires regarding the various products concerned, and the modalities for drawing up the graphs proposed for inclusion in the status report.

2. The experts first examined questionnaires 1 to 4.

Questionnaires 1, 2 and 3

3. The results of the examination of these questionnaires have been communicated to the Committees of the Protocols and are mentioned in the reports of the Committees to the Council (circulated respectively as documents DPC/P/7, DPC/F/7 and DPC/C/7).

Questionnaire 4

4. The experts proposed certain amendments to questionnaire 4, in particular regarding Tables I and II of that questionnaire. The latter, as amended, is reproduced in document DPC/W/12.

Graphs

5. The experts examined the modalities for drawing up the graphs proposed for inclusion in the status report. They had before them document DPC/W/10 containing the proposal made by New Zealand.

6. The experts considered, inter alia, the effects of conversion into dollars (currency unit selected for drawing up the graphs) of support prices expressed in a different currency unit; in the view of some experts, the conversion distorted the picture given by the graphs.

7. After having considered various possibilities for limiting the effects of using an exchange rate, the experts examined a model graph requested from the secretariat for two products (skimmed milk powder and butter) and established on the basis of average exchange rates. Some experts noted that that method yielded better results but was nevertheless not satisfactory.

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8. The experts also considered the possibility of including in the graphs support prices or other prices that are applied by participants but are not mentioned in document DPC/W/10. They requested the secretariat to establish, for two products (skimmed milk powder and butter), the list of information furnished in response to questionnaire 5 (concerning information on domestic policies and trade measures) and found that numerous data were not currently available.

9. The experts were of the opinion that further reflection was necessary and that at the current stage they could not continue their work. With a view to further examining the modalities for drawing up graphs, they requested all participants to communicate to the secretariat the support prices or other prices - defined as precisely as possible - applied in their country or group of countries to milk and the various dairy products covered by the Arrangement; those data should cover a period beginning in the early 1970's.