CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

UNITED STATES

Under paragraph 2(e) of the Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 7 December 1961, contracting parties were invited to notify any substantial changes in their agricultural policy so that the information assembled from past Committee II consultations can be kept up to date. In this regard the United States submitted the text of an Act (Public Law 88-482) to provide for the imposition of quotas on certain meat and meat products. The relevant part of the Act is distributed to the Committee.

Public Law 88-482

Meat imports, limitation

SEC. 2. (a) It is the policy of the Congress that the aggregate quantity of the articles specified in items 106.10 (relating to fresh, chilled, or frozen cattle meat) and 106.20 (relating to fresh, chilled, or frozen meat of goats and sheep (except lambs)) of the Tariff Schedules of the United States which may be imported into the United States in any calendar year beginning after December 31, 1964, should not exceed 725,400,000 pounds; except that this quantity shall be increased or decreased for any calendar year by the same percentage that estimated average annual domestic commercial production of these articles in that calendar year and the two preceding calendar years increases or decreases in comparison with the average annual domestic commercial production of these articles during the years 1959 through 1963, inclusive.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture, for each calendar year after 1964, shall estimate and publish:

(1) before the beginning of such calendar year, the aggregate quantity prescribed for such calendar year by sub-section (a), and

(2) before the first day of each calendar quarter in such calendar year, the aggregate quantity of the articles described in sub-section (a) which (but for this section) would be imported in such calendar year.
In applying paragraph (2) for the second or any succeeding calendar quarter in any calendar year, actual imports for the preceding calendar quarter or quarters in such calendar year shall be taken into account to the extent data is available.

**Presidential proclamation**

(c) (1) If the aggregate quantity estimated before any calendar quarter by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to sub-section (b)(2) equals or exceeds 110 per cent of the aggregate quantity estimated by him pursuant to sub-section (b)(1), and if there is no limitation in effect under this section with respect to such calendar year, the President shall by proclamation limit the total quantity of the articles described in sub-section (a) which may be entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, during such calendar year, to the aggregate quantity estimated for such calendar year by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to sub-section (b)(1).

(2) If the aggregate quantity estimated before any calendar quarter by the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to sub-section (b)(2) does not equal or exceed 110 per cent of the aggregate quantity estimated by him pursuant to sub-section (b)(1), and if a limitation is in effect under this section with respect to such calendar year, such limitation shall cease to apply as of the first day of such calendar quarter; except that any limitation which has been in effect for the third calendar quarter of any calendar year shall continue in effect for the fourth calendar quarter of such year unless the proclamation is suspended or the total quantity is increased pursuant to sub-section (d).

(3) The Secretary of Agriculture shall allocate the total quantity proclaimed under paragraph (1), and any increase in such quantity pursuant to sub-section (d), among supplying countries on the basis of the shares such countries supplied to the United States market during a representative period of the articles described in sub-section (a), except that due account may be given to special factors which have affected or may affect the trade in such articles. The Secretary of Agriculture shall certify such allocations to the Secretary of the Treasury.

**Proclamation suspension**

(d) The President may suspend any proclamation made under sub-section (c), or increase the total quantity proclaimed under such sub-section if he determines and proclaims that:

(1) such action is required by overriding economic or national security interests of the United States, giving special weight to the importance to the nation of the economic well-being of the domestic livestock industry;
(2) the supply of articles of the kind described in sub-section (a) will be inadequate to meet domestic demand at reasonable prices; or

(3) trade agreements entered into after the date of the enactment of this Act ensure that the policy set forth in sub-section (a) will be carried out.

Any such suspension shall be for such period, and any such increase shall be in such amount, as the President determines and proclaims to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this sub-section.

(e) The Secretary of Agriculture shall issue such regulations as he determines to be necessary to prevent circumvention of the purposes of this section.

(f) All determinations by the President and the Secretary of Agriculture under this section shall be final.