NEW MINIMUM PRICES SET FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS

Members of the GATT International Dairy Arrangement have raised the minimum prices for sales in international markets of all dairy products covered by the three protocols under the Arrangement. The new prices reflect more favourable world market conditions for dairy products and the recent successful efforts by participants to contain milk production and deliveries.

The three bodies under the Arrangement made the decisions during meetings at the GATT headquarters in Geneva this week:

- The Committee of the Protocol Regarding Certain Milk Powders increased the minimum export prices for skimmed milk powder and buttermilk powder from US$825 to US$900, and for whole milk powder from US$950 to US$1,000 per metric ton, f.o.b.

- The Committee of the Protocol Regarding Milk Fat raised the minimum export prices for anhydrous milk fat from US$1,200 to US$1,325 and for butter from US$1,000 to US$1,100 per metric ton, f.o.b.

- The Committee of the Protocol Regarding Certain Cheeses lifted the minimum export price for certain cheeses from US$1,120 to US$1,200 per metric ton, f.o.b.

The new prices took effect at noon on Wednesday, 23 March 1988.

The three protocols are part of the 1979 International Dairy Arrangement. The Arrangement aims "to achieve expansion and ever greater liberalization of world trade in dairy products under market conditions as stable as possible, on the basis of mutual benefit to exporting and importing countries".

The 16 signatories to the Protocols are: Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, the European Communities, Egypt, Finland, Hungary, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay.