NEW MINIMUM PRICES SET FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS

Members of the GATT International Dairy Arrangement, for the second time this year, have raised the minimum export prices of all dairy products covered by the three protocols under the Arrangement. The new prices reflect continuing favourable world market conditions for dairy products and the successful efforts by participants to contain milk production and deliveries. The prices were previously raised in March 1988.

The three Committees which operate 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$900 to US$1,050, and for whole milk powder from US$1,000 to US$1,150 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$1,325 to US$1,500 and for butter from US$1,100 to US$1,250 per metric ton, f.o.b.

- The Committee of the Protocol Regarding Certain Cheeses lifted the minimum export price for certain cheeses from US$1,200 to US$1,350 per metric ton, f.o.b.

The new prices took effect at noon on Wednesday, 21 September 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.