The following communication, dated 18 July 1974, has been received from the Commission of the European Communities.

I have the honour to refer to the communication dated 14 May 1974 and to advise you, for the information of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, that the Commission of the European Communities has decided, by Regulation No. 1790/74 of 9 July 1974 (O.J. No. L 187 of 11 July 1974) to extend the provisions of Regulation No. 1084/74, concerning the tying of imports of certain types of meat, to all the products referred to in Article 1(a) of the basic regulation (Regulation (EEC) No. 805/68 of the Council).

In these conditions, imports of fresh, chilled or frozen bovine meat and of live animals are now subject to the requirement of "tying" imports. Excluded from this requirement are imports charged to the tariff quotas for bulls, heifers and cows, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain Alpine or mountain races, on the one hand, and for frozen bovine meat on the other hand.

Furthermore, by Regulation 1846/74 of 16 July 1974 (O.J. No. L 194 of 17 July 1974), the Council of the European Communities has decided to suspend until 31 October 1974 the issue of import or advance-fixing certificates for fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, dried or smoked bovine meat, and likewise for live animals of the bovine species.

This measure is not applicable, however, to the tariff quotas mentioned above.

Furthermore, certificates issued prior to 17 July 1974 remain valid.
Accordingly the application of the aforementioned Regulation (EEC) No.1790 is therefore suspended, with the exception of Article 1 thereof in respect of purchase contracts mentioned in that Article, concluded prior to the entry into force of Regulation No.1846/74.

The reason for this temporary action is a particularly difficult market situation in the bovine meat sector, which is still deteriorating despite the various measures already introduced with a view to remedying it.

The Commission declares its readiness to enter into consultation with contracting parties having a substantial interest as exporters to the Community market that may wish to examine this action with it.