INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES Prepared by
the Chairman of the International
Meat Council on his own
Responsibility

1. The International Meat Council held its fourth meeting on 15 and 16 June 1981. In accordance with its rules of procedure it elected Mr. J.C. Raimondi (Argentina) as Chairman and Mr. R. Long (Ireland) as Vice-Chairman. It thanked the outgoing Chairman, Mr. M.N. Gifford (Canada) for his very capable way of steering the International Meat Council through its first year of existence.

2. The International Meat Council discussed the setting up of a subsidiary body to assist the Council, a proposal which had been on the agenda since its June 1980 meeting. It was decided to set up a subsidiary body, called the Meat Market Analysis Group which "shall analyse and evaluate, on the basis of all available information, the interpretative analysis established by the secretariat in terms of Article IV:1(a)". Mr. R. Long (Ireland) was elected as its Chairman.

3. The International Meat Council carried out an examination of the world supply and demand situation and outlook regarding livestock and bovine meat on the basis of information supplied by the participants as well as on the basis of the interpretative analysis drawn up by the secretariat. In this connexion it was noted that in the first few months of the year consumer demand of beef was unfavourably influenced by recessionary pressures as well as in some countries by cheaper competing meats. With few exceptions beef trade levels dropped substantially. There was only cautious optimism expressed that a modest reversal of this trend would occur before the end of the year.

4. The next meeting of the International Meat Council is scheduled to take place on 14 and 15 December 1981.