INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES prepared by the Chairman
of the International Meat Council on his own responsibility

1. Since the 1984 report, the International Meat Council (IMC) has
held two regular meetings on 13 December 1984 and 13-14 June 1985, and
two special meetings on 27 February and 1 March 1985, and on
15 May 1985. Both regular meetings were preceded by meetings of the
Meat Market Analysis Group (MMAG). At its June 1985 meeting, the IMC
elected Mr. István Major (Hungary) as its Chairman and re-elected
Mr. Minoru Nose (Japan) as its Vice-Chairman. The MMAG elected at its
June 1985 meeting Mr. Claes Hammar (Sweden) as its Chairman. Since last
year's report, there have been no new adherents to the Arrangement
Regarding Bovine Meat, which currently has twenty-six signatories.

2. In accordance with its terms of reference as set out in the
Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat, both regular meetings discussed the
functioning of the Arrangement, the bovine meat market situation and
outlook, and questions of a policy nature of special concern to
participants. Moreover, the June 1985 meeting had draft proposals by
the IMC's Working Party on its agenda, proposals on which no consensus
was reached.

3. The special meeting held on 27 February and 1 March 1985 was called
in order to discuss the results of the International Meat Council's
Working Party, set up by the IMC in June 1984 to assist the Council in
carrying out its functions under the Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat
and in particular, its Article IV, paragraph 2. The IMC noted "that the
Working Party had not been able to make mutually acceptable proposals to
it for remedying the situation of imbalance or threat thereof in the
international meat market, notably for lack of a common assessment of
the situation as well as of the effects of factors influencing the
international meat trade". It was, however, decided that the draft
proposals should be available for discussion at the June 1985 meeting of
the IMC.

1L/5690 of 8 November 1984
2Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belize, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada,
Colombia, European Economic Community, Egypt, Finland, Guatemala,
Hungary, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Romania, South
Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, United States, Uruguay and
Yugoslavia.
3IMC/15, paragraph 17
4. The special meeting held on 15 May 1985 was called in response to the invitation by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to examine "the adequacy and effectiveness of ... the Arrangement ... and the obstacles to acceptance which contracting parties may have faced, providing an opportunity to non-signatory contracting parties to express their views in the discussion" (L/5756)\(^1\). There was a consensus that the provisions in the Arrangement concerning exchange of information and transparency worked satisfactorily. As concerns the objectives of the Arrangement, several participants were of the view that some of them had not yet been met. Some other participants thought, however, that the overall balance of the work undertaken in the IMC and MMAG was nevertheless positive. On the question of obstacles to acceptance of the Arrangement, participants agreed that there did not seem to be any particular obstacles inherent in the Arrangement or its functioning to keep interested countries from signing it.

\(^1\)IMC/16, paragraph 1