GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Group on Meat

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION SUGGESTED BY THE SECRETARIAT

1. Products included in discussion

The discussion would centre on meats of cattle and sheep, it being understood that live cattle and other types of meat might be brought into consideration at a later stage.

2. Agricultural policies

The discussion should cover the whole range of agricultural policies in importing and exporting countries, in particular production policies including internal measures and measures at the frontier, where appropriate.

Internal measures

The discussion should include questions of

- restraint on price and/or income support, so as not to unduly encourage domestic production nor discourage increases in consumption,

- disparities of consumption levels in different countries.

Measures at the frontier

The discussion should include questions of

- negotiability of variable levies, quantitative restrictions, minimum import prices and other import barriers,

- veterinary restrictions.

3. International trade

The discussion should include questions of international prices and the creation of acceptable conditions of access.
Access

The discussion should include questions of

- maintaining a balance between domestic production and imports,
- opportunities for exporting countries to compete for participation in meeting market demand,
- elimination of discrimination in opportunities for access,
- market sharing arrangements, including provisions for co-ordinated access for traditional suppliers and participation of new suppliers,
- assurances of supply.

International prices

The discussion should include questions of

- stabilization of international prices through measures aiming at a co-ordinated balance between world supplies and demand, or through measures directly affecting international prices, such as minimum prices, price ranges, etc.,
- a gradual elimination of export subsidies.

4. Other matters for discussion

- procedures for confrontation on production, import and export policies,
- other procedural questions,
- the possibility of concluding local agreements between the States principally concerned with a particular market,
- the necessity for interim arrangements,
- surplus disposal and market development,
- methods of formalizing within the framework of the Trade Negotiations the eventual results of the Group's discussions.