Committee of the Protocol Regarding Certain Milk Powders

Report to the International Dairy Products Council

1. In pursuance of Article VII:2(a) of the Arrangement and Rule 22 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee has prepared the present report on its twentieth session.

2. The Committee held its twentieth session on 17 December 1984.

3. The Committee adopted the agenda proposed in airgram GATT/AIR/2085 and adopted the report on its nineteenth session.

4. The Committee reviewed the replies to the questionnaire and requested members which had not yet communicated information for the third quarter of 1984 to do so without delay. The Committee took note of the summary tables prepared by the secretariat.

5. An exchange of information and views took place in the Committee regarding the market situation for products covered by the Protocol. The Committee noted that aggregate output of skimmed milk powder could show some decline in 1984 in relation to 1983. The slight recovery of international trade recorded in 1983 could be more pronounced in 1984, in particular because of increased food-aid deliveries. Although still high, total stocks at the end of 1984 were likely to be below their level at the beginning of the year. With respect to whole milk powder, production and exports seemed to have recovered in 1984. International prices of skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder seemed to have remained relatively stationary in the first quarter of 1984.

6. With respect to the question of observance of minimum prices in tenders requiring quotations other than in United States dollars, the Committee noted that no cases of that kind had been reported.

7. The Committee took note of the Australian notification regarding sales under Article 3:5 of the Protocol, and was informed of the relevant operation.

8. The Committee noted that the secretariat had received from Canada a communication regarding the decision of 25 September 1984; that communication, to be circulated as DPC/P/30/Add.1, will form part of the annex to the decision of 25 September 1984 (DPC/P/30).

9. The next sessions of the Committees will be held consecutively from 25 to 27 March 1985, subject to confirmation by the secretariat.