In accordance with the decision taken by the International Meat Council at its June, 1982, meeting, to have a special agenda item for future meetings, i.e. "Examination of national policies linked to trade in bovine meat and live animals" and the opinion by participants that any participant could pose questions to any other participant in writing in advance or orally at the meeting (paragraph 8 of IMC/7) the following questions have been submitted by Australia:

To Argentina:

1. Can Argentina give an assessment of the extent to which long-term supply arrangements have assisted in the export of beef?

2. At present what percentage of exports are covered by such arrangements and is this expected to vary over the next few years?

To Brazil:

1. Can Brazil give an assessment of the extent to which current policies are expected to increase production and exports?

2. Do they foresee any difficulties in exporting significantly increased quantities over the next few years?

To the European Economic Community:

1. Can the EEC explain what effect current efforts to achieve a better balance between supply and demand for milk products in the dairy sector and in the cereals sector are expected to have on beef production in the Community?

2. Can the EEC explain what measures are being taken to deal with the increasing divergence between supply and demand in the Community beef sector identified in the guidelines for European agriculture paper of October, 1981. In particular, is any consideration being given to measures aimed at keeping consumer prices down, such as the more generalised use of the slaughter premium currently operating in some member states?
3. Are there any plans for the EEC to introduce a co-responsibility levy in the beef sector similar to that in the dairy sector and if so how would it operate?

To Sweden:

Despite the official aim to ensure balance between production and consumption we note that in recent years beef production has increased without any corresponding increase in consumption. What is the Swedish assessment of future trends in production and consumption under current policies and is it likely that Sweden will resort increasingly to the use of subsidies to dispose of surplus production on world markets? In view of current surplus position would it not be more desirable to promote domestic consumption by increasing the level of consumer subsidy on beef and veal?

To the United States:

Could the United States indicate the rationale for choosing interest free credits as a special measure to assist agricultural exports and is it planned to apply this assistance to United States beef exports? Has the United States undertaken an assessment of the likely impact on agricultural markets, including beef markets, of implementation of such assistance?