INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

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 Argentina:

EEC:

1. The export statistics of the EEC show pronounced expansion as from the year 1980 in meat deliveries to the international market for bovine meat where, since that date, the EEC has become the second largest exporter in the world meat market and the leading one in the foot-and-mouth disease risk area.

Consequently, supply levels of Community meat have a decisive influence on international price trends for bovine meat, particularly in the above-mentioned area. The Community regulations stipulate that the refund is to be established in such a way as to cover the difference between internal prices and the world market price.

QUESTION: Could the EEC explain which parameters are taken into account for determining the world price which is used for fixing the refunds for the various qualities and destinations of its exports?

2. With effect from 25 May 1982 (Regulation (EEC) No. 1223/82) refunds have been established for the export of male adult animals with an increase by 18 per cent over the refund levels applied prior to that date.

QUESTION: If the intention was to encourage exports of male animals in order to avoid excessively large slaughterings and the export of female animals, why was a larger reduction not made in the general refunds, the levels previously in effect being maintained exclusively for male animals?

3. What were the global annual amounts of the refunds effectively granted from 1975 to 1982, and what are their estimated amounts for the period 1983/1987?
4. What was the mechanism applied (refund) in the case of the sale by Ireland to Egypt under that country's tender dated 17 August 1982?

UNITED STATES:

What will be the modality applied for granting any subsidy on exports of bovine meat, and how is the resulting price level expected to affect the international price and the participation of other exporting countries in the market?

CANADA:

What has been the experience to date in connection with Canada's new legislation on meat, and to what extent has its external trade been affected?