INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

For discussion under agenda item 2.(iv) of the draft agenda, the following questions have been submitted by Brazil:

European Economic Community

1. I have the honour to convey to you the interest of the Brazilian meat exporters of increasing their sales of "hilton beef" to the European Economic Community (EEC). It is their intention to have a quota of at least 10,000 tonnes under the present EEC import régime. In this connection, I would be grateful for information on the appropriate forum and procedures for negotiations with the EEC to that effect.

2. As you are aware, Brazil is a significant exporter of bovine meat to the EEC. However, recently, the Brazilian authorities have identified a growing interest in the export of frozen buffalo meat to the EEC. According to information provided by potential importers, the EEC applies a tariff of 20 per cent without a levy for exports of frozen buffalo meat falling within CN code 02023090. This preferential tariff treatment is restricted by a GATT quota of 2,250 tonnes. Australia has been the only supplier of buffalo meat to the EEC that has benefited from such quota, although in the last years she has not utilized the total tonnage.

3. In so being, I would appreciate if you could inform me if Brazil is entitled to export frozen buffalo meat to the EEC under the above-mentioned special régime, bearing in mind that the quota of 2,250 tonnes has not been reached by Australia.