Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

Inventory of Domestic Policies and Trade Measures and
Information on Bilateral, Plurilateral or
Multilateral Commitments

Reply to Parts G and H of the Questionnaire

ARGENTINA

The participants have agreed to provide information concerning their domestic policies and trade measures including bilateral and plurilateral commitments on the basis of Parts G and H of the Questionnaire (Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure). The documents containing replies to these parts of the Questionnaire are circulated under the symbol IMC/INV; they will be partly revised as and when changes are notified.

This set of documents will constitute the inventory of all measures affecting trade in bovine meat, including commitments resulting from bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations, which the Council has instructed the secretariat to draw up and keep up to date, under the provisions of Article III of the Agreement (Note to Article III of the Arrangement and Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure).
PART G

Part G.1: Information on domestic policies and trade measures

With reference to the basic information circulated in document IMC/INV/14 of 30 June 1980, the only new development has been the introduction of a 2 per cent charge on the value of exports of chilled and frozen meat and offals, to be in effect from 2 April until 28 February 1982.

Part G.2: Notification of policy changes

Nothing to report.
PART H

Part H: Information on bilateral or plurilateral agreements in the field of bovine animals, meat and offals

In addition to the Bilateral Agreement with Israel referred to in document IMC/INV/14/Add.1 of 27 January 1981, Argentina concluded in March and April 1981 two important long-term Bilateral Agreements for the supply of boneless frozen beef to Egypt and Russia.

(i) Egypt

The relevant contract was signed in March 1981 between the Supply Department of the Egyptian Government and the National Meat Board of the Argentine Republic.

The Agreement covers a three-year period as from 15 March 1981, with the option of two additional years, and covers the following annual volumes:

- up to 32,000 tons of boneless frozen beef
- up to 4,000 tons of frozen beef livers.

(ii) Russia

In order to furnish the relevant information, reproduced hereunder is the official communiqué issued by the Argentine Government on this subject:

"As a result of negotiations carried out by the Ministry of Trade and Maritime Interests, on Wednesday, 22 April 1981 the text of an Agreement was signed providing for the supply of beef by Argentina to the Soviet Union. The said document was signed for Argentina by the Argentine Ambassador to the USSR, and for the Soviet Union by the Minister for Foreign Trade.

"It should be underlined that this Agreement is an intergovernmental instrument that will constitute the framework for purchase and sale operations in respect of meat that will be carried out, on the purchasing side, by the Soviet foreign trade authorities, and on the Argentine side, by the natural persons and corporate bodies authorized to export that product."
"The Agreement, which covers a period of five years, will take effect as from 1981 and will remain in force until 31 December 1985 with the possibility of extension if the two governments so agree.

"The quantities of meat to be furnished each year by our country will be between 60,000 and 100,000 tons (of boneless beef); this means that as a minimum, operations must be carried through covering the first of the volumes mentioned. As regards the possibility of reaching the quantity of 100,000 tons (boneless product weight), this will depend on USSR needs. An undertaking has been obtained to the effect that in such circumstances, and in conditions of equality with other competitors, the USSR will give priority to purchases of meat from our country.

"The Agreement likewise provides for the possibility of exceeding the annual quantity of 100,000 tons if the two governments so agree.

"The relevant operations will be carried out at the same prices as those prevailing in major international markets for the product.

"Shipments will be spread regularly over the whole year in order to avoid any problems that might arise in the domestic market as a consequence of wide fluctuations in the USSR purchase programme.

"Lastly, it should be noted that great importance is attached to the signature of this Agreement with the USSR because it implies assured regular supply, over a five-year period, of substantial volumes of beef. Taken in conjunction with the Agreement recently signed with Egypt, it will contribute to secure permanent markets for meat producers."