REPLIES BY AUSTRIA TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY AUSTRALIA ON AUSTRIA'S NOTIFICATION OF SUBSIDIES UNDER ARTICLE XVI:1 OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT

The following communication, dated 22 April 1993, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Austria.

With reference to Document SCM/W/287 of 19 November 1992, I have been instructed to answer the Australian questions on Austria's Article XVI:1 notification as follows:

ad question 1.

The increasing budget support for storage beef and pork do not result from rising levels of seasonable intervention stocks, but from increased compensation rates and longer stock keeping.

The higher export subsidies are due to higher export quantities and decreased external profits.

ad question 2.

More than 95 per cent of Austrian subsidized beef exports are currently exported to the EC, other European countries accounting for the rest.

Austria has no intention to expand its subsidized beef export sales to other markets.

ad question 3.

This question goes beyond the examination of Austria's notification and an attempt to forecast future developments could only be of a speculative nature. There are, however, no reasons to believe that the destination of Austria's beef exports will undergo substantial changes over the medium and longer term.