The following reply by the Republic of Korea to the question raised by Australia in document SCM/W/284, was received on 17 May 1993.

Question: In relation to Part III of the replies by the Republic of Korea in SCM/W/274, may we have clarification of its view on the effect of imports on this programme

- on how long it is planned to segregate domestic production and market forces in general.

Answer: - This programme does aim to restrict imports of livestock products, but is operated autonomously by the National Livestock Co-operatives Federation (NLCF), a private producer association, in order to alleviate the effect of decreases in domestic livestock prices.

- When the domestic market price drops significantly due to a rapid increase in livestock product imports, the NLCF autonomously purchases livestock products to stabilize prices.

- Since the programme is operated autonomously by a private organization, it is up to this organization, the NLCF, whether to abolish the programme.