Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL
DERESTRICTION OF DOCUMENTS

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its ninth meeting on December 1983, the International Meat Council invited the Secretariat to look into the question of wider distribution of certain of its documents and report to the IMC at its June 1984 meeting (IMC/10, paragraph 44).

2. The IMC discussed derestricion and wider distribution for the first time at its second meeting (June 1980) as a result of interest expressed by non-governmental organizations in its activities. At its third meeting (December 1980), the IMC decided that an annual report on the situation and outlook in the world bovine meat market would be published, based on the bi-annual status report prepared by the secretariat and as updated by participants at the December meeting of the IMC. In January 1984, 2,850 copies were printed, most of which were gone by May.

3. Currently, the following distribution is given to IMC documents:

   (i) Spec/... (draft reports): distribution limited to the signatories;

   (ii) IMC/... (reports of the Council, after adoption): distribution to signatories and observers. Contracting parties other than signatories and observers can obtain those reports on request;

   (iii) IMC/W/... (working documents, such as status reports and summary tables prepared by the secretariat): distribution to signatories and observers. Communicated, upon request, to non-signatory contracting parties that are not observers; recent ones also available in the meeting room;

   (iv) IMC/STAT/... and IMC/INV/... (replies to questionnaires): distribution to signatories. Communicated, upon request, to observers and to contracting parties that are neither signatories nor observers; recent ones also available in the meeting room.
4. To date, no documents in the agricultural sector have ever been derestricted. Documents from other sectors in the GATT have been derestricted on a selective basis regularly, i.e., the secretariat notifies in advance contracting parties and intergovernmental organizations of the documents which are due for derestiction and sets the date for the derestiction. Any document stays restricted at the request of a contracting party or intergovernmental organization (see L/2737). A derestricted document is available to anybody who requests it.

5. As concerns the publishing of documents or studies, to date no document issued within the framework of a committee or council set up as the result of the MTNs has been published, except for the Annual Reports of the International Dairy Council and the International Meat Council, which are based on DPC and IMC documents. The only studies in the GATT published on a regular basis are those elaborated by the Economic Research and Analysis Unit.