Note by the Chairman

Introduction

1. The International Meat Consultative Group held its tenth meeting on 27 April 1978. The following countries or groups of countries were represented:

- Argentina
- European Communities (and their member States)
- Poland
- Australia
- Hungary
- Romania
- Austria
- New Zealand
- South Africa
- Brazil
- Japan
- Switzerland
- Canada
- Madagascar
- United States
- Uruguay

In addition, representatives of the ECE, the FAO, the OECD and UNCTAD attended the meeting as observers.

Agenda

2. The Group adopted as the basis for its discussions the topics outlined in the airgram convening the meeting (GATT/AIR/1438) with the addition of an item for other business.

Consultations

3. In accordance with the procedures adopted at previous meetings, the Group consulted on current market conditions and foreseeable trends in international trade in bovine meat and live cattle. In this regard the Group had before it an updated secretariat summary relating to the main aggregates of production and trade (IMCG/W/15/Rev.6), supplementary monthly information on prices practices in international trade received from Argentina, Australia and New Zealand (IMCG/W/23/Rev.3), and the replies of participants to the model questionnaire. The Group also had before it in document IMCG/W/52 a background discussion paper prepared by the secretariat in accordance with the Group's decision at its seventh meeting (IMCG/7, paragraph 3).
4. It was not considered necessary for the Group at this stage in the development of its consultative process to attempt to draw conclusions. Consistent with the early-warning function of the Group it was sufficient that the impressions gained from the consultations should be taken into account by participants in their further decision making in capitals and in their preparations for the next meeting of the Group.

5. To facilitate reflection by participants on the matters raised and the views expressed in the consultations, it was agreed that statements made by participants would, if they so wished, be reproduced and circulated by the secretariat. Accordingly, the following statements are being circulated:

- Argentina IMCG/W/53
- Canada IMCG/W/54
- European Communities IMCG/W/55
- Poland IMCG/W/56
- Japan IMCG/W/57
- Australia IMCG/W/58
- New Zealand IMCG/W/59

Data Collection

(a) The model questionnaire

6. Updated replies to the model questionnaire were received from the following participants either prior to or at the meeting:

- Argentina IMCG/STAT/16/Add.3/Suppl.1 and 2
- Australia IMCG/STAT/6/Add.7
- Canada IMCG/STAT/11/Rev.4/Suppl.2
- European Communities IMCG/STAT/9/Add.4
- Finland IMCG/STAT/17/Add.3
- Hungary IMCG/STAT/14/Add.2
- New Zealand IMCG/STAT/7/Add.5/Suppl.3
- United States IMCG/STAT/3/Add.6

The most recent replies by nineteen participants are listed in the Annex.

7. The Group discussed the Revised Model Questionnaire which had been circulated by the secretariat as document L/4168/Rev.2 and the modifications suggested by Argentina which had been circulated as document IMCG/W/51. The Group agreed that the secretariat should circulate a further revision of the questionnaire which would incorporate the decisions taken during this discussion.
8. As regards the submission of data by participants, it was agreed that replies to the revised questionnaire and other data or information to be provided to the Group should be made available to the secretariat at least six weeks before each meeting in order that the documentation to be prepared by the secretariat might be distributed four weeks in advance of each meeting. It was noted that participants would continue to supply data on a best endeavours basis in accordance with the practices and procedures which had been developed by the Group.

(b) Prices practised in international trade

9. The Group took note of the monthly data on export prices supplied by Argentina, Australia and New Zealand (IMCG/W/23/Rev.3). It was suggested that those participants who had agreed to provide this information should be encouraged to ensure that the data submitted included the most recent information available and that the prices reported were the most representative available. It was agreed that document IMCG/W/23 should be updated for the next meeting of the Group on the basis of further information to be supplied by the participants who have agreed to do so, viz. Argentina, Australia, the European Communities, New Zealand and Uruguay.

Suggestions for improvement of the Group

10. The Group noted that no written suggestions had been received prior to the meeting, and that no oral suggestions for improvement of the Group's work were made at the meeting.

Other business

11. There was a suggestion that, in the future, it may be necessary for the Group to collect information on a much more detailed basis than is suggested by the current questionnaire, particularly on a quality and end-use basis.

Date of the next meeting

12. It was agreed that the Group will hold its next meeting in late October, the exact date to be set in consultation with delegations.
**ANNEX**

**Latest Questionnaire Reply by Each Participant**

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<th>Country</th>
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