INTERNATIONAL MEAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP - ELEVENTH MEETING

Note by the Chairman

Introduction

1. The International Meat Consultative Group held its eleventh meeting on 10 November 1978. The following countries or groups of countries were represented:

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

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

2. At the request of the International Trade Centre the Group decided to invite this international organization to attend the meetings of the Group as an observer as from the eleventh meeting.

Agenda

3. The Group adopted as the basis for its discussions the topics outlined in the airgram convening the meeting (GATT/AIR/1487) with the addition of an item for other business.

Consultations

4. 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.7), supplementary monthly information on prices practiced in international trade received from Argentina, Australia and New Zealand.
(IMCG/W/23/Rev.4), and the replies of participants to the model questionnaire. The Group also had before it in document IMCG/W/60 a background discussion paper prepared by the secretariat in accordance with the Group's decision at its seventh meeting (IMCG/7, paragraph 3).

5. 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. In this connexion it was recalled that it is desirable that commodity experts from capitals participate in the Group's meetings in order to maximize the value of the consultative process.

6. 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/61
Australia IMCG/W/62
New Zealand IMCG/W/63
European Communities IMCG/W/64
Canada IMCG/W/65
Poland IMCG/W/66

Collection of data

(a) The questionnaire

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

Argentina IMCG/STAT/16/Add.4
Australia IMCG/STAT/6/Add.8
Canada IMCG/STAT/11/Rev.5
European Communities IMCG/STAT/9/Add.5
Finland IMCG/STAT/17/Add.4
Hungary IMCG/STAT/1/Rev.3
Japan IMCG/STAT/1/Add.6
New Zealand IMCG/STAT/7/Add.6
Poland IMCG/STAT/5/Rev.1
South Africa IMCG/STAT/4/Add.5
Switzerland IMCG/STAT/12/Add.6
United States IMCG/STAT/3/Add.7

The most recent replies by nineteen participants are listed in the Annex.
8. As regards the submission of data by participants, it was recalled 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.4). 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.

Other business

10. The Group was advised that the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, a non-governmental organization, had made a request for observer status in the Group. In this regard, the Group noted its earlier decisions concerning the intergovernmental status of the Group (IMCG/2, paragraph 6, and IMCG/6, paragraph 13) but agreed to defer decision on this request until the next meeting of the Group.

Date of the next meeting

11. It was agreed that the Group will hold its next meeting in early April 1979, the exact date to be set in consultation with delegations.
**ANNEX**

*Latest Questionnaire Reply by Each Participant*

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Latest Reply</th>
<th>Date of publication</th>
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<tr>
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