Introduction

1. The International Meat Consultative Group held its ninth meeting on 28 November. The following countries or groups of countries were represented (a list of participants was circulated in document IMCG/INF/7):

- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Cuba
- Czechoslovakia
- European Communities (and their member States)
- Finland
- Gabon
- Japan
- Madagascar
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Poland
- Romania
- South Africa
- Spain
- Switzerland
- United States
- Uruguay
- Yugoslavia

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/1407) 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 up-dated
secretariat summary relating to the main aggregates of production and trade (IMCG/W/15/Rev.5), supplementary monthly information on prices practised in international trade received from Argentina, Australia, the European Communities and New Zealand (IMCG/W/23/Rev.2/Suppl.4 and 5), and the replies of participants to the model questionnaire. The Group also had before it in document IMCG/W/47 a background discussion paper prepared by the secretariat in accordance with the Group's decision at its seventh meeting (IMCG/7, paragraph 3). It was noted that this background discussion paper was an example of co-operation between international organizations in that the secretariat had made extensive use of information available from other organizations and, in particular, Part III was based largely on a recent OECD Report of the Committee for Agriculture on Market Outlook.

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. The following statements are being circulated:

   European Communities: IMCG/W/48
   Poland: IMCG/W/49
   Australia: IMCG/W/50

The collection of data required to enable the Group to carry out its functions

(a) The model questionnaire

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

   Argentina: IMCG/STAT/16/Add.2
   Australia: IMCG/STAT/6/Add.6
   Canada: IMCG/STAT/11/Rev.4/Suppl.1
   Finland: IMCG/STAT/17/Add.2
   Hungary: IMCG/STAT/14/Add.1
   Japan: IMCG/STAT/1/Add.6
   New Zealand: IMCG/STAT/7/Add.5/Suppl.1 and 2
   South Africa: IMCG/STAT/4/Add.4
   Switzerland: IMCG/STAT/13/Add.4
   United States: IMCG/STAT/3/Add.5

The most recent replies by nineteen participants are listed in the Annex.
7. The Group noted that, due to changes in responsibilities within the secretariat and the heavy secretariat work-load related to the submission of request lists in Group "Agriculture", the secretariat had been unable to complete the revision of the model questionnaire in time for this meeting. In view of this situation, the Group postponed discussion of this question until the Group's next meeting when the Group will have before it a revised version of the model questionnaire.

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, and the data supplied by the European Communities on its export restitutions and import prices (IMCG/W/23/Rev.2/Suppl.4 and 5). It was agreed that document IMCG/W/23 should be up-dated 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. There was a discussion of how, bearing in mind its existing terms of reference, the work of the Group could be improved further. In this regard, the Chairman invited participants to submit their views in writing before the next meeting so that the matter could be considered further.

Date of next meeting

11. It was agreed that the Group will hold its next meeting in late March or early April, 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>
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