GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

IMC/INV/14/Rev.2
13 May 1985

Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

Original: Spanish

INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

Inventory of Domestic Policies and Trade Measures and Information on Bilateral, Plurilateral or Multilateral Commitments

Reply to Parts G and H of the Questionnaire

ARGENTINA

Revision

The participants have agreed to provide information concerning their domestic policies and trade measures including bilateral and plurilateral commitments on the basis of Parts G and H of the Questionnaire (Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure). The documents containing replies to these parts of the Questionnaire are circulated under the symbol IMC/INV; they will be revised as and when changes are notified.

This set of documents constitutes the inventory of all measures affecting trade in bovine meat, including commitments resulting from bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations, which the Council has instructed the secretariat to draw up and keep up to date, under the provisions of Article III of the Agreement. (Note to Article III of the Arrangement and Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure.)

PART G

Part G.1. Information on domestic policies and trade measures

I. Production

(a) Bovine meat sector

The development of Argentina's bovine cattle herd has been as follows: from 61 million head in 1977 it declined to 57.7 million in 1978, 56.8 million in 1979, 56.9 million in 1980, 55.5 million in 1981, and 52.7 million in 1982. In the Spring of 1982 the cattle cycle reversed itself and a new period of expansion began. Thus, in 1983 the estimated number was 53.8 million head and in 1984 the total bovine cattle herd was 55 million. The forecast for 1985 was at one time (September 1984) 56 million head but was later modified on account of the sector's not very remunerative prices beginning in the last two months of the preceding year, due mainly to the sharp fall in international prices as a result of strong competition of directly and indirectly subsidized exports from various countries. Thus, the moderate recovery trend that allowed for an estimated growth of the order of one million head annually (level of extraction from the country's herd 24 per cent) first stagnated and, in recent months, there has now been a new reversal of the cattle cycle towards a liquidation of stocks, with more than 46 per cent of female animals slaughtered from last December to the present.

Consequently, cattle stocks for the current year must be estimated at approximately 55 million head, the same as for 1984.

As a result of the above picture, for 1985 one can estimate slaughterings of approximately 13.5 million head of average 200 kg. carcass weight i.e. an approximate availability of 2.7 million tons of bovine meat.

On the basis of foreseeable consumption levels and the difficulty of selling abroad, due to the foreign-markets situation as well as to current domestic economic and financial conditions (in particular in the refrigeration industry, etc.), exports can be estimated at approximately 250,000 tons carcass weight (9.3 per cent), i.e. the same as for 1984, with domestic consumption for the entire country at 2.45 million tons (90.7 per cent), equivalent to about 80 kg. per capita for the year.

Cattle farming in Argentina takes place exclusively on natural pasture land on the open range, associated artificial prairies, and annual artificial pasture in summer (particularly forage sorghum and maize) and in winter (especially oats, rye and barley). Very exceptionally this is supplemented by grain, while on more rationalized farms seasonal pasture deficiencies are usually covered by alfalfa silage and hay or meadow pasture.

The greater part of the herd consists of special breeds yielding high-quality meat that can be fully fattened on pasture by the age of two years.

As already indicated, the annual net production co-efficient of Argentina's cattle herd is approximately 24 per cent.

Cattle farming takes place in the framework of a free market, and production, consumption, exports and prices depend on the inter-action between the supply of bovine cattle and of demand by the processing industries which supply the needs of consumers and exporters, as well as on producers who in expectation of future business activity may withhold more animals to expand or reconstitute their inventories or may increase their sales when discouraged by situations of poor profitability.

(b) Government policies and measures likely to influence directly production, other than support or stabilization measures

In general, there are no official measures relating to the aspects indicated in the question.

Credit policies promoting production are ultimately based on the somewhat reduced interest rates charged by official banks for loans to producers who improve their cattle inventories from one year to the next, as well as for sowing and equipping pastureland to improve the annual productivity of their farms. In the case of farms in marginal areas that go in for cattle farming, this promotional activity is supplemented by differential fiscal treatment (taxes, etc.), with exemptions or reduced rates as provided under the promotional objectives laid down for such areas.

The Argentine Government, through its administration and particularly its National Meat Board, maintains complete statistics which provide cattle farmers with data on the market situation and outlook both within and outside of the country, with a view to helping them to take production decisions in full knowledge of the facts. Through this specialized body it also classifies and commercially grades the cattle and carcasses in accordance with a scheme which, by taking into account appearance and maturity or fatness, is a very complete quality catalogue, which becomes an important factor of quality improvement and guidance in selling for domestic consumption and export.

Official activities in farming instruction and research are the responsibility of the National Institute of Farming Technology (INTA) which administers a broad plan for the dissemination of technical knowledge through its experimental centres established in the various regions of Argentina's vast territory.

As regards animal health, there are extensive programmes designed to ensure control of cattle diseases and, in particular, a National Plan for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease is being administered by the

National Animal Health Service of the Department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. It is worth stressing that owing to the open-range system of farming (without the crowding of animals) and to the combined efforts of the official and private veterinary services, Argentine cattle enjoy a very high standard of health and cases of epizootic and parasitic infections are rare.

II. Internal prices and consumption

(a) Policies and measures affecting consumption

Normally no such measures are applied.

Between 11 June 1984 and 8 March 1985 the consumption of bovine meat in restaurants was prohibited with a view to stabilizing cattle prices and especially to promoting diversification of the meat diet by encouraging increased demand for substitute meat products, particularly poultry and pork. In view of the cattle supply level and the weakening of prices in recent weeks, this limitation has been rescinded.

Producer, wholesale and retail prices are determined by market forces.

III. Measures at the frontier

(a), (b) and (d): Customs tariff and import measures at tariff-line level, such as duties, variable levies, other special charges, quantitative restrictions, etc.

Customs duties are as specified in Annex A. In general, pedigree bulls and cows for breeding purposes pay a duty of 10 per cent, while the duty for pure cross-breeds for breeding purposes and other live animals of the bovine species is 21 per cent. Meat and offals pay 12 per cent. An exception is made for imports from Uruguay, which, under a NADI-LAIA agricultural partial agreement effective as from 15 may 1984 without date of expiry, enjoy a preference of 100 per cent.

Argentina does not apply variable levies, quantative restrictions or any other limitations to imports of these products.

(c) Export measures at tariff-line level

By a recent Resolution of the Minister of the Economy (No. 139/85), the following changes have been made in the tariff treatment of exports of bovine meat and offals.

Export levy of 6 per cent

Carcasses, quarters and pieces, bone-in.

Without export levies

Quarters and pieces, boneless
Special cuts, chilled, destination EEC
Meat for processing, frozen
Meat, salted or smoked
Meat, prepared, destination United States and Puerto Rico
Offals, fresh or chilled
Offals, frozen

Levy reduction of 4 per cent

Controlled portions
Other special cuts, chilled or frozen
Meat, cooked and frozen, except exports to the United States, Cuba and Puerto Rico
Meat, cooked and cured (Corned beef) except exports to the United States, Cuba and Puerto Rico.
Other prepared meat, except exports to the United States, Cuba and Puerto Rico.
Meat extracts and juices
Offals, cooked or half-cooked.

The system for exporting meat in Argentina is based on the activities of private enterprises possessing processing plants, under special authorization of the National Animal Health Service (for the sanitary aspects) and of the National Meat Board (for the commercial and quality aspects).

No-one may operate as a meat exporter who does not possess a duly authorized processing plant.

Under the powers conferred by its statutes, the National Meat Board may, on behalf of private exporting enterprises, negotiate and conclude meat-export contracts, particularly with countries which purchase through official bodies.

Any export of meat by a private enterprise requires prior authorization from the National Meat Board, which is responsible for verifying compliance with the "minimum export prices" periodically established with representatives of the exports refrigeration industry, as well as for quality control and technical specifications demanded by buyers.

PART H

Information on bilateral or pluritlateral agreements in the field of bovine animals, meat and offals

At present Argentina has agreements with the following countries:

Israel

The first agreement was signed in 1975. At its termination, a new contract was agreed for the supply of bovine meat for a period of three years (between 1 June 1982 and 31 May 1985). Under this agreement, Israel undertook to buy in Argentina up to 18,000 tons per year of frozen "kosher" fore-quarter cuts of bovine meat.

In 1983 exports amounted to 31,000 tons carcass weight, bone-in; in 1984, to 12,300 tons and from January to April 1985 sales amounted to approximately 8,000 tons.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

The intergovernmental framework agreement between the Soviet Union and Argentina continues in force, although exports for 1984 amounted to 48,900 tons carcass weight, bone-in, thus failing to meet the agreed minimum of 60,000 tons cargo weight, owing to lack of demand by the purchasing country.

ANNEX A

TARIFF NOMENCLATURE AND IMPORT DUTIES

SECTION I

LIVE ANIMALS; ANIMAL PRODUCTS

CHAPTER 1

LIVE ANIMALS

NOTE:

1. This Chapter covers all live animals except:
   (a) Fish, crustaceans and molluscs, of headings Nos. 03.01 and 03.03;
   (b) Microbial cultures and other products of heading No. 30.02; and
   (c) Animals of heading No. 97.08.

Headings	Description of goods		%	Decree or Resolution	Observations
01.01.00.00.00	Live horses, asses, mules and hinnies:				
01.01.00.01.00*	Horses:				
01.01.00.01.01	Pedigree horses, other than thoroughbred racehorses and polo ponies (R245/79 ME)	N.P.	10	1/81	A3-H2
01.01.00.01.02*	Thoroughbred horses, for breeding purposes	N.P.	10	1/81	A3-Z23
01.01.00.01.03*	Other thoroughbred horses	N.P.	10	1/81	A3-Z23
01.01.00.01.11	Polo ponies, including those for breeding purposes		21	436/82	A3
01.01.00.01.12*	Other horses intended for breeding purposes		21	436/82	A3
01.01.00.01.50	Other		21	436/82	A3
01.01.00.99.00*	Other:				
01.01.00.99.01*	Pedigree asses	N.P.	10	1/81	A5
01.01.00.99.99	Other		21	436/82	A5
01.02.00.00.00	Live animals of the bovine species:				
01.02.01.00.00	Pure-bred, for breeding purposes:				
01.02.01.01.00*	Of the bovine species:				
01.02.01.01.01*	Bulls, of dairy breeds	N.P.	10	1/81	A5-H5-U34-Z16
01.02.01.01.02*	Cows (including young cows), of diary breeds	N.P.	10	1/81	A5-H5-U34-Z16
01.02.01.01.03*	Zebus	N.P.	10	1/81	A5-H5-U34-Z16
01.02.01.01.04*	Other bulls	N.P.	10	1/81	A5-H5-U34-Z16
01.02.01.01.05	Other cows (including young cows)	N.P.	10	1/81	A5-H5-U34-Z16
01.02.01.02.00	Buffaloes		21	436/82	A5-U34-Z16
01.02.02.00.00	Other:				
01.02.02.01.00*	Of the bovine species:				
01.02.02.01.01*	Pedigree calves and heifers, of dairy breeds	N.P.	10	1/81	A5-H2-U1-Z16
01.02.02.01.02*	Other pedigree calves and heifers	N.P.	10	1/81	A5-H2-U1-Z16
01.02.02.01.11*	Bulls and calves, pure dairy cross-breeds	(Z6)	21	237/83	A5-U1-Z16-Z30
01.02.02.01.12	Heifers and cows (including young cows), pure dairy cross-breeds	(Z6)	21	237/83	A5-A7-U1-Z16-Z30
01.02.02.01.21*	Other bulls and calves, pure cross-breeds	(Z6)	21	237/83	A5-U1-Z16-Z30
01.02.02.01.22	Other heifers and cows (including young cows), pure cross-breeds	(Z6)	21	237/83	A5-A7-U1-Z16-Z30
01.02.02.01.31*	Zebus		21	436/82	A5-H2-U1-Z16
01.02.02.01.99	Other		21	436/82	A5-7-83-U1-Z16-33
01.02.02.02.00	Buffaloes		21	436/82	A5-U1-Z16

*LAIA. See information in "Import Terms".

IMPORTANT - See explanations of terms and abbreviations in appendix at the end of this Nomenclature.

Headings	Description of goods		%	Decree or Resolution	Observations
01.03.00.00.00*	Live swine:				
01.03.00.01.00*	Pedigree swine	N.P.	10	1/81	A5-H2-U1-Z16
01.03.00.02.00*	Pure cross-breeds		21	436/82	A5-U1-Z16
01.03.00.99.00	Other		21	436/82	A5-U1-Z16-33
01.04.00.00.00	Live sheep and goats:				
01.04.01.00.00*	Live sheep:				
01.04.01.01.00*	Pedigree sheep	N.P.	10	1/81	A5-H2-U34-Z16
01.04.01.02.00	Pure cross-breeds		21	436/82	A5-U34-Z16-30
01.04.01.99.00*	Other:				
01.04.01.99.01*	Castrated		21	436/82	A5-U34-Z16
01.04.01.99.99	Other		21	436/82	A5-U34-Z16
01.04.02.00.00*	Live goats:				
01.04.02.01.00	Pedigree goats	N.P.	10	1/81	A5-H2-U1-Z16
01.04.02.02.00*	Pure cross-breeds		21	436/82	A5-U1-Z16
01.04.02.99.00	Other		21	436/82	A5-U1-Z16
01.05.00.00.00	Live poultry, that is to say, fowls, ducks, geese, turkeys and guinea fowl:				
01.05.01.00.00*	Of a weight not exceeding 185 g:				
01.05.01.01.00	With pedigree	N.P.	10	1/81	H2-U3-Z15
01.05.01.02.00	Other		21	436/82	U3-Z15
01.05.02.00.00*	Other:				
01.05.02.01.00*	With pedigree	N.P.	10	1/81	H2-U3-Z15
01.05.02.99.00	Other		21	436/82	U3-Z15
01.06.00.00.00	Other live animals:				
01.06.01.00.00	Animals of the kinds used principally for human consumption:				
01.06.01.01.00*	Rabbits and domestic pigeons:				
01.06.01.01.01*	With pedigree		21	436/82	H7
01.06.01.01.99*	Other		21	436/82	
01.06.01.02.00*	Hedgehogs, frogs and turtles		21	436/82	
01.06.01.03.00	Other		21	436/82	
01.06.02.00.00	Other (including zoo animals, dogs and cats):				
01.06.02.01.00*	Zoo and circus animals:				
01.06.02.01.01	Zoo animals	N.P.	10	1/81	
01.06.02.01.02	Circus animals	N.P.	10	1/81	
01.06.02.02.00*	Dogs, cats and other domestic animals:				
01.06.02.02.01*	Pedigree dogs	N.P.	10	1/81	
01.06.02.02.02*	Pedigree cats		21	436/82	
01.06.02.02.03*	Pedigree singing and show birds		21	436/82	
01.06.02.02.99*	Other		21	436/82	
01.06.02.03.00*	Foxes, mink and other fur-bearing animals:				
01.06.02.03.01*	Pedigree nutria	N.P.	10	1/81	
01.06.02.03.02*	Pedigree mink	N.P.	10	1/81	H2
01.06.02.03.03*	Pedigree chinchilla	N.P.	10	1/81	H2
01.06.02.03.04*	Pedigree pole-cats for breeding	N.P.	10	743/84	
01.06.02.03.05*	Pedigree foxes of the species Vulpes fulva and Alopex lagopus for breeding	N.P.	10	743/84	
01.06.02.03.50*	Other, with pedigree		21	436/82	
01.06.02.03.99*	Other		21	436/82	
01.06.02.04.00	Bees (whether or not in swarms or hives) and other insects:				
01.06.02.04.01*	Pedigree queen bees (including those with a reduced group of worker bees)	N.P.	10	1/81	H2
01.06.02.04.99*	Other		21	436/82	
01.06.02.05.00	Other, for laboratory or for scientific research work		21	436/82	H2
01.06.02.99.00*	Other		21	436/82	

*LAIA. See information in "Import Terms".

IMPORTANT - See explanations of terms and abbreviations in appendix at the end of this Nomenclature.

CHAPTER 2

MEAT AND EDIBLE MEAT OFFALS

NOTE:

This Chapter does not cover:
(a) Products of the kinds described in headings Nos. 02.01, 02.02, 02.03, 02.04 and 02.06, unfit or unsuitable for human consumption;
(b) Guts, bladders or stomachs of animals (heading No. 05.04) and animal blood (heading No. 05.15); or
(c) Animal fat, other than products of heading No. 02.05 (Chapter 15).

Headings	Description of goods	%	Decree or Resolution	Observations
02.01.00.00.00	Meat and edible offals of the animals falling within heading No. 01.01, 01.02, 01.03 or 01.04, fresh, chilled or frozen:			
02.01.01.00.00*	Meat of bovine animals with bone-in:			
02.01.01.01.00*	Fresh	12	436/82	A7-B3-Z35-Z33
02.01.01.02.00*	Chilled	12	436/82	A7-B3-Z35-Z33
02.01.01.03.00	Frozen	12	436/82	A7-B3-Z35-Z33
02.01.02.00.00*	Meat of bovine animals, boneless:			
02.01.02.01.00*	Fresh	12	436/82	A7-B3-Z33
02.01.02.02.00*	Chilled	12	436/82	A7-B3-Z33
02.01.02.03.00	Frozen	12	436/82	A7-B3-U33
02.01.03.00.00	Meat of sheep or goats:			
02.01.03.01.00*	Meat of sheep:			
02.01.03.01.01*	Frozen	12	436/82	A7-Z35-Z33
02.01.03.01.99*	Other	12	436/82	A7-Z35-Z33
02.01.03.02.00*	Meat of goats	12	436/82	A7-U33
02.01.04.00.00*	Meat of swine	12	436/82	A7-Z35-Z33
02.01.05.00.00	Meat of horses, asses, mules and hinnies	12	436/82	A7-U33
02.01.06.00.00*	Offals:			
02.01.06.01.00*	Tails	12	436/82	A7-U33
02.01.06.02.00	Livers	12	435/82	A7-U33
02.01.06.03.00*	Tongues:			
02.01.06.03.01*	Of bovine animals or sheep, frozen	12	436/82	A7-U33
02.01.06.03.50*	Other	12	436/82	A7-U33
02.01.06.99.00	Other	12	436/82	A7-U33
02.02.00.00.00	Dead poultry (that is to say, fowl, ducks, geese, turkeys and guinea fowl) and edible offals thereof (except liver), fresh, chilled or frozen:			
02.02.00.01.00*	Meat	12	436/82	A7-U36-Z15
02.02.00.02.00	Offals	12	436/82	A7-U36-Z15
02.03.00.00.00*	Poultry liver, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted or in brine	12	436/82	A7-U36-Z15

*LAIA. See information in "Import Terms".

IMPORTANT - See explanations of terms and abbreviations in appendix at the end of this Nomenclature.