

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/6316

11 March 1988

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

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### KOREA - RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF BEEF

#### Recourse to Article XXIII:2 by the United States

#### Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 10 March 1988, has been received from the Permanent Mission of the United States.

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The United States wishes to refer to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, pursuant to Article XXIII:2 of the General Agreement, the matter of the restrictions maintained by Korea on the import of beef.

Korea maintains a nonautomatic import licensing system with regard to beef. Since 1984, no import licenses have been granted for beef, with the exception of certain types of beef for tourist hotels. Since May 1985, import licenses have been denied even for that beef, resulting in a total prohibition on the import of beef, except for one shipment of 49 tons imported for the October 1985 meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Seoul.

The United States believes that these restrictions contravene, inter alia, the prohibition in Article XI of the General Agreement against maintenance of quantitative restrictions on imports made effective through quotas, import licenses, or other means. These restrictions nullify and impair the tariff binding on beef which was negotiated by the United States with Korea in the Tokyo Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. They also otherwise nullify or impair benefits accruing to the United States within the meaning of Article XXIII.

These restrictions have been the subject of numerous discussions between the United States and Korea, including consultations held under Article XXIII:1 on 19 and 20 February 1988. These consultations have not resulted in a mutually satisfactory settlement of this issue.

Therefore, the United States requests the Council of Representatives at its meeting of 22 March 1988 to establish a panel to review this matter under Article XXIII:2 of the General Agreement.