

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

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TARIFFS AND TRADE

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KOREA - RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF BEEF

Recourse to Article XXIII:2 by Australia

Communication from Australia

The following communication, dated 21 April 1988, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Australia.

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

The Republic of Korea maintains a non-automatic import licensing system with regard to beef. In late 1984 the Korean Government closed the market to imported beef. Since that time, only very small quantities of beef for consular and promotion purposes have been allowed entry.

In 1983, the year immediately preceding the import ban, Australia exported 64,000 tonnes of beef to the Republic of Korea. Korea was Australia's third largest beef export market. The trade was worth \$A107 million to the Australian beef industry or 8.5 per cent of Australia's total export earnings from beef and veal.

Australia considers that the restrictions on the import of beef contravene the Republic of Korea's obligations under the General Agreement and nullify and impair benefits to Australia.

The restrictions have been the subject of numerous representations and discussions. Australia has also held consultations with the Republic of Korea under Article XXIII:1 on 23 March and 5 April 1988 seeking reopening of the market on the basis of import arrangements consistent with Korea's GATT obligations, including non-discrimination. The consultations have not resulted in a mutually satisfactory settlement of the issue.

Therefore the Government of Australia requests the Council of Representatives at its meeting on 4 May 1988 to establish a panel to review this matter under Article XXIII:2 of the General Agreement.