

COUNCIL  
4 May 1988

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JAPAN - 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 Japan on the import of beef.

The importation of all beef into Japan other than diaphragm beef and offal is subject to and controlled by a complex system of global import quotas. Thus, although Japan is an important export market for Australian beef, the potential growth of this market has been unreasonably constrained by the operation of this extremely restrictive import quota system.

Australia considers that the restrictions on the import of beef contravene Japan's obligations under the General Agreement, in particular obligations under Article XI:1, and nullify and impair benefits to Australia.

The restrictions have been the subject of numerous representations and consultations.

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.