

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

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KOREA - RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF BEEF

Recourse to Article XXIII:2 by New Zealand

Communication from New Zealand

The following communication dated 31 May 1988 has been received from the Permanent Mission of New Zealand.

KOREA - RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF BEEF

Recourse to Article XXIII:2 by New Zealand

Communication from New Zealand

The Government of New Zealand 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. Since late 1984, the Korean Government has virtually closed the market to imported beef. Only small quantities of beef for consular and promotion purposes gained entry to the Korean market following this, and since May 1985 there has been a total prohibition on the import of beef.

Prior to the imposition of the import ban, New Zealand was the second largest supplier of beef to the Republic of Korea. In 1983, New Zealand exported 3,900 tonnes of beef to Korea, representing 2.5% of New Zealand's total export earnings from beef.

New Zealand considers that the restrictions on the import of beef contravene the Republic of Korea's obligations under the General Agreement, inter alia, the prohibition in Article XI against the maintenance of Quantitative Restrictions on imports made effective through quotas, import licenses, or other means. These restrictions nullify and impair benefits accruing to New Zealand under the General Agreement.

The restrictions have been the subject of numerous representations and consultations, which have not resulted in a mutually satisfactory settlement of this issue.

Therefore the Government of New Zealand requests the Council of Representatives at its meeting on 15 June 1988 to establish a panel to review this matter under Article XXIII:2 of the General Agreement.