

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/6355

3 June 1988

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

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COUNCIL  
15-16 June 1988

Original: English

### JAPAN - 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.

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**JAPAN - 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 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 import quotas and licensing controls. Further, the systems of administration for beef imported into Japan under quota are also complex and lack transparency. The combination of these factors has meant that the trade possibilities for New Zealand exports of beef to Japan have been severely restricted.

New Zealand considers that these restrictions, and the administration of them, contravene Japan's obligations and nullify and impair benefits which would otherwise accrue to New Zealand, directly or indirectly, under the General Agreement. The obligations which New Zealand believe Japan has contravened relate to those under, inter alia, Articles I and XI of the General Agreement.

The restrictions maintained by Japan have been the subject of numerous discussions between New Zealand and Japan, and to date have not resulted in a mutually satisfactory resolution of this issue.

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