

**PROPOSED SAFEGUARD MEASURE TO BE IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES
CONCERNING IMPORTS OF LAMB MEAT**

Request for Consultations Under Article 12.3 of the
Agreement on Safeguards

The following communication, dated 9 July 1999, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Australia.

On 7 July 1999, the United States (US) announced that it would impose a tariff quota on imports of lamb meat (covering HTS 0204.10.00, 0204.22.20, 0204.23.20, 0204.30.00, 0204.42.20, and 0204.43.20) with an increase in the in-quota rate above the bound level and an out-of-quota rate at a prohibitive level. This measure is to apply from 22 July 1999.

Australia and the United States held Article 12.3 consultations on 4 May 1999 in Geneva at which time Australia asked a number of questions in writing, to which the US has yet to respond. Moreover, those consultations were on the basis of the report and recommendation by the competent authorities in the United States, as notified in document G/SG/N/8/USA/3/Rev.1. The measure announced on 7 July 1999 is more restrictive than the recommendation by those competent authorities and was not the subject of the previous consultations.

Article 12.3 requires the United States "... to provide adequate opportunity for prior consultations with those Members having a substantial interest as exporters of the product concerned, with a view to, *inter alia*, reviewing the information provided under paragraph 2, exchanging views on the measure and reaching an understanding on ways to achieve the objective set out in paragraph 1 of Article 8".

While the United States has yet to notify the Committee on Safeguards of its decision to apply the safeguard measure announced on 7 July 1999, Australia requests consultations with the United States in Washington in the week of 12 July 1999 about its intention to apply the safeguard measure announced on 7 July 1999.
