



Treaty Series No. 11 (1939)

Exchanges of Notes

between

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and
the Governments of the Argentine Republic, Brazil and Uruguay
regarding the

Regulation of Beef Imports into the United Kingdom

London, June 28, 1937, December 15, 1937, and
January 6, 1939

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
to Parliament by Command of His Majesty*

LONDON

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EXPLANATORY NOTE.

As a result of discussions between the Governments concerned, it has been agreed that an INTERNATIONAL BEEF CONFERENCE should be established with the composition and functions set out in the Scheme printed as the enclosure of Document No. 1 in this Paper. The Conference has been functioning on an informal basis since January 1937, and has now been formally constituted. The members of the Conference are the United Kingdom and the principal oversea suppliers of beef and live cattle, viz., Australia, New Zealand, Eire, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. Provision is also made in paragraph 1 of the Conference Scheme (enclosure in No. 1) for the representation by the United Kingdom of other suppliers, whether Empire or foreign, who ask to be so represented.

The present Paper contains correspondence between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Governments of the Argentine Republic, Brazil and Uruguay with regard to the setting up of the Conference.

EXCHANGES OF NOTES BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, BRAZIL AND URUGUAY REGARDING THE REGULATION OF BEEF IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

London, June 28, 1937, December 15, 1937, and January 6, 1939.

No. 1.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Argentine Ambassador in London.

Foreign Office, London,

June 28, 1937.

Your Excellency,

It being the desire of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to make further arrangements with regard to the supply of beef to the United Kingdom market, I have the honour to suggest, for the consideration of the Government of the Argentine, that an agreement be concluded between the two Governments in the following terms:—

- (1) The Government of the United Kingdom and the Argentine Government take note of the Scheme for the control of beef supplies to the United Kingdom market which is annexed hereto, and undertake to co-operate to ensure the effective working of the International Conference for which provision is made therein.
- (2) The Government of the United Kingdom undertakes not to regulate quantitatively the imports into the United Kingdom from the Argentine of the kinds of beef covered by the Scheme except (a) in pursuance of a request to that effect from the Government of the Argentine, or (b) when it appears to the United Kingdom Government to be necessary to do so in order to make effective a recommendation of the Conference under paragraph 4 of the Scheme (in which case it is understood that the Argentine Government will not claim any rights with regard to prohibitions or restrictions to which Argentine goods may be entitled under any other agreement for the time being in force between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Argentine), or (c) in cases when for any period the Conference have not made a recommendation under paragraph 4 of the Scheme.
- (3) For the purposes of this Agreement and of the Scheme annexed hereto, the term "foreign country" in relation

to the United Kingdom does not include any territory under the sovereignty, suzerainty, protection or mandate of His Majesty The King of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India.

- (4) It is understood that nothing in this Agreement shall prejudice the guarantees given to the Argentine Government under the provisions of Article 1 of the Trade Agreement between the two Governments signed on the 1st December, 1936.
- (5) The present Agreement shall come into force on the 1st January, 1937. It shall remain in force until the expiration of six months after the date on which either contracting Government shall have given to the other notice of termination through the diplomatic channel.

2. I should be glad if you would inform me whether the Argentine Government concur in the proposals set out above. In that event, this letter and your reply will be regarded as placing on formal record the agreement reached by the two Governments in the matter.

I have, &c.

(For the Secretary of State),

F. ASHTON-GWATKIN.

Enclosure in No. 1.

SCHEME FOR THE CONTROL OF BEEF SUPPLIES TO THE
UNITED KINGDOM MARKET.

[For the purpose of this document, beef includes fresh, chilled, frozen, salted and canned beef and veal, edible offals thereof and live cattle ready for slaughter.]

1. There will be an International Conference, whose business it will be (subject to the provisions hereinafter contained) to arrange for regulating the supply of beef to the United Kingdom market from overseas. The Conference will consist of persons nominated by the Governments of the United Kingdom and such other Empire and such foreign countries substantially interested in the supply of beef to the United Kingdom market as are parties to the Scheme, to represent interests which are concerned in the production of such beef. The United Kingdom Government will be responsible for the representation of countries, whether Empire or foreign, who, being small suppliers, ask to be represented by the United Kingdom.

2. The chairman of the Conference will be appointed by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

3. The main object of the Conference will be to ensure in the interests of producers and consumers alike an orderly adjustment of supply to demand, having due regard, among other things, to the seasonality of supplies of beef from all sources, including home production and the potentialities of production of the several producing countries.

4. The Conference will make recommendations with regard to the total quantities of beef and of the various classes of beef to be exported from time to time to the United Kingdom, and to the proportions of those totals to be exported from each country, subject to the following provisions :—

- (a) Aggregate exports of beef to the United Kingdom during the first three years of the operation of the Scheme will not, unless otherwise specially agreed by the Conference and subject to the provisions of (d) below, exceed recent levels. Out of this aggregate the United Kingdom Government will reserve for the countries who are small suppliers of beef to the United Kingdom a quantity based on their shipments in recent years.
- (b) The Conference will not propose any limitation of the extent to which Empire countries export beef in the chilled instead of in the frozen form.
- (c) The Conference may, during the first three years of the operation of the Scheme, recommend a reduction of the total shipments of chilled beef from foreign countries, provided that the reduction from one year to another shall not exceed 2 per cent. of the quantity shipped in the year 1935, and that the reduction in the third year shall not exceed 5 per cent. of that quantity. Any such reduction will not be regarded as constituting a claim by foreign countries to increased exports of frozen beef.
- (d) The Conference will not propose any reduction of shipments of fat cattle from the Irish Free State below the number which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom agreed to admit in the year 1936.
- (e) It is understood that it may become necessary for the Conference to make special provision for increased shipments of fat cattle and/or beef from the Irish Free State, Canada and the Union of South Africa.

5. Recommendations under paragraph 4 reached unanimously by the Conference will be communicated by overseas representatives to their Governments or other competent authorities with a view to shipments being regulated in accordance with such recommendations.

6. The Conference may make reports and suggestions to participating Governments on such matters as the quality and grading of any particular kind or description of beef coming on to the United Kingdom market, and may consider and report on the possibility of promoting the improvement and extension of the market for beef in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. It will make such arrangements as will ensure that representations on behalf of United Kingdom consumers are brought to its notice.

7. The Conference may accept such other duties as the participating Governments may invite it to undertake.

8. There will be an Empire Council consisting of the nominees of Empire countries on the Conference for the purpose of considering matters affecting the well-being of the Empire beef trade, including the Empire aspect of any questions that come up for consideration by the Conference.

9. The expenses of the Conference and of the Council respectively will be apportioned annually between the Governments of the countries participating therein in proportion to the total supply of beef from each of those countries to the United Kingdom market in the most recent year for which statistics are available.

No. 2.

*The Argentine Ambassador in London to the Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.*

Embassy of the Argentine Republic,

Your Excellency,

London, June 28, 1937.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your note⁽¹⁾ of to-day's date on the subject of the Scheme for the control of beef supplies to the United Kingdom market, and to inform you that the Argentine Government concur in the proposals set out therein.

2. The Argentine Government agree that your note and this reply shall be regarded as placing on formal record the agreement reached in this matter.

I have, &c.

MANUEL E. MALBRAN.

(¹) No. 1.

No. 3.

*The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Brazilian
Ambassador in London.*

Foreign Office, London,

Your Excellency,

December 15, 1937.

IT being the desire of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland to make further arrangements with regard to the supply of beef to the United Kingdom market, I have the honour to suggest, for the consideration of your Excellency's Government, that an agreement be concluded between the two Governments in the following terms:—

- (1) The Government of the United Kingdom and the Brazilian Government take note of the Scheme for the control of beef supplies to the United Kingdom market which is annexed hereto,⁽²⁾ and undertake to co-operate to ensure the effective working of the International Conference for which provision is made therein.

(²) Enclosure in No. 1.

- (2) The Government of the United Kingdom undertakes not to regulate quantitatively the imports into the United Kingdom from Brazil of the kinds of beef covered by the Scheme except (a) in pursuance of a request to that effect from the Brazilian Government, or (b) when it appears to the United Kingdom Government to be necessary to do so in order to make effective a recommendation reached unanimously by the Conference under paragraph 4 of the Scheme, in which case it is understood that the Brazilian Government will not claim any rights with regard to prohibitions or restrictions to which Brazilian goods may be entitled under any other agreement for the time being in force between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Brazil, including paragraph 1 of the Exchange of Notes between the two Governments dated the 10th August, 1936, or (c) in cases when for any period the Conference have not made a recommendation under paragraph 4 of the Scheme.
- (3) For the purpose of this Agreement and of the Scheme annexed hereto, the term "foreign country" in relation to the United Kingdom does not include any territory under the sovereignty, suzerainty, protection or mandate of His Majesty The King of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India.
- (4) It is understood that nothing in this Agreement shall prejudice the guarantees given to the Brazilian Government under the provision of paragraph 5 of the Exchange of Notes between the two Governments dated the 10th August, 1936.
- (5) The present Agreement shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st January, 1937. It shall remain in force until the expiration of three months after the date on which either contracting Government shall have given to the other notice of termination through the diplomatic channel.

2. I shall be glad if you will inform me whether the Brazilian Government concur in the proposals set out above. In that event, the present note and your Excellency's reply will be regarded as placing on record the agreement reached between the two Governments in this matter.

I have, &c.
 (For the Secretary of State),
 WALTER ROBERTS.

No. 4.

*The Brazilian Ambassador in London to the Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.*

Brazilian Embassy, London,

Sir,

December 15, 1937.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note⁽³⁾ of to-day's date on the subject of the Scheme for the control of beef supplies to the United Kingdom market, and to inform you that the Brazilian Government concur in the proposals set out therein.

2. The Brazilian Government agree that your note and this reply shall be regarded as placing on formal record the agreement reached in this matter.

I have, &c.

RÉGIS DE OLIVEIRA.

(³) No. 3.

No. 5.

*The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the Uruguayan
Chargé d'Affaires.*

Foreign Office, London,

Sir,

January 6, 1939.

It being the desire of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to make further arrangements with regard to the supply of beef to the United Kingdom market, I have the honour to suggest, for the consideration of the Government of Uruguay, that an agreement be concluded between the two Governments in the following terms:—

- (1) The Government of the United Kingdom and the Uruguayan Government take note of the Scheme for the control of beef supplies to the United Kingdom market which is annexed hereto,⁽¹⁾ and undertake to co-operate to ensure the effective working of the International Conference for which provision is made therein.
- (2) The Government of the United Kingdom undertake not to regulate quantitatively the imports into the United Kingdom from Uruguay of the kinds of beef covered by the Scheme except (a) in pursuance of a request to that effect from the Government of Uruguay, or (b) when it appears to the United Kingdom Government to be necessary to do so in order to make effective a recommendation reached unanimously by the Conference under paragraph 4 of the Scheme (in which case it is understood

(¹) Enclosure in No. 1.

that the Uruguayan Government will not claim any right to freedom from quantitative regulations, which they would otherwise be entitled to claim for beef produced in Uruguay by virtue of the provisions of article 1 of the agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Uruguayan Government dated the 26th June, 1935, in cases when similar imports from all other foreign countries were not also regulated), or (c) in cases when for any period the Conference have not made a recommendation under paragraph 4 of the Scheme.

- (3) For the purposes of this Agreement and of the Scheme annexed hereto, the term "foreign country" in relation to the United Kingdom does not include any territory under the sovereignty, suzerainty, protection or mandate of His Majesty The King of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India.
- (4) The present agreement shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st January, 1937. It shall remain in force until the expiration of three months after the date on which either contracting Government shall have given to the other notice of termination through the diplomatic channel.

2. I should be glad if you would inform me whether the Uruguayan Government concur in the proposals set out above. In that event, this letter and your reply will be regarded as placing on formal record the agreement reached by the two Governments in the matter.

I have, &c.
HALIFAX.

No. 6.

The Uruguayan Chargé d'Affaires to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Uruguayan Legation, London,

January 6, 1939.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of to-day's date⁽⁵⁾ on the subject of the Scheme for the control of beef supplies to the United Kingdom market, and to inform you that the Uruguayan Government concur in the proposals set out therein.

2. The Uruguayan Government agree that your note and this reply shall be regarded as placing on formal record the agreement reached in this matter.

I have, &c.
R. E. MACEACHEN,
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

(5) No. 5.