

greater than forecast imports from Australia where a severe drought has resulted in a short-term surge in cattle slaughter".

Mr. Whelan noted, "At the present time, we do not expect Canadian imports of beef and veal to exceed 120-130 million pounds in 1982, well below the minimum global access commitment contained in the Canadian Meat Import Act. However, we have to guard against the possibility that the U.S. action may result in diversion with consequent disruption of the Canadian market. Therefore, effective October 1, 1982, all imports of fresh, chilled and frozen beef and veal will require an individual import permit as provided for under the Export and Import Permits Act".

"Initially, import permits will be issued freely and will provide us with a day-to-day monitoring system. However, if imports increase significantly, they can be limited under the provisions of the Meat Import Act", Mr. Whelan said.

Notices to importers and exporters are being prepared and will be issued shortly.

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