The Contracting Parties have set up a Working Party, under the Chairmanship of Dr. E. de Vries, Indonesia, to deal with notifications under Article XVIII of the General Agreement.

Article XVIII states that any contracting party wishing to introduce any non-discriminatory measure affecting imports, for the purpose of fostering economic development, must apply to the Contracting Parties as a whole for a release from its obligations under the Agreement.

Haiti has notified, under Paragraph 11 of Article XVIII, a measure which is already in force and which it wishes to continue. In accordance with the terms of the Agreement Haiti should have submitted a supporting statement by 1 March 1950. The Contracting Parties have agreed to delay to 30 April 1950 the receipt of the statement and to examine the statement at the Fifth Session of the Contracting Parties.

A decision of the Contracting Parties was also required at the current Session regarding certain measures maintained by Lebanon and Syria on which insufficient information was available at the Third Session. No statement in support of these measures has been received; the two countries have not been represented at the current Session. The Contracting Parties have therefore decided that no release be granted to Lebanon and Syria under Paragraph 12, Article XVIII for the maintenance of the measures.

The Working Party will examine matters arising from the negotiations which took place between Ceylon and certain contracting parties in September-October 1949.