The Chairman of the Contracting Parties has authorized the following statement:

Reports that appeared in the press on 5 March concerning what purported to have taken place during a plenary session of the Contracting Parties on the afternoon of 4 March are unauthorized and completely inaccurate.

The facts are as follows: after the Contracting Parties had approved the annual report of the Coal and Steel Community in January 1955, the Danish delegation submitted for consideration a memorandum concerning the most recent development in the export prices of certain steel products from the Coal and Steel Community, and the conformity of these prices with the obligations undertaken by Member States of the Community. It was agreed that the matter should be included as an item of the agenda of the Ninth Session. At the plenary session on 4 March, the delegation of Denmark stated that the Danish government had had bilateral talks with the High Authority of the Coal and Steel Community in order to resolve the difficulties concerning prices. These talks had not yet been concluded. For this reason the Danish government considered it preferable not to discuss at the present Session the points it had raised. In the event that the bilateral talks were not successful, the Danish government reserved the right to bring the subject of the export price policies of the High Authority of the Coal and Steel Community before the Contracting Parties at a later date.

Speaking on behalf of the six member countries of the Community, Mr. E. Anzilotti said that he was satisfied with the Danish statement and the Chairman said he regarded the matter as disposed of so far as the Ninth Session was concerned.