The countries which took part in the consultation on the marketing of butter in the United Kingdom, which was held from 17 to 20 April 1961 (see press release GATT/578), suggested in their report on the consultation that the Contracting Parties at their eighteenth session should consider the means by which conditions in the butter market could be kept under review. The request for the consultation was made by the Government of New Zealand.

In plenary session on 16 May, the New Zealand representative stated that as yet there was no sign of improvement for the marketing of butter in the United Kingdom and little prospect of improvement in prices above the present level and he stressed the need to keep the butter market under review. He therefore suggested that the original group of countries which took part in the consultation in April should be invited to review the butter market situation from time to time. This was agreed and they will meet, for this purpose, in the second half of June 1961.