ITEM 31 - OTHER BUSINESS

TREATY INSTITUTING A EUROPEAN COAL-STEEL POOL

Memorandum by the French Delegation

As the Contracting Parties are aware, the Treaty setting up a European coal and steel pool has been signed by the governments of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg and the Netherlands. The Treaty, which is to be submitted to the Parliaments of the signatory countries, will enter into force the day that all signatory states have deposited instruments of ratification. It is thought that ratification will occur early in 1952 and before the Seventh Session of the Contracting Parties.

In the circumstances, the French Delegation wonders whether it would not be desirable to set up now an intersessional working party which would be instructed to carry out the necessary examination of the Treaty as soon as it has been ratified by all signatory countries and to report either to the Seventh Session of the Contracting Parties or to a Special Session if it appears useful to convene such a session.

The Contracting Parties would in this manner be applying the procedure recommended in the Report of the Working Party on the Continuing Administration of the General Agreement (GATT/CP.6/41) and adopted at a recent meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The French Delegation hopes that the Contracting Parties will be able to reach a decision on this matter before the close of this Session.