The Contracting Parties today adopted a declaration to the effect that South Africa and Southern Rhodesia were entitled to claim the benefits of GATT article XXIV relating to the formation of Customs Unions.

Under the declaration the Contracting Parties requested the two governments to instruct their Customs Union Council to include in each annual report a definite plan and schedule of the steps to be taken during the ensuing twelve months towards the re-establishment of the customs union. Both governments expressed their willingness to accept this obligation.

Dr. A. J. Harval, South Africa, and Mr. S. A. Rowe, Southern Rhodesia, thanked the Contracting Parties for their action.

The delegate of India, Mr. V. H. Coelho, reserved his position, pending instructions from his government.

The Contracting Parties also sent to a working party the problem of the emergency measures to resolve the Crisis of the Cuban Textile Industry.