At its fourteenth meeting on 19 May 1949, the Contracting Parties decided to refer the non-discriminatory measures notified by the Government of Ceylon under Article XVIII to Working Party II for study and report as soon as possible, in the light of the points raised during that meeting. Particular reference had been made during that meeting of the Contracting Parties to paragraph 10 of Article XVIII of the General Agreement, which required the Contracting Parties to indicate, at the earliest opportunity but ordinarily within 15 days of the receipt of the application, the date on which it will notify the contracting party concerned as to whether or not it is released from the relevant obligation. During this meeting the interpretation of this paragraph had been called to question and the Contracting Parties directed Working Party 2 also to examine and report on this point.

The Working Party held preliminary discussions with the Delegation of Ceylon and carried out a survey of what information would be required before it could examine and report on the substantive nature of the measures proposed by that Government. After such preliminary discussion, the Working Party, having regard to the further provisions that the required date by which the Contracting Parties would have to advise release should be not later than 90 days after receipt of the application, agreed to recommend to the Contracting Parties that they advise the Government of Ceylon that the decision under paragraph 7 will be made as soon as possible and in any case before the end of the present session of the
Contracting Parties. The Delegation of Ceylon is in full agreement with this view. The Working Party is of the opinion that the prescriptions of paragraph 10 would be fully met under this recommendation.

The Working Party also agreed to return at a later stage of its work to the question of the interpretation of the provisions of paragraph 10 in the light of the remarks made at the meeting of the Contracting Parties.