

Geneva, September 19th, 1928.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

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WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
ON INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION AND THE
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INTELLECTUAL
CO-OPERATION

REPORT OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE TO THE ASSEMBLY

Rapporteur: M. G. GALLAVRESI (Italian Delegate).

It would be impossible to enter upon a discussion on intellectual co-operation without paying a respectful tribute to the memory of the great scientist who, at this time last year, held the Committee of the Assembly under the sway of his personality. Professor Lorentz presided over this difficult and varied work with striking success. The same success will certainly attend the efforts of his distinguished successors, Professor Gilbert Murray, the new Chairman of the Committee, and Madame Curie and M. Destrée, the Vice-Chairmen.

The leading idea of the League of Nations when it began its work in connection with intellectual co-operation was to achieve, in a field where the special tendencies and traditions of the various peoples are of dominant importance, a co-ordination of effort which would ensure a better mutual comprehension on the part of these nations.

Inasmuch as an active intellectual life in the different countries is the essential condition of any fruitful co-operation, the development of local bodies designed to promote this object must be hailed with the greatest satisfaction. We must therefore see a decisive step in this direction in the formal establishment of national committees on intellectual co-operation in Germany, Spain and Great Britain, and the almost entire reorganisation of the Italian and certain other national committees. The assistance of the permanent League organisations, such as the Economic Committee and the International Labour Office, has not failed the Committee. This is especially true in the case of the Sub-Committee for Intellectual Rights, whose work is one of enormous difficulty, since it is striving to define the legal status of international associations and foundations and to draw up a model contract of publication; it has studied the problem of the international circulation of books, and, having recognised the importance of that problem, expresses the wish that all obstacles to the circulation of scientific and technical publications should be removed. The same Sub-Committee also endeavours to embody in the practice of the future the principle of scientific propriety postulated by Professor Ruffini as long ago as 1922.

The Assembly of the League of Nations cannot but await with confidence the result of the enquiry which is being conducted among Governments in regard to the preliminary draft International Convention, which the Secretary-General has been authorised to transmit to the Governments for their opinion. The Sub-Committee took note, with a satisfaction in which the Assembly will share, of the results of the Rome Conference on Copyright, at which the moral right of an author over his work at length obtained recognition, thus crowning the protracted efforts of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, as M. Paul-Boncour lately observed, at the last session of the Council of the League. The Congress of Statisticians at Cairo likewise gave an impetus, and we should like to think a decisive impetus, to the negotiations which the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation is conducting with the object of securing the adoption by Governments of identical rules in the matter of intellectual statistics.

Referring now to the activities under the supervision of the Sub-Committee for University Relations, grateful mention should be made here of the generous contribution by the National Council on Education of the United States of America, with the help of which it has been possible to compile a Handbook of University Exchanges in Europe — an innovation which is to be repeated next year.

The organisation of holiday courses and of study tours, as well as the possibility of extending these advantages to secondary schools, has been considered by the Sub-Committee for University Relations and by certain Governments, among others by the Polish Government.

The Artistic Relations Section of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation has displayed its activity principally through the International Museums Office, a particularly successful creation of the International Committee which will render great services. It is accordingly desirable that the Advisory Committee of the Office, which has not yet been convened, should

enter on its duties. The question of the educational value of museums was exhaustively discussed at the last session of the Sub-Committee on Arts and Letters, but no definite conclusions were reached. As in all educational problems, special difficulties are encountered as soon as an attempt is made to arrive at an international solution.

The subject of improving the conditions under which translations of literary works are carried out is one of the most complex and interesting questions that have come before the distinguished men whose assistance in the field of intellectual co-operation the League has secured. An agreement has been brought about between the Paris Institute and the Federation of "P.E.N." Clubs. The resumption of the former International Publishers' Congresses, as proposed by the Director of the Insel-Verlag of Leipzig, seems eminently calculated to lead to satisfactory results in the direction desired by the Sub-Committee on Arts and Letters. The Sub-Committee has made careful preparation for the Popular Arts Congress to be held at Prague. Although this seems certain to prove successful, it is rather doubtful whether the Committee will be able in future to assume new responsibilities of the same kind.

The Sub-Committee on Arts and Letters, bearing in mind the profound artistic and educational importance of the development of the cinematograph, has also drawn the attention of the Assembly to the danger of cinematograph performances inspired by a spirit at variance with that of the League.

Reference should also be made to the suggestion submitted by the Polish delegate to the Assembly at its sixth ordinary session for the international diffusion of literary and artistic works in harmony with the principles of the League of Nations.

The Sub-Committee on Science and Bibliography is still confronted with problems which do not readily lend themselves to any immediately successful solution, though it is precisely these problems the solution of which would lead to true co-operation among men of science throughout the world. While we must await the results of the enquiry into the resources available for scientific research, meetings of experts convened by the Paris Institute, whose work was carefully prepared beforehand, have drawn up draft resolutions concerning the co-ordination of the work of libraries and scientific museums, the best inks and papers for the preservation of documents, the question of dying languages, and the unification of the current bibliographies of the various sciences. The Committee's programme has now been extended to include the science of languages.

All this work, as has been pointed out on several occasions, has been carried out with a remarkable measure of success by the Paris International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation. An examination of the reports by the Director of the Institute and by Dr. Krüss, who spoke on behalf of the Governing Body, the experience acquired by the members of the Committee of Directors, and the detailed discussion which recently took place at the plenary session of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, can but confirm the opinion, expressed last year by Dr. Breitscheid in his report to the Second Committee. The distinguished Rapporteur emphasised the great utility of such an executive organ placed at the disposal and under the authority of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation. The international character of the Institute is accentuated by the grants now being accorded by various countries in addition to the basic and original financial support given by the Government of the French Republic.

By a decision of the Assembly, the Sub-Committee of Experts convened two years ago to draw up definite suggestions regarding the instruction of youth in the existence and aims of the League of Nations was also included in the programme of work of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation. The title given to the Sub-Committee seemed likely to confine its work within limits which have happily been enlarged in the course of its various sessions. The work itself has been summarised in an excellent report by M. Destrée, which the last Assembly approved. As a result, an Educational Information Centre has now been established, and the effects which its work has produced on public opinion, particularly in quarters devoted to propagating the ideals of the League of Nations, might warrant the convening next year, if not of the whole Sub-Committee of Experts, at least of the smaller Sub-Committee—chosen from among members of the plenary Sub-Committee. The text prepared by M. Destrée with the assistance of the Committee in question has become a sort of handbook for friends of the League.

It has also been suggested that a Survey should be published on the responsibility and under the supervision of the Secretary-General of the League. This Survey would be prepared by an Advisory Committee consisting of one representative each of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, the Secretariat of the League of Nations and the Paris Institute. The Survey, which would be intended primarily for teachers, would be prepared in the same spirit as that which has governed the work of the Sub-Committee of Experts.

The Sixth Committee requests the Assembly to adopt the report on the work of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation and to approve the following resolution:

"The Assembly has taken cognisance of the reports submitted by the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation and the Governing Body of the Institute. It is pleased with the results obtained by the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation as well as with the work of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation during the past year.

"The Assembly notes that its recommendations in preceding years in regard to eventual contributions from other States to the budget of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation have been acted on, that additional countries have granted subsidies, while France itself has increased its contribution by 500,000 French francs, so that the budget of the Institute for the year 1929 now amounts to 2,896,000 French francs.

"It takes note of the progress made in regard to certain important questions:

"Scientific property, co-ordination of bibliography for several sciences, co-ordination of institutes of higher political and social studies;

“ The work of the International Museums Office and the contemplated extension of its work in favour of scientific museums and similar establishments;

“ The part played by the representatives of the Committee and of the Institute at the recent Rome Conference for the revision of the Berne Copyright Conventions, and especially in the discussions which culminated in the recognition of the moral rights of authors, recommended by the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation;

“ The action taken by several States in pursuance of the recommendations of the Sub-Committee of Experts for the Instruction of Young People in the Aims of the League, the beginning of the work of the Educational Information Centre in Geneva and Paris, and the contemplated publication of a Survey devoted to these questions.

“ The Assembly recognises the importance of the problem of the international circulation of books and hopes that the obstacles in the way of the circulation of scientific and technical publications may, as far as possible, be removed.

“ The Assembly, in view of the general identity of principles between the Convention of Berne, as revised first in Berlin and then in Rome, and the Copyright Convention signed in 1910 at Buenos Ayres by the American States, and revised in Havana in 1928, requests the Council to have its competent organs make all the necessary investigations and consultations regarding the desirability of a general agreement having for its object the unification, on an international basis, and in full conformity with the wish expressed at the Rome Conference for the revision of the Berne Copyright Conventions, of all laws and measures for the protection of intellectual property.

“ The Assembly notes with satisfaction the readiness with which teachers in secondary and elementary schools have answered the appeal for co-operation addressed to them, and welcomes the organisation of courses of study with a view to their special requirements, not only on a national basis by various committees, but also on an international basis at Geneva and elsewhere. It is glad of the support received from Governments by which, following the recommendations by the Sub-Committee of Experts of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, facilities have been offered to teachers for following these courses of instruction, and, convinced of the paramount importance of the training of teachers for such teaching, it expresses the hope that similar facilities will be offered by the other States Members of the League.

“ The Assembly requests the States Members to take into consideration the need for the systematic organisation of the exchange of children in secondary schools during the summer holidays with a view to developing the spirit of peace and international co-operation, for which purpose the existing University offices should be utilised or special organisations created.

“ Convinced that this international exchange of school-children would greatly promote mutual understanding among peoples, the Assembly recommends that arrangements be made between different countries on this subject, and it begs the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation to instruct the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation and the Secretariat of the League to facilitate the execution of such arrangements.

“ It draws the special notice of Governments and requests them to give the greatest possible effect to the resolutions of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation in regard to:

“ (1) The creation in the national or central library of every State of an information bureau;

“ (2) The preservation of prints and manuscripts;

“ (3) The suppression of Customs duties on prints sent to libraries and recognised institutes;

“ (4) The adoption of the necessary measures for the preservation and the study of primitive languages which are dying out.

“ Finally, it calls the attention of Governments to the danger of cinematographic performances and of broadcasting characterised by a spirit antagonistic to that of the League.”

4. The judgment or award pronounced shall have binding force on the third Power which has intervened, and the latter shall also be bound by the interpretation of the treaty in which it has participated with the parties to the dispute.

Article 32.

Disputes relating to the interpretation or application of the present Treaty, including those concerning the classification of disputes, shall be submitted to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

Article 33.

The present Treaty, which is intended to ensure the maintenance of peace and is in conformity with the Covenant of the League of Nations, shall not be interpreted as restricting the duty of the League to take at any time, and notwithstanding any procedure of conciliation or arbitration, whatever action may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of the world.

Article 34.

1. The present Treaty, done in a single copy, shall be deposited in the archives of the League of Nations. The Secretary-General shall be requested to transmit certified true copies to each of the High Contracting Parties.

2. The present Treaty shall be ratified and the ratification shall be deposited at Geneva in the archives of the League of Nations as soon as possible.

3. It shall come into force as soon as all the ratifications have been deposited.

4. It shall be registered at the League of Nations by the Secretary-General, who shall be requested to notify the fact to all States Members and non-members of the League.

Article 35 (Duration of Treaty).

The present Treaty shall be concluded for a period of years as from its entry into force. Notwithstanding that the Treaty ceases to be in force, all proceedings which at that moment have been commenced shall be pursued until they reach their normal conclusion.

(As regards the duration of the Treaty, the Committee did not consider it its duty to decide between the various possible systems. It recommends three principal systems:

(The first, on the model of the Locarno Rhine Pact, not specifying any period, but providing for expiry in virtue of a decision taken by the Council;

(The second, providing for a limited period of ten or twenty years, with the possibility of denunciation on the expiry of that period, subject to one year's notice, or, failing denunciation, the renewal of the Treaty by tacit agreement for the same period;

(The third system would be a mixed system providing for a short trial period, on the expiry of which the parties might withdraw, subject to one year's notice; failing denunciation, the Treaty would be for an indefinite period, with the possibility of termination in virtue of a decision taken by the Council.)

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Treaty.

DONE at on

COLLECTIVE TREATY OF NON-AGGRESSION.

(Treaty E.)

(List of Heads of States.)

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Noting that respect for rights established by treaty or resulting from international law is obligatory upon international tribunals;

Recognising that the rights of the several States cannot be modified except with their own consent;

Considering that the faithful observance, under the auspices of the League of Nations, of forms of peaceful procedure allows of the settlement of all international disputes;

Desirous of establishing on a firm basis relations of frank co-operation between their respective countries and of securing additional guarantees for peace within the framework of the Covenant of the League of Nations:

Have resolved to conclude a Treaty for these purposes and have appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

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who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed on the following provisions: