

The Work of the Council of Europe.

Review of developments in the First Year.

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THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Review of Developments during the First Year

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THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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INTRODUCTION

The two main organs of the Council of Europe - the Committee of Ministers and the Consultative Assembly - are due to meet in Strasbourg in August, 1950. The second annual session of the Assembly is to open on August 7 and will continue (according to the Council's Statute) for a period of up to one month. It will be preceded on August 3 by a meeting of the Committee of Ministers, the Council's governmental organ, composed of the Foreign Ministers of the thirteen member countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Iceland, the Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom).

The Council first met at Strasbourg twelve months earlier, in August, 1949. The present paper attempts to summarize the course of its proceedings, and the work achieved, during the first year of its existence. The structure and aims of the Council were described in an earlier paper, The Council of Europe, R.1786 dated 6.7.1949, which also gave an account of the steps which led to its establishment.

The present membership of the Council is expected to be increased this year by the addition of two new associate members - Germany and the Saar. The parliaments of both these countries have voted in favour of accepting invitations extended to them by the Council earlier in the year, and it is hoped that formalities will be completed in time for the representatives of these two countries to take their seats in the Assembly at the opening of the new session.

British Delegation to the Assembly's Second Session

The British delegation to the Assembly, consisting of 18 Members of Parliament nominated by the Prime Minister after consultation with the Opposition, will again be a strong one, including several Ministers and ex-Ministers. Its composition, which reflects the present state of the Parliamentary parties, is as follows:-

House of Commons

Labour Party:- Dr. Hugh Dalton; Mr. James Callaghan; Mr. Glenvil Hall;
Miss Alice Bacon; Mr. A.J. Champion; Mr. M. Edelman;
Mr. J.H. Hoy; Mr. R. Mackay; Mr. G.R. Mitchison.

Conservative Party:- Mr. Winston Churchill; Mr. H. Macmillan;
Sir David Maxwell Fyfe; Mr. Duncan Sandys;
Mr. Robert Boothby; Mr. David Eccles; Mr. J.G. Foster;
Sir Ronald Ross.

House of Lords

Lord Layton (Liberal)
(Biographical notes on the delegates have been issued separately).

The following have been appointed to act as substitute delegates:-

House of Commons

Labour Party:- Mr. W.R. Blyton; Mrs. Eirene White; Mr. C.A.R. Crosland;
Mr. Tom Steele.

Conservative Party:- Mr. H.L. d'A. Hopkinson; Lady Tweedsmuir;
Mr. Julian Amery.

Liberal Party:- Mr. Emrys Roberts.

House of Lords

Lord Birkenhead (Conservative).

/The Council's New Building

The Council's New Building

When the Assembly meets in August, it will convene in its own building in Strasbourg (for the first session the University of Strasbourg lent its Great Hall). Proposals drawn up by a committee of experts for a semi-permanent building to be erected in the Place Lenôtre, opposite the Orangerie Gardens, were approved by the Foreign Ministers' deputies in January 1950, and in March work began on the new premises, which will consist of a light modern two-storey prefabricated building designed by M. Bertrand Monnet, a French architect. By the use of standardised and prefabricated parts to simplify and speed up construction, the new building is being completed within the space of four months. Accommodation will include a debating chamber (to hold 200 Assembly representatives, 200 members of the Press and 300 members of the public) with simultaneous interpretation and microphone equipment, committee rooms, a library, facilities for press and radio, and a Secretariat office. Building costs amount to 312 million French francs.

Progress Achieved

At its first session, and subsequently through its Committees, the Assembly put forward proposals covering a wide range of subjects in the political, economic, social and cultural fields. Its discussions have, in fact, ranged over every aspect of European co-operation with the exception of defence, which by the terms of its Statute is excluded from the Council's scope. At its second session the Assembly will have before it a full report from the Committee of Ministers setting out their decisions on the Assembly's recommendations and reviewing the action taken.

At this early stage in the Council's constitutional development, it is inevitable that its structure should be still in process of modification; in particular, relations between its two organs have not yet been settled in their final form. At one stage, some criticism was voiced at the apparent contrast between the activity of the Assembly and the lack of action by the Ministers to implement its recommendations. The Ministers were, however, bound to take into account the need to avoid duplication of machinery; many of the projects put forward by the Assembly were already under study by intergovernmental bodies. It was also natural that the Ministers should at times have to modify or put a brake on proposals which the Assembly might have put forward, in the words of Mr. Bevin, "in a spirit of enthusiasm" without having worked out details or assessed the responsibilities involved. Moreover, it had to be borne in mind that the members of the Assembly as at present constituted are responsible neither to their governments nor to the peoples of their countries but are expressing their individual views.

At the present stage, however, the value of the Council's work lies perhaps less in the concrete results achieved so far than in its role as a forum for the interchange of ideas between representatives of many nations who have at heart the furtherance of co-operation between the nations of Europe and the promotion of European unity. Speaking of progress achieved through the four main organisations working in this field - the Brussels Treaty Organisation, the OEEC, the Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Council of Europe - the United Kingdom Minister of State, Mr. Younger, said in the House of Commons on March 28, 1950:-

"As a result of the interlocking of all these organisations, there is already growing up a very large body of experts, officials, Ministers, and latterly also Parliamentarians, who are becoming accustomed from day to day, and from week to week, to think beyond their own frontiers; who are getting to know their colleagues of other countries, to deal with them with the same problems but seeing them dealt with in a different perspective; who are exchanging opinions and, what is probably more important, exchanging information with a frankness and intimacy which would certainly have been unthinkable only a few years ago. The effect of this very widespread co-operation goes far beyond Western Europe itself and includes in particular the United States of America and Canada. The process is continuous and cumulative."

In the House of Commons on November 17, 1949, the UK Foreign Secretary, Mr. Bevin, reviewing the progress of the Council of Europe, spoke of the unanimity achieved by the Committee of Ministers at their second session as a good augury for the future. He was very glad to report, he said, that "throughout the meeting /the representatives

the representatives of the twelve free Parliamentary democracies which belong to the Council did not have to take a single vote." They had to take decisions on several important European problems, but at the end of the discussions they were able to arrive at unanimity. "I am sure", he added, "that the bringing together of this Committee of Ministers will prove vital to the unity of Europe".

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS DURING THE COUNCIL'S
FIRST YEAR

The Statute of the Council of Europe and the Agreement for the Establishment of a Preparatory Commission of the Council of Europe were signed in London on May 5, 1949, by the Foreign Ministers of Belgium, Denmark, France, the Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

The first session of the Council's two main organs - the Committee of Ministers, composed of the Foreign Ministers of the member countries, and the Consultative Assembly, composed of non-governmental representatives, usually parliamentarians nominated by the governments or parliaments of those countries - took place at Strasbourg, the Council's headquarters, in August 1949. The Ministers met between August 8 and 13 and the Assembly from August 10 to September 8.

Accession of Greece, Iceland and Turkey

At their opening meeting on August 8, the Ministers decided to invite Greece, Iceland and Turkey to join the Council, and all three countries accepted. The representatives of Greece and Turkey both took their places the following day. Iceland's instrument of accession, which according to the Icelandic constitution required Parliamentary approval, was deposited in February 1950, and the Icelandic Foreign Minister attended or was represented at subsequent meetings of the Committee of Ministers.

First Session of Committee of Ministers

At its opening meeting, the Committee of Ministers also approved documents for the establishment of the Council of Europe, drawn up by the Preparatory Commission, which had met in Paris from May to July. These documents covered the necessary financial and administrative arrangements, draft rules of procedure for the two organs, and a suggested agenda for the Consultative Assembly. Subsequently, the Ministers approved additional items put forward by the Assembly for inclusion in its agenda, and, after consultation with the President of the Assembly, reached agreement on the interpretation of certain points in the Assembly's rules of procedure.

Assembly's First Session

The first session of the Assembly, on August 10, was formally opened by M. Herriot (France), who had been appointed provisional President by the Preparatory Commission. On August 11, the Assembly unanimously elected as President M. Spaak (Belgium). Four Vice-Presidents were also elected: M. de Menthon (France), M. Jacini (Italy), M. Kraft (Denmark) and Lord Layton (United Kingdom). On the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers, the Assembly nominated M. J.C. Paris (France) and Mr. A.S. Halford (United Kingdom), as Secretary General and Deputy Secretary-General respectively.

Agenda

The agenda finally adopted by the Assembly for its first session, and approved by the Committee of Ministers, was as follows:-

Consideration of any necessary changes in the political structure of Europe to achieve a greater unity between the members of the Council.

Measures for the maintenance and further realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Role of the Council of Europe in the economic field, taking account of existing international organisations.

/Role of the Council

Role of the Council in the field of social security (including such proposals as a European housing policy and the possibility of granting to individuals employed in other countries than their own the same rights and social benefits as the nationals of those countries).

Methods by which the Council can develop cultural co-operation between its members.

The progressive unification of the law of member States with respect to the legal status of foreigners, with the ultimate object of creating a common European nationality and a European passport.

Creation of a programme of major public works to be carried out collectively by member States.

Creation of a European Patents Office.

Closer collaboration in scientific research and technical development between the member countries, and the maximum pooling of material resources and technical manpower for this purpose.

Committees of Assembly

The Assembly's work proceeded in three stages: general debate in plenary session, detailed work in committees, and further plenary debate on the reports prepared by the committees, resulting in resolutions or in recommendations to the Committee of Ministers. (The Assembly, a deliberative body, cannot itself take decisions for action). Six committees were set up, on General Affairs, Economic Questions, Legal and Administrative Questions, Rules of Procedure and Privileges, Social Questions, and Cultural and Scientific Questions. On each of these Committees, composed of 23 or 18 members, all the participating countries are represented.

At the end of the first session the Assembly, in accordance with proposals made by its General Affairs Committee, appointed a Standing Committee consisting of the President, the four Vice-Presidents and 23 other representatives of the Assembly (including the chairmen of the six committees), to be responsible for the co-ordination of the resolutions of the Assembly and of the reports and recommendations of its committees, for the preparation of the work of the next session, and for the adoption of any measures to facilitate and accelerate its work.

Work Achieved

Although it naturally proved impossible during the single month of the first session to reach final conclusions on all the many complex matters raised, the Assembly achieved a considerable feat in working through all the items on its agenda and completing reports, though in many cases these indicated the need for fuller studies.

The resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Assembly ranged over a wide field, covering, as well as proposals for action by the Committee of Ministers, or for further study by Assembly Committees, on all the subjects in its agenda, a number of proposals affecting the role of the Assembly and its relations with the Committee of Ministers, some of which would involve amendments to the Statute. The reports adopted by the Assembly were transmitted by its President, with a covering letter, to the Committee of Ministers for their consideration.

At a press conference immediately after the close of the first session, the President of the Assembly, M. Spaak, reviewed the results of the month's work. M. Spaak said he had come to Strasbourg deeply convinced of the need for European union; he would leave convinced of its possibility. Technically, things had gone better than had been expected. The Assembly had begun neither as an academy nor as a debating society, but as a parliament, at least in embryo. After commenting on the work of the various committees, M. Spaak spoke of future problems. Intellectually, he said, it was evident people accepted the idea of European unity. The question was how they would react to the practical problems involved. It was a question of sacrificing something of today's interests for long-term and permanent /advantage -

advantage - a thing difficult enough for individuals to do, but much more difficult for nations. However, it must be done, or the renovation of Europe would not be achieved.

Further Meetings of Committee of Ministers and Assembly Committees

The Committee of Ministers met to consider the Assembly's proposals from November 3 to 5 in Paris, and took a number of decisions on them, accepting some, rejecting others, and referring certain matters to existing intergovernmental bodies for their comments or to committees of experts for study. The Ministers showed willingness to meet the Assembly's wishes where possible, but made it clear that they were anxious that the Assembly should not duplicate the work of existing intergovernmental organisations or assume responsibilities which belonged more properly to themselves as the executive organ representing the member Governments. The Ministers' decisions were conveyed to the Standing Committee of the Consultative Assembly, which met immediately afterwards in Paris from November 7 to 9. On November 10 the President of the Standing Committee informed the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Standing Committee's views on the decisions, not all of which were acceptable to it. In particular the Standing Committee maintained its view that all committees and subcommittees which had been authorised by the Assembly to carry out further studies should meet for this purpose between sessions (the Ministers had suggested that work between sessions should be confined to the Standing Committee, the General Affairs Committee and the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges, the others being limited to one short meeting before the opening of the Assembly) and pointed out that the Assembly committees were not intended to undertake technical studies which would duplicate work already done elsewhere, but to examine on the political plane technical questions which had already been studied on the expert level. In the event, the Assembly Committees have continued to work on their programmes.

At its third session (March 30 - April 1, 1950), the Committee of Ministers gave further consideration to certain of the Assembly's proposals which it had referred to various bodies for study and report. It also considered the question of relations between the Committee of Minister and the Assembly and agreed that informal meetings should take place between 4 representatives of the Committee of Ministers and 5 representatives of the Assembly (under the Chairmanship of the President, M. Spaak), to discuss the matter. These meetings took place on March 31 and May 18 and resulted in proposals for the creation of a joint committee to maintain good relations between the two bodies, co-ordinate their activities, make proposals for draft agenda, and examine means for giving practical effect to the recommendations adopted. The Committee of Ministers approved these proposals at its fourth session on June 3, and it was agreed that the informal committee which had put them forward should function as a joint committee until the next Assembly session. Procedure was also agreed for the exchange of information between the Council of Europe and the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC).

THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL

The main topics examined by the Council during its first year are set out below, with an indication of the recommendations made and the action taken.

Constitutional Questions: Relations Between Ministers and Assembly

Assembly's Proposals for Amendments to Statute

At its first session, the Assembly put forward a number of proposals designed to give the Assembly increased status and a greater independence vis-à-vis the Committee of Ministers and to enable it to function more efficiently. These proposals would involve amendments to the Statute of the Council of Europe. Their main effects would be: to make new admissions to the Council of Europe subject to the approval of a simple majority of the Assembly; to empower the Assembly to fix its own agenda independently of the Committee of Ministers; to provide for two Deputy Secretaries-General, instead of one (so that the Assembly might have a separate officer); and to do away with the system of substitute delegates ("alternatives") in the Assembly and double the number of representatives allowed to each country - a change which it was felt would make for greater continuity in the Assembly's discussions.

/Ministers' Decisions

Ministers' Decisions

The Committee of Ministers at its second session took the view that it was preferable not to make any changes in the Statute for the time being, since it was an international Treaty reached after long negotiations and only recently ratified by the national Parliaments of the member countries. They decided, however, to meet the Assembly's wishes so far as that could be done in practice within the framework of the Statute in its present form.

The Ministers accordingly agreed that, while as representatives of their Governments they must retain responsibility for new admissions to membership, they would before issuing invitations seek the opinion of the Assembly's Standing Committee.

The Ministers also indicated that they would not exercise their right to control the agenda of the Assembly. They approved the appointment of a Chief of Administrative Services of the Assembly with the rank of Deputy Secretary-General, and, at their third session, proposed the name of Signor Caracciolo Italian for this appointment.

On the question of substitute delegates to the Assembly, the Ministers agreed the system had not given satisfaction. Since, however, the abolition of substitutes would entail certain difficulties in regard to the representation of the smaller States, the Committees instructed the Secretary-General to undertake a fresh examination of this question and to communicate the result to the Standing Committee for their observations. The Committee of Ministers have not yet received a reply from the Standing Committee and have therefore postponed the examination of the problem until a later session.

The Standing Committee of the Assembly, while accepting for the time being the Ministers' decisions on these constitutional matters, intimated that the Assembly's proposals for a revision of the Statute might be renewed at a later date.

Proposals by Assembly's General Affairs Committee

Further suggestions intended to make the Council of Europe a more effective instrument were put forward in March 1950 by the Assembly's Committee on General Affairs. Of these the most important was a proposal to establish a joint executive committee of the Committee of Ministers and the Assembly whose task would be to co-ordinate the work between the two bodies and to supervise the carrying out of the Council's decisions. The General Affairs Committee also suggested that the creation by the governments of member States of the post of a Minister for European Affairs, who would be entrusted under the authority of the Foreign Minister with the supervision of European affairs and would act as a substitute for the Foreign Minister at European level, would speed up the Council's work by making it possible for meetings of the Committee of Ministers to take place more frequently. To obviate possible inconveniences from the Statute provision that decisions of the Committee of Ministers must be unanimous, it was suggested that Ministers might adopt a practice whereby, while not opposing a decision in principle, they could make reservations as to the possibilities of its implementation in their own countries.

Creation of a Joint Committee approved by Ministers

The Committee of Ministers has not yet formally pronounced on these proposals as a whole. At its third session, however, it considered as a matter of immediate importance the proposal for a joint committee. The Ministers did not fully accept the General Affairs Committee's proposals, but favoured the creation of a joint consultative committee, to ensure liaison and to try to establish better relations between the two organs, but without the power to take executive decisions by vote. Informal meetings to discuss arrangements for improved co-operation took place on March 31 and May 18 between four representatives of the Committee of Ministers and four of the Assembly's Standing Committee, with the President, M. Spaak.

At these meetings it was agreed to propose the creation of a joint committee consisting of five representatives of the Ministers and seven representatives of the Assembly (including its President who would act as Chairman) whose purposes would be:

/1. To maintain

1. To maintain good relations between the Committee of Ministers and the Consultative Assembly and to co-ordinate their activities by means of the periodical discussion of common problems.
2. To draw the attention of the Committee of Ministers and of the Consultative Assembly to those questions which appear to be of particular interest to the Council of Europe; and, after consideration of any reports received, to make proposals for the draft agenda of the sessions of the Committee of Ministers and of the Consultative Assembly, without prejudice, however, to their respective rights.
3. To examine and sponsor means of giving practical effect to the recommendations adopted by the Committee of Ministers or the Consultative Assembly.

It was agreed that the joint committee should not take decisions by means of a vote.

These recommendations were accepted by the Ministers at their fourth session in June, and it was decided that the representatives who had drawn them up should function as a joint committee until the matter could be brought before the next session of the Assembly. In this capacity, they proceeded to consider a number of questions relating to the work of the Assembly's next session.

Admission of New Members and Associate Members: Germany and the Saar

At its first session the Assembly requested the Committee of Ministers to examine the question of the admission of new members and associate members. The President of the Assembly, in transmitting this request, commented: "It seems clear from the Assembly's debates that this recommendation envisages more particularly the possibility of the admission of Western Germany, but it also affects the Saar and Austria".

In November the Committee of Ministers agreed in principle in favour of the early admission of Germany and the Saar as associate members, and requested the views of the Standing Committee of the Assembly before taking a final decision. Under the Council's Statute, associate members are represented on the Consultative Assembly but not on the Committee of Ministers, which is reserved for the representatives of States in full charge of their foreign relations. The Ministers agreed that the question of Austria should not be raised for the time being (pending the conclusion of an Austrian treaty which would end the occupation). The Standing Committee expressed agreement in principle to the admission to associate membership of Germany and the Saar, but considered it "essential that the German Federal Republic should state its willingness to abide by the provisions of the Statute and that it should give clear proof of its desire to do so".

The position of Germany was also examined by the Foreign Ministers of the three Western occupation Powers at a meeting in Paris from November 9 to 11, at the end of which they affirmed their intention "to support and foster the progressive integration of the German people into the European community". The protocol signed at Petersberg by the Allied High Commission and the German Federal Government as a result of these discussions recorded their satisfaction at the desire expressed on both sides that the Federal Republic should be promptly admitted to the Council of Europe as an associate member.

Invitations Issued to Germany and the Saar

In March 1950, at its third session, the Committee of Ministers decided to issue formal invitations to the German Federal Republic and the Saar, through the Allied High Commission and the French Government respectively, to join the Council as associate members. This step was taken after the German Federal Chancellor had asked the Allied High Commission for clarification on certain points regarding the terms on which Germany might be associated with the Council's work. In the letters of invitation it was indicated that Germany would have 18 seats in the Assembly - the same number as the United Kingdom, France and Italy - and the Saar three, which would put it on the same level as Iceland and Luxembourg.

/On May 2

On May 2 the Saar Diet unanimously voted in favour of accepting the invitation. In January the German Federal Government's Bill for acceptance of the invitation was passed on May 25 in the Upper House (voting by Länder) by 7 votes to 4 and on June 15 in the Lower House by 220 votes to 152. This Bill has now been approved by the Allied High Commission.

Political Questions

The role of the Council of Europe in the political field was discussed by the Assembly's General Affairs Committee. At the end of the debate on this Committee's report, the Assembly adopted a resolution declaring that "the aim and goal of the Council of Europe is the creation of a European political authority with limited functions but real power". It also recommended that member governments should be urged to organise the instruction of their people, "pointing out to them the undeniable advantages of union for Europe and at the same time the dangers inherent in national isolation".

Studies on the Political Structure of Europe

The Assembly decided that more study was required than had been possible in the time at its disposal of the delicate and difficult problems involved in changing the political structure of Europe. It therefore charged the Committee on General Affairs to carry out a detailed and objective study of the various proposals for achieving a closer political unity between the member States, and the changes which they would entail in the political and constitutional structure of each State, and to complete by April 1950 a report which could be placed on the agenda of the next session. The Assembly expressed the wish that the Committee of Ministers might propose to member States that recommendations then adopted might be discussed by the national Parliaments.

The Assembly also instructed the General Affairs Committee to draw up a European agreement defining the guiding principles of the Council of Europe and forestalling possible conflicts between participating countries by confirming their intention to outlaw war.

Economic Affairs

Assembly Proposals

The main recommendations of the Assembly in the economic field, on which it requested the Committee of Ministers to take action, related to:

intensifying the spread of economic information to make the peoples of Europe aware of the gravity of the present situation;

establishing a multilateral system of payments, including the restoration of the convertibility of European payments;

creating permanent machinery for the co-ordination of credit policy;

extending the work of OEEC for the promotion of intra-European trade, and the study of economic relations between European and associated countries and territories;

preliminary action for the establishment of a European economic union, retaining the preferential systems and economic ties now in existence between certain European nations and overseas countries and territories associated with them;

developing production within member countries so that their individual import requirements might be met as efficiently as possible from their combined resources;

promoting the free movement of labour;

encouraging the investment of American and other non-European capital;

extending a system of guaranteed markets;

/calling an

calling an economic conference to study these proposals;

calling industrial conferences representing employers', workers' and consumers' organisations, with the object of organising the industries concerned and of increasing their productivity;

preparing a convention for the control of international cartels.

The Assembly requested the Committee of Ministers to submit proposals to meet these recommendations to the next session of the Assembly, and afterwards to nominate a delegation from the Council of Europe which should enter into negotiations with the United States and with any other interested government.

The Economic Committee of the Assembly had set up four sub-committees - on Finance and Currency; Commercial Policy; Industry, Agriculture and Food; and Public Works - to which a number of subjects raised by members of the Assembly during the first session had been sent for study. The Assembly decided that the Economic Committee and its sub-committees might sit between sessions, and might hear evidence from experts on their own subjects, and that for this purpose contact should be established with the United Nations, the OEEC and the Bank for International Settlements. Among proposals examined by the Economic Committee and its sub-committees at meetings in December were a scheme for the constitution of European companies and measures for harmonising iron and steel production, for increasing agricultural production and for the control of international cartels. Interest has recently been focused on some of these studies as a result of the Schuman proposals for the European iron and coal industries.

Decisions of Committee of Ministers

The Committee of Ministers, having in mind the need for avoiding overlapping with the work of existing inter-governmental bodies concerned with economic affairs, decided to invite the OEEC to consider the Assembly's proposals and to send their comments to the Ministers, especially with reference to any action already being taken on these matters by OEEC, and to obtain any relevant information from other inter-governmental bodies. The Ministers decided to await the OEEC's report before taking any decision on the Assembly's proposal for the despatch of a delegation to the United States.

The OEEC's comments were presented to the Committee of Ministers at its third session in March 1950, and it was decided to transmit them, with additional comments by the Ministers, to the Consultative Assembly. The OEEC's report pointed out that the Organisation already had under study a number of the matters proposed by the Assembly, such as the establishment of a system of multilateral payments, restoration of the convertibility of European currencies and the creation of a permanent body to discuss credit policy.

The Ministers considered that the time had not yet come for the convening of a European economic conference as desired by the Assembly. They decided that the control of international cartels should be studied in collaboration with the Preparatory Commission of the International Trade Organisation.

Relations with OEEC

The question of relations between the Council of Europe and the OEEC came before the Committee of Ministers as a result of the Assembly's proposals that its Economic Committee should have access to OEEC documents and the right to question OEEC officials. The view had been expressed, both in the Committee of Ministers and within the OEEC, that direct relations between the OEEC and the Assembly would not be appropriate, since the OEEC is a governmental organisation while the Assembly is non-governmental, and also since not all member countries of the OEEC are members of the Council of Europe.

In March, the Committee of Ministers decided to set up a sub-committee in Paris, under the chairmanship of the Turkish Ambassador, M. Numan Menemencioglu, to discuss its relations with the OEEC, and the means by which an exchange of information could be developed between the two bodies, "acting in a spirit of mutual assistance, with due regard for their respective constitutions and functions". As

/a result

a result of discussions between this sub-committee and representatives of the OEEC, arrangements were agreed whereby documents could be exchanged by the Secretaries-General of the two organisations, and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe was empowered, subject to certain conditions, to request OEEC experts to furnish oral information to the Economic Committee of the Assembly.

Cultural and Social Questions: Human Rights

Cultural Co-operation

The report of the Assembly's Committee for Cultural and Scientific Questions at the first session recommended the development of the kind of cultural conventions which some member States already have with one another. It proposed that the Committee of Ministers should ensure between member States the free circulation of books, periodicals, works of art and documentary films, should consider close co-operation in scientific research and technical development between member countries, should provide for aid to private organisations working to promote European culture, should invite the Ministers of Education of member States to meet and draw up a European plan for cultural co-operation, should invite university authorities to meet, and should institute a European Cultural Centre.

The Ministers adopted the Assembly's recommendation on cultural conventions. After the Secretary-General had, on the Ministers' instructions, consulted with other organisations already working in the cultural field, the Ministers decided that the free circulation of cultural material could best be promoted through UNESCO, and that the measures initiated by the OEEC met requirements for collaboration in scientific research and technical development. The last three recommendations were referred to governmental experts for examination.

Social Affairs

The report of the Assembly's Committee on Social Affairs, adopted by the Assembly at its first session, emphasised the importance of social security as a vital weapon in the battle for social justice, and one of the best means of preserving peace and safeguarding real democracy. It urged member nations to press on with the ratification of the International Labour Organisation conventions, and also recommended to member States that, "until such time as a European code of social security be drawn up", they should continue to perfect their social security legislation with the view to achieving a common standard of social security and should study the possibility of a general ratification of international conventions and of drawing up a multilateral agreement on social security.

The Assembly resolved that the Committee on Social Questions should continue its work between sessions and should establish contact with the International Labour Organisation and other international organisations working in this field. Among subjects referred to it for special study were the problems of housing and the migration of workers. Sub-committees on these subjects were set up and held meetings during the year.

The Committee of Ministers decided at its second meeting in November to transmit the Assembly's recommendations to the governments of member States.

During its third session the Committee of Ministers, at the request of the Belgian Government, examined the possibility of extending to Member States of the Council of Europe the multilateral Convention on Social Security signed on November 7, 1949, by the Foreign Ministers of the Brussels Treaty Powers. They decided to set up a committee of governmental experts representing the Member States of the Council of Europe, to study this question. These experts held their first meeting in Strasbourg on June 15, 1950.

Human Rights

The Assembly recommended to the Committee of Ministers that it should have prepared as soon as possible a draft convention providing a collective guarantee for the effective enjoyment by all persons residing in the territories of member States of fundamental rights and freedoms. A draft of suggested articles for the proposed convention, adopted by the Assembly's Legal and Administrative Committee, was submitted to the Committee of Ministers.

/From the

From the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations Assembly in December, 1948, the Legal Committee had selected a list of personal and political rights and freedoms, the observance of which it regarded as essential to the working of democratic institutions, and which it proposed should be the subject of a collective guarantee. The machinery suggested for this purpose would consist of a European Commission for Human Rights, on which all member States would be represented, to carry out investigation and conciliation, and a European Court of Justice to which cases might be transmitted if conciliation failed.

At its second session, the Committee of Ministers decided to invite member governments to nominate representatives to a committee of legal experts to draw up a draft convention, with due attention to progress achieved in the United Nations. The Assembly's Standing Committee, though it expressed regret that the Ministers had not adopted the Assembly's draft, saw no objection to the procedure proposed provided that the expert committee kept in touch with the Chairman of the Assembly's Legal Committee.

The legal experts met early in 1950 and their report was submitted a few days before the Committee of Ministers' third session. The Ministers, before pronouncing on the report as a whole, decided to refer to a committee of high government officials certain political issues involved on which the legal experts had not felt themselves competent to pronounce. This committee met in June and the matter was to be further considered by the Ministers before the next Assembly session.

Proposed European Patents Office

A draft scheme for a European patents office, adopted by its Economic Committee, was transmitted by the Assembly to the Committee of Ministers, which was requested to inform the Assembly as soon as possible of any objections it might have to make to putting the scheme into operation. In the meantime, the Assembly instructed its Economic Committee to prepare a final draft for submission to its next session.

At their second session in November, the Ministers instructed the Secretary-General of the Council to collect all relevant material on this subject and make a report to the Ministers. For this purpose he might call on the services of governmental experts.

LIST OF UNITED KINGDOM OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

The following White Papers have been issued by the United Kingdom Government on the subject of the Council of Europe:-

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| Cmd. 7778 | Statute of the Council of Europe |
| Cmd. 7720 | Explanatory Note on the Provisions of the Statute of the Council of Europe |
| Cmd. 7807 | Report on the Proceedings of the First Session of the Council of Europe (with related documents). |
| Cmd. 7838 | Report on the Proceedings of the Second Session of the Committee of Ministers and of the Second Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Council of Europe. |
| Cmd. 7954 | Report on the Proceedings of the Third Session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. |