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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Changes in the political structure of Europe necessary to achieve a greater unity between the Members of the Council of Europe and to brign about effective cooperation in the various fields specified in Article 1 of the Statute

Report
Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy
Rapporteur: Mr Guy MOLLET, France

A. Explanatory memorandum

1.

1. The Consultative Assembly, during its second Session, referred a number of Motions to the Committee on General Affairs, during the Debate on the settling of the Agenda and during that on the Report and Message from the Committee of Ministers. The; Committee also had before it motions which were tabled during the Debate on the Report but which had not then been considered by the Assembly.

2. The Plenary Committee held ten meetings. Each of its sub-committees—on the Statute, on security, and on overseas territories—held five or six meetings. This is an indication of the fullness of the discussions which took place in them. Many of these discussions afforded opportunities for an exhaustive study of some of the fundamental problems of the Council of Europe.

3. The Committee examined all the proposals which were referred to it. It endeavoured, whenever possible, to reach balanced conclusions, calculated to receive the unanimous or almost unanimous approval of the Committee. The desire to achieve results of this kind had guided the work of the Committee during the period between the sessions. The Debates which took place during the first weeks of this Session convinced the Committee that, desite certain criticisms and reproaches, no better way was open to them, if they wished to preserve the unity of the Council of Europe and to retain as their objective the realisation of a union of the whole of Europe—which is without doubt the aim of the very great majority of the Assem-bly.

4. With this general purpose in view, the Committee devoted the greater part of its efforts to the working out of proposals designed to achieve closer political union : this subject had already formed the. First Part of its previous Report. The Committee has based its work on the same principles that the Assembly adopted on 18th August last, after the General Debate on its Report (Doc. 74 preamble) :

a. to intensify inter-governmental co-operation, by establishing better co-ordination between existing European organisations.

b. to increase the flexibility of the rules governing their operation. The Committee has made a special study of the question of " partial agreements ", which it had already examined between Sessions. It has also endeavoured to work out a general line of policy and it submits a practical suggestion for its application.

c. to facilitate the exercise of an effective European Parliamentary supervision—and this time the Committee is proposing that the texts adopted by the Assembly should be transmitted direct to the national Parliaments.

d. to strengthen the authority of the Council of Europe.

5. These various Resolutions have been, in every case, adopted unanimously, or virtual so. Not that your Committee has made a fetish of unanimity, but in its opinion the present international situation demanded that everything should be done to preserve the union of all Europe. During the coming months, it will be for the Governments, and for the Committee of Ministers, which is their spokesman, to give proof by positive measures of their desire to advance along such a road. The second part of the Assembly Session will enable us to see where we stand. The Committee therefore proposes to you in its Draft of a Reply to the Report from the Committee of Ministers that a solemn appeal should be addressed to the latter body (See Second Part, I (8)).

6. May I be allowed, at the very beginning of this Report, to tell M. BIDAULT how greatly the Committee appreciated his smiling but authoritative direction of our discussions, and at the same time convey my sincerest tbanks to our Vice-Chairman, M. OIILIN, and to all my colleagues, and particularly to the Chairmen and Rapporteurs of the Sub-Committees, MM. CAPPI, MACCAS, DE LA VALLÉE-POUSSIN, BOIIY, MACKAY, SANDYS and SCHERER, for the confidence they have been good enough to repose in me and the help they have afforded me in discharging my task as Rapporteur.

7. In the following pages will be found certain facts regarding the Resolutions and Recommendations submitted to the Assembly, which will, I hope, facilitate their discussion.

1.1. REPLY TO THE REPORT AND MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

8. The Assembly had referred to the Committee the Motion of M. PHILIP and several other Representatives(Doc. 43)and that of M. BEN-VENUTI and his colleagues (Doc. 49). The Committee had also before it Motions submitted by M. VAN DER GOES VAN NATERS and Mr. MACKAY.

9. Two different conceptions of what the reply should be were put forward.

10. Some representatives were in favour of Mr. MACKAY'S motion and wished the reply to be limited to a simple " covering note, " which would be transmitted together with the summary of the Debates in the Assembly and of the Recommendations adopted.

11. The other, taking M. PHILIP'S motion as a basis for discussion, wished the Assembly to declare more forcibly its disappointment at the inadequate nature of the replies to its Recommendations.

12. The Committee thought it would be wiser to draw the attention of the Committee of Ministers to the tasks which awaited the Council of Europe in the future, rather than to a consideration of the past. In this spirit, accepting the latter point of view, the Committee unanimously decided to propose to the Assembly the text set out in the Second Part, Section I.

1.2. PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO EFFECT CLOSER UNION

1.2.1. Presentation to Parliaments of the Assembly's Recommendations

13. The Committee received a Motion by M. SCHERER (Doc. 78). Mr. SANDYS submitted another slightly different Motion during a Sitting.

14. The text submitted by your Committee represents a fusion of these two Motions and was adopted unanimously, there being two abstentions (Second Part, Section II (1)).

15. This text supplements the Proposal, already adopted by the Assembly, which recommends the Committee of Ministers to invite the Governments to lay Resolutions adopted by the Assembly before their Parliaments (see Doc. 74 ,para. 3). Like that Proposal, it seeks to increase the authority of the Assembly by strengthening the links which connect it to national Parliaments.

1.2.2. General Policy of the Council of Europe

16. The Assembly referred to the Committee a Motion by M. AZARA and other Representatives(Doc. 35), advocating the signature of a European Federal Pact which might be limited to certain Member States only : subsequently, MM. VAN DER GOES VAN NATERS and SANDYS submitted two other texts. Various attempts, at compromise were made, first by MM. BEN-VENUTI, CAPPI, VAN DER GOES VAN NATERS and SANDYS, and afterwards by the Bureau of the Committee. - It is important to emphasise that the text submitted in this connection (Second Part, Section II (2)) was adopted unanimously.

17. It will be noted that the word " defence " is not explicitly mentioned in paragraph (i) of the Resolution (where the possible fields of competence of the " specialised authorities, " to be set up within the framework of the Council of Europe, are laid down). - The majority of the Committee considered indeed that it would be normal, especially after the recent Debates in the Assembly, to give the widest possible interpretation to the expression " political field " which is used in the text, making it extend to " problems of defence in their political aspects; " but other members of the Committee did not agree. - Finally, in order to enable the Resolution on general policy to reach the largest possible audience, and also in order to avoid a Debate on procedure in this connection, the Committee decided, on the proposal of M. KAPANI, to formulate its interpretation in a separate text (cf. Part Two, Section II, 3). This was adopted by 15 votes to 6.

18. Together with other measures suitable for giving effect to the policy defined above, the Committee, on the proposal of Mile. KLOMPE, suggested the signature of an additional Protocol of the Council of Europe, which would enable certain partial agreements concluded within the framework of the Council to be implemented, with the assistance of its Secretariat (cf. Part Two, Section II, 4). - This Resolution was unanimously adopted. The Committee will note that this supplements the Recommendation already adopted by the Assembly with a view to giving greater flexibility to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Ministers(Doc. 74 ,para 5, i) and that it provides a possible method of implementing the Recommendation already adopted in regard to partial agreements (Doc. 74, para 1, v).

1.2.3. Additional Protocol to the Statute

19. Some resolutions submitted by MM. MAC-KAY (Doc. 19 and Doc. 64), BENVENUTI (Doc. 49), REYNAUD(Doc. 45), NORTON(Doc. 15) and PERSICO (DOC. 60) have been communicated to the Committee; some of these suggest a complete redrafting of the Statute, others the alteration of certain Articles. - The Committee noted that the Recommendations already adopted by the Assembly (Doc. 74, Ch. II)

implied an extensive redrafting of the Statute. It would no doubt be better to await information as to the decisions of the Committee of Ministers in regard to those Recommendations before undertaking any further study. - The Committee, therefore,, proposes that you should instruct it to undertake such work as is thought necessary, during the period between Sessions (Part Two, Section II, 5). This work would be based, inter alia, on the Proposals referred to above. (Resolution adopted unanimously) .

20. The Sub-Committee on the Statute noted, inter alia, that the Motion of M. REYNAUD(DOC. 45), concerning the organisation of the Sessions of the Assembly, was in fact covered by the Recommendation already adopted by the Assembly (Doc. 74 ,para. 8, ii). - The Committee considered that though the Motion submitted by M. PERSICO(DOC. 60)(Protocol concerning the appointment of Ministers of European Affairs) was in part covered by a Recommendation which had already been adopted(Doc. 74 ,para. 4), it was worthy of further study, which the Committee intends to carry out between Sessions. - Mr. NORTON'S motion (Sessions of Committees in different Capitals-AS (2) 15) will also be examined between Sessions. - Lastly, the Committee on Economic Questions asked the Committee on General Affairs to consider M. BASTIANETTO'S motion(Doc. 58)on the establishment of a Ministry of European Economy. The Committee decided to include this question in its Agenda, subject to the approval of the Assembly.

1.2.4. Work of the Sub-Committee on European Security

21. The Consultative Assembly had referred to the Committee on General Affairs the Motions tabled by :

Mr. SANDYS(Doc. 36);

MM. DE MENTHON and BIDAULT(Doc. 37).

22. The Committee decided to examine the following points in the first place :

Motions submitted by:

a. Mr. SANDYS (DOC. 36);

b. MM. DE MENTHON and BIDAULT(DOC. 37);

c. M. TSALDARIS'S motion which was subsequently laid before the Committee.

22.1. Motions to the effect that a European Minister of Defence should be " subject to European democratic control, " as stipulated in the Assembly's Resolution and in that submitted by M. BIDAULT and some other representatives(Doc. 37).

22.2. Principles of a European Defence Convention designed to implement these Proposals, referred to in the draft conditions of resolution AS/AG (2) 7; and instructed the Sub-Committee on European Security to undertake a preliminary study of these questions, under the conditions laid down in a Resolution AS/AG 27 quoted below, so as to be able to report on them to the plenary Committee[1]

23. The preliminary discussions held by the Sub-Committee on European Security revealed that substantial agreement exists as to the way in which these questions should be approached and dealt with.

24. In the very brief time at its disposal it was obviously impossible for the Sub-Committee to submit a final Report on so vast a problem. In view of the extreme importance of this question, it does not appear desirable at this stage to publish provisional or partial conclusions which, after the further examination now contemplated, may have to be modified. The Committee on General Affairs has therefore not thought it advisable to hold a general discussion on these problems in plenary Committee.

25. None the less, the urgency of the question is fully recognised, and the examination of these problems will be actively pursued after the end of the Session. A complete Report will be submitted as soon as possible.

26. In connection with this part of the Report, I must point out that Mr. CHOSLAND informed the Committee that he could not accept it.

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1. The main passages from Doc AS/AG. (2)7 are givon below : " This examination should bo carried out in the spirit of the Resolution unanimously adopted by tho Committeo last Juno (Section 67 of tho Report) requiring the Assembly to : ' Conside r that it is possible for it, within the framework of the present Statute, to hold General Debates on political problems of a non-military character which are linked with the need of assuring tho security of Europe '. " " Attentio n was also drawn to the corresponding passage in the Statement of Reasons (paras. 44 and 45 of the Report) and in particular to the following observation inserted at Mr. Macmillan's request : ' ...al l questions which in tho ordinary way would be answered in our national Parliaments, b y the Minister of National Defence should be excluded from our Debates. On tho other hand, all questions which should bo answered by the Minister for Foreign Affairs should bo admitted '.

1.3. LIAISON BETWEEN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND OVERSEAS TERRITORIES OR COUNTRIES

27. The proposals of MM. SANDYS (Doc. 33) MACKAY (Doc. 50) and BARDOUX (DOC. 76), were put before the Committee. The Sub-Committee on Overseas Territories considered that Mr. SANDYS' Motion(Doc. 33)constituted, in fact, an invitation to carry on the work already undertaken by the Working Party on Overseas Territories, established in December 1949, within the Committee, in order to enquire into the terms and conditions under which overseas territories or countries constitutionally linked to Member Countries of the Council of Europe might participate actively in the work of the Council and in the progress of European union. The conclusions of the Sub-Committee's deliberations were unanimously approved by the Committee (Part Two, Section III).

28. Mr. MACKAY'S Resolution for the convening of a Constituent Assembly for Africa(Doc. 50)and that of M. BARDOUX, relating to the International Mandate for Libya(Doc. 76), weere retained on the Sub-Committee's Agenda, with the agreement of the plenary Committee, for subsequent examination.

1.4. VARIOUS RESOLUTION

1.4.1. Creation of a special Committee to watch over the interests of European nations not represented in the Council of Europe

29. The text, which was unanimously adopted by the Committee (Part Two, Section IV, 1), was the outcome of a study of the Motion tabled by Mr. MACMILLAN and several other Representatives(Doc. 24).

1.4.2. Organisation of free elections in Spain

30. M. BOHY, Rapporteur on this question, emphasized the point that the Assembly had just proclaimed that the right to free elections was one of the fundamental rights which should be protected by the Convention on Human Rights. The Resolution, which had already been submitted elsewhere (Part Two, Section IV, 2) was adopted by 18 votes to 2, after an examination of a Resolution proposed by M. MOTZ(DOC. 44), with which it was practically identical. The opponents of the Resolution declared that they looked upon it as a direct intervention in the internal affairs of an independent European State, and for that reason were unable to accept it.

1.4.3. Resolution proposed by M. Bardoux, regarding a peace treaty with the Germans Federal Republic (DOC. 56)

31. Upon the request of the German Representatives on the Committee, it was agreed to re-examine this Resolution later on after careful preliminary studies.

1.4.4. Information of European Public Opinion

32. The Committee examined the Report on this question (Doc. 85) prepared by the Secretary- General. It thanked him for his help and unanimously approved the Resolution already submitted elsewhere (Part Two, Section IV c). It is desirable that the various specialised Committees (On Rules of Procedure, Legal Questions, Cultural Questions, etc.) should ponder the very interesting suggestions put forward by the Secretariat (Council of Europe Flag, free circulation, sports displays, European Congress, etc.), which might prove to be useful propaganda media.

1.4.5. European Youth Conference

33. The Committee had before it a proposal tabled by M. BERGMANN relating to a " Meeting of European Youth " to be held at Strasbourg, during one of the Council's Sessions (Doc. 40). It considered it more desirable and more in accordance with the dignity of the Assembly that the latter should encourage the leaders of the more important democratic youth movements to organise a " European Youth Conference " at Strasbourg, during one of its forthcoming Sessions. The Resolution (Part Two, Section IV, 4) was adopted unanimously except for two votes.

B. Draft Resolutions and Recommendations

I. REPLY TO THE REPORT ON THE MESSAGE OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

The Committee on General Affairs submits the following text of the reply to be included in the letter which the President of the Assembly will address to the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers when forwarding to him the Recommendations of the Assembly.

1. The Assembly, having before it the Report and the Message of the Committee of Ministers, has noted with satisfaction that the Committee of Ministers has supplemented its Report with the political considerations contained in the Message. It has taken note of the decisions taken during recent months with a view to the unification of Europe, as set forth in the Messege. It hopes that they will be the forerunners of further specific measures. In particular, it warmly welcomes the initiative of the French Government.

2. The Assembly has recognised readily that account must be taken of these results in judging the actions of the Committee of Ministers, which is the representative organ of the Governments. But it emphasises that this very fact bears witness to the imperative necessity of effecting a closer co-ordination between the existing inter-Governmental organisations. It particularly draws the attention of the Committee of Ministers to the Recommendations which it has adopted on this matter.

3. The Assembly has welcomed the statements made by the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers and M. SCHUMAN. It has requested me warmly to thank them. It regrets, however that the Representative of the Committee of Ministers should not have been in a position to reply to the questions asked by the various speakers. The Assembly, indeed, considers it essential for the progress of its work and for the development of the Council of Europe as a whole, that both Representatives of the Committee of Ministers and Ministers of the Member States should take an active part in its Debates.

4. The Assembly thanks the Committee of Ministers for giving it the opportunity of proclaiming its agreement with the action taken by the Security Council of the United Nations and for thus enabling European public opinion to express itself on the gravest problems which are now causing such deep anxiety in our countries. The Assembly declares that it is only by the closest liaison between the Governments of democratic Europe—whose mouthpiece is the Committee of Ministers—and the European Parliaments— of which the Assembly is the most qualified representative that it will become possible for the people to be fully associated with the grave measures which have now to be taken by the free States of Europe.

5. It is these very considerations that have caused the Assembly to regard the conclusions of the Statutory Report of the Committee of Ministers as extremely disappointing. The main part of the decisions taken by the Committee has only been concerned with questions of internal organisation or of procedure. With the exception of the Convention on Human Rights, the few Recommendations adopted by the Committee have only been concerned with secondary questions.

6. It would appear that this lack of effective liaison between the Committee of Ministers and the Assembly has prevented the Committee from grasping the immense importance that the Assembly attaches to consideration being given to its Recommendations. Whatever may have been said, the Assembly is composed of politicians, who fully recognise the gravity of their responsibilities. Consequently, the Assembly regrets that the Committee of Ministers should not have seen its way to make fitting use of an organisation that came into being—as it undoubtedly did—-under the pressure of public opinion in the Member States, and which has received the approbation of the Parliaments of those countries.

7. Faced with the hesitancy of the Committee, the Assembly has endeavoured to propose modifications or interpretations of the Statute which, in its opinion, would be calculated to improve the functioning of that instrument. But the Assembly did not seek to substitute itself for the executive power. Its rôle with regard to questions affecting European union is to formulate proposals of a general character and to define the principles of the political action which it recommends to the Governments. It will then appertain. On the other hand, the Assembly, which is the expression of European public opinion, is justified in asking that the Committee of Ministers should provide them with definite plans, largely taking into account the Recommendations passed by the Assembly. The Assembly is ready to give its complete support to such plans, in conformity with its mission, and with the hopes that the peoples have placed in it.

8. It is in this spirit that the Assembly has sought, during the present Session, to confirm and supplement its previous Recommendations. It expresses the firm hope that the Committee of Ministers will acquaint it, before the opening of the second period of its present Session, of its first positive décisions on these Recommendations, decisions which, it hopes, will be of a favourable nature.

II. SEVERAL PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO EFFECT A CLOSER POLITICAL UNION

(a) Submission to Parliaments of Recommendations by the Assembly

9. The Committee on General Affairs submits to the Assembly the following Resolutions :

" That the Standing Committee shall select from among the Resolutions passed by the Assembly those which are of most general application and whose adoption it regards as most important or urgent.

" That such Resolutions shall be communicated to the Governments of all Member States of the Council of Europe and to all Members of Parliaments of those States.

" That Members of the Consultative Assembly undertake to do their utmost to secure that such Resolutions, selected by the Standing Committee, shall as quickly as possible be presented to their respective Parliaments for discussion.

" That the Members of the Consultative Assembly who have voted for these Resolutions in the Assembly undertake to use their best endeavour to ensure their adoption by their respective Parliaments. "

(b) General Policy of the Council of Europe

10. The Committee on General Affairs proposes to the Assembly the following Recommendation : " Th e Assembly, " Havin g reaffirmed its desire for the institution of a European Political Authority with limited functions but real powers, comprising all Nations faithful to democratic ideas, " Urgentl y recommends that the Committee of Ministers shall adopt the following policy :

" That, within the framework of the Council of Europe, specialised authorities should be instituted which would be competent, respectively, in the political, economic, social, legal and cultural fields;

" Although the existence of the Council of Europe essentially depends upon the presence within its organisation of all the democratic Nations of Europe, each of them shall nevertheless be free to accede to the specialised authorities, or to one or several of them ;

" These specialised authorities which it is thus intended to create and to maintain, shall remain open to any Member State which may subsequently wish to accede to them. Their organs of administration and control should be integrated with those of the Council of Europe;

" Those States which desire, from the outset, to form closer organic links shall be free to establish them between themselves. The form these links should assume will be settled by them after discussions in which all Member States of the Council of Europe shall take part. The organs of administration and control shall be instituted according to the methods set forth at the end of paragraph 3. The same opportunities as above for the subsequent accession of other Member States shall be maintained. "

11. The Committee on General Affairs, having voted the above Motion (AS/AG (2) 31), formally confirms the interpretation, given by its Rapporteur, that, in accordance with Resolution Doc. 80 adopted by the Assembly, the expression " political field ", which appears in paragraph 1 of Resolution AS/AG (2) 31, includes the political aspects of defence problems.

12. The Committee on General Affairs submits to the Assembly the following Recommendation : " Th e Assembly, " Considerin g it desirable that the execution of agreements which do not apply immediately to all the Member States of the Council of Europe should be effected within the framework of the Council, " Recommend s the Committee of Ministers to propose to the Governments of the Member States of the Council of Europe the adoption of the following additional Protocol to the Statute of the Council :

" By special Conventions concluded between the Member States or between some of them, powers not provided for by the Statute of the Council may be conferred both on special Committees of the Committee of Ministers and on Committees of the Consultative Assembly, composed of Representatives of the States which are signatories of these special Conventions, without thereby binding either the States which are not signatories of these Conventions or their Representatives in the Consultative Assembly.

" The special Committees of the Committee of Ministers and the Committees of the Consultative Assembly indicated above shall regularly submit Reports on their activities together with the necessary documentation, the aforesaid Committees to the Committee of Ministers, the Committees to the Consultative Assembly.

" The Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe may be called upon, by the special Conventions mentioned above, to render assistance to new organs established between the Member States, or between some of them. Any additional expenses of the Secretariat-General which might result from these new duties shall be borne by the Council of Europe, on condition that at least two-thirds of the Member States are parties to the said Conventions. When less than two-thirds of the Member States of the Council are parties to the said Conventions, the possible additional expenses of the Secretariat shall be borne by the signatory States under conditions fixed by the Convention. "

(c) Preparation of a Protocol for the Amendment of the Statute of the Council of Europe

13. The Committee on General Affairs submits the following Resolution to the Assembly : " Th e Assembly, " Havin g declared that the aim of the Council of Europe is the creation of a European Political Authority with limited functions but real powers, " Recognisin g that the present Statute of the Council of Europe does not provide for such a Political Authority, " Desirou s of considering whether a European Political Authority can be created by amending the Statute of the Council of Europe,

" Resolve s to place on the Agenda for the second half of its 1950 Session the examination of a Draft Protocol for the amendment of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

" Instructs the Committee on General Affairs to draw up a Protocol to this effect,

" Requests the Committee to take as a basis for this work, in addition to the conclusions already adopted in its Report, all Motions which have been submitted to it and any suggestions it may receive from Representatives before 31st October 1950.

III. LIAISON BETWEEN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND OVERSEAS TERRITORIES OR COUNTRIES

The Committee on General Affairs submits the following Recommendation to the Assembly :

" The Assembly,

" Takin g into account the Resolution adopted by the Committee on General Affairs at Strasbourg on 21st December 1949, under which :

" The Committee on General Affairs unanimously expresses the wish that the President of the Assembly should get into touch with the British Government to request it to arrange unofficial conversations between representatives of the countries of the British Commonwealth and representatives of the Council of Europe with a view to determining the manner in which the Commonwealth may collaborate with the Council of Europe in the political and economic spheres. "

Taking into account, likewise, the reply given to this request by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom, after the meeting in Colombo of the members of the Commonwealth, which contained in particular the following passage :

" Th e representatives of the other Governments of the Commonwealth have stated that in their opinion there was nothing incompatible between the policy pursued by the Government of the United Kingdom with regard to Western Europe and the maintenance of the traditional links between the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. "

Having already declared that " the realisation of European unity must not entail any weakening of the links at present existing between certain Members of the Council of Europe and overseas territories or countries ", and that " the active participation of these countries is, on the contrary, particularly necessary as a contribution to thé progress of European unity;

14. Recommends to the Committee of Ministers that the Governments concerned shall consult the Governments of the overseas countries with which they have links of a constitutional character, in order to study ways and means of ensuring that their interests are adequately represented in the Council of Europe;

15. Instructs the Standing Committee, in order to facilitate these consultations, to invite the Parliaments of the overseas countries in question which are not already directly or indirectly represented in the Council of Europe to send observers to the next Session of the Consultative Assembly;

16. Relies on the Governments of Member States to ensure the representation in the Council of Europe of the interests of such other territories or countries as are linked in some way or other with Member States of this Council.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS

(a) Creation of a special Committee to watch over the interests of those European nations that are not represented on the Council of Europe

17. The Committee on General Affairs submits the following Resolution to the Assembly : " Th e Assembly, " Recognisin g that certain nations which are precluded from participating in the work of the Council of Europe nevertheless form an integral part of Europe, " decide s to instruct the Standing Committee to constitute a special Committee whose duty it would be to ensure that the interests of these nations shall be considered in every proposal which may be formulated by the Assembly or its Committees. " This Committee may request the advice of Experts belonging to these nations; it shall be kept informed of the work of the other Committees of the Assembly, and shall be authorised to offer them its observations for the achievement of its purpose as defined above. "

(b) Motion calling for free elections in Spain and for Spanish participation in the Council of Europe

18. The Committee on General Affairs submits to the Assembly the following Motion : " The Assembly, " expresse s the hope that, in the near future the Spanish people may hold free elections and set up a constitutional regime, with a Parliament whose members will be eligible to serve as Representatives in this Assembly. "

(c) Information of European Public Opinion

19. The Committee on General Affairs submits to the Assembly the following Recommendation : " The Assembly, " havin g considered the Report drawn up for it by the Secretariat-General at the suggestion of the Committee on General Affairs (Doc. AS (2) 85) on the informing of European public opinion, " call s on each of its competent Committees to examine the various suggestions contained in Chapter I of the Report and subsequently to make known their conclusions, " hereb y draws the attention of the Committee of Ministers to the questions raised in paragraph (E) of Chapter I (Television), " recommend s that the Committee of Ministers should furnish the Secretariat-General with facilities for the development, with the least possible delay, of the work of its Information Directorate. This work should be carried out in the various Member States in collaboration with the competent Government departments. "

(d) Organisation of a European Youth Conference

20. The Committee on General Affairs submits to the Assembly the following Resolution : " The Assembly, " believin g that the creation of a really united Europe cannot be brought about without the support and energy of the democratic youth of all European countries, " expresse s its desire that there should be organised at Strasbourg, during the next summer Session, a large-scale gathering of the youth of Europe, in which Representatives of all the democratic youth movements of the European countries would take part, and declares its desire that the Council of Europe should contribute to the expenses of this Conference, and its hope that other institutions or bodies will similarly contribute to this good work. "