



Recommendation 580 (1970)¹

International Institute of Human Rights

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its Members, in particular through the maintenance and further realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms ;
2. Considering that, by the conclusion of the European Convention on Human Rights and its five Protocols, the Council of Europe has given legal expression to this common aspiration of the peoples of Europe ;
3. Considering that many other important developments aimed at the more effective protection of human rights have taken place in recent years in the United Nations and its specialised agencies, in other international regional organisations and in the practice of states, and that these developments call for research and comparative study for which present resources are inadequate ;
4. Recalling its [Recommendation 286 \(1961\)](#) in favour of the creation of an International Institute of Human Rights,
5. Expresses its pleasure that the decision of the Norwegian Storting to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 1968 to Mr. René Cassin, former President of the European Court of Human Rights, underlines the link between respect for human rights and the maintenance of both internal and international peace ;
6. Congratulates President Cassin on his generous decision to devote the bulk of the Nobel Peace Prize to the creation in Strasbourg of an International Institute of Human Rights ; and
7. Believing that this Institute, which will be independent of states and international organisations, and whose sphere of interest will extend beyond the geographical limits of Europe, will be in a position to make an important contribution to the further realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world,
8. Requests the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to give the Institute all appropriate assistance ;
9. Congratulates the Governments of Austria and Cyprus on their decision to make a regular contribution to the Institute ;
10. Appeals to non-governmental organisations and national foundations to support President René Cassin's initiative ;
11. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers :
 - a. invite member governments which have not yet done so to support the initiative taken by President René Cassin in a suitable manner, for example by making voluntary contributions to the Institute or endowing research fellowships ; and

1. Assembly debate on 23 January 1970 (18th Sitting) (see [Doc. 2673](#), report of the Legal Affairs Committee). Text adopted by the Assembly on 23 January 1970 (18th Sitting).



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- b.* itself make a financial contribution to the Institute, as an expression of the support of the Council of Europe.