

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
13th May, 1955

NATO RESTRICTED
DOCUMENT
AC/52-D/91

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

PROPOSED NATO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Draft Report by the Chairman

In his report to the Secretary General the Temporary Cultural Consultant made the following general recommendation regarding scholarships⁽¹⁾:

"It would be worth considering whether NATO is in a position to provide scholarships for those who would like to do research on subjects which might promote co-operation within the Atlantic Community."

2. The Committee on Information and Cultural Relations considered this proposal, and having reached the conclusion that the possibility of instituting a NATO Fellowship Programme merited serious study, went on to develop a concrete proposal which is now submitted to the Council for approval in principle (see Annex).

3. Compared to the fellowship programmes sponsored by some other organizations, e.g. UNESCO and the British Council, this scheme is a modest one, involving the annual expenditure of only 10,000,000 francs. However, the Committee considers that an ambitious scheme, particularly at the outset, might not commend itself to governments.

4. Before NATO could launch a fellowship programme further details would, of course, have to be worked out. To this end, the Committee intends, if the Council agrees, to seek expert advice from a group of four or five highly qualified educationists from member countries, with special competence in the scholarship field. The same, or other experts might be convened at a later date to advise the Committee on other projects having an educational character.

5. The Committee on Information and Cultural Relations considers that the establishment of an internationally financed NATO Fellowship Programme should not preclude national initiative in this field.

6. The Committee recommends that the Council:

- (1) approve in principle the establishment of a NATO Fellowship Programme as outlined in the attached Annex;
- (2) agree that sum of 10,000,000 francs for this purpose should be included in the Headquarters budget for 1956;

(1) AC/52-D/53

- (3) authorise the Committee to proceed as proposed in paragraph 4 above, and
- (4) invite governments to encourage, by such means as they consider appropriate, national institutions and organizations to sponsor research fellowships designed to promote the idea of an Atlantic Community.

(Signed) L.D. WILGRESS

DECLASSIFIED - PUBLIC DISCLOSURE / DÉCLASSIFIÉ - MISE EN LECTURE PUBLIQUE

Palais de Chaillot,
Paris, XVIe.

OUTLINE OF A NATO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Aim

Promotion of the idea of an Atlantic Community by encouraging the study of the actual or potential development of the non-military aspects of the North Atlantic Treaty.

Finance

An allocation of 10 million francs is proposed for 1956, which, with the exception of a small amount for administration, should be divided into a number of fellowships of which the basic sum would be 300,000 francs plus an additional sum, varying according to the travelling expenses involved, but not exceeding 200,000 francs. As the programme should aim at strengthening the trans-Atlantic ties (but without preventing a successful candidate from pursuing his research on his home continent) this sum would make the allocation of 18 or 19 fellowships involving trans-Atlantic travel possible. The amount for administration is mainly to cover the costs of the Selection Committee (see paragraph.. below). Should a proposed study involve less expenditure than 300,000 francs, a smaller sum would be allocated to the candidate.

Selection of Candidates

(a) Candidates must be nationals of the member states and must undertake to pursue their research in one or more member countries. Where candidates have equal qualifications, the reward should be given to the candidate who is prepared to pursue his research on the other side of the Atlantic. The candidates should indicate the type of research work to be undertaken and furnish evidence of their fitness to undertake research work, but need not be university graduates. It is obvious that candidates who prove above to do research work, and, at the same time, have an influential position, such as youth leaders, trade-unionists, civil servants, university lecturers and secondary school teachers, would be regarded as well qualified.

(b) The selection of candidates should be made by a Selection Committee of five members composed of three distinguished personalities, including representatives of member countries from both sides of the Atlantic; the Chairman of the Committee on Information and Cultural Relations, and a member of the Secretariat to be nominated by the Secretary General. It would be the task of the Committee on Information and Cultural Relations to appoint the three personalities. The Selection Committee should establish its own rules of procedure.

(c) The Secretariat should send application forms and notices to member governments before 1st January each year.

(d) As the Selection Committee ought not to be over-burdened by unsorted applications, member governments should be asked to make a preliminary selection of candidates before transmitting any names to the Secretariat. Each member state should be invited to transmit up to ten applications to the Secretariat. Applications should reach the Secretariat before 1st March.

(e) The Selection Committee should aim at an equal geographical distribution, but should not be bound by a strict rule.

(f) The Selection Committee should meet at the end of March, and the awards should be published on or about 1st April.

Obligations of Successful Candidates

Successful candidates should undertake to fulfil their study within one year. They should write a report in English or French, and submit it to the Secretariat not later than three months after the expiry of the fellowship.

The Committee on Information and Cultural Relations should thereafter decide whether the reports should be published by NATO.

If the Committee does not decide to publish a report, the candidate should have the right to do so privately, but should be required to make suitable acknowledgement of the fact that he has held a NATO Fellowship.

Assistance to be given to Candidates

The Secretariat should, on request - insofar as security regulations permit - place documentation at the disposal of the candidates whenever they ask for it. The Secretariat should also introduce the candidates to other international organizations which they might wish to visit and whose activity they might desire to study.

Member governments should undertake, within existing possibilities, to offer candidates such facilities as might further their study.

If and when NATO University Chairs are established, a certain number of the fellowships might be allocated to candidates who elect to follow courses at one or other of those universities or other recognised centres of international study.

This programme could be carried out by the existing staff of the Secretariat.