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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES

Draft Report by the Committee

The previous Report by the Working Group on Social and Cultural Co-operation⁽¹⁾, which was adopted by the Council on 25th March 1953⁽²⁾, contained a number of recommendations of a fairly general nature designed to stimulate member governments to intensify their cultural co-operation, with special emphasis on the links which bind them together in the Atlantic Alliance. After studying the recommendations in greater detail the Committee feels that this approach to the problem of cultural co-operation, although useful as a point of departure, needs reviewing in order to lead to the desired results.

2. On the proposal of the United Kingdom Delegation the Committee has therefore reconsidered the areas in which cultural co-operation between member countries could most usefully be promoted through the activities of NATO, and the methods by which this could most effectively be achieved.

3. The Committee based its study of this problem on the fact that cultural co-operation between the European members of the Alliance is already extensive owing to the activities of individual countries, of international organizations which have at their disposal experts in these fields, such as the Brussels Treaty Organization, the Nordic Council, the Council of Europe, and of voluntary organizations. Similarly, close links already exist between Canada and the United States. It would be unwise for this Committee to undertake tasks which might duplicate these activities.

4. On the other hand, transatlantic contacts, which are outside the scope of the international organizations mentioned in paragraph 3, have for obvious geographical and economic reasons been on a less extensive scale. Such contacts are, however, of the greatest importance to the Alliance. It would therefore seem that in the field of cultural co-operation NATO could most fruitfully place the main emphasis on inspiring and promoting transatlantic contacts.

(1) C-M(53)25
(2) C-R(53)11

5. Proceeding from this analysis of the problem the Committee reached the conclusion that the first and essential requirement was a thorough expert examination of existing cultural contacts between member countries, with particular emphasis on transatlantic ties.

6. An examination of this kind should show not only what is now being performed but in particular where gaps exist. Only on the basis of this examination would the Committee be in a position to make concrete recommendations for strengthening and developing existing ties and to suggest measures for bridging the gaps.

7. The report resulting from this expert examination of cultural activities should, in the first instance, trace the existing pattern of inter-European and transatlantic cultural links and go on in particular to draw attention to the more important gaps in the transatlantic field. The report should then make suggestions for action by NATO countries to fill those gaps and to expand their cultural co-operation (taking into account the constitutional, financial and other factors relating to the problem).

8. Since members of the Committee are not experts in the cultural field they feel themselves unqualified to assume this task. They therefore recommend that the Secretary General be invited to arrange for the examination of the problem as outlined in paragraph 7. Should the international staff as at present constituted not be in a position to perform the work, the Committee recommends the recruitment over a limited period of a consultant with extensive expert knowledge of cultural relations and experience in the work of international organizations operating in the field. The person entrusted with the task should be able to devote his full time and knowledge to it over a period of some months and should, where necessary, be free to gather his information by direct enquiry in the various capitals. His task would be completed with the preparation of the study and it would then be for the Committee to make appropriate recommendations to the Council for future action.

9. Draft terms of reference for the preparation of the survey are attached. These should be by no means considered as exclusive but as a guide to the type of contacts which can usefully be examined.

10. The Committee accordingly recommends that the Council:

- (1) invite the Secretary General to arrange for the preparation of an examination of cultural contacts between member countries, and with particular emphasis on transatlantic ties; and
- (2) approve the attached terms of reference for the preparation of the examination.

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. A thorough examination should be made of existing cultural relations between the members of the North Atlantic Alliance, in particular those between the North American members of the Alliance on the one hand and its European members on the other hand.

2. The examination should aim at showing not only what is at present being performed in the field of cultural arrangements between member countries, but more particularly where gaps exist. It should, where necessary draw attention to specific fields which merit further exploration, and it should contain appropriate recommendations for action by member countries to fill existing gaps and in general to expand their cultural co-operation.

3. The examination should not be limited to action taken by governments, but should also cover the activities and resources of other official and non-official organizations at present concerned with or providing finance and other facilities and assistance for cultural co-operation.

4. In the course of the examination the points listed below should, if possible, be covered. The enumeration should not be considered exclusive or as indicating order of priority but as a guide to the type of contacts, particularly those in the Transatlantic area, which can usefully be examined:

- (i) movement of persons through fellowships, scholarships, university, teacher and educational interchange generally; facilities for travel for young people;
- (ii) links through common professional or occupational interests including "workers' exchanges" and relations between professional bodies;
- (iii) exchange of information and machinery for consultation on the history, language institutions and way of life of the peoples of NATO member states.
- (iv) exchange of information on administrative practice of government departments and public services including local government;
- (v) links between parliamentarians;
- (vi) links through sport;
- (vii) links between young people as such including organized youth movements;
- (viii) links through the arts (literature, drama, music, films, travelling exhibitions, exchange of publications, etc.);
- (ix) co-operation between learned and scientific societies and institutions visits by qualified lecturers; speaking tours, etc;

- (x) miscellaneous links for example between towns, through rotary clubs, etc;
- (xi) links through the armed forces;
- (xii) links between libraries information services.