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LEAGUE OF NATIONS

**WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION**

REPORT OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE TO THE ASSEMBLY

Rapporteur: His Excellency M. Z. FIERLINGER (Czechoslovakia).

The last Assembly, in full agreement with the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation and the Council of the League of Nations, came to the conclusion that it was necessary to hold a general enquiry into the situation with regard to intellectual co-operation. It asked for the constitution of a Committee of Enquiry, whose proposals we now have to consider. This Committee, which sat at Geneva in the course of the year, drew up a report which the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation adopted with slight modifications, the Council also approving its principles.

The Assembly will be glad to learn that the general conclusions of the men of talent and experience who studied the problem of intellectual co-operation this year were extremely favourable to the continuation of the work, which has already produced very valuable and creditable results. They recognised its extreme importance for intellectuals and for the League of Nations itself. They considered that it was an imperative duty for the League to endeavour to promote international relations in the intellectual as in all other spheres, to assist research and to encourage progress by judicious methods of co-operation and comparison, and, further, to improve that mutual comprehension on which concord and peace must be founded.

It will thus be clear that the field of intellectual co-operation is an immense one and that the work devolving upon the League of Nations and its competent organs calls for sustained effort. We shall have to pursue it for many years and, even if we do not immediately achieve the tangible results we all desire, that will be no cause for discouragement. In so great a task, success can only be gradually attained; if intellectual co-operation merely contributes towards developing the international spirit, it will have deserved well of the League.

It is comforting to emphasise the unanimity with which all the bodies that have dealt with intellectual co-operation in the course of the year have acknowledged its extreme importance as a work of mutual aid and *rapprochement*. I hope, not only that we here shall attain the same unanimity of principle, but that we shall also all agree on the methods recommended for the execution of this great programme. From the proposals now before the Assembly, it will be seen that the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation wishes the same methods to be adopted for this undertaking of intellectual co-operation as those which have succeeded in other spheres of the League's work. Not only does it desire the utilisation of the existing national organisations and institutions, but it asks that, in order to elucidate the problems submitted to it, contact should be established between highly qualified personalities in the respective countries, thus ensuring the effective co-operation of the existing associations. It considers that it is through these personal relations between authorised and competent experts that progress can be achieved in intellectual matters. This is no new method in the sphere of intellectual co-operation, but its use should, in future, be generalised. The Committee thought that, in these circumstances, its sub-committees, to whose work it wishes to pay a tribute, might be abolished and replaced by Committees of Experts.

The Committee's principal organ, the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation at Paris, will be asked to organise the work of these Committees of Experts which the International Committee recommends. This will be a task of the greatest importance, whose extent will still further enhance the significance of the part played by the Institute. For this work, the Paris Institute, whose part it is desired to strengthen, must obviously have a sufficient measure of freedom and independence to enable it, within the limits defined by the Committee, to discharge this complex task with success, employing the most effectual and the most appropriate methods in each individual case. The Institute will also be instructed, as in the past, to make known the results obtained in a series of publications, the number of which the Committee has decided to increase, and which it desires to be presented in the best possible form.



Quite a considerable part of the Institute's budget will be devoted to these publications and to the organisation of the work of the experts. The Assembly renews the appeal it has already addressed to the Governments to provide the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation with their help and support.

At the same time, the Committee has drawn up the main outlines of a programme and an organisation, leaving the preparation of a definite scheme to an Executive and Directors' Committee directly emanating from the Intellectual Co-operation Committee and specially created to direct the work done in the interval between the Committee's annual sessions. This Committee will also frame the budget for the current year while adjusting it to the needs of the new organisation.

The proposed programme relates to the whole of intellectual life. It must be carried out gradually so as to obtain carefully considered conclusions on each subject. In this programme, which I do not wish to go into in detail, special mention should be made of the proposed enquiry into the intellectual life of our time. The Committee considered that this was a matter on which work could begin immediately, and that, as a result of this enquiry, it could determine the directions in which work could most effectively be done to establish that mutual comprehension which it regards as the essence of intellectual co-operation and as a particularly effectual means of ensuring international concord.

Part of this enquiry will bear on the methods of education at all stages in the different countries and on their comparison. It is also to be hoped that this enquiry will make it possible to determine the most suitable ways and means of intellectual research, and that it will facilitate the establishment of a uniform outlook on the various vital problems of our age.

Turning to another point, the Assembly considers that the attention of Governments should be specially drawn to the utility of the modest but strenuous work done by the bureaux responsible in the different countries for international interchanges of publications. In particular, they should be placed in a position to act as liaison between learned societies for exchanges of their publications and should accordingly be provided with the necessary funds.

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Another subject which has always raised the keenest interest in the Assembly is the instruction of youth in the aims of the League of Nations. We think that this subject must, in future, be given increasing prominence. The Sub-Committee of Experts held a meeting this year. In the light of the experience acquired, it revised the recommendations it had already addressed to the Governments with regard to making known to the younger generations the efforts made by the League of Nations to achieve peace. It examined the numbers already published of the *Educational Survey* and decided that its publication should be continued.

Lastly, in accordance with one of its suggestions, the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation asked that the work of the Educational Information Centre of the Geneva Secretariat and of the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation should be increased so as to give full satisfaction to the Sub-Committee of Experts and to the Governments.

It would be well, too, if the Assembly urged the Governments to send regularly to the Educational Information Centre the particulars they are asked to supply on instruction regarding the League of Nations in accordance with the last recommendations of the Sub-Committee of Experts.

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The Governing Body of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute met last October. Like the Permanent Executive Committee, which has since held several sessions, it noted with the greatest satisfaction that the *International Review of Educational Cinematography*, which is published in five languages, was becoming more and more complete and interesting. The special numbers devoted to the study of certain specific questions, such as the relations between the educational cinema and health or agriculture, will prove of great value.

In the course of the year, the International Educational Cinematographic Institute continued the study of several important questions, including that of the distribution of educational films. In this connection, it prepared a draft Convention, which has already been sent to all the Governments for their observations. This draft provides for the abolition of the Customs barriers which stand in the way of the distribution of educational films. It is to be hoped that the national administrations will give favourable consideration to this request. The Assembly might also recommend that the Governments should signify their interest in the work of the International Educational Cinematographic Institute by giving it their material support.

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This rapid survey shows the Assembly that the work of the various organs responsible for intellectual co-operation cannot fail to grow. They have before them a vast programme, whose efficient performance will facilitate the general work of the League of Nations.

RESOLUTION.

“The Assembly:

“Notes with satisfaction the reports of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation and the Governing Body of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation;

“ Expresses its gratification at the proposals made by the International Committee, in accordance with the suggestions of the Committee of Enquiry, to define its programme and to improve the work undertaken and the operation of the bodies responsible therefor.

“ It trusts that, after the contemplated reorganisation has been effected, the interest and the sympathy already displayed in the work of intellectual co-operation undertaken by the League of Nations will be extended, and that, in consequence, there will be increased contact and closer relations between qualified organisations and individuals as regards scientific studies and research work. It trusts that the Governments will give their help and support to the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation.

“ It notes the progress made in the instruction of youth in the aims of the League of Nations, and requests Governments to keep the Secretariat and its Educational Information Centre informed of the steps taken in the various countries to give effect to the recommendations of the Sub-Committee of Experts.

“ It notes with satisfaction that the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation desires that there should also be an increase in the work of its Educational Information Centre in liaison with the associations dealing with instruction in the League of Nations, a task which it has entrusted to the International Institute at Paris.

“ It requests the Governments which have acceded to the Conventions concerning the international exchange of publications to furnish the material resources necessary for their national liaison bureaux to enable them to carry out the stipulations of these Conventions.

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“ Having noted the report of the Governing Body of the International Institute of Educational Cinematography, the Assembly records its appreciation of the progress made and the manner in which the decisions of the Governing Body have been carried out by the Institute; it expresses its satisfaction with the development of the *International Review of Educational Cinematography* and requests Governments to give their sympathetic consideration to the draft Convention framed by this Institute for the abolition of Customs barriers which interfere with the distribution of educational films. It likewise requests them to lend their aid and support to this Institute.”
