

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Under cover of the Director of Economic and Social Affairs.

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JOINT REPORT ON MISSION TO LONDON
10th - 12th November
by Mr. F. Tennfjord and Mr. H. Pfeffermann.

SUBJECT: Transfer of W.E.U. Activities in the Social Field to the Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe.

First of all the very friendly and helpful attitude of Mr. Fraser and his staff have been highly appreciated by the undersigned.

1. BODIES AND ACTIVITIES OF W.E.U. TO BE TAKEN OVER. *

The activities of the W.E.U. in the social field are carried out by 3 main committees, 6 sub-committees and 4 working parties:

<u>SOCIAL AFFAIRS</u>	<u>PUBLIC HEALTH</u>	<u>REHABILITATION OF THE DISABLED</u>
Social Committee	Public Health Committee	Joint Committee on the Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the Disabled
Sub-Committee on Social Security **	Sub-Committee on Pharmaceutical Products	Working Party on Brain Injuries **
Manpower Sub-Committee **	Sub-Committee on the Health Control of Foodstuffs	
Sub-Committee on Industrial Safety and Health	Working Party on Poisonous Substances in Agriculture	

* A description of the social activities of W.E.U., including the machinery and the working methods is contained in Doc. CM (59) 92.
** We were informed that the three committees marked with ** would presumably go out.

continued..

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Sub-Committee on
Labour Statistics

PUBLIC HEALTH

Working Party on
Essential Drugs

Working Party on
Cancer Statistics

The working parties are reporting to the sub-committees and the sub-committees to the main committees. A detailed account of the present position of all the items on the agendas of the committees of W.E.U. is available. The result of the work of W.E.U. bodies consists in administrative arrangements, studies of problems of common interest with further communication to interested International organizations and the discussion of questions arising out of the work of other International organizations, with a view to ensuring the adoption - whenever possible - of a common attitude by the 7 countries. The basis of the whole work is the existence of liaison offices with the ministries concerned in the 7 countries, that are preparing the basic documentation for the meetings.

The work of W.E.U. in the social field should be divided into two main branches:

- a) Social affairs and rehabilitation.
- b) Public health.

It should be noted that the working documents of all of these bodies are being drafted by National delegations and the meetings are held in the capitals or provincial towns of the 7 member countries in an effort to give the delegations an opportunity of visiting institutions of particular interest and to increase the interest of experts in the various places where the meetings are convened.

Each main committee holds two meetings per year and each sub-committee one meeting per year or one meeting every ten months. There had been 19 meetings per year in total but the interested bodies had wanted to meet more often, so that the total - if their requests had been met - would have been 30 meetings per year.

The meetings of the main committees last from a Tuesday to a Friday inclusive, whereas the sub-committee meetings last for 3 days only.

The staff of the W.E.U., which is composed of one member in the rank of A-5, one in the rank of A-4 and three typists, prepares the meetings from the administrative point of view and drafts the conclusions.

2. POSITION OF THE INTERESTED COMMITTEES AND OF THE W.E.U. SECRETARIAT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER.

The position of the interested committees is governed by the consideration that the seven Members of W.E.U. have reached a comparable stage of economic development and have a similar social structure. The Council of Europe is far less homogenous, and there is for that reason a fear that the social collaboration between the seven might be weakened or diluted by the transfer.

The Social Committee, the Public Health Committee and the Joint Committee on Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the Disabled have each adopted a Recommendation which is at present being considered by the W.E.U. Council. These Recommendations express certain reserves as regards the transfer of the activities in question to the Council of Europe. The main trend of these Recommendations is in fact reflected in the draft arrangement contained in our document CM (59) 117. We were informed that these Recommendations express only in a mild way how the committees feel about the question. The objections raised by these committees to the planned transfer could be resumed in the following way: As the work of the 7 Member Countries of W.E.U. will have to be continued in complete independence and freedom (i.e. from Council of Europe interference) it is presumed that sooner or later the other Member Countries of the Council of Europe would have the impression that a clique is pursuing its work within the Council. It is thought that this would have rather negative psychological consequences.

At any rate the view has been expressed by W.E.U. members that before a transfer could be effected, the studies that have been undertaken by the W.E.U. working parties and sub-committees should be brought to a conclusion.

It is felt that in no case should a document of the W.E.U. group be transmitted to the other member countries of the Council of Europe unless the work on the respective subject has been finished by the W.E.U. committees and even after conclusion of those studies the W.E.U. committees should have the right to decide on whether or not such documents should be communicated to the other member countries of the Council of Europe. Furthermore the

question has been discussed as to how to bring to the attention of the other member governments of the Council of Europe the results of W.E.U. work. It would appear that this could be done by the Secretary-General in two ways:

1. By letter to the member governments of the Council of Europe, not members of W.E.U.
2. To the corresponding committees of experts of the Council of Europe.

Mr. Fraser suggested the first way whereas both undersigned are of the opinion that, judging by previous experience, the second way would be more appropriate as the respective experts of the other member countries could indicate whether the social or public health administrations of those countries are really interested in the subjects concerned. In this way unnecessary contacts would be avoided with those governments that are not interested at all in an extension of the W.E.U. activities to their countries.

3. MODALITIES OF TRANSFER.

Should the transfer be effected as of 1st January 1960, the undersigned are of the opinion that it could be done in the following way:

a) Staff of the same size and qualification as that presently in charge of W.E.U. activities in the social field should be available in Strasbourg as of 1st January 1960, i.e. one member in the rank of A-5, 1 A-4 and three typists (1 French typist, 1 English typist, and 1 bilingual typist).

b) A 4-months period of observation would certainly facilitate the transfer, i.e. that the present A-5 and the A-4 members of the W.E.U. staff will pursue the W.E.U. work with the committees, sub-committees and working parties until 30th April 1960, during which period the corresponding staff members of the Council of Europe would attend the meetings as observers until the end of April. This arrangement would also meet with the desire of the main committees to terminate certain studies within the next months.

c) An introductory period of 4 months from May until September 1960 would also greatly facilitate the transfer of the work, i.e. the Council of Europe staff would have to take care of the secretarial work with the W.E.U. committees, sub-committees and working parties as from 1st May onward whereas one member of the former W.E.U. staff

(in the rank of A-4) would work in Strasbourg until the end of September.

In these circumstances there seems to be no doubt that the transfer could be carried out in the most satisfactory way as far as the administrations of the seven W.E.U. countries and the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe are concerned.

4. STAFF REQUIREMENTS.

As explained previously, the social work of W.E.U. is being carried out by 1 member in the rank of A-5, 1 member in the rank of A-4 and three typists. For this reason the Social Division of the Council of Europe should be reinforced with an equal number of staff members.

As the creation of a Public Health Division has for a long time been under consideration by the Secretary-General and as the Budget Committee has approved the request for an additional member in the grade of A-2 for the work in this field, time appears to be ripe for such a solution and the creation of such a division is a necessity for the purpose of facing in a satisfactory way the increase in work which will be caused by the transfer of 1 main committee, 2 sub-committees and 3 working parties in the field of public health. In 1960 both the Social Division and the Public Health Division could work with a combined typing pool. Should it appear to be useful, this typing pool could be divided between the two divisions as from 1961 onwards.

As the Heads of the Social Division and of the Public Health Division would have direct responsibility to the "Accords Partiels" of the Ministers' Deputies, the undersigned would deem it advisable that both hold the rank of A-5 which so far applies only to Mr. Tennfjord.

Three additional rooms should be made available for the increase in staff.

It should be noted that the local authorities of every W.E.U. country provide one interpreter and one typist for every meeting, whereas the W.E.U. Secretariat provides one interpreter, one translator and one typist. Furthermore the average of documents translated and issued in both official languages by the Social Section of W.E.U. amounts to about 300 per year, which would be approximately 2.500 pages.

5. CONCLUSIONS.

It is felt by the undersigned that after creation of a Public Health Division with the afore-mentioned reinforcement, there seem to exist no major difficulties as regards the effective implementation of the necessary work as explained before. For the information of the Secretary-General the programme of the next meetings of W.E.U. is set out hereafter. Provided the Ministers' Deputies will agree at their forthcoming meeting to the transfer of W.E.U. activities in the social field, the Council of Europe will be responsible for the organization of the following meetings:

A. SOCIAL MEETINGS.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>
Sub-Committee on Industrial Safety and Health (Engineering Questions)	Italy	1 - 3 March
Sub-Committee on Industrial Safety and Health (Chemical Questions)	Germany	to be fixed
Social Committee, 11th meeting	Luxembourg	3 - 6 May
Joint Committee on the Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the Disabled (10th meeting)	Berlin	24 - 28 May

B. PUBLIC HEALTH MEETINGS.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>
Sub-Committee on the Health Control of Food Stuffs	Luxembourg	19 - 21 January
Sub-Committee on Pharmaceutical Products	Bruxelles	26 - 28 January

Public Health Committee
10th meeting

Rome

11 - 14 April.

Finn TENNFJORD
Head of the Social Division

H. PFEFFERMANN
Secretary of the Committee
of Experts on Public Health

Distribution:

It is suggested to send a copy of this report to:

Mr. CURTIS
M. DAUSSIN
M. CVALETTI
Mr. CRIVON