

DER STAATSSSEKRETAR
DES AUSWARTIGEN AMTS

BONN, December 1953.

221-53 II 15802/53

Sir,

With reference to Resolution 41 of the Consultative Assembly of 25th September regarding the choice of an emblem for the Assembly, and to Recommendation 56 of the Consultative Assembly of the same date with regard to the adoption of this emblem for the Council of Europe as a whole, I beg to draw attention to the following points :

The choice of an emblem for any one organ of the Council of Europe such as the Consultative Assembly, is a matter that concerns the Council as a whole. It would, in any case, appear that the Assembly shares this view since in Recommendation 56, it specifically recommends the adoption of this emblem by the entire Council.

In view of the importance to be attributed to an emblem of any kind which is the symbol of a political organ, such a matter should be settled in an orderly fashion. Under Articles 13 and 16 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, the Committee of Ministers is the organ competent to consider and propose any action required to further the aim of the Council of Europe. This applies more particularly to any matter of a specifically political character, which is certainly the case where the choice of an emblem for a part or the whole of the Council of Europe is concerned. The choice of such an emblem is, at any rate, a matter relating to the internal organisation and arrangements of the Council of Europe, and this, under Article 16, para. 1 of the Statute, falls within the sole competence of the Committee of Ministers. The relevant decisions of the Consultative Assembly therefore encroach upon the statutory powers of the Committee of Ministers.

M. Léon MARCHAL
Secretary-General,
Council of Europe,
STRASBOURG

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The Federal Government thus considers that the adoption of a special emblem for the Consultative Assembly is open to certain objections, particularly in view of the fact that the Member Governments of the Council of Europe have not so far consulted each other as to whether the adoption of an emblem for the Council of Europe would not demand a prior addition to its Statute.

Only after some light has been shed on this matter can the question of the form this emblem should assume be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for discussion.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(signed: HALLSTEIN)