

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 1st June 1965

Restricted
AS/Loc I (17) 14
Or. German

CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize

and

propagation of the European idea

EUROPE PRIZE

Further information relating to the candidature of

KANDEL
(Pfalz, Fed. Rep. of Germany)



PACCOM029549

Over the past year, contacts and friendly relations with our sister town of Reichshoffen have been fostered and promoted in a wide variety of activities. A list of meetings will give further details.

Kandel has also undertaken to pair with the English town of Whitworth, and we hope that there will soon be a first meeting as a result.

Particular stress has been laid on the development of foreign language teaching, for a country's language is the key to its soul and open the way for human contacts. With the assistance of the municipality and through the people's university, French courses have been instituted for primary school pupils, which are followed by 120 children.

On 18th and 19th July, 1964, friendship festivities were held in our sister town, Reichshoffen. Over a thousand people from Kandel travelled to Alsace for this occasion. At a joint meeting of the two town councils, it was decided that the encouragement of the arts across the frontier should be regarded as a permanent joint enterprise. The French Ambassador, Count de Leusse, was asked to be honorary president, with a committee of honour of French and German parliamentarians.

In September 1964, the people's university organised a French week. It opened with an exhibition of paintings by French masters of this century. During the week there were talks for young people from Kandel and Reichshoffen, a dance and films. The French week ended with a brilliant piano recital of "French piano music from Couperin to the present day", by the pianist Alma Sint.

In both towns, we have on many occasions sought to further cultural relations and understanding between schoolchildren. Exchanges of teachers and pupils have been started.

The first Europe Day aroused the keenest interest in our town. The whole town, particularly the young people as the younger generation of Europe, were informed of the meaning of the occasion which for us has become a day in the service of the European cause. A great many events were organised for this day, 5th May.

From 31st July to 2nd August, Kandel will for the fourteenth time be celebrating its "frontiers day", where the theme will again be "friendship among the peoples of Europe".

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We should regard it as a great honour if the Council of Europe were to recognise the efforts made by our small town for the European cause.

Celebration of the first Europe Day

Our town held special celebrations for the first Europe Day. The townspeople were informed of the significance of the occasion. The Kandel town council had already decided:

to name three streets in a newly-built neighbourhood after pioneers of united Europe:

Robert Schuman
Gustav Stresemann
Aristide Briand

This decision was made public on the eve of 5th May, at the Europe Day celebrations of the adult education institute.

The Europe Flag was flown from the town hall and from the schools of the town.

On the evening before, the municipality and the adult education institute held a Europe Day ceremony in the town hall, at which speeches were made by Mr. Böhm, Mayor and member of the Landtag, the principal of the adult education institute and the chairman of the district branch of Europa-Union.

On 5th May the Kandel general secondary school and primary school illustrated the unity of Europe at a festive evening in the gymnasium. Mr. Grussenmeyer, member of the French National Assembly, presented a gift of books to a schoolgirl as a prize for her outstanding language paper. Then the Mayor, Mr. Böhm, and the principal of the institution made speeches. Recitations and songs in German, French and English were given.

All classes of the primary, general secondary and vocational schools were told of the significance of Europe Day, and 500 folders "Europa auf dem Weg" were distributed.

In connection with an exhibition on "Art across the frontier", a meeting was held at Kandel on 8th May. On this occasion, too, reference was made to Europe Day.

According to a statement by the Burgomaster, Mr. Böhm, Europe Day is to be combined with a prize-giving for the school boys and girls who distinguished themselves in the Europe Day schools competition.