

ACCORD
entre
le Secrétariat Général du Conseil de l'Europe
et
le Secrétariat des Nations Unies

Echange de lettres entre
M. J.C. Paris et M. Trygve Lie
le 15 décembre 1951

AGREEMENT
between
the Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe
and
the Secretariat of the United Nations

Exchange of letters between
Mr. J.C. Paris and Mr. Trygve Lie
(15th December, 1951)

Strasbourg, 15th December, 1951

Sir,

According to Article 1 of the Statute :

“(a) The aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its Members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress.

“(b) This aim shall be pursued through the organs of the Council by discussion of questions of common concern and by agreements and common action in economic, social, cultural, scientific, legal and administrative matters and in the maintenance and further realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

“(c) Participation in the Council of Europe shall not affect the collaboration of its Members in the work of the United Nations and of other international organisations or unions to which they are parties.

“(d) Matters relating to National Defence do not fall within the scope of the Council of Europe”.

It is plain that in order to give effect to these provisions and in particular paragraph (c), the Council of Europe has a duty to co-ordinate its work with that of the international organisations concerned, and in particular with the United Nations.

The organs of the Council of Europe have in the event been led to consult studies already made by other international organisations or to call on their experience and services. This has resulted in a *de facto* form of co-operation for which it seems desirable to lay down a more formal method of procedure.

In the course of its Seventh Session on 17th March, 1951, the Committee of Ministers instructed me to establish contact with certain of these organisations, particularly the United Nations, in order to draw up agreements for co-operation with them.

The scope of the Council of Europe, as defined in Article 1 of the Statute, is indeed such as to make it particularly valuable for the accomplishment of its mission that it be acquainted with the work carried out by the United Nations in the economic, social, cultural, scientific, legal and administrative fields, as well as those of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Both the Consultative Assembly and its Committees and the Committee of Ministers and its Committees of Experts would benefit from receiving exact information of these activities from the Secretariat-General. This aim might be achieved by an exchange between the two organisations of all documents likely to be of mutual interest, by consultation between them whenever it were felt necessary, and by arranging for observers from the Secretariats-General to attend such meetings of either organisations as are of interest to the other.

I have the honour to inform you that, for my part, in order to facilitate such co-operation with the Secretariat-General of the United Nations, I am prepared to make the following arrangements :

1. Exchange of Information

The Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe will transmit to the Secretariat-General of the United Nations, subject to any measures which might be necessary to safeguard the confidential nature of certain documents, all publications and documents relating to its activities on subject of interest to the United Nations. This exchange of documents will be supplemented, if thought necessary, by periodical contacts between members of the two Secretariats-General for the purpose of consultation as regards projects or activities of common interest.

2. Mutual consultation

The Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe will take part in any consultations which may be deemed necessary at all stages of the preparatory work and the execution of programmes being carried out by the two Organisations. The Secretariat-General will in particular submit to the Committee of Ministers those suggestions which may be transmitted to it for that purpose by the Secretariat-General of the United Nations.

3. Attendance of representatives of the Secretariat-General of the United Nations at meetings of the Council of Europe.

Consultations will take place with a view to arranging for attendance of the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations at sessions of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe and meetings of committees which may be convened to study questions of interest to the United Nations. When appropriate, the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations will also be invited to attend meetings of committees of governmental experts convened by the Committee of Ministers.

4. Technical co-operation

The Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe will afford to the Secretariat-General of the United Nations any technical co-operation which may be asked of it for the purpose of studying questions of common interest and the execution of certain projects.

I take leave to hope that these measures may contribute to the establishment between the Council of Europe and the United Nations of the means of profitable collaboration and that it may be possible for you to reinforce them by granting similar facilities to the Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

J.C. PARIS
Secretary-General

Monsieur Trygve Lie
Secretary-General of the United Nations

PARIS

Paris, 15th December, 1951

Sir,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 15 December 1951 in which you have suggested ways and means of establishing working relationships between the Secretariat of the Council of Europe and the Secretariat of the United Nations.

I fully agree with you that it would be most valuable for the Secretariat of each Organisation to be acquainted with the work carried out by the other especially in the economic and social fields, and that this aim might be achieved by an exchange between the two organisations of all documents likely to be of mutual interest, by consultation between them whenever it were felt necessary, and by arranging for observers from the Secretariats-General to attend such meetings of either Organisation as are of interest to the other.

The proposals contained in your letter for the establishment of working relationships with the United Nations Secretariat are acceptable to me and I shall make reciprocal arrangements in regard to the Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Signed : TRYGVE LIE
Secretary - General

Mr. J.C. Paris
Secretary-General of the Council of Europe
STRASBOURG