

Letter to Ernest Bevin from the International Committee of the Movements for European Unity (21 July 1948)

Caption: On 21 July 1948, the International Committee of Movements for European Unity (ICMEU) questions Ernest Bevin, British Foreign Minister, on the United Kingdom's position concerning the creation of a European Assembly.

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Letter sent to Mr. Bevin by the International Committee of the Movements for European Unity (21st July,1948)

“The International Committee of the Movements for European Unity is glad to know that the proposal for the creation of a European Assembly was discussed at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers at The Hague yesterday and that the matter is to receive further consideration by their respective Governments. Three important questions of policy require decision:

- (1) the precise terms of reference to be given to the Assembly;
- (2) the composition of the Assembly and the method to be adopted for the selection of its members;
- (3) the choice of the authority which shall convene the Assembly.

A Study Committee under the chairmanship of Monsieur Ramadier is already at work upon the first two questions and its recommendations will be submitted to governments with the least possible delay. The question as to what authority should convene the Assembly was discussed by the International Committee of the Movements for European Unity at its meeting in Paris on July 17th-18th. There would appear to be three possible agencies which could assume this responsibility — European governments, European parliaments or the independent organisations working for European unity.

The International Committee would be glad to see governments or parliaments assume the responsibility for the convening of the Assembly. If, however, they should not feel disposed to do so, this Committee, which was responsible for the convening of the Congress of Europe at The Hague last May, is prepared to take the initiative.

In view of the urgency of the matter and of the importance of clarifying responsibilities, the International Committee would be grateful if you would receive a small deputation to discuss this question.

I am addressing similar letters to the Foreign Ministers of Belgium, France, Holland and Luxembourg.”