

Note on the request for information on the work of the Council of Europe submitted by the Consul-General of Portugal (Strasbourg, 12 August 1968)

Caption: Note dated 12 August 1968 for the attention of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe concerning the request for information on the participation of non-member states and the work of the Council of Europe submitted by the Consul-General of Portugal.

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Note for the attention of the Secretary General (Strasbourg, 12 August 1968)

Subject: Request for information on the work of the Council of Europe and participation by non-member States in the Council's intergovernmental work by the Consul-General of Portugal

1. On Wednesday, 7th August 1968, the Consul-General of Portugal in Strasbourg, Mr. Manuel Ribeiro da Silva had dinner with me. He told me that the new Director of International Organisations at the Portuguese Foreign Ministry had shown considerable interest in the activities of the Council of Europe. He had received formal instructions to request that the Portuguese Consulate General at Strasbourg receive regularly documentation on the Council and should be kept posted on the activities of its main bodies.

The Portuguese authorities were now actively studying the possibilities of greater participation in the Council's technical activities, so Mr. Ribeiro told me. However, it was well understood that it was impossible to take part in the political work of the Council and the Portuguese authorities had no intention of doing so. He would come and see me in the office and give me a list of documents requested by his Government.

2. On Thursday afternoon, 8th August at 4.00 p.m., Mr. Ribeiro came to see me. Mr. de Folin was also present at this conversation. Mr. Ribeiro addressed again the official character of his request. The Portuguese authorities would like to receive documentation on the following subjects, through the intermediary of the Consul-General in Strasbourg:

1. Calendar of meetings;
2. Assembly documents;
3. Deliberations of the Committee of Ministers;
4. Legal documentation, more in particular with regard to the interpretation of European Treaties;
5. Full documentation on the application of the Human Rights Convention;
6. The exploitation and exploration of the sea-bottom;
7. Any documentation we might have on such matters as space exploration and nuclear activities.

3. I pointed out that the deliberations of the Committee of Ministers took the form of "Conclusions" and that these Conclusions were of a confidential character and were the property of the Committee of Ministers which could not be given to outside bodies without the permission of the Committee of Ministers. Mr. Ribeiro said he understood perfectly well and the Portuguese Government did not ask for documentation of a strictly confidential nature.

It was also pointed out to Mr. Ribeiro that the request to receive documentation on our work in the legal field was rather vague since our legal work was voluminous and it might be advisable if the Portuguese authorities indicate in what specific aspects of the legal work they were particularly interested. In this connection, apart from the interpretation of European Treaties, Mr. Ribeiro mentioned the work in connection with the Law of industrial property.

I pointed out moreover that nothing was undertaken in the Council of Europe in the field of space or nuclear activities. The question of the exploitation and exploration of the sea-bottom was now in initial states in the Assembly.

Mr. Ribeiro was given the work Programme 1967-68, 1968-69 as well as the paper on the possibilities of participation by non-member States in the intergovernmental work of the Council. He would send these two documents to the Portuguese Foreign Ministry which would in turn indicate what particular topics the

Portuguese Government were interested in.

Mr. Ribeiro asked as soon as possible the documents of the May Session of the Consultative Assembly. The Consul-General would be put on the mailing list for all public Assembly documents. Furthermore, he would like to receive all public documents of the Committee of Ministers.

Also Mr. Ribeiro would receive full documentation on the Convention on Human Rights, the European Treaty Series and the Chart of Signatures and Ratification.

He would let us know, before leaving, what more precise information he would like to receive.

[signature]

Menno van Emde Boas

MM. Modinos
Schlösser
Golsong
Robertson
de Folin
Leleu