

Note on the state of preparations for the Hague Congress (Spring 1948)

Caption: In early spring 1948, the International Committee of the Movements for European Unity establishes a Committee of Patrons to be responsible both for emphasising the representative character of the Congress of Europe in The Hague and for its practical organisation.

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PATRONS

In order to emphasise the representative character of the Congress, a Committee of Patrons has been formed as follows:

M. Léon Blum
Mr. Hugh Dalton
Dr. Schermehorn
Count Sforza
Senator Paul Van Zeeland

PRESIDENT

Mr. Winston Churchill has accepted the invitation, extended to him by the Committee of Patrons, to be President of the Congress.

COMMITTEES

The work of the Congress will be divided into sections and entrusted to three Committees:

Chairman

Political M. Léon Blum

Economic & Social Senator Paul van Zeeland

Cultural & Moral Signor Benedetto Croce

ACCOMODATION AND EXPENSES

All arrangements for the accommodation of those attending the Congress will be made by the General Secretariat.

In view of the currency restrictions which exist in many countries, a Hospitality Committee composed of supporters of the European cause in Holland, under the chairmanship of Senator Kerstens, have generously raised the necessary funds to meet all expenses at The Hague. In consequence, persons invited to the Congress will be responsible for their travelling expenses only. Those who so desire will be at liberty to make a donation to an international campaign fund which will be opened in each country.

ENQUIRIES

Enquiries may be addressed to the Offices of the General Secretariat in PARIS (43 Avenue d'Iéna, XVIe); LONDON (93 St Stephens House, Victoria Embankment S.W.1) or THE HAGUE (15 Scheweningseweg).

PROCEDURE

Speeches

1. The Chairman of each Session will decide at his discretion the length of time to be allotted to each

speaker. Unless the Chairman decides otherwise, the length of speeches should not exceed the following limits:

opening speech 15 minutes

final speech 10 minutes

other speeches 5 minutes

2. The appropriate rapporteurs will open the discussions in each Committee and will propose resolutions covering the principal points contained in the reports.

3. Delegates wishing in advance to notify their desire to speak should fill in one of the attached forms. These should be handed in not later than 20.00 hours on the previous evening to the Congress bureau at the Scheveningen Kurhaus.

Interpretation

4. Delegates are asked as far as possible to speak either in French or English. Interpreters are available to interpret speeches in these two languages. Delegates speaking in other languages are asked to provide written translations which can be circulated.

5. The Chairman may consult the delegates as to whether they require an interpretation. Since the time available is very short and many speakers will wish to take part in the debates, it is hoped that delegates will be willing as much as possible to dispense with interpretations.

Voting

6. Votes, when necessary, will be taken by a show of hands.

Amendments

7. Delegates wishing to propose amendments to resolutions for consideration by the Committees must hand in the text in writing (either in French or English). The Chairman may, in appropriate cases, put amendments to the vote without debate, or group several amendments for combined discussion.

8. All such proposed amendments should be addressed to the Honorary Secretaries of the appropriate Committee (Political, Economic or Cultural) and may be handed in up to 20.00 hours on Friday at the Congress Information Bureau at the Scheveningen Kurhaus (where dinner is being served each night to all delegates). Later amendments may be handed in to the Honorary Secretaries during the Committee debates.

9. All amendments which it is desired to make must be proposed during the Committee discussions. Only resolutions passed by the Committee may be moved in the Plenary Sessions.

Other Matters

10. All other matters relating to the conduct of debates will be decided at his discretion by the Chairman of the Session and his decision shall be final.