

Letter from Pierre Pflimlin to Paul Struye on the proposal for a resolution put forward on 9 February 1961 by British delegate Sir Peter Michael Kirk and several of his colleagues (20 September 1963)

Caption: Letter dated 20 September 1963 from Pierre Pflimlin, President of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, to Paul Struye, Chairman of the Political Committee of the Council of Europe, on the situation in Spain. This letter refers to the proposal for a resolution put forward on 9 February 1961 by British delegate Sir Peter Michael Kirk and several of his colleagues. An extract from the report of the ninth plenary session of the fifteenth period of the ordinary session of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe is enclosed. In this letter, Pierre Pflimlin informs Paul Struye, via Karl Czernetz, that the socialist group has notified the Consultative Assembly that it wants the Political Committee to specify why this Assembly does not deem it necessary to adopt measures on the resolution proposed by Sir Peter Michael Kirk on the situation in Spain, given that it is not possible to lose sight of ‘the crimes of a brutal military dictatorship’.

Source: Council of Europe. Consultative Assembly. Political Committee. The situation in Spain, Letter from Pierre Pflimlin to Paul Struye on the proposal for a resolution put forward on 9 February 1961 by British delegate Sir Peter Michael Kirk and several of his colleagues. Strasbourg: Council of Europe, 20.09.1963.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/letter_from_pierre_pflimlin_to_paul_struye_on_the_proposal_for_a_resolution_put_forward_on_9_february_1961_by_british_delegate_sir_peter_michael_kirk_and_several_of_his_colleagues_20_september_1963-en-82ca0311-9a95-4ba2-ad84-802f6de6cf21.html

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 20th September 1963

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CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

The situation in Spain

Letter from the President of the Assembly to
the Chairman of the Political Committee on the
Motion for a Resolution on the situation in Spain
tabled on 9th February 1961 by Mr. Kirk
and others (Doc. 1226 Revised)

Strasbourg, 19th September 1963

My dear President,

At the Assembly's sitting of 18th September 1963 Mr. Czernetz expressed the wish, on behalf of the Socialist Group, that the Assembly be informed of the action taken by the Political Committee on the Motion for a Resolution on the situation in Spain tabled on 9th February 1961 by Mr. Kirk and others (Doc. 1226 Revised).

The Motion was referred to the Political Committee for a report and to the Committee on Non-represented Nations for an opinion on 25th April 1961.

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Monsieur Paul Struye,
Chairman of the Political Committee of the
Assembly of the Council of Europe,
STRASBOURG

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I am enclosing herewith an extract from the official report of the ninth sitting of the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

I should be glad to have the Political Committee's views on the comments made by Mr. Czernetz so that the Bureau of the Assembly may take them into account when drawing up the agenda for the next session of the Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Pierre Pflimlin

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Extract from the Official Report
of the ninth sitting of the fifteenth
ordinary session of the Assembly
of the Council of Europe
(Wednesday, 18th September 1963)

Mr. Czernetz (Austria) (Translation): Mr. President, on behalf of the Socialist Group, I must make a few observations in regard to the present Agenda. To our regret, the Agenda of the second part of this 15th session does not include any mention of a report by the Political Committee on the question of Spain. Might I draw the attention of the Assembly to the fact that on 9th February 1961, certain members of the Assembly: Mr. Peter Kirk, Mrs. Annemarie Renger and others, tabled a motion for a resolution on the situation in Spain, which was referred by the Assembly on 25th April 1961 to the Political Committee for a report and to the Committee on Non-Represented Nations for an opinion.

The Political Committee has considered this matter. The Committee on Non-Represented Nations prepared an opinion which it submitted to the Political Committee. It now rests entirely with the Assembly to decide whether the opinion of the Committee on Non-Represented Nations or some other report shall be submitted to the Assembly.

At its recent meeting in Luxembourg, the Political Committee, on the proposal of its Rapporteur, expressed the view that a number of publications had appeared in the meantime which had made a report, at the moment, by the Political Committee to the Consultative Assembly superfluous and the Rapporteur proposed that no further steps be taken for the time being. The Political Committee adopted this proposal, by a majority, and you were informed of its position, Mr. President, by the Chairman of the Political Committee.

By virtue of Rule 14, paragraph 4 of the Rules of Procedure, however, the Assembly alone may decide, at the request of a Committee, whether a question shall be removed from the list of subjects for discussion.

On behalf of the Socialist Group, Mr. President, I call upon the Political Committee to give this Assembly the reasons why they consider that the question should not be dealt with at present; and if it is not possible to do so during this session, it should be done in January at the latest, so that we may be able to debate this most important matter.

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It was not only on formal grounds and because of the lack of facilities for obtaining information but clearly political reasons which caused individual members of the Political Committee to express the opinion that the Spanish question should be left in abeyance. My group, the Socialist Group, considers that, particularly in the Western world, it is impossible to pass over in silence the misdeeds of a brutal military dictatorship. It is our duty, in this Assembly of free Europe, to speak up on the matter. Thank you.

The President: The remarks which you have just made will be communicated to the Political Committee and the Bureau of your Assembly, in whom I ask you to have confidence, will be requested to consider the question when it draws up the agenda of our session next January.