4. Free Postage.

The Committee of experts notes with satisfaction that a number of national exchange services enjoy the advantages of free postage within their respective countries and hopes that all Governments will see their way to extend this privilege to their exchange services and to publications sent to those services from within their respective countries.

The Committee of experts regards international free postage for exchange services as an essential condition of the full development of the organisation of exchange. It therefore requests the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation to consult the Bureau of the Universal Postal Union as to the best method of obtaining free postage and to recommend that method to the Council and Assembly of the League of Nations.

5. Various Recommendations.

The Committee of experts, after considering the general problem of exchanges with a view to suggesting modifications to be made in the Conventions of 1886, finally reached certain conclusions on various points which cannot well be embodied in a draft international convention. The Committee feels that it is its duty to communicate these conclusions to the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, requesting it, if it adopts the Committee's suggestions on these points, to be good enough to recommend them to all concerned.

A. The Committee of experts thinks it would be desirable:

(i) That all institutions which exchange their publications should publish periodically a list of the institutions with which they exchange;

(ii) That learned societies should publish on the cover of the last number in each year of each of their publications as complete a list as possible of these publications;

(iii) That the publications of learned societies, if produced in a language other than the principal European languages which are most widely known, should contain summaries in one of these more widely known languages.

(iv) That scientific periodicals should grant reductions in price with a view to facilitate exchanges and subscriptions by libraries;

(v) That, in order to facilitate the acquisition of foreign books by libraries, as many agreements as possible should be concluded on the lines of that which the Universities Library for Central Europe has concluded with the "Amba" Institute at Vienna (see Annex 5 to the published report by M. de Reynold on the conditions of intellectual life in Austria — A. 62.1922.XII).

6. That the libraries in which Governments deposit publications obtained by international exchange should be made readily accessible to all research workers.

B. The Committee of experts was led to consider the problem of international loans of books.

It immediately agreed to recommend that library duplicates should be utilised as far as possible for such loans.

In view, however, of the importance and complexity of the problem, it has not been able to discuss the matter in all its aspects, and it requests the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation to instruct the Sub-Committee on Bibliography to conduct a minute enquiry into the question of international loans of books and manuscripts.

A. 64. 1924. XII.
[C. 447 (2). 1924. XII.]

Annex 674.

FOUNDATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION OFFER BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

Report by M. de Jouvencel and Resolution adopted by the Council on September 9th, 1924.

At its 1923 session, the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation was forced to recognise that it did not possess the material resources necessary to carry out the work entrusted to it by the Council. Its Chairman, voicing the unanimous opinion of the members, explained the Committee's requirements to the Fourth Committee of the last Assembly. On that occasion he obtained supplementary credits to the extent of 14,000 francs for the establishment of the International University Information Office.

But, however important the creation of this Office may be, far larger resources are needed if the Committee's decisions are to be carried out and its plans developed along the lines indicated by it and approved by the Council. The Council has in fact asked the Committee to study the question of organising intellectual work according to a definite plan by means of international
co-operation. This opens out a vast field of labour for the Committee. In its first year it set
resolutely to work and it has now recommended in every branch of knowledge methods of pro-
cedure which will undoubtedly facilitate the dissemination of the results obtained by research-
workers in the various countries, save them unnecessary labour, make it possible to supply scien-
tific information which is at present lacking, and in general promote a better understanding between
intellectual workers in all countries.

The Committee has also undertaken the task of systematically organisng international
university co-operation. Finally it is making efforts to improve existing international Conven-
tions regarding scientific, literary artistic and academic relations; it is also engaged in drawing up
new Conventions. It is considering all possible methods of affording better protection to
intellectual work.

This list of the Committee's activities, though incomplete, will suffice to show that it cannot
attain its objects without the assistance of numerous competent collaborators. The distinguished
members of the Committee have been able, as a result of their experience, to define the work
which will have to be accomplished in each domain, and at the annual sessions of the Committee,
they have obtained the opinions of experts specially familiar with the questions under considera-
tion. But the definition of its aims being completed, it is now necessary to proceed to practical
work. This entails protracted research investigations, an enormous amount of documentation,
and the maintenance of regular relations with intellectual workers throughout the world and the
National Committees which have been set up in many countries. The Secretariat of the Com-
mittee, which is only a very small section within the Secretariat of the League, cannot possibly
tackle the complexity and the generosity of the various States and even of private associations, show that it really needs
some executive organ, an office or an institution to carry out the intricate work involved by the
decisions of the Committee.

This is the instrument with which the French Government proposes to endow the Committee.
The French Government's intentions are clearly defined in the letter from M. François ALBERT,
Minister of Education, to M. BERGSON, the principles of which met with the unanimous approval
of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.

The French Government would be prepared to found in Paris an International Institute of
Intellectual Co-operation, organised on the lines suggested in the Report of the Committee to
the Council on this subject. The entire cost would be met out of an annual grant which the
Government would ask the French Parliament to vote.

In order to emphasise the disinterested nature of its offer, which is intended to make the
development of international intellectual co-operation possible and to facilitate the work of the
Committee over which M. BERGSON presides, the French Government desires to see the Committee
on Intellectual Co-operation associated as intimately as possible with the organisation of this
Institute. I feel sure that the Council will readily grant to the Committee the necessary authorisa-
tion.

It is clearly understood that the League of Nations will incur no financial responsibility
for the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation would on the basis of the French Government's
grant, have to prepare the organisation of the new Institute and provide it with a programme
of work. The Committee would utilise for the general benefit of intellectual co-operation the
results obtained by the Institute, which might collaborate in drawing up proposals for the Com-
mittee to submit to the Council. The Institute would provide the Committee with the instrument
which it needs, but the Committee's functions would not be modified thereby nor would its
responsibilities be increased. Its powers would be in no way limited, nor its duties towards the
Council circumscribed.

I have the honour to propose the following resolution.

"The Council takes note of the French Government's proposal, and thanks it for
its generous offer.

"The Council accepts this offer in principle, and submits it to the Assembly for
consideration of the following points.

"(1) The functions of the new Institute,

"(2) The administrative and juridical conditions governing the work of the
Institute.

"(3) Relations between the proposed Institute and the existing international
Intellectual Institutes, such as the Union of International Associations, the International
Office of Bibliography, the International Council of Research, the International Academic
Union, which are established at Brussels, and the autonomy of which it is important
to maintain."