

MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

October 5, 1993

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

The International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council met on October 5, 1993, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m. by Temporary Chairperson Senator Jim Riordan. There were three members present: Senator Riordan, Representative Mark Haverland, and Representative Wayne McKinney.

Because there was not a quorum present, a permanent Chairperson was not elected. Senator Riordan chaired the meeting and began the meeting by stating that the Committee is looking for assistance from the outside to assist in planning for the Legislature's role in the international arena.

PRESENTATION BY MS. KATHLEEN WOOD, IOWA INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

The first speaker was Ms. Kathleen Wood, who appeared in her position as Chairperson of the Iowa International Council (IIC). Ms. Wood stated that the IIC is a voluntary organization set up in 1990 in response to Governor Branstad's request that such an organization be established to look at the possibility of duplication of services and functions. The six organizations that are represented on the Council, she said, are the International Division of the Department of Economic Development, the International Trade Bureau of the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Peace Institute, the Iowa Sister States, the Iowa International Development Foundation, and Internet.

The Iowa International Council reported to the Governor and the Legislature in 1991, Ms. Wood said, and they have continued to meet on a voluntary basis with a goal of improving Iowa's economic, cultural, and educational well-being. The Council, she stated, intends to act as a catalyst for bringing together all departments of state government involved in international programs, including the regents institutions. Ms. Wood indicated that they have collected a database and a contact list which are housed in Internet.

The Stanley Foundation has assisted the Council, Ms. Wood noted, and together they sent invitations for a forum last March to look at what the role of state agencies should be. They are planning a much larger forum for 1994, she added, although financing has been a problem. Ms. Wood stated that the Council will be meeting on October 6 to determine which other state agencies should participate. Ms. Wood stated that Ohio, Indiana, and Hawaii have

strong international programs, and that Indiana and Hawaii have focused mainly on trade development.

Ms. Wood agreed that legislative exchanges are important. She also suggested that the state needs to have a center for international relations and perhaps the Secretary of State's Office could expand its responsibilities and become such a center.

Ms. Wood stated that there is some confusion as to who is responsible for the foreign delegations in the Governor's Office. Ms. Wood indicated that she feels that there should be a joint legislative-executive effort. She invited the Committee to attend their meetings. Senator Riordan suggested a joint meeting with the Committee early in the legislative session; perhaps the third week in January.

MR. ROBERT KRILL, IOWA PEACE INSTITUTE

Mr. Robert Krill, President of the Iowa Peace Institute, was next on the agenda. He spoke about the importance of protocol and introductions and distributed a packet of materials addressing these concerns. In addition to being sensitive to the culture of the visiting delegations, Mr. Krill said common sense should prevail when dealing with members of foreign delegations.

Mr. Krill stated that both political parties have national institutes which send legislators abroad to assist developing democracies in setting up voting systems or helping to go from single-party to multiparty systems. In addition, he noted, there is the National Endowment for Democracy, which is a federally funded organization which encourages the democratic process in the New Independent States (NIS) and Eastern Europe.

Mr. Krill added that the Citizens for Democracy Corps (CDC) recruits volunteers to go abroad to assist in business and economic market development and that expenses of participants in their programs are covered.

Mr. Krill noted that the United States Information Agency and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) sponsor programs on privatization, the democratic process, and market development. He added that there are other groups such as the African-American Institute, the Asia Foundation, the Eurasia Foundation, and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems which also assist in the democratization process. Mr. Krill mentioned there are currently 43 countries in sub-Sahara Africa experimenting with democracy.

Mr. Krill suggested that the Legislature let such organizations know that they are open to foreign visitors. He added that, perhaps, the Legislature could offer a training program on how to operate a legislature, pay expenses for some of its members to travel to developing

nations, offer short-term training opportunities, participate in foreign trade delegations, and bring some of Iowa's 7,000 international students in to listen and participate.

Mr. Krill emphasized the importance of Iowa's international exports and that Iowa must be able to compete globally. He also suggested that one of Iowa's most important selling points is its excellent educational system. He said that the Peace Institute has a new mission statement which is to serve Iowans by promoting the peaceful resolution of conflict and demonstrate the importance of living in an interdependent world.

During the ensuing Committee discussion, the Committee members expressed concern over the difficulties of reconciling being a citizen legislature with wishing to participate more fully in international arenas. The issue of how legislators can convince their constituents of the importance of legislative participation in international affairs was also discussed.

Chairperson Riordan mentioned that November 3 and 4 are the dates for a Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs policy discussion in Des Moines entitled "Iowa's Stake in the Post-Cold War Global Economy: Opportunities and Challenges for the Private Sector in the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union." He indicated that Committee members have been invited to participate.

The Committee expressed interest in conducting workshops, training legislators, and encouraging the hosting of foreign visitors in legislators' home communities.

MR. PHIL STANHOPE, IOWA INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Mr. Phil Stanhope of the Iowa International Development Foundation (IIDF) appeared next. He expressed interest in working closely with the Legislature. He described the IIDF as playing a two-fold role -- one in democracy building through exchanges with other legislators and hosting staffs of the NIS and Central Europe. The second half of the Foundation's role, he indicated, is in international economic development activities working at the local and national level. He emphasized the importance of having legislators work more closely with trade delegations, since their presence carries the weight of their office with it. He added that it also helps legislators understand the role of the Foundation. Again, he mentioned the increasing dependence of Iowa on exports.

Mr. Stanhope said that the Foundation was just awarded a \$750,000 grant from the USAID to continue agribusiness centers in the Ukraine. He noted that 500 acres of crops have been planted and that there are feeding trials being conducted that combine corn and soybeans for a balanced feed ration. He noted that grain dryers and bins from Iowa companies have been put up in three locations. Mr. Stanhope commented that having the Governor and the Congressional delegation involved has contributed to the success of the Foundation's projects.

Several of the Committee members recalled that legislators recently took bull semen to Russia, and wondered if there were Black Angus and Holstein calves in abundance.

Several of the legislators expressed concern for acquaintances in the Russian Parliament.

According to Mr. Stanhope, the recent conflict has been brewing for the last 10 months and that once the political situation has stabilized, much progress can be made. He noted that infrastructure for business has improved in the NIS. He added that laws are in place to provide for the privatization of everything except land and that those laws are drafted but have been held hostage by the political conflict. He said that it is now possible to convert rubles into dollars within Russia but that one of the problems that has stifled progress has been the parliament's control over the money situation.

LUNCHEON RECESS

The Committee adjourned at 11:50 a.m. for lunch and for a reception in the Governor's Office where the Government of Taiwan was presented a check for \$100,000 for flood relief.

MR. DAN CLARK, STANLEY FOUNDATION

The Committee reconvened at 1:30 p.m. with Mr. Dan Clark of the Stanley Foundation as the first presenter. Mr. Clark provided the legislators with a packet of information from the Stanley Foundation which included a copy of The Courier Newsletter and The World Press Review. He noted that The World Press Review is published in New York, but is an Iowa product with circulation of 60,000. He said that the magazine prints in English what the world press is currently discussing and that there is also a radio program which is sponsored by the Stanley Foundation.

Mr. Clark gave a brief history of the Foundation, which started in 1956. He said there are 18 members on staff with four on the outreach staff. He added that the Foundation is a part of the peace movement and is better known outside Iowa. He said that Iowa is the lead state for Red Cross humanitarian law.

The state of Iowa is a laboratory for the peace movement, Mr. Clark maintained, and suggested that the programs of the Peace Institute and efforts of the Iowa International Council should be bolstered. He agreed with Ms. Wood that the Secretary of State's Office should be the lead agency for international relations as is the case on the federal level.

During discussion, it was agreed that Iowa does have an economic and historical interest in peace which stems from a natural idealism within the state and that Iowa could market the resource internationally in the same way as Geneva does.

Mr. Clark discussed the lack of defense industry businesses in Iowa. He continued by contrasting paid summer National Guard duty with unpaid volunteer attendance at the Peace Institute's programs. He ended by saying that he had been assigned two tasks by Foundation Chairperson Dick Stanley. One task, he said, is to figure out how to bolster the visibility in Iowa of the programs of the Iowa Peace Institute. The other he said is to help the Iowa International Council succeed.

Chairperson Riordan emphasized the importance of getting the Legislature involved in international delegations and he expressed his belief that the Legislature had defaulted to the Executive Branch.

MS. SARAH LANDE, IOWA SISTER STATES

Ms. Sarah Lande, Executive Director of Iowa Sister States, made the final presentation of the day. Chairperson Riordan asked who made the decisions as to where flood relief donations from Japan and Taiwan were to go. Ms. Lande replied that the Japanese requested that their moneys be used for rural flood relief and that the funds from Taiwan would go into the general flood relief fund.

Ms. Lande began her presentation by introducing Ms. Janet Clayton, her administrative assistant. Iowa Sister States is a two-person office, she said. She emphasized the importance of the global marketplace and said there are now 30,000 transnational companies. There is a lot of regionalization currently, she said, with many local levels of government becoming directly involved in international affairs. She quoted Peter Drucker, who said, "For business, the frontier is the globe." She also emphasized the importance of being sensitive to and understanding of the cultures of other peoples. Eleven and one-half percent of Iowa's gross product, she said, is exported internationally.

Ms. Lande stated Sister States was founded in 1985. Iowa's six Sister States, she said, are the following:

1. Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan (since 1960)
2. Yucatan, Mexico (since 1965)
3. Hebei Province, Peoples Republic of China (P.R.C.) (since 1983)
4. Terenggau, Malaysia (since 1987)
5. Stavropol Krai, Russia (since 1988)
6. Taiwan (since 1989)

The mission of Sister States Ms. Lande stated, is to serve as a catalyst for cultural and economic interests by developing exchange relationships with other countries and carrying them out in Iowa communities. Development of an official relationship facilitates getting past bureaucratic red tape, she said. She added that the Sister States and Iowa formulate work plans together which may include arranging media, medical, sports, or education exchanges. All members of the Sister States Board of Directors are volunteers, and they facilitate friendships which may lead to economic ventures, she said.

Ms. Lande noted that Stavropol Krai now has 11 sister cities across Iowa.

The Sister States office is located next to the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) and they have worked cooperatively in many different arenas, she said. Ms. Lande stated that 70 percent of the Iowa Sister States budget comes from the state, 30 percent from corporations and individuals.

Successes must be measurable, Ms. Lande commented. In business and industry all sister states have been invited to participate in the Business Horizons program, she said. So far, she noted, Stavropol and Taiwan have participated and they have set up business meetings with businesses and industry. The students and teachers of the University of Iowa MBA program have taught in Russia, she said. Peat Marwick of Des Moines has just opened an office in Beijing, she added. She commented that the Chinese are anxious to participate in General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and therefore must change to a Western-style accounting system. An Iowa agriculture research newsletter has now been translated into Chinese, she said.

Education is an important facet of the Iowa Sister States' programs, Ms. Lande stated. Japan and Taiwan have scholarships for Iowa students to study over there, she said, and 24 teachers from Russia are coming to Des Moines and three education consultants will travel to Russia next summer. Drake University is exploring distance learning to Hebei -- perhaps even awarding degrees, she added.

There was a municipal training exchange with Stavropol, Ms. Lande noted. Drake Law School hopes to send law professors and students and set up a small business law center in Stavropol, she said.

The Iowa Hospital Association has set up exchanges with hospitals in Stavropol, Ms. Lande reported. She added that there have also been sports exchanges in basketball, baseball, boxing, and RAGBRAI.

Ms. Lande then went over a full international agenda for the first quarter since July 1, 1993, with statistics setting out Iowans' contacts with Sister States delegations.

She ended her presentation by setting out some ideas for an international agenda for the state of Iowa. She said that she felt that the state should encourage and support a coordinated international program and set international policy goals. She encouraged investment in the

state of Iowa's international programs to bolster the efforts of volunteer citizens and businesses.

Ms. Lande also suggested that the Legislature fund travel for its members to participate in trade missions. She encouraged the creation of a long-range strategic plan for Iowa's international involvement, locating members of the Iowa International Council in the same building, and creating an Iowa Department of International Affairs through a computer network. Business, government, and education should work together to achieve international competitiveness, she said. Marketing information should be translated into the language of the countries in which they do business, she commented.

Ms. Lande expressed several ideas for educational programs on the high school and college levels and on through Elderhostels. Perhaps, she said, officials on international committees should be required to do continuing education.

Ms. Lande noted the absence of women on the International Relations Committee.

From the Clearinghouse on State International Policies, she quoted a blue-ribbon committee of the Southern Growth Policies Board which stated its top priority is to educate citizens about foreign policy. She also noted that Minnesota is concentrating on smaller communities and their potential for international trade.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Chairperson Riordan said that the next meeting will be scheduled hopefully some time in November. He added the key to success for the Committee is to convince legislative colleagues of the importance of the role of the state legislature in the global marketplace and in promoting international relations. He commented that legislators need to become aware of their potential as tutors in the democratic process. The possibility of setting up a pilot project to train legislators from emerging democracies was discussed by the Committee. The staff was directed to survey all legislators to find out which areas of international relations might interest them.

Ms. Julie Livers of the Legislative Information Office showed some possibilities for gifts to foreign delegations, including small wooden boxes created by Prison Industries, pins, and mugs. She spoke of gift boxes. Belt buckles such as Winterset does for the Covered Bridge Festival were suggested by meeting participants as perhaps a model for doing a series of Iowa landmarks laser-imprinted on the wooden boxes.

Ms. Livers indicated that she had spoken with Ms. Diane Bolender, Director of the Legislative Service Bureau, about making the pins available at cost for all nonprofit organizations dealing with international delegations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Legal Counsel

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