



MINUTES

International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

March 23, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Nancy Boettger,
Chairperson
Senator Dennis Black
Senator Bill Fink
Senator Sheldon Rittmer
Senator Neal Schuerer
Senator Elaine Szymoniak

MEETING IN BRIEF

.....

Organizational staffing provided by:
Patty Funaro, Senior Legal Counsel
(515) 281-3040

Minutes prepared by:
Tim McDermott, Legal Counsel
(515) 281-3444

- I. Procedural Business.
 - II. Protocol Discussion.
 - III. Future Meetings.
-

International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council

I. Procedural Business.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Boettger at 12:05 p.m. in Committee Room 24 of the Statehouse and was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

II. Protocol Discussion.

Chairperson Boettger led a committee discussion regarding protocol. She identified decorum during visits by foreign visitors, communications regarding visits by foreign visitors, trips by members of the General Assembly to other countries, and gifts as general topics for which protocol should be developed.

The Committee discussed a handout distributed by Senator Fink which he had prepared a few years ago for discussion regarding protocol for the Senate during visits by foreign visitors. The handout suggested locations in the Senate where foreign visitors should stand when the visitor is being introduced to the General Assembly and when a visitor speaks to the General Assembly based upon whether the visitor is an elected or appointed official. The Committee discussed the need to close the chamber during an introduction of a foreign visitor and during a speech by a foreign visitor. The Committee discussed who the proper person is to introduce foreign visitors.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Information Office outline a plan for improving communications relating to visits by foreign visitors.

The Committee discussed the manner in which members of the General Assembly are chosen to participate in trips to foreign countries. It was pointed out that leadership frequently makes these decisions for choosing members, in part, based on availability. The Senate in the past has allocated money from its own budget to finance an official visit of its members to Iowa's Sister State in Russia. The House of Representatives has not provided funding for international travel.

III. Future Meetings.

Chairperson Boettger stated that the next meeting would be scheduled during the week of March 27, and that members would be notified when the meeting is scheduled.

3350LC