

Report of the International Relations Committee to the Legislative Council

November 29, 1995

The International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council met on October 10, 1995, in Room 118 of the State Capitol.

The Committee reviewed committee history, received updates from representatives of Iowa Sister States, the Iowa Council for International Understanding, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship International Trade Section, and the Iowa Department of Economic Development International Division, and discussed gifts, travel, and legislator participation in international affairs.

The Committee agreed upon the following goals:

- Actively involving the General Assembly in international relations, including development of a formal protocol for the recognition of international visitors to the Capitol, including presentation of visitors to the General Assembly, receptions, and presentation of gifts, and the development of rules regarding travel by legislators to and contacts with other countries.
- Education of legislators and others regarding international agreements such as NAFTA and GATT and regarding the cultures of international guests.
- Coordination with the executive branch and with other agencies and outside organizations in the international relations area.
- Development of a budget to accomplish the goals of the Committee, including funds for expenses related to presentation of gifts, travel, and translation of materials.

The Committee recommended the following:

- Establishment of ad hoc groups to review the various goals and to report back to the full Committee at the next meeting to be held in January 1996. Senator Neuhauser volunteered to work with Senator McLaren and with the office of the Attorney General and IDED to organize a seminar regarding NAFTA and GATT. Senator Fink stated that he would contact Representative Beverly Nelson and work with her to develop protocol and procedures for the presentation of international visitors in each of the chambers.
- Chairperson Churchill and Senator Szymoniak agreed to review the area of gifts with Ms. Livers and to submit a request to the Legislative Council for a start-up budget for official gifts.
- All members of the Committee were asked to review the issue of travel by legislators and to report their suggestions at the next meeting of the Committee.

- The Committee suggested that a copy of the minutes of the meeting and the recommendations of the Committee be provided to the Legislative Council at the Council's next meeting.
- The Committee agreed to schedule a meeting after the beginning of the next session of the General Assembly, although no specific date or time was scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Steve Churchill
Chairperson