

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

June 23, 1998

The members of the International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council met on June 23, 1998. The meeting was called to order by Senator Nancy Boettger, Chairperson, at 10:10 a.m. in Room 118 of the Statehouse.

The International Relations Committee respectfully submits to the Legislative Council the following report and recommendations for approval:

1. That the International Relations Committee reaffirms the charge of the Committee to:
 - ◆ Develop goals and procedures that will facilitate communication between the Iowa General Assembly and international governments on several levels, including but not limited to interpersonal interaction between state legislators and legislative staff and international visitors, instruction about state and local democratic institutions, and the development of trade in international markets.
2. That the International Relations Committee intends to become more involved in the various aspects of international relations, including the greeting and hosting of international visitors, and that the International Relations Committee requests that the leadership of the General Assembly include the Committee in planning for and hosting of international visitors.
3. That the International Relations Committee reaffirms the approved 1996 report of the International Relations Committee to the Legislative Council, attached to this report, with the following amendments to items #4 and #9:
 - ◆ #4 . That the Legislative Council allocates, from moneys available pursuant to section 2.12 of the Code, the amount of \$10,000 for each two-year period beginning July 1, 1998, to the Legislative Service Bureau to be used by the Legislative Information Office for the purchase of official gifts for presentation to official international visitors, and for use by representatives of the Iowa General Assembly on official visits to other countries.
 - ◆ #9. That the Legislative Council allocates, from moneys available pursuant to section 2.12 of the Code, the amount of \$15,000, to be used by the Iowa General Assembly to pay expenses of hosting official international delegations, for whom a request to host has been made to the General Assembly or the Committee, during each two-year period beginning July 1, 1998. The moneys allocated may also be used to host other official international visitors. If appropriate, moneys may be used to reimburse expenses of international visitors and members of the General Assembly who act as hosts, including but not limited to expenses associated with meals and accommodations, within limitations established by the International Relations Committee. Expenditures under this provision must be approved by the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Committee.
4. That the International Relations Committee will explore means of developing an international relations agenda which coordinates the efforts of the Committee with state agencies, state universities, and members of the Iowa congressional delegation.
5. That the director of each nonpartisan and caucus staff of the General Assembly be directed to designate a contact person who may be called upon by the Legislative Information Office to assist in international relations efforts, including planning for and the hosting of international visitors.