

believe that the council we visited as observers will contribute significantly to this objective and to the fulfillment of Churchill's vision.

I think it will be interesting for honourable senators to know that the organs of the Council of Europe are the Committee of Ministers and the Consultative Assembly. The Committee of Ministers is the executive organ of the council, and consists of the foreign ministers of each member government. It may propose the conclusion of conventions or agreements or the adoption by governments of a common policy on a particular matter. Joint consultation on major political issues of common European concern is an important feature of its work. The committee meets regularly in the spring before the opening of every annual session of the Assembly in December, and at such other times as it may decide. Some of the conventions that have been reached in many of the European countries are the product of the debates and recommendations that have been made in this Assembly. It is significant that some post-war enactments in Canada are modelled on some recommendations of the Council of Europe. When we were in Czechoslovakia it was interesting to see that at least there was participation by some of the Eastern European Countries, who are not members of the Consultative Assembly, in the travaux préparatoires undertaken by organs of the Council of Europe.

The deliberative organ of the council is the Consultative Assembly, which resembles in form and procedure the national parliaments of member countries but has no legislative powers. While making only recommendations, it has nevertheless been a useful forum for contacts and exchange of ideas among west European parliamentarians.

There, on the last day, spoke the Prime Minister of France in the presence of the representatives of 19 other European nations, at a time when the question was asked: What does the resignation of General de Gaulle mean for new admissions to the Common Market, for the role that the United Kingdom seeks to play in that arrangement? While there were not given in the speech of Mr. Couve de Murville full replies to these interrogations, there were indications that the government of which he was a member did not intend to move far from the position traditionally taken by General de Gaulle.

The size of the national delegations varies according to the population of the country

concerned and their composition approximately reflects the strength of the political parties in the national parliaments, although no Communist parliamentarians have so far been designated. The Assembly makes proposals to the Committee of Ministers in the form of recommendations which require a two-thirds majority. It may also adopt, by a simple majority, resolutions, opinions or orders. The work of the Assembly is prepared by its 13 permanent committees. The Assembly usually holds three week-long sessions a year.

As an instrument of co-operation and international understanding, the Council of Europe has already achieved impressive results and has prepared the ground for further and more fundamental achievements. The Council has sought to give practical expression to the aims laid down in the statute in a number of ways. For example, nearly 60 European Conventions and Agreements have been concluded since 1949 on a wide variety of subjects, from the peaceful settlement of international disputes to the suppression of pirate radio stations. Among the most noteworthy is the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. This Convention was signed on November 4, 1950, by the representatives of the 15 member countries. This represents, in my judgment, as I hope to establish, the Council's greatest achievement. It provides the way for all nations to meet the problem of human rights. A European Commission and a European Court of Human Rights has been set up to ensure the respect of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Convention.

During our stay in Strasbourg, we visited and had the pleasure of a morning's discussion with Dr. A. H. Robertson, head of the Directorate of Human Rights of the Council of Europe. The Council's activity in other legal fields has been reflected in the signature of a series of conventions and agreements designed to regulate, *inter alia*, patents, mutual assistance in criminal matters and to facilitate the movement of persons between member countries.

In 1964, a European Committee on Legal Co-operation was set up to implement the Council's legal program. Let no one belittle what this means to the development of peace in Europe and what it means, ultimately, to the subjection of the governments of national states to the law, not only in relation to states but in relation to individuals. As a result of this human rights arrangement