Letter from Joseph Retinger on attendance at the Congress of Europe in The Hague

Caption: In March 1948, Joseph Retinger, Secretary of the International Committee of the Movements for European Unity, sends to Morgan Phillips, Secretary of the British Labour Party, a letter in which he informs him of the decision to invite the Committee of the Socialist International to the Congress of Europe in The Hague.

Source: Archives historiques de l'Union européenne, Florence, Villa Il Poggiolo. Dépôts, DEP. Mouvement européen, ME. Préparation du Congrès de l'Europe devant se tenir à La Haye du 07 au 10/05/1948, ME 1184.

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Comité international de coordination des mouvements pour l'unité européenne

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I am writing to you further about the European Congress at The Hague next May. In my letter of 10th March, (of which I attach a copy), I explained that the Congress was being organised by an International Coordinating Committee, composed of representatives of the following societies: Conseil Français pour l'Europe Unie; Ligue Indépendante de Coopération Européenne, Union Européenne des Fédéralistes; United Europe Movement. Meanwhile, the Liberal International League has also joined our Coordinating Committee. In addition, the British and French Sections of the European Parliamentary Union have passed resolutions expressing the desire that the International Council of that organisation should likewise be represented upon our Coordinating Committee.

In my previous letter, I gave you some information about the Socialist representation at the Congress. Since then you will have noted from the press communiqué, of which I sent you a copy, that Monsieur Paul Ramadier has accepted to be President of the Political Committee of the Congress.

In order to remove any doubts which may still remain about the effective representation of the Socialist Parties at the Congress, we have decided to invite the International Socialist Committee to be represented upon our Coordinating Committee in the same manner as the other organisations already referred to, and so become one of the official sponsors of the Congress.

If for any reason the International Socialist Committee does not wish to become an official sponsor of the Congress, we should be glad to welcome a representative of the International Socialist Committee in an unofficial liaison capacity.

I should be grateful if you would bring the contents of this and my previous letter to the notice of the International Socialist Committee at its meeting in England this week-end, so that it may take a decision on the proposals made therein.

J. H. Retinger, Honorary Secretary



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