

FINNISH-BRITISH MIXED COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING, TAMPERE, 27-29 SEPTEMBER 1993

1. OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman declared the 7th session of the Finnish-British Mixed Commission open and warmly welcomed the members of both the British Section and the Finnish Section to the meeting.

He declared his satisfaction with the realization of the plans mentioned in the minutes of the previous Mixed Commission meeting in Edinburgh, such as the Finnish participation in ERASMUS, the continuation of the Pilot Undergraduate Scheme with a third year, the creation of the Finnish Centre for International Mobility and the opening of the Finnish Institute in London.

The Leader of the British Section thanked for the warm welcome and expressed the satisfaction of the British side with the activities of the preceding three-year period. He pointed out, however, that the British Council in the Nordic Countries is under some financial constraint.

The Mixed Commission stated with satisfaction that the introduction of the British Council's Helsinki office to the same premises with CIMO (The Finnish Centre for International Mobility) had proved to be a success and to the advantage of both organizations.

The Chairman underlined that, in spite of the Council's 'new look', there seemed to be no decline in British presence in Finland. Britain continues to be the most important European country in the eyes of the Finnish public.

The members of both sections were introduced, and their names are attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda of the meeting was adopted in the proposed form and is attached as Appendix B to the minutes.

3. SUMMARY OF COOPERATION SINCE 1990

The reports of the activities since 1990 were provided by the Finnish and British sides, and they were accepted by the meeting. Some amendments were proposed to the Finnish report.

In expressing their satisfaction with these reports the Mixed Commission wished to make a special mention of the Scandinavian Festival of Nordic Arts arranged with great skill and devotion by the Barbican Centre in cooperation with the Nordic Council of Ministers and a number of national institutions in the Nordic countries.

The Mixed Commission also wished to underline the importance of the Pilot Undergraduate Exchange Programme in training Finnish and British universities for future cooperation within the ERASMUS and other exchange programmes.

4. REVIEW OF PARTICIPATION IN MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE

The Chairman reported the recent developments in Finnish participation in multilateral organizations mentioning especially Finland's application for the membership of the European Community, the Council of Europe Seminar on "Education: Structures, Policies and Strategies" open to all CSCE participating states and based on the initiative of Finland and certain other countries, as well as Finland's participation in UNESCO activities where the presence of the United Kingdom is missed.

The Leader of the British section said that the United Kingdom would endorse Finland's application to the European Community.

5. REVIEW OF PROGRAMMES AND AGREEMENTS WITH CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

The Chairman explained how Finland had arranged cultural relations with the neighbouring countries and mentioned the cultural agreement between Finland and the Russian Federation, relations between the provinces of Eastern Finland and the Russian frontier regions and cooperation with the Finno-Ugric peoples in Russia. He also reported on the cultural agreement between Fin-

land and Estonia as well as the cooperation links with Latvia and Lithuania in the fields of education, culture and science.

The British section pointed out the opportunities for cooperation between Finnish, British and Karelian or Baltic institutions.

Dr Branch mentioned that "The Great Bear: A Thematic Anthology of Oral Poetry in the Finno-Ugrian Languages" will be published in October 1993 as a result of Finnish-British cultural cooperation.

6. FINNISH INSTITUTE IN LONDON

Dr Jaakko Rusama, Director of the Finnish Institute in London, tabled a report on the Institute and said that all the key activities of the Institute, mentioned in its rules, have been taken into account in the Institute's operation. In the autumn of 1993, the Institute will get six policy guidelines on Education, Cultural Affairs, Economic Issues, Exhibitions, Morning Discussions and Information, which will further clarify the role and identity of the Institute as a bi-national instrument of cooperation between Finland and Britain. An important new feature in the activities of the Institute is the project for vocational education and training.

The Mixed Commission noted with satisfaction this report and the Institute's plans for future activities.

7. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, INCLUDING EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

A report on the pilot project between Finnish and British institutions of vocational education was tabled by the Finnish side. The meeting discussed the results of the project and expressed general satisfaction with the success of this programme. The Mixed Commission wished to address special thanks to Ms Judy Powell, Head of Vocational and Technical Education Department, Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges, and to Mr Ivan Hannaford, Kingston University, on the British side as well as to Mr Reijo Aholainen, Special Adviser, Ministry of Education, on the Finnish side, for their contribution to this programme which offers an opportunity for an international experience to students in vocational education.

The Mixed Commission urged institutions of vocational education in both countries to continue this promising programme.

8. RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION INCLUDING INTER-UNIVERSITY CO-OPERATION PROGRAMMES AND EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

The Finnish side reported on the trends in Finnish higher education policy since the mid-1960's. Education and research are becoming increasingly important in Finland's development strategy. The key words in the current higher education policy are quality and internationalization. At the same time, universities can no longer depend on an increasing supply of resources. These trends are described in the Development Plan for Education and University Research for 1991-1996.

The British section reported on the recent developments in the British higher education system mentioning especially the creation of 39 new universities (formerly polytechnics). The basis for and source of their financing are the same as for the old universities. Important points are research, assessment of teaching, quality control with published reports, students as customers and increasing awareness of these customers, fund raising by universities etc.

The Mixed Commission noted with satisfaction the good multi- and bilateral cooperation between Finland and Britain in higher education and research, hoped that this cooperation will be further developed both bilaterally and in the framework of the EC R&D and education programmes. The Finnish section pointed out that the high tuition fees charged from Finnish students by British universities are still a serious problem affecting bilateral student mobility between Finnish and British institutions of higher education.

The Mixed Commission examined in detail the ICP-programmes between Finnish and British universities on the basis of the report made by Dr Lauri Lantto, Director of CIMO. It was noted that one third of Finnish university departments take part in the ICP-programmes, and in the academic year 1993-94 about 300 Finnish students will go to Britain, but the number of British students coming to Finland is still unknown. The meeting stated that the imbalance in student exchanges is a problem. The lack of interest of British students in coming to Finland can be seen also in the bilateral scholarship exchanges where the quality and number of British candidates is not always very good.

The Mixed Commission emphasized therefore the role of the Finnish Institute in London in student exchanges and decided in agreement to propose that the Finnish Institute arrange in 1994 or 1995 a seminar on higher education policies in Finland and Britain and on the Finnish-British cooperation in the fields of higher education and research.

The meeting also discussed EC links with non-member states (Australia, Canada, India and Japan), the cooperation between the EC and Central and East European countries, the specific features of the exchange of students between Finland and Russia as well as the TEMPUS programme.

The Mixed Commission wished to give its support to the British Studies programme at the University of Helsinki and to make a special mention of the ERASMUS project between the Sibelius Academy and the Royal Academy of Music which has developed into a rich cooperation between the two institutions.

9. SUPPORT FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING

The British section circulated a paper on Finnish Studies in the United Kingdom in 1990-1993. Professor Michael Branch, Director of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, emphasized the new opportunities offered by the SSEES/Turku/Groningen ERASMUS programme as well as by a TEMPUS (TACIS) Consortium including SSEES as well as the Universities of Joensuu, Nottingham and Bochum who are planning a proposal to assist the University of Petrozavodsk in the renewal and development of its teaching in the humanities and sciences.

The Chairman welcomed this report and pointed out that the teaching of Finnish language at EC universities is of importance to Finland.

The Finnish section confirmed that the quota allocation of six summer-school places by the Finnish Ministry of Education to the students of SSEES will be maintained. The SSEES /University of Groningen Young Teachers Placement Scheme will also be continued, the annual number of teachers being two for the academic year 1993-94.

The British section introduced a paper on English Language and Literature in Finland. The Helsinki office of the British Council collaborates closely with the Finnish English Teachers Association, the English departments and Language Centres of Finnish universities.

The British section also reported on the annual summer school which is run together with the English Teachers' Association, as well as about the Fifth Biennial British Studies Seminar which will take place in February 1994.

The Finnish section pointed out that there is a need for close cooperation with the British Council and those schools and institutes in Finland wishing to start teaching in English also other subjects than English language.

10. EXCHANGES IN THE ARTS

The Mixed Commission expressed general satisfaction with the level and quality of exchanges in the arts between Finland and Britain, making a special note of the Festival of Nordic Arts arranged at the Barbican Centre in 1992. The Finnish section provided a list of English translations of Finnish literature which the meeting noted with satisfaction.

The British section made a report on British participation in Finnish festivals and pointed out that the theme for the Helsinki Festival in 1994 will be Britain.

The meeting got advance information about Finnish cultural events to be arranged in Britain in the coming years.

The Mixed Commission complimented Profesor William Mead for his contribution to the Mixed Commission's work since its first Session, and for his recent publication "An Experience of Finland".

The meeting was informed about the visitors' programme of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

11. INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER EXCHANGES

The Mixed Commission welcomed the cooperation programme established between the Youth Exchange Centre and the Youth Bureau of the Ministry of Education.

The meeting expressed its satisfaction in the lively activities of the Federation of the Finnish-British Societies, the Anglo-Finnish Society, the Scottish-Finnish Society, the Finnish Church Guild and the English-Speaking Union of Finland (founded in 1992).

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The leader of the British section announced that Mr Len Tyler had been appointed the new Director of the British Council for the Nordic Area with effect from 14 December 1993 when Mr Michael Holcroft retires.

13. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The British side invited the Finnish side to Belfast in 1996 for the Eighth Session of the Mixed Commission it being the 20th Anniversary of the Anglo-Finnish Mixed Commission meetings.



Michael Holcroft
For the British side



Kalervo Siikala
For the Finnish side

FINNISH SECTION

- Chairman: Mr Kalervo Siikala
Director-General of International Relations
Ministry of Education
- Members: Professor Matti Rissanen
Chairman, Executive Committee
Finnish Institute in London Trust
- Mr Jukka Leino
Director for Cultural Affairs
Department for Press and Cultural Affairs
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Experts: Mr Reijo Aholainen
Project Manager
School Department
Ministry of Education
- Mr Matti Gustafson
Deputy Director-General
Department for International Relations
Ministry of Education
- Ms Raija Kallinen
Counsellor for Cultural Affairs
Department for International Relations
Ministry of Education
- Dr Lauri Lantto
Director
Centre for International Mobility CIMO
- Ms Monica Melén-Paaso
Secretary for Higher Education and Research
Department for Higher Education and Research
Ministry of Education
- Dr Jaakko Rusama
Director
Finnish Institute in London
- Attaché: Ms Helena Priha
Secretary for International Exchanges
Ministry of Education

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BRITISH SECTION

Leader: Mr Michael Holcroft
Director Nordic Countries
British Council
Copenhagen

Members: Mr Bill Deakin
European Officer
University of Humberside

Ms Tuija Talvitie
Manager Finland
British Council
Helsinki

Observers: Dr Alf Game
Head UK Research and Higher Education European Office
Brussels

Professor Michael Branch
Director
School of Slavonic and East European Studies
University of London

Professor William Mead
Professor Emeritus
University College, London

Mr William Clare
Information Officer
British Embassy
Helsinki

**Finnish-British Mixed Commission
7th Meeting, Tampere, 27-29 September 1993**

Agenda:

1. Opening remarks
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Summary of cooperation since 1990
4. Review of participation in multilateral organizations in the fields of education, science and culture
5. Review of programmes and agreements with Central and East European countries
6. Finnish Institute in London
7. Vocational education including exchange of students and teachers
8. Research and higher education including inter-university cooperation programmes and exchange of students and professors
9. Support for language teaching
10. Exchanges in the arts
11. Information about other exchanges (youth exchanges, bilateral societies etc.)
12. Any other business
13. Date and place of next meeting