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Rome, April 12, 1948

Excellency,

I have the honour to submit to your consideration the following request on behalf of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law.

The Organic Statute of the Institute, which replaced the original agreement between the Italian Government and the League of Nations, has obtained the adhesion of the following States, now members of the United Nations Organisation: Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Cuba, Denmark Ecuador, Greece, Jugoslavia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Holland, Paraguay, Sweden, Uruguay and Venezuela. Among the adhering States Italy Sweden and Switzerland are supporting the Institute with financial contributions. The British representative, Sir William Graham Harrison, has remained a member of the existing Council of Direction and will be so until the new Council shall have been elected by the Assembly of the participating States.

Considering the part Great Britain has always played in the management of the Institute, and the sympathetic interest she has more than once shown in its future, the Council of Direction has requested me to take official steps in order to obtain the definitive adhesion of the British Government to the present Statute of the Institute.

At this juncture I should like to stress the gratitude of the Council of Direction for all Great Britain has done in its favour, both in the past and in present years: before the war, through the unfailing collaboration given by Sir Cecil Hurst, and even before the cessation of hostilities, when relations were

His Excellency
Sir Victor MALLET, K.C.M.G., C.V.O.,
Ambassador of His Britannic Majesty

informally resumed during the Armistice period, and again when the British Government declared its intention of participating in the future activity of the Institute (Aide Memoire to the Italian Government dated March 24th 1946. N.H. 1931/100/70 refers.)

Since September 1944 Sir William Graham Harrison has been represented on the Council by Colonel G.G. Hannaford, now Secretary at H.M. Embassy in Rome. The latter's work has been extremely valuable in so far as the reorganisation of the Institute were concerned. I am glad to be able to state also that Professor Wortley of Manchester University has now taken over the post which Prof. Gutteridge occupied for so many years in our technical committees.

On submitting this request to you in the hope that you will kindly forward it to your Government, I wish to insist upon the importance attached by this Institute to the adhesion of Great Britain to its present Statute. Not only would it enable us fully to clarify our position in regard to the United Nations, but it would at last make it possible to call the general assembly of the adhering States in order to appoint a new Council of Direction.

This step, as you will no doubt realize, constitutes an essential contribution to the development of our activities as the adhesion of Great Britain will considerably add to the prestige of the Institute so necessary in the part we shall no doubt play in the plans for economic unions between States.

I have the honour to be

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant

Jo Gunther