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INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS

PROPOSITIONS DE LA SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE DE S. LUC,
S. COSME ET S. DAMIEN

A union of the National Societies of Catholic Physicians is necessary

1. for a better understanding of one another
2. to assure on an international basis
 - a. the study and right point of view concerning questions of general interest
 - b. a united plan of action when there is a question of defending those religious and moral interests in which physicians are especially concerned

The official seat of this International Union can be only the Vatican City, the only State, absolutely and definitively neutral from a political standpoint. (All ideas or all questions of a political kind being absolutely discarded among us.)

It must not be established as an International Society or as an International Federation, for many reasons:

1. Discussions of persons, possible national frictions in relation to the nomination of a board, the election to offices, and the number of representatives allowed to the various countries, etc.
2. The effacement, to the profit of the greater nations, of the Societies of less important nations, which might be in opposition to any development more extended than their own limited activities.
3. The too excessive role of general direction either outside or in connection with ecclesiastical authority.
4. The impossibility for certain national societies to participate, notably those

countries where legislation might put difficulties in the way of their joining.

It is for these reasons that it has been organized simply as a Secretariat, an organ of records and information, a center of activity only, and not as an organ of direction.

In this Central Office, all the National Societies must be considered equal in rank, and must be equally represented by an official delegate.

The national delegates should meet periodically and regularly, unless prevented by the express command of a general order, every year (or at least every two years). These meetings should be held, in turn, in the different countries, under the leadership of the president of the Society of the nation where the meeting takes place.

In case of emergency, a meeting of the Central Office could be called by the President of the Secretariat, or at the request of an agreed number of the members.

At these meetings, the time and organization of the International Congresses could be determined.

In the intervals between the meetings, the National Societies could send to the Central Office items of news and communications to be printed in a monthly bulletin which could be sent to all the Societies.