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**STAFF ASSOCIATION** ☎ 2819 - 4224

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## ***OFF TO A BAD START !***

### **HOSTILE GESTURE BY FRANCE**

Last Tuesday, the CERN staff, represented by Henri PINEY, the President of the Staff Association, were the subject of a hostile gesture by France as represented by Mr. P. PETIAU, an official French Delegate to the Finance Committee.

Here are the facts. Discussions are being held on the CERN Review Committee's recommendation to set up two subsidiaries, one under Swiss law, the other under French law. At the request of the President of Council, the Director-General had arranged a meeting between the representatives of the Swiss Confederation, the French Republic and the CERN Management. The Swiss Delegation was led by H.E. Mr. E. ANDRES, Swiss Delegate to the CERN Council, and the French Delegation was led by Mr. P. PETIAU, French representative on the Finance Committee.

As happened last August, when a similar meeting was held to discuss the recommendation that CERN become a local employer in accordance with Swiss and French legislation, the Director-General invited the President of the Association to attend the meeting on Tuesday as an observer.

On Tuesday morning, the Director-General informed the President of the Staff Association that, on the express instructions of the French Minister for Education, Mr. P. PETIAU was opposed to his attending the meeting that afternoon and that he even had instructions to leave the room if the President of the Association was present.

Despite the Director-General's attempts at conciliation and his own firm stand, our President was prevented from attending the meeting.

In our view this is a hostile act on the part of France towards the CERN staff as represented by the President of the Association. The latter is writing to the Minister concerned. Behaviour of this sort at the outset of discussions on the CERN Review Committee's recommendations, many of which, as you know, are directed against the staff and their employment conditions, bodes ill for the future. They are unnecessarily aggressive and can only have dire consequences for all sides. The Staff Association is resolved to react calmly, but an incident of this type cannot be allowed to pass without any public reaction.

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