A benefit such as the payment, by the body providing care insurance, of old age insurance contributions of the third party providing care in the home of a reliant person in the circumstances of the cases in the main proceedings constitutes a sickness benefit to the advantage of the reliant person covered by Council Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community as amended and updated by Regulation (EC) No 118/97 of 2 December 1996.

So far as concerns benefits such as those under German care insurance accorded in the circumstances of the cases in the main proceedings to an insured person resident on the territory of the competent State or to a person resident on the territory of another Member State and covered by that insurance as a member of the family of a worker, the Treaty, in particular Article 17 EC, and Regulation No 1408/71, as amended and updated by Regulation No 118/97, preclude payment of the old age insurance contributions of a national of a Member State in the position of the third party caring for the recipient of those benefits being refused by the competent institution on the ground that that third party or the aforementioned recipient resides in a Member State other than the competent State.