

Extract from the appeal made by the representatives of the Federation of Metalworkers in France and the Overseas Territories (CGT) and the German Metalworking Industry Trade Unions (FDGB) in Magdeburg (4, 5, 6 and 7 August 1950)

Caption: In August 1950, the French union CGT (General Trade Union Confederation) and the German union FDGB (Confederation of Free German Trade Unions) publish a joint communiqué calling on steel workers from both countries to join forces to combat the Schuman Plan.

Source: L'Humanité. Organe Central du Parti Communiste Français. 07.08.1950. Paris: L'Humanité.

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In accordance with the joint appeal of the CGT and the Federation of Free German Trade Unions (FDGB), of which an excerpt is reproduced here, the two Federations affirm that their primary duty is to bring about united action by French and German metalworkers for the defence of peace .

AGAINST THE MANUFACTURE OF GOODS FOR PURPOSES OF WAR

Whereas metalworkers play a decisive role in the manufacture of goods intended to serve the American imperialists war machine, the two Federations hereby decide:

To take all necessary action to organise the struggle of the masses against the manufacture of such goods:

To combat the attempt under way in France and West Germany to merge the coal and steel industry in France, West Germany and other Western European countries under the direction of the American monopolists;

To condemn this Schuman Adenauer plan as a fresh attempt by the American imperialists to step up their preparations for war, to boost their economic and political domination and to attack the economic and social rights of workers in general and miners and metalworkers in particular.

The essential objectives set out above are linked to increased participation by French and German metalworkers in the campaign for the signing of the Stockholm appeal against the atomic bomb, to their active participation and to the popularisation of the Second World Congress of Partisans for Peace.

UNITED ACTION

To consolidate the bases of their joint action, the two organisations undertake:

To fight in France and Germany for trade union unity at the national and international level within the Trade Unions International of Metal and Engineering Industries (Trade Department of the World Federation of Trade Unions WFTU);

To develop united action by all metalworkers and help organisations and militants in the western zones of Germany fighting for the unification of the German trade unions.

The two organisations also undertake to step up the joint struggle in France and West Germany for the vital interests of metalworkers, which are seriously jeopardised by the warmongering policy of world domination pursued by the American monopolists;

To fight together against the Marshall Plan and the Atlantic Pact and their consequences for the workers and the metallurgical and mechanical engineering industries in both countries.

The two organisations hereby decide:

To strengthen the friendly and fraternal relations between German and French metalworkers;

To set up direct contacts between the trade union organisations at every level, militants, metallurgical undertakings in France and Germany and, in particular, between those in the western territories of Germany and those in France.

APPEAL TO ALL

In the present struggle to prevent the imperialists triggering a ne

w world war, the metalworkers of France and Germany, with all other workers, must make it impossible for France and West Germany to be used as a platform of war, by victoriously opposing the use of French people as mercenaries for the imperialist warmongers.

The two organisations representing the metalworkers of France and Germany therefore call on all trade unionists, all metalworkers, mothers, wives and young people to become fervent fighters for the achievement of the tasks that these organisations have jointly set themselves and which reflect the vital interests of the peoples of France and Germany.

Long live the friendship between German and French workers;

Long live international solidarity among the workers;

Long live the Trade Unions International of Metal and Engineering Industries (Trade Department of the WFTU);

Long live the World Federation of Trade Unions;

Long live peace.