

'The USA and Europe' from the Luxemburger Wort (3 May 1948)

Caption: On 3 May 1948, the Luxembourg daily newspaper Luxemburger Wort reviews the American plans to provide military aid to Europe.

Source: Luxemburger Wort. Für Wahrheit und Recht. 03.05.1948, n° 124; 101e année. Luxembourg: Imprimerie Saint-Paul. "Die USA und Europa", auteur:Hightower, John , p. 1.

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The USA and Europe

By AP correspondent John Hightower

Until the most important European powers develop their own major defence strategy towards Russia, a final decision on the form and the exact extent of American military assistance to be provided for Western Europe is unlikely to be taken. At least, this is how it seemed on Friday, according to information given by the diplomatic corps and administrative circles. For these people, it is clear that, for the planning of a possible military alliance, the American Administration needs to know exactly where, how and with what kind of armed forces the Europeans aim to erect their own system of defence. There is nothing at the present time to suggest that the United States intends to reinforce its armed forces in Europe.

While US foreign policy makers are awaiting precise plans from overseas, they are considering a preliminary trial of the emotional attitude that Congress has towards the issue of possible assistance from America. This trial could take two forms: either an application for a kind of bipartisan lend-lease programme, allowing the large-scale rearmament of non-Communist countries to begin, or a request for Congress to adopt a resolution, which will advocate both American leadership in increasing the power of the United Nations in efforts against aggression and the creation of a Western European defence system under the provisions of the United Nations Charter. This second possibility is being closely examined by the US Secretary of State, George Marshall, and Senator Arthur Vandenberg.

This kind of mutual defence organisation already exists between the American nation states and is formally sanctioned in the United Nations Charter. The approval by Congress of such a resolution would signify an increase in the efforts of the European nations, would push their own plans forward more quickly, and would fill them with greater hope of obtaining unlimited assistance from America.

Those who have reservations about this kind of a preliminary measure are particularly concerned that the Europeans will see this as the most formal commitment to assistance from America to date and thus develop a tendency to rely heavily on the United States.