

Statement by Clement Attlee to the House of Commons (11 May 1950)

Caption: On 11 May 1950, in a statement to the House of Commons, the British Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, expresses his thoughts on the Schuman Plan and confirms his support for the French proposal.

Source: Parliamentary Debates. House of Commons. Official Report. First session of the Thirty-Ninth Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. 14 George VI. Dir. of publ. Hansard. 1950, No 475; fifth series. London: His Majesty's Stationery Office.

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With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a short statement with regard to the French Government's proposals for the integration of French and German coal and steel production, in which I am sure the House is very much interested.

It is the declared policy of the Western Powers to promote the entry of Germany as a free member into the comity of European nations. The French proposals are designed to facilitate that process and must consequently be regarded as a notable contribution towards the solution of a major European problem.

The proposals also have far-reaching implications for the future economic structure of participating countries; and this aspect will require very careful study by His Majesty's Government and the other Governments concerned. His Majesty's Government will approach the problem in a sympathetic spirit and desire to make it clear at the outset that they welcome this French initiative to end the age-long feud with Germany and so bring unity and peace to Europe.