

Telegram from René Massigli to Robert Schuman (27 June 1950)

Caption: In this telegram addressed to French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, René Massigli, French Ambassador in London, criticises the policy of Franco–German rapprochement since he believes that it will be detrimental to Franco–British relations.

Source: BOSSUAT, Gérard. D'Alger à Rome (1943-1957), Histoire de la construction européenne, choix de documents. Louvain-la-Neuve: Ciaco, 1989. 240 p. ISBN 2-87085-186-3. (Histoire de la construction européenne. Études, instruments et documents de travail). p. 131-132.

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Foreign Affairs Incoming telegram
GB, decrypted
London, 27 June 1950, 20.30
received, ditto, 21.00 N 2335 to 36
Reserved

With reference to your telegram No 5384-5403

My telegram No 2325/2329 was drafted before I read the communiqué that has just been released. Far from mitigating the difficulties to which I drew your attention, this document emphasises them in a manner that leaves no further scope for us to bring the British round to our point of view.

No responsible politician here will agree to consider the possibility of the United Kingdom joining a European Federation without knowing how participation in the Federation would be reconciled with the continuing existence of the Commonwealth.

The statement on 9 May explained that our Plan was a first step towards a European Federation, creating de facto solidarity through a concrete achievement. The text of the communiqué seems to prove that it is now time to take a decisive step despite the fact that there are not yet even the beginnings of an agreement on the conception of the Federation itself, its physical extent or its sphere of activity.

I must say that I am concerned at this degree of haste and I am afraid of the foreseeable consequences for Franco-British relations. The gulf that is beginning to open up will only grow wider. We are moving towards a Franco-German *tête-à-tête*, arbitrated by the Americans no doubt, but is that sufficient, given that Great Britain is an occupying power and our attitude will increasingly prompt it to act exclusively as it sees fit with regard to German affairs?./.

Massigli

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Duplicata