

'National resistance to the conspiracy of the Schuman Plan' from the Tägliche Rundschau Berlin-Ost (6 April 1951)

Caption: On 6 April 1951, the East Berlin daily newspaper Tägliche Rundschau condemns the Schuman Plan and criticises the position of the West German Government which favours the pooling of European coal and steel output.

Source: Tägliche Rundschau. Zeitung für Politik, Wirtschaft und Kultur. 06.04.1951, Nr. 80 (1803); 7. Jg. Berlin NO: Tägliche Rundschau. "Nationaler Widerstand gegen das Komplott des Schuman-Plans", p. 1.

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Statement by the Council of Ministers of the GDR

National resistance to the conspiracy of the Schuman Plan

Berlin (TR). At today's meeting of the Council of Ministers, the Government of the German Democratic Republic adopted the following statement on the Schuman Plan:

On 19 March 1951, in Paris, the authorised representative of the Adenauer Government, together with the representatives of the French, Belgian, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Italian Governments, initialled the draft of a Treaty on the so-called Schuman Plan. The aim of the Treaty is to establish a Coal and Steel Community which will exercise control over all coal mining and over the iron and steel industry in those countries.

Under the draft Treaty, the Governments of the Schuman Plan member countries will explicitly relinquish sovereignty over their coal mining and iron and steel industries. The Ruhr, the industrial heart of Germany, will be torn from the economic body of our Fatherland. The sovereign right to dispose freely of this vital area will be withheld from our people. This continuation of the policy of tearing out the Rhine-Ruhr industrial region, which began with the *Ruhr Statute*, breaks all bounds. A revision or abolition of the Ruhr Statute, as promised to Adenauer by the USA, with the simultaneous implementation of the Schuman Plan, must be seen as a blatant attempt to deceive the German people.

American armoury in Western Europe

The unification of the coal and steel industry under the Schuman Plan brings to fruition the American plan to create an armoury in Western Europe. This amalgamation is aimed at speeding up the remilitarisation of West Germany and at establishing a war economy base in Europe for the aggressive North Atlantic bloc. The Treaty to implement the Schuman Plan is *a grave violation of the Potsdam Agreement* which provides for the creation of a united, democratic and demilitarised Germany. It is a conspiracy of the US imperialists with the imperialists of the Schuman Plan countries, in particular the West German industrial barons, directed against international peace and security.

The draft Treaty for the Schuman Plan provides for a so-called 'High Authority', which will consist of the representatives of the big monopoly corporations. This 'High Authority', which is being set up in order to establish a material basis for war preparations, is to acquire powers to determine the volume of coal output and iron and steel production, to distribute raw materials, to regulate sales and external trade and the borrowing, banking and investment system of heavy industry, and to dictate prices for coal, iron and steel.

The surrender of these rights to the 'High Authority' of the Coal and Steel Community means that *the German people will be robbed of inalienable rights* when the Schuman Plan Treaty takes effect. The Schuman Plan takes away from the German people the right to determine in its own national interest the production and use, not only of coal, iron and steel but also of other industrial goods, since these inevitably depend on heavy industry, the vital basis of the national economy.

The 'High Authority' of the Coal and Steel Community will be a tool in the hands of aggressive American capital since, as the Treaty itself shows, in the matter of loans and the main sources of raw materials, which are under American control, this amalgamation of heavy industry will be wholly dependent on US imperialism.

Adenauer supports theft from the German people

The Adenauer Government has approved the draft of the Treaty. It has stated its readiness to sign the final text of the Schuman Plan Treaty. Through this conspiracy with the American imperialists, Adenauer seeks to restore and strengthen the West German monopolies and to secure for them the lion's share of the armaments business in Europe, while at the same time the interests of the broad mass of the German people are trampled underfoot.

Participation in the Schuman Plan is the worst and direst measure taken hitherto by the Adenauer Government in furtherance of the division of Germany, the remilitarisation of West Germany and its transformation into a new theatre of war.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic declares in the name of the entire German people that Adenauer and his Government have perpetrated *a new and shameful act of treachery* against the vital interests of the German nation on behalf of the coal and iron and steel magnates of the Ruhr. This clique is wholly answerable to our people for this crime.

It is now clear why Adenauer was in such a hurry to acknowledge *Germany's pre-war debts* and the new foreign debts of West Germany. It was to pave the way for the Schuman Plan, which will facilitate the re-establishment of the West German arms industry with the aid of new American loans.

The so-called *revision of the Occupation Statute* is also directly linked to the preparations for the Schuman Plan. The US imperialists graciously permitted the Bonn Government to form a so-called Ministry of Foreign Affairs so that Adenauer could sign the Schuman Plan Treaty as 'Foreign Minister', i.e. could perpetrate this new act of national betrayal. Not a jot of the basic terms of the Occupation Statute, so humiliating for the German people, was changed.

Dictatorship of the West German industrial barons

The Schuman Plan Treaty establishes *the oligarchic domination of the West German economy by a handful of financial magnates*. It is a dictatorship acting for the West German industrial barons in a conspiracy with their rapacious senior partner, American imperialism. Its consequence will be to speed up the diversion of the West German economy onto the tracks of a war economy and to bring about a rapid decline of the civilian goods industries. For West German workers, farmers and salaried staffs, the Schuman Plan will bring about terrible new privations. For countless tradespeople and small and medium-sized businesses it will spell ruin. It is significant that, on the day when the draft of the Schuman Plan was published, the American High Commissioner in West Germany, John McCloy, called on the Bonn Government to *limit the production of civilian consumer goods* 'in order to boost the output of exportable armaments'.

The Schuman Plan in practice means coal for armaments instead of housing, and steel for guns, tanks and shells instead of textile machinery, ploughshares and house building!

Surrender of national sovereignty to the gentlemen of the European Coal and Steel Community, conferring unlimited rights on that supermonopoly, the 'High Authority', will cause *a storm of reactionary rage against the working population* of West Germany and West Berlin. The Schuman Plan amounts to a *general offensive against the eight-hour day and pay*, against the free movement of workers and against all other political and social rights of working people. The first and heaviest blow will be aimed at trade union rights and other rights of association of working people. In order to secure the double exploitation of West German and West Berlin workers by domestic and foreign monopoly barons, the rights of co-determination of workers and salaried staffs will be removed. It will end in the forced transfer of working people from peacetime industries to war production.

The Adenauer Government is always diligent in serving the interests and wishes of the Anglo-American warmongers. It is obedient to every signal from the German coal and steel kings. But it betrays and sells out the interests of the German people at every turn.

Adenauer is also selling out the Saarland

Adenauer and his clique have also betrayed and sold out *the German Saarland*. The Schuman Plan also applies to heavy industry in the Saar. The representative of France signed at a single stroke for both France and the Saarland. In this way the Schuman Plan, at the same time as tearing the Ruhr Basin out of Germany, also sets the seal on the annexation of the Saarland. By signing the Schuman Plan, the Bonn Government

tacitly agreed to this annexation.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic notes that, under the Potsdam Agreement, signed jointly by the four Great Powers, the Saar is unequivocally recognised as German territory and as an inseparable part of Germany as a whole. It reiterates its statement of 13 March 1950 that ‘the German people do not and never will recognise the separation of the Saarland from Germany and its annexation by French imperialism.’

The initialling of the draft of a Treaty on the Schuman Plan by the authorised representative of the Bonn Government shows once again that the Adenauer Government, in execution of the dictates of the West German imperialists, is not only bent on obstructing the restoration of German unity on the basis of peace and democracy but is also endeavouring by every means possible to deepen the division of our German Fatherland. The precipitate initialling of the draft Treaty on the Schuman Plan, which significantly took place at the preliminary conference of the Four Powers in Paris, revealed the designs of the Adenauer Government and its masters to sabotage the planned conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Four Great Powers to discuss the German Question.

The Adenauer Government has taken the route of open remilitarisation of West Germany and its inclusion in the aggressive military and economic alliance system of American imperialism, the route which will transform Germany into a theatre of war. This threatens the German people with an incalculable new national catastrophe.

The GDR decisively rejects the Schuman Plan

The Government of the German Democratic Republic, guided by the national interests of the German people as a whole, condemns the policy of the Adenauer Government in the strongest terms and decisively rejects the Schuman Plan. The Schuman Plan must and will fail, as it goes against the vital interests not only of the German people but also of the French, Italian and all other European peoples. Germans from both East and West reach out to one another and to all peace-loving peoples of Europe in the common struggle against this conspiracy of the imperialist warmongers.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic welcomes the *decisions of the European Workers' Conference* against the remilitarisation of West Germany. It will do everything in its power support any form of national and international unity of action against the Schuman Plan.

It calls on all peace-loving, nationally aware Germans to unite in national resistance against the conspiracy of domestic and foreign monopolists, to fight resolutely for the conclusion of a democratic peace treaty with Germany as early as 1951 and thereby to avert the threat of a new world war.

The future of the German people lies only in the unity of Germany on a democratic basis, in friendly cooperation with all peace-loving peoples.