

# ‘The French Socialist Movement for the United States of Europe defines its concept of the West’ from Le Monde (30–31 October 1949)


**Caption:** In October 1949, as the French Socialist Movement for the United States of Europe holds a Congress in Issy-les-Moulineaux, Paris, the French daily newspaper Le Monde speculates on the aims and shape of the future united Europe.

**Source:** Le Monde. dir. de publ. BEUVE-MERY, Hubert. 30.-31.10.1949, n° 1 482; 6e année. Paris: Le Monde. "Le mouvement socialiste français pour les Etats-Unis d'Europe défend sa conception de l'Occident", auteur:Millet, Raymond , p. 3.

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## The French Socialist Movement for the United States of Europe defines its concept of the West

No one can be sure whether Europe will ever be a single living organism, but it is undeniably being forced in that direction by events and under pressure from a variety of organisations, both official and unofficial. Evidently, in referring to Europe, we actually mean the West. The question is whether Western Europe is destined merely to play the role of a sentry posted by the USA on its eastern border or whether it can become an independent, peace-seeking entity resolved to prevent any clash between the two rival superpowers?

Incredible as it may seem, this latter role is now emerging as a possibility, if we are to go by the results of the weekend conference held at the Issy-les-Moulineaux Community Centre by the French Socialist Movement for the United States of Europe and chaired by the mayor of the town, Mr Jacques Madaule.

The first hint of such an outcome became apparent during a speech given by Mr Gérard Jaquet on the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The audience took the view that this organisation should be given greater political powers along federalist lines and that it should govern an independent, democratised and peace-seeking Europe.

Independence, democracy, prosperity and peace: these are the four cornerstones on which Mr Francis-Louis Closon and Mr Sébastien Constant have built their 'plan for the restructuring of European industry'. The Issy assembly supports the plan along with the 'liberalisation' of trade and, in this respect, is in line with the plans both of Westminster and Strasbourg. Both Socialists and trade unionists such as Mr Marceau Pivert, Mr Jacques Rebeyrol or Mr René Lhuillier, popular republicans like Mr Léo Hamon or hoplites of the Democratic and Revolutionary Rally such as Mr Georges Altman and Mr Charles Ronsac are also members of the European Movement and of the European Consultative Assembly — as are Mr André Philip and Mr Jacques Robin, President and Secretary-General respectively of the Socialist Movement for the United States of Europe. None of these, however, want to usher in either 'unrestrained liberalisation' or a 'spirit of capitalism'. They are rather seeking to provide guarantees for the redeployment of workers deprived of their jobs by the collapse of the companies sacrificed.

The discussion on the problems of the Overseas Territories introduced by Mr Paul Alduy revealed the same basic concerns, 'Eurafrica' being of particular relevance in that it 'would secure a credit balance for Europe which could not be provided by the USA.'

The main difficulty was highlighted by Mr Hamon during the second session of the conference in Issy-les-Moulineaux this afternoon. In his speech on 'The integration of Germany into Europe', he made no attempt to hide his concerns as to whether the democratisation of West Germany could ever be final and whether it would continue to be supported from outside. Rash decisions, even those taken at Council of Europe level, might unintentionally result in the reawakening of the sentiments in some Germans that their nation is destined to spearhead a military crusade against the East.

The major concern, which we have outlined above and which Mr Marceau Pivert has emphasised strongly, was both repeated and confirmed at the conference. It is the creation of a free, democratic Europe, a Europe from which the threat of war is removed. During his speech, which he called 'Commonwealth and Continent', Mr Gérard Rosenthal made a discreet reference to the possibility of Britain making a contribution and asked what kind of role that country might play. The British delegation will not, however, have an opportunity to respond until the third conference which will be held by the International Committee of the Socialist Movement for the United States of Europe in Paris on 5 November.

Raymond Millet