

Session of the German Government (Bonn, 25 October 1949)

Caption: In the debates in the Bundestag, German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer declares himself in favour of Germany's participation in the Ruhr Statute and recommends that a German representative be appointed.

Source: Die Kabinettsprotokolle der Bundesregierung. Hrsg. BOOMS, Hans. 1949, n° 1. Boppard/Rhein: Harald Boldt Verlag. ISSN 3-7646-1820-5. "Beratung über die Anerkennung des Ruhrstatuts und die Ernennung eines deutschen Delegierten und seines Stellvertreters gemäss Art. 31 und 4 (a) des Ruhrstatuts", p. 148-150.

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3. Discussion on the Recognition of the Ruhr Statute and the Appointment of a German Delegate and Deputy under Articles 31 and 4 (a) of the Ruhr Statute

The Federal Chancellor: Federal Republic participation in the Ruhr Statute will be seen abroad as a positive step. Refusal to take part will be seen as obstructive. Accession to the Ruhr Statute is, therefore, of great significance in the wider political context in order to clear the atmosphere in foreign policy. American loans for the Ruhr will not be forthcoming until the Federal Government accedes to the Ruhr Statute, and these loans are urgently needed.

The Federal Minister of the Interior: There has not yet been sufficient psychological preparation for German participation in the Ruhr Authority. It is feared there could be undesirable internal repercussions. This applies above all to the state parliamentary elections next spring in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The Federal Minister for Industry: The Ruhr Authority regards itself as an institution that is independent of the High Commission. It is obviously opposed to the British-dominated control bodies of the coal and steel industry. The effect of a transfer of control of the Ruhr industry to the Ruhr Authority would be beneficial to us, because this would restrain the purely British influence. German participation is therefore to be recommended.

The Cabinet is unanimous in its view that the recognition of the Ruhr Statute and the appointment of a German delegate and a deputy are matters for which the Federal Government has sole responsibility.

The Federal Minister with responsibility for the Marshall Plan: Taking part in the Ruhr authority is an opportunity to extend German responsibility and to replace the previous Allied representation with our own German representation. This opportunity must be exploited. The internal political controversy will have to be weathered

The Federal Chancellor declares that, in this matter, it is essential to remain in contact with the Opposition.

The Federal Minister of Transport: Although it is not possible to have German participation in the High Commission and in the Security Authority, German influence can be brought to bear in the third body, which is a very important one in the German situation, the Ruhr Authority. The advantages of this must be exploited. From an economic point of view, it would be wrong to refuse to participate. I suggest that the question should first be discussed with Dr Schumacher and then dealt with confidentially in the parliamentary committee concerned.

The Federal Minister of Labour: The internal political problems may be avoided by the appointment of a union representative as Deputy to the German delegate to the Ruhr Authority. Dr Böckler takes a different view to that of the SPD leadership on the entire question.

The Cabinet is in fundamental agreement that the Federal Government should recognise the Ruhr Statute and send German delegates to the Ruhr Authority. On Thursday 27 October, the Federal Chancellor will first speak with Dr Böckler and then with Dr Schumacher.

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