

## Letter from Konrad Adenauer to Robert Schuman (26 July 1949)

**Caption:** On 26 July 1949, Konrad Adenauer writes to Robert Schuman to warn him of the harmful consequences of dismantling German factories, as demanded by the Allies.

**Source:** BEYER, Henry. Robert Schuman, L'Europe par la réconciliation franco-allemande. Lausanne: Fondation Jean Monnet pour l'Europe, Centre de recherches européennes, 1986. 171 p. (Cahiers rouges). p. 105-106.

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## Letter from Konrad Adenauer to Robert Schuman (26 July 1949)

The President of the Parliamentary Council

Bonn 26.7.49

Robert Schuman  
Paris

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Dear Mr President,

The impression made upon me by a visit to the Rhineland-Westphalia industrial region has prompted me to contact you again. Please permit me to reiterate my heartfelt plea that you seek ways and means of defusing the most unfortunate matter of dismantling. I should like to repeat my proposal that the dismantling be halted and that, instead, the factories envisaged for dismantling be placed under the joint control of the three Western Allies.

I fear that the dismantling question is causing a lasting and extraordinarily damaging state of confusion in the minds of the people and that this is inflicting the most severe damage on the entire concept of European cooperation. In my view, any economic advantage gained by a country as a result of being allocated dismantled factories is dwarfed by the great damage being done to the morale of the German people. You will, perhaps, be aware, Mr President, that local German residents are beating and abusing the 'dismantlers', as they are now being called, that the British military government is giving orders to German workers to demolish industrial plants, that these people are refusing to comply, and that they are then being brought before British military courts. This is a completely unbearable situation. I implore you, since you have such a special appreciation of the issue of reconciliation between France and Germany and of the principle of European cooperation, to find ways and means to terminate these completely incomprehensible measures. This is a matter of particular urgency with a view to the first elections to the German Federal Parliament which are to be held on 14 August.

I should like to express my great respect and admiration for you and your work, and I send you my most sincere good wishes.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr Adenauer)