'The Schuman Plan serves preparations for war' from Tägliche Rundschau (7 April 1951)

Caption: On 7 April 1951, the East German daily newspaper Tägliche Rundschau publishes a statement by the Executive Committee of the German Communist Party warning of the dangers of the Schuman Plan and calling on Members of the West German Parliament not to ratify the ECSC Treaty.

Source: Tägliche Rundschau. Zeitung für Politik, Wirtschaft und Kultur. 07.04.1951, Nr. 81 (1804); 7. Jg. Berlin NO: Tägliche Rundschau. "Der Schuman-Plan dient der Kriegsvorbereitung", p. 1.

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Declaration by the Party Executive of the German Communist Party

‘The Schuman Plan serves preparations for war’

Düsseldorf (ADN). The Party Executive of the German Communist Party has issued the following declaration on the occasion of the signing of the Schuman Plan:

‘Without authorisation, and actually sidelining the Bonn Parliament, the German Foreign Minister, Konrad Adenauer, has appended his signature to the Schuman Plan through his appointed representative in Paris. This first “foreign policy act” of “Foreign Minister” Adenauer serves the reconstruction of German imperialism and the remilitarisation of West Germany. The signing of the Schuman Plan is an insidious attack on the German economy and entails the unconditional incorporation of West German heavy industry into the economic rearmament plans of the Atlantic Pact States.

As a result of the pact between German and French heavy industrialists, West Germany is being made into the *armourer* for imperialism and for the remilitarisation of West Germany. The Schuman Plan signifies the creation of the military and economic basis for carrying out military aggression in Germany. This plan, entered into by the representatives of the corporate and banking capital of West Germany and France led by the armaments plutocrats, is targeted against the national interests of the German people. The most valuable constituent part of the German national economy, the coal and iron industry on the Rhine and the Ruhr, is to be taken out of the hands of the German people and subjected in its entirety, through the creation of an international coal and steel trust, to the command of those with an interest in weaponry and war.

In signing the Schuman Plan, Adenauer has additionally sanctioned the rape of the *Saar* in contravention of international law. Signing the Schuman Plan is a significant step towards realisation of the war plans in West Germany and the re-establishment of criminal German imperialism.

The Schuman Plan is targeted against the direct vital interests of all social classes in West Germany. It is intended to give those at home and abroad with an interest in armaments a free hand in putting into effect their price diktats, using West German raw materials for a build-up of arms and for firing purposes and to put a stranglehold on all those industrial and craftsmen’s businesses which work to meet the peaceful needs of the population. The implementation of the Schuman Plan primarily affects West German workers who, as a result of the creation of the armaments trust, are subjected to new wage pressure, further taxation, intensified exploitation and further deprivation of rights.

The Schuman Plan includes the introduction of *forced labour* and the *forced deportation* of workers, depending on the needs of the war economy, and the abolition of even the most modest right of co-determination of the unions and works councils, since the international and German parties with an interest in armaments and war wish to establish their sole hegemony in the factories and mines along the lines of the American anti-worker methods (Taft-Hartley, prohibitions on strikes, destruction of social legislation) through the creation of the coal and steel trust. The Schuman Plan is justified by the mendacious argument that economic competition between the participating states will be most quickly ended by the Schuman Plan. In reality, the fight for shares in West German raw materials is continuing and intensifying. With the signing of the Schuman Plan by Adenauer and Hallstein, this intensified competitive battle is being fought out to a greater extent on the backs of the German people, and in particular on the backs of German workers.

Dr Schumacher’s statement that he “rejects the Schuman plan in its present form” means no more than his *agreement in principle* with the creation of a basis of armaments for the accomplishment of the aggressive Atlantic Pact and, at the same time, signifies an attempt to keep West German workers away from the battle against the Schuman Plan with spurious opposition speeches. Dr Schumacher’s consent to the foreign-policy declaration by Adenauer at the most recent session of the Bundestag merely emphasises the responsibility of the right-wing SPD leaders for the Schuman Plan.

A successful fight against the Schuman Plan and its final ratification is possible. The resolutions of the

European Workers' Conference show the way to prevent the enslavement and ruination of West Germany. This way is the creation of an *action unit* of workers — against remilitarisation, for the holding of opinion polls, for the common battle against the burdens of war armaments, for wage increases, for the right of co-determination of workers. This requires the activation of work within unions in all industries, the response of union members to the enormous burdens of armaments.

The *French workers* provide the workers of West Germany with the *outstanding example* of this successful battle in the united action unit of French Communist, Social Democratic and Christian workers and of workers with no party affiliations. Through the united action of the unions, the French workers are thwarting implementation of the Schuman Plan and fighting for higher wages and better working conditions.

Let us West German workers follow the example of the French workers. Let us do everything in our power to implement the resolutions of the European Workers' Conference.

The workers of West Germany must create a *permanent alliance* against the coal and steel trusts of the imperialists and warmongers and thus ensure the failure of the Schuman Plan through international solidarity.

Every manual and clerical worker, every gainfully employed person, every businessman and every entrepreneur should be aware that whoever wants to preserve peace, whoever therefore acts against remilitarisation, must also be against the Schuman Plan and must help to cause this pact between the major industrialists to fail.

Union members: Protest at works assemblies and meetings of union members against the Schuman Plan.

Members of Social Democracy: Resolve to oppose unequivocally the Schuman Plan, the pact between the heavy industrialists, which serves the preparations for war.

All members of the bourgeois parties, who want to preserve peace, must oppose the Schuman Plan, because the Schuman Plan is part of the war plan which threatens the economic existence and life of every citizen. We call upon all peace-loving and democratically minded Members of Parliament in the Bundestag, in the state parliaments and the district councils, to oppose the Schuman Plan and help to prevent implementation of the Schuman Plan.

The Communist Party calls on West German workers and the entire peace-loving population of West Germany to join the battle against the Schuman Plan and its ratification.

Protest against the Schuman Plan in every factory. Cry: Away with Adenauer, Blücher, Schumacher und Co., away with the war politicians, the enemies of peace, the enemies of our nation! Create *peace committees* in all factories. Create in all factories *fighting bodies* on the broadest foundation to wage a successful campaign for pay rises and better working conditions! Create everywhere *committees for public opinion* against remilitarisation and for a peace treaty in 1951!

Against the alliance of international warmongers and wreckers of Germany — create the action unit of the workers!

All power to the consultation of public opinion against the remilitarisation of Germany, for the peace treaty with Germany in 1951!'