

## 'Eden wishes to tie the "select Communities" to Europe without detracting from their independence' from Le Monde (17 September 1952)

**Caption:** On 17 September 1952, the French daily newspaper Le Monde considers the proposals put forward by Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, to associate the Six with the other member States of the Council of Europe.

**Source:** Le Monde. 17.09.1952. Paris. "M.Eden veut lier "les communautés restreintes" à l'Europe sans attenter à leur indépendance", auteur:Julien, Claude.

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## Eden wishes to tie the ‘select Communities’ to Europe without detracting from their independence

From our special correspondent

Claude Julien

Strasbourg, 16 September. — At the Council of Europe yesterday, the spotlight was squarely on Anthony Eden, speaking in the opening sitting of this second part of the fourth session of the Consultative Assembly.

Having stated that the peoples of Europe could not all be asked to ‘make the same choices at the same moments in time’, the British Minister recalled that his government had, as early as 1949, refused to go down the federal path, while expressing the wish to remain ‘closely associated’ with the efforts on the continent to forge closer ties. This was the sense of the British plan put forward in the Committee of Ministers last March.

In his speech yesterday, Mr Eden again set out this plan with the greatest clarity. To use his own words, it is neither ‘rigid’ nor ‘sensational’. It simply seeks to ‘reconcile the creation of the supranational community of the Six with the need to maintain the unity of Europe.’ For this, the Six should ‘use all the ministerial and parliamentary machinery’ of the Council of Europe.

To allay the concerns which some parties had felt they must voice, Mr Eden repeated forcefully that there could be no question of the Council of Europe ‘controlling the select Communities that had been or were being created.’

The very ‘flexible’ British proposal seeks to ‘tie the select Communities to the rest of Europe without encroaching on their independence. There is no intention of subordinating them to the Council of Europe. They will remain fully independent, developing freely as they exercise the powers and perform the functions conferred on them by the Six. They will be free to determine how and to what extent the other countries may be involved in their work.’

This language would not seem to add anything that has not been known since March. What it does is confirm the shift in British policy towards the efforts at continental organisation. The British Government, initially cautious and reserved in its reaction to plans which it may, at the outset, have found overly utopian or ambitious, is now having to ‘deal with de facto situations’.

The substance of Mr Eden’s plan has not varied in six months, but the tone in which it is presented and outlined is no longer quite the same. For the High Authority and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Coal and Steel Community have now been set up. The pre-constituent Assembly tasked with considering plans for a political Community has already met. In other words, the grand dream of a unified Europe is beginning to materialise. Great Britain cannot remain indifferent to a reality so full of promise.

In the second part of his speech, Mr Eden stressed the urgent need for the countries of Europe to pull closer together to help them fend off a possible attack. While asserting his confidence in the ability of the Strasbourg-based bodies to achieve that aim, he went on to say that, ‘I cannot accept the idea that the work that we are doing should in any way reduce the scope for discussion with the USSR or the chances of an agreement on whatever subject it might be.’

Prior to this sitting, which the President, François de Menthon, opened with a eulogy in memory of Mr Jacini, an Italian delegate who had died the day after the May session, and with some words on the career of Count Carlo Sforza, Cardinal Eugène Tisserant had been received officially at the Palais de l’Europe after a meeting with Jean Monnet.

For the prelate, this was, apparently, a private visit. He had, nevertheless, that same morning given an address, broadcast by Radio Strasbourg, in which he stated in particular that the Pope was encouraging the

push for European unification and hoped it would materialise, 'for time was short'.

In private discussions at the Council, this political input from the Vatican was the subject of lively debate. Some take it as public encouragement for the three Christian Democrat Ministers who, from Paris, Rome and Berlin, have made the greatest efforts to pull down the national barriers which so weaken our continent.

It should, however, be noted that the Cardinal lunched yesterday with Mr Eden, who will, in a few days' time, be visiting Marshal Josef Tito. The general view is that Cardinal Tisserant wanted to discuss with the British Minister the situation of Catholics in Yugoslavia

### **The German complaint regarding the Saar has been crossed off the agenda**

At committee level, the German complaint regarding the 'violation of democratic freedoms in the Saar' failed to get on to the agenda for the Assembly. Federal Republic delegates still have the option of asking, at the Assembly itself meeting in plenary session, for its inclusion thereon.