

## Note from Ernest Bevin to the British Ambassador to Paris (9 May 1950)

**Caption:** On 9 May 1950, the British Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, informs the British Ambassador to Paris of the existence of a possible French proposal concerning the creation of a European coal and steel pool.

**Source:** Anglo-French Discussions regarding French proposals for the Western European Coal, Iron and Steel Industries May-June 1950. N°9, Miscellaneous, Cmd 7970. London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1950. 15 p.

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*Foreign Office, 9th May, 1950.*

Sir,

The French Ambassador called on me to-day with an urgent message from M. Schuman, regarding a decision which was taken by the French Cabinet this morning. This decision would be submitted by M. Schuman to the tripartite conference in London this week, and would be published in the press this evening.

2. The substance of the French Cabinet's decision was as follows:

The French Government proposes that an authority should be created which should take over control and production of all steel and coal in Western Europe. It would not have ownership rights, but it would have controlling power.

M. Massigli explained that the French Government felt this was the first concrete proposal to bring about unity of Western Europe.

3. I told M. Massigli that when we saw the proposal in detail we would, of course, examine it with great care, but that meantime I could make no comment.

I am, &c.

ERNEST BEVIN.