Interview with Otto von Habsburg-Lothringen: opposition to the recognition of Yalta (Pöcking, 5 and 6 February 2004)

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[Philippe Nicolet] And Jean Monnet, did you ever meet him?

[Otto von Habsburg] Very seldom. You know, on this point — I shouldn't care to say so too loudly — but the tensions between Coudenhove and Monnet were also a factor, because I was a hundred per cent on the side of Coudenhove. It was a fundamental question for me, at an emotional level – because we are all swayed by emotions – it was that decision by Christopher Soames, in the European union, to propose that the Yalta frontier be recognised as the frontier of Europe definitively. That was the moment when the Pan-European Union left the European Movement. That is what it was, you know. It was one of those massive break-ups that today are no longer important, but which played quite an important role for a long time. I remember that I really had to fight against recognising Yalta as our frontier. In the European Parliament, when I arrived, there were very few of us who took this line. In two years we managed to make our presence felt, but it lasted a long time. It was a struggle that was terrible – sometimes ignominious.



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