

Address given by Paul-Henri Spaak: disagreement among the great powers over Germany (Luxembourg, 13 March 1948)

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The international situation throughout 1947 was not very favourable. The balance sheet shows a clear loss. The situation and relations between the great nations became tense, and countries today are living with a feeling of concern and high anxiety. The Moscow Conference was supposed to settle the German problems, but failed. The London Conference on the same issues was an even more glaring failure. The upshot is that three years after the end of the war the major allies who banded together to win it have shown that they are unable to solve the problems posed by Germany, and that great problem, that problem which certainly remains one of the vital problems facing Europe, is still unsolved. For those who had hoped, during the ordeals of the war, that a rapid and stable peace would be built, this failing is a cause for concern, and rightly so.