

Letter from Jean Monnet to Jacques Camille Paris (Luxembourg, 25 August 1952)

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COPY OF A TELEGRAM
sent by M. Monnet, President of the High
Authority for Coal and Steel

to M. de Menthon, President of the Consultative
Assembly of the Council of Europe

Luxembourg, 25th August, 1952.

M. PARIS, Europa, Strasbourg

I send you herewith the text of a telegram which I have sent to M. de Menthon, President of the Consultative Assembly. My colleagues and I request that you inform me urgently whether we may rely upon your co-operation.

My dear President,

Further to our telephone conversation of Saturday last, I give you below, as promised, particulars of the co-operation which I request of the Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe for the launching of the First Session of the Assembly of the European Community for Coal and Steel. As explained in my letter of 15th August to the Secretary-General, the President of the High Authority is, under the terms of the Treaty, responsible for convening the First Meeting of the Assembly of the Community, to meet one month after the High Authority has begun to operate. It is therefore incumbent upon me to make the necessary organisational arrangements for this initial meeting. The President of the High Authority has a strict duty to ensure that the institutions of the Community operate in accordance with the provisions ratified by the six parliaments. Since the Assembly is sovereign within the limits of its own competence, I must also ensure that the provisional organisation which I put at its disposal respects the independence of the Assembly vis-à-vis the Governments and all other institutions, including the High Authority itself. The solution which will not in any way prejudice the decisions to be taken later by the Assembly itself and whose provisional nature is quite plain, is to have recourse for the First Session, as I have done, to a committee composed of the Secretaries-General of the Parliaments of the six countries. Since the meeting is to be held at Strasbourg, we are of course anxious to avail ourselves as fully as possible, within the limits of our terms of reference, of the material and administrative facilities already existing there. We have therefore proposed to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe that he should place at the disposal of the Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community :

- (1) The Assembly Chamber, together with its maintenance staff;
- (2) the reproduction services;
- (3) the linguistic department;
- (4) certain administrative staff, particularly those who deal with questions of accommodation, the issuing of cards, etc.;
- (5) five staff members of administrative rank to assist the Committee of Secretaries-General.

For the reasons explained above, the Assembly services of the Community will be run by the Committee of Secretaries-General under the Chairmanship of M. Blamont. This Committee will also call upon the Secretaries-General of the national Parliaments for the additional help which they normally give to the Strasbourg Assembly every year. My colleagues and I would be glad if M. Paris could join them as a member of the Committee.

Since the date of 10th September compels us to make arrangements as quickly as possible to ensure the smooth working of the Assembly, I am obliged to urge that the Secretary-General should let me know urgently whether we may rely upon his co-operation. My colleagues and I request your support in the



interest of our common task.

Jean MONNET

President of the High Authority.