

‘The gun merchants’ conference began yesterday in Paris’ from L’Humanité (13 April 1951)

Caption: On 13 April 1951, as the conference of the six countries involved in the Schuman Plan is held in Paris, the French Communist daily newspaper L’Humanité criticises the dealings taking place between the French Government and the German authorities and deems the finalisation of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) to be the creation ‘of a horrendous plot against peace’.

Source: L’Humanité. Organe centrale du Parti communiste français. 13.04.1951. Paris. "La conférence des marchands de canons a commencé hier à Paris", p. 1; 3.

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The ‘Schuman Plan’ top of the agenda

The arms dealers’ conference began yesterday in Paris

Adenauer declares himself very pleased

At the Quai d’Orsay yesterday took place the opening of the arms dealers’ conference — alias the ‘Schuman Plan’ conference (see page 3) — which should culminate with the signing of this plan to hand over French coal and steel to the US–German trusts of the Ruhr.

Adenauer declared himself very pleased with the first session, where he was seated in the place of honour, to the right of Robert Schuman. Our photo — *Pétain’s ex-Minister shakes hands with the Chancellor of the German revanchists* — reminds us of another handshake. But the people are stronger than the successors to the men of Montoire.

The press release issued after Schuman and Adenauer’s *tête à tête* dinner limited itself to mentioning that the conversations between the spokesmen for the barons of the Ruhr and the Iron Works Committee took place ‘in a climate of mutual confidence’.

Well, what a surprise! It was in the same *climate* that Schuman and Adenauer held another conversation yesterday, and was its purpose not to set in motion the most monstrous plot against peace? To initial, under cover of this supposed ‘Schuman Plan’, the alliance of the iron masters and the mining kings of West Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Italy? By merging half of Europe’s coal production and two-thirds of its steel, was its purpose not to establish in West Germany, on our border, the arsenal for the Atlantic war?

This, among other things, is what the secret meetings and the receptions between Adenauer and Schuman, between Adenauer and Vincent Auriol, are preparing. This is also true for the conference that began yesterday *in camera* at the Quai d’Orsay, that of the Foreign Ministers of these six countries, on the modes of application of the ‘Schuman Plan.’

This is why Adenauer and François-Poncet were strutting about arm-in-arm in front of the Opéra on Wednesday. This is why, a few moments later, the commercial traveller for Krupp guns made his visit to mock the tomb of the Unknown Soldier — victim of the German and French armament trusts.

And all this is happening in Paris at a time when, in our capital, the preparatory conference for the Foreign Ministers’ Conference is being held amid the people’s expectations that it will preclude German remilitarisation and rearmament. This confirms the intention of the three Western deputies to sabotage the ‘Palais Rose Conference’.

But the warmongers are not counting on the vigilance and unity of the people. The decisions taken at the European Labour Conference in Berlin by 800 delegates from 19 countries demonstrate their determination to frustrate the warmongers’ plans.