

'Uniting Europe' from The Daily Telegraph (1 March 1949)

Caption: On 1 March 1949, the British daily newspaper The Daily Telegraph notes that the plan for a European Assembly has been accepted by five governments and describes the inaugural session of the International Council of the European Movement, which took place from 25 to 28 February 1949.

Source: The Daily Telegraph. and Morning Post. 01.03.1949, No 29.228. London: The Daily Telegraph Ltd.

Copyright: (c) Telegraph Group Limited

URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/uniting_europe_from_the_daily_telegraph_1_march_1949-en-dd5c6e9c-3b31-47c7-aaea-0f0246797d4f.html

Publication date: 19/09/2012

Uniting Europe

Nine months ago the unofficial Congress of Europe at The Hague demanded a European Consultative Assembly; the principle of that Assembly, despite some initial stonewalling by the British Government, is now the official policy of five nations. In the past few days an equally unofficial Council of the European Movement, sprung from The Hague Congress, has been meeting in Brussels under the auspices of Mr. Churchill and M. Spaak. Men and women of eminence representing various international organisations which differ in many things but have a common aim of uniting Europe have agreed on a further series of resolutions. Among more general matters, these make suggestions for the character of the European Assembly and add a new organ of European Union — a European Court of Human Rights.

How much Mr. Churchill and M. Spaak, and all who work with them, have already done in getting the idea of European Union into the minds of the broad masses in every free country has been appropriately recognised by the bitterness of the Communist campaign against them in Brussels. No less important has been the other side of their Movement's work — the skilled drafting of concrete proposals for giving this idea practical shape. The documents they have thus produced will not satisfy every school of thought. There is, for example, no explicit mention of that federalism to which some pin their faith, though it is implicit in hints at "the common exercise of certain defined sovereign powers." Others would object that too little stress is laid on religious freedom or on social deals, on common defence or the common development of colonial territories. All these are, however, still a matter of dispute; what is surprising is to find so much common ground.