

Statement of policy on the establishment of the United Europe Movement (January 1947)

Caption: The United Europe Movement, established in London in January 1947 by the former British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, and by his son-in-law, the Conservative MP, Duncan Sandys, issues a statement in support of the unity of the European continent.

Source: The Library of the London School of Economics and Political Science - Archives and Rare Books, London, 10 Portugal Street, WC2A 2HD. <http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/archive/Default.htm>, Ronald William Gordon Mackay papers. Minutes and related papers 1947-1948, MACKAY/5/7.

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The anarchy of Europe has already brought about two world wars in our time. If allowed to continue, it must surely lead to an even more terrible catastrophe.

The final elimination of war can be assured only by the eventual creation of a system of World Government. As a practical step towards this ultimate ideal, appropriate nations should be encouraged to group themselves together in larger units. Groups of various kinds already exist, such as the Pan-American Union, the British Commonwealth and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Our continent, however, still remains in a chaotic condition. If Europe is to survive, it must unite. Its peoples must join together to secure their mutual peace and common prosperity and to preserve and enrich their heritage of civilization and freedom. The aim must be to unite all the peoples of Europe and give expression to their sense of being Europeans, while preserving their own traditions and identity.

Some countries may for the present feel unable to take action; but those that can should make a start. Others will join with them later.

United Europe would have the status of a Regional Group under the Charter of the United Nations Organisation and would naturally seek the close friendship and cooperation of the Soviet Union and the United States of America. It would be premature to define the precise constitutional relationship between the nations of a unified Europe. Unity can grow only from free consultation and practical experience of concerted action.

Britain has special obligations and spiritual ties which link her with the other nations of the British Commonwealth. Nevertheless, Britain is part of Europe and must be prepared to make her full contribution to European unity.

The responsibility falls upon individual citizens. The task is urgent. Before it is too late, let men of goodwill in all countries take counsel together that Europe may arise.