

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

By Confidential Bag.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr Hayter.  
No. 237 Saving  
14th April 1951

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Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 237 Saving  
of 14th April

Repeated for information to:-

Washington	No. 137	} Saving
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Sir O. Harvey's telegram No. 222 Saving of April 11th.

Schuman Plan.

The press having reported that certain difficulties had arisen at the Ministerial Conference on the Plan, I asked Clappier today how things were going. He said that there were a certain number of differences of opinion, particularly with the Benelux delegations, but that they still hoped for signature on Tuesday or Wednesday, if only because the Ministers of Foreign Affairs could hardly stay in Paris longer than that. The Conference was meeting this afternoon and tomorrow (Sunday).

2. The main difficulties appear to be the following:-

The Assembly

The French have proposed 18 members each for France, Germany, Italy and Benelux. M. Van Zeeland wants 24 members for Benelux, but Clappier thinks he will probably not insist on this if Benelux gets satisfaction on some other points.

Council of Ministers

The Benelux delegations have proposed one vote for each State. The German delegation pointed out that this might mean that a majority could be achieved in the Council by 4 States (Italy and Benelux) which between them only represented 25% of the productive capacity of the union, and had therefore suggested that France and Germany should have two votes each, with one vote each for the other four. Clappier thinks there will probably be a compromise whereby the majority to be effective must include the vote of at least one State representing 20% of the productive capacity of the union (i.e. either France or Germany).

/ The High Authority.





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The High Authority

This is the most difficult point of all. The French, with a view to emphasising the supranational and non-representative character of the Authority, proposed a membership of five. The Benelux delegations, who realised that this would mean that at least one of them would have no representation on the High Authority, have proposed a membership of seven. Clappier thinks there will be a compromise whereby in the initial stages each State member will have one of its nationals on the High Authority, but that it will be laid down that this is not a necessity for the future.

The Saar

This is being discussed outside the Conference between the French and German delegations. The Germans wished there to be no reference to the Saar, but the French pointed out that it was necessary to provide in some way or another for the inclusion of the Saar in the treaty since in fact its industries were to be brought into the pool. The Germans have apparently agreed to this, and an attempt is now being made to find a formula, which will probably be to the effect that the French signature is to be taken as covering the Saar but that this will be without prejudice to any future disposition that may be made under the peace treaty.

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