

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS.

No. 372.

17th April, 1951.

D. 2.15 p.m. 17th April, 1951.

EMERGENCYCONFIDENTIAL.CRASH.

Your telegrams Nos. 139 and 140: and my telegram No. 368, [all of 16th April: Schuman Plan and German Industrial Controls].

The text of the letter which the French propose to send to the Germans goes considerably further than we were led to believe in the Study Group or than Ministers were aware when they took their decision. To lay it down as an axiom (paragraph 3) that arrangements which have been tripartitely agreed conflict with proposals under the Schuman Plan to which the other Occupying Powers are not party and with the detailed operations of which they are not fully familiar, is particularly objectionable, as is the statement in the letter to the Germans (paragraph 4 (iii)) that the High Commission should give up the exercise by itself of functions in the matter of coal and steel.

2. You will have seen from my telegram No. 368 that French Minister here was presumably unaware of the intentions of the French Government to communicate with the Germans in this sense. In the circumstances, you should urgently reinforce the representations made by Sir D. Gainer as reported in my telegram under reference. You should point out that the course which the French apparently intend to follow of communicating to the Germans decisions which can only be taken after tripartite discussion before such discussion has occurred is one against which His Majesty's Government feel bound to issue a strong protest. Ministers are willing to enter sympathetically into discussions between the three Occupying Powers and the Benelux countries about the conflict of jurisdiction between the Schuman Plan Treaty operations and the Allied controls over German industry; but they object most forcibly to the French proposal to communicate their views on these subjects to the Germans in advance, more particularly since some of these controls have been maintained hitherto at the



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express insistence of the French and since His Majesty's Government has had no opportunity, other than through examining the text of documents relating to the Schuman Plan, to assess the precise effects on Allied controls of the operation of the High Authority. You should add that if notwithstanding the views of His Majesty's Government the French Government insist on communicating with the German Federal Government on the lines proposed, His Majesty's Government will find it necessary fully to reserve their position on the whole question.

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