

Cypher/OTP

GERMAN ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN OFFICE AND
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FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Hayter

D. 5.45 p.m. 18th April, 1951

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R. 5.56 p.m. 18th April, 1951

PRIORITY

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Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 148 of 18th April
Repeated for information Priority to Wahnerheide
and Saving to Washington

Your telegram No. 372 and your telegram No. 443 Saving to Wahnerheide. French proposals for the abolition of Allied controls.

M. Schuman gave me today the text of the proposed letter to the Germans which had been slightly modified as a result of representations which I made to his Chef de Cabinet yesterday. These modifications, text of which are contained in my immediately following telegram, do not go very far to meet the objections raised in your telegram under reference.

2. M. Schuman said that to his great regret, he nevertheless felt obliged to give the letter to Dr. Adenauer on the occasion of the signature of the Schuman Plan treaty, which takes place at four o'clock this afternoon. The reason for this is that without this letter, Dr. Adenauer would not have been prepared to sign the Treaty. It would not have been sufficient to promise him to enter into discussions on the question, and he would not have signed without a moral engagement by the French Government on the lines contained in the letter. The French had originally suggested that the letter should not be handed over until the state of ratification was reached, but Dr. Adenauer had represented that in the intervening period he would be continually interrogated by his own people on what he had achieved in regard particularly to the abolition of the Ruhr Authority, and that his position would be impossible if he could not say that the French had agreed to this.

3. I left M. Schuman in no doubt about your views on the matter, and I have repeated them forcibly to various officials of

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the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Nevertheless I feel that it would have been too much to expect of the French that they should renounce the possibility of German signature of the Plan in order to meet us on this point. They have modified their text in the hope of making it more palatable to us. From the point of view of public opinion here, it seems very desirable that His Majesty's Government should not publicly oppose the French desire to abolish these controls, and should express willingness to discuss the question with the French with a view to seeing what can be done to reconcile the provisions of the Schuman Plan Treaty with the powers of the High Commission.

4. M. Schuman said that he had persuaded Dr. Adenauer to agree not to publish the letter until the consent of His Majesty's Government had been received. But Dr. Adenauer had represented that an unpublished letter was as bad as no letter at all and that he hoped we should agree to publication at a very early date. He proposes to take this matter up with Sir I. Kirkpat immediately on his return to Germany.

Foreign Office please pass Priority to Wahnerheide as my telegram No. 8.

[Repeated to Wahnerheide].

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