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GERMAN ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN OFFICE AND

WHITEHALL DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No. 1207 Saving

19th April, 1951.

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CRASH

Addressed to Paris telegram No. 1207 Saving of 19th April
Repeated for information Saving to Wahnerheide No. 452
Washington No. 2057

Paris telegram No. 148 : Schuman Plan and Allied Controls
in Germany.

French Minister called on Sir D. Gainer on 19th April and left with him text of letter as finally transmitted to Federal Chancellor. He drew attention to alterations in letter made as a result of United Kingdom representations but explained that it had been impossible not to send the letter since Germans had made it a condition of signature of Schuman Plan Treaty.

2. In response to questioning M. de Crouy-Chanel said difficulties with Germans on this subject had first arisen at the beginning of April. The French had indicated that they would be willing to see the Ruhr Authority disappear as soon as practicable after the Schuman Plan was ratified, but the Germans had not been content with this. They required a written assurance not only about the Ruhr Authority but also about the Coal and Steel Groups and steel controls on the ground that this would be necessary in order to overcome parliamentary difficulties. M. de Crouy-Chanel added that April 18th had been a difficult day for the Schuman Plan negotiators. The Germans had not merely insisted on the letter as a condition of signature; they had also refused to sign if the Treaty were signed separately by the Saar. The Saar Delegation objected to the French Government signing on behalf of the Saar but in the end their objections were overcome.

3. M. de Crouy-Chanel was told that in view of the press leaks, of which he was not aware, we intended to make an informal statement on our attitude to the press and now had no objection to the release to the press of the French letter to the German Chancellor. Our High Commissioner and His Majesty's Ambassador in Paris were being informed accordingly.

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4. It was explained to M.de Crouy-Chanel that while we were fully willing to enter into discussions, Ministers found it difficult on the basis of existing information, to estimate the impact of the Schuman Plan on Allied Controls in Germany. M. de Crouy-Chanel said that the only person who could really explain these fully was M. Monnet and he expected that he would wish to come to London in order to do so in person.

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