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FRENCH PROPOSALS FOR ABOLITION  
OF CONTROLS ON GERMAN COAL AND  
STEEL INDUSTRIES.

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It has, for some time, been apparent that the German Chancellor, in order to steer the Schuman Treaty to ratification by the Bundestag, would require some assurances, either from the French or from the Occupying Powers in concert, that the existing Allied controls on the German coal and steel industries would fade out as the Schuman Plan took effect.

On 10th April the French informed us of their intention to:

a) propose a conference on the future of the Ruhr Authority, the Allied coal and Steel Groups in Germany, and the controls over German steel production and capacity; b) simultaneously to tell the Germans that they wished to secure the abolition of these bodies and controls.

2. Ministers were asked in CP(51)108 to consider the situation resulting from this statement by the French, and on 16th April took the following decisions:-

"(1) Authorised the Foreign Secretary to announce that the United Kingdom Government would be willing to participate in the international discussions proposed by the French Government regarding the conflict between the Schuman Treaty and the Allied controls over Germany's heavy industry.

(2) Invited the Foreign Secretary to do his utmost to persuade the French Government to limit any public statement, or any statement to the German Federal Government to a similar promise to enter into discussions on this question, and to refrain from indicating at this stage their readiness to abandon these allied controls as soon as the Schuman Treaty

came into operation.

PRO 371/93831

Flag A  
(CE(W)1103/25)

Flag B  
(CP(51) 108)  
attached to  
CE(W)1502/100.

~~Flag C.~~

(3) Invited the Chancellor of the Exchequer to arrange for the committee of officials which had considered the Schuman Plan at an earlier stage to prepare, for the Cabinet's consideration, a report on the implications of the Plan as finally agreed on the future of the United Kingdom coal and steel industries."

4. In pursuance of the second Ministerial conclusion, Sir Donald Gainer asked the French Minister, M. de Crouy-Chanel, to call on him on the evening of 16th April, and emphasised our desire that the French should not make their proposed statement to the German Government. The French Minister appeared to have no knowledge that any such statement was intended, and promised to communicate Sir Donald Gainer's point to the French Government. In the meantime, however, M. Charpentier had given to His Majesty's Minister in Paris the text of the letter which the French proposed to send to the German Federal Chancellor on signature of the Schuman Plan Treaty.

Flag D  
(CE(W)1543/109)

This proved to be even more objectionable than had been foreshadowed in the original French statement.

Flag E  
(Paris telegram  
Nos. 139 & 140)  
CE(W)1543/107 and 108

5. His Majesty's Minister in Paris was in consequence instructed to reinforce the points made by Sir Donald Gainer. His Majesty's Minister saw M. Schuman's Chef de Cabinet on 17th April, and M. Schuman himself on 18th April. As the result of his representations

Flag F  
(Our telegram No.  
372 to Paris)  
CE(W)1543/108.

certain minor changes were made in the letter which the French proposed to send to the Federal Chancellor. M. Schuman explained however that the Germans had made it a pre-condition of signing the Schuman Plan Treaty that they should receive and be able to publish a letter of this nature. M. Schuman had persuaded the Federal Chancellor not to publish until the consent of His Majesty's Government had been received, but <sup>Adenauer</sup> Dr. ~~Schuman~~ proposed to take up the matter of publication with the U.K. High Commissioner for Hately on his return to Germany.

Flag G  
(Paris telegram  
No. 148)  
CE(W)1543/113.

6. On 19th April it became apparent that the story of the French proposal to abolish Allied controls and of the British protest was already leaking to the press in Germany. The Secretary of State therefore authorised the issue of a statement in the name of a Foreign Office Spokesman emphasising that His Majesty's Government would be ready to discuss the overlap between the Schuman Plan machinery and Allied controls in Germany, but could not state its policy on such controls in advance of discussion, and regretted that the French did not take the same line. A copy is attached. In the meantime the U.E. High Commissioner asked for authorisation to tell Dr. <sup>Adenauer</sup> ~~Adenauer~~ that His Majesty's Government did not object to the publication of the French Government's letter. This authorisation was granted after consultation with the Secretary of State.

*Archer*

*U.B. Stokes.*

20th April, 1951.

*S. H. G. Gainer.*

*20/4.*

*[Signature]* 21/4

Flag H  
telegram No.411)  
(w) 1543/47

Flag I  
wireless telegram  
No.397)  
(w) 1543/47  
Flag J  
telegram No.410)  
(w) 1543/47.