

Min v. BZ. 986.1. Plan Schuman
Deel IV

Handwritten notes:
Wijfdeur (ag)
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| MIN. v. BUITENLANDSE ZAKEN | |
| DEEL | ING. KOM. |
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It is understood that the last remaining difficulties respecting the German deconcentration program which had previously constituted a hurdle to the German initialling of the Schuman Plan are now settled and that a meeting of ministers to settle the remaining issues and to sign the Plan may be set for the week of March 18.

The United States holds the conviction that the signing of the Plan in the immediate future is of the utmost importance and it hopes that the governments concerned will find it possible to surmount the few remaining difficulties and to contribute to the common political objectives by concluding negotiations within the next few days. The United States believes that early conclusion of the Plan will have a profound effect on public opinion both in Europe and the United States and that failure at this stage would result in a severe setback to Western cooperation.

In the view of the United States, Western Europe can only be strong if sources of long standing tensions between Germany and its neighbors are eliminated, and the Schuman Plan holds promise of far-reaching results in this direction. Therefore, questions of immediate advantages or disadvantages

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accruing to any individual country as a result of institution of the Plan would appear to be insignificant by comparison with this major consideration. Moreover, dramatic evidence of Western world solidarity and stronger German ties to the West at this time would strengthen the position in dealing with the U. S. S. R. in a possible Four-Power Conference. In addition, the strain created by recent necessary imposition of German trade restrictions make it particularly desirable at this time to have reaffirmation of the German desire to cooperate closely with the West.

American Embassy

The Hague, Netherlands

March 17, 1951