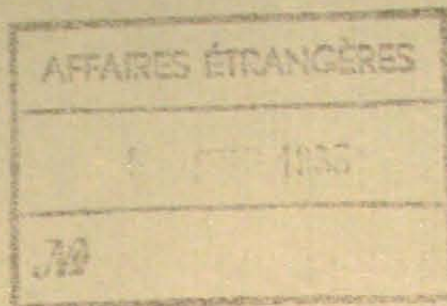


CONFIDENTIAL

No. P.37



BRITISH LEGATION,  
LUXEMBOURG.

3rd September, 1953.

*Dear Monsieur Bech -*

As I said yesterday morning, I feel sure that there must be some misunderstanding about our having expressed a wish in any of the Six Capitals to send an observer to further meetings about the European Political Community. Not only have I received no instructions in the matter myself but I have seen Foreign Office correspondence from which it seems clear that we are to take no initiative anywhere and that our position merely is that we should nominate an observer if we were invited to do so.

After all, we have no intention of joining the Political Community and, despite our interest in the political control of European Defence within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, we could scarcely push ourselves forward in the matter. Moreover, the general views of Her Majesty's Government on the Political Community have already been communicated to most of the governments concerned. You will remember that I spoke to you about this on 5th May, just before you went to Strasbourg. Our main point was that we wished the Community well and were not anxious to offer unsolicited advice but hoped that the Community would be as inter-governmental as possible, rather than "supranational", with National Ministers in the Council and, at the start at any rate, governmental nominations to the Assembly. We feared that, otherwise, the European Defence Community, to which we are committed by treaty through the governments concerned, might fall under ineffective control with a consequent weakening of Western Defence.

/ Our

Son Excellence  
Monsieur Bech,  
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères,  
Luxembourg.

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Our representatives in two or three of the capitals concerned were told not long ago that we were almost certain to be invited by unanimous decision to send an observer to forthcoming meetings of the European Political Conference. We were indeed told to expect a sudden invitation to Baden Baden. In order not to appear discourteous, my government were naturally anxious to be in a position to accept an invitation if it came. It is, therefore, for this reason that they would like to know as far in advance as possible whether an invitation is to be issued and, if so, what qualifications the observer should have. If subsequent diplomatic exchanges should make this clear, I should be most grateful if you could be good enough to let me know so that I may inform my government.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Georgy Abekum.*

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