

COPIA

Rome, July 28th 1952

Dear Mr. Acheson,

: You have learned of the proceedings of the recent meeting in Paris of the six Foreign Ministers.

Following Mr. Schuman's suggestion of Saarbrücken as seat of the steel and coal community, I urged my colleagues not to miss this opportunity of arriving at an understanding between France and Germany on the Saar problem. It was, I pointed out, an imperative necessity in the direct interests not only of the Community itself but of the peace and general future of Europe.

As you are aware, talks have already started between the French and the Germans in Paris. I do not expect the negotiations will be easy, and the support of the American authority and friendship would be invaluable. I expect the German Chancellor particularly will need encouragement to overcome opposition in his country. You are doubtless following the negotiations in Paris, and your keen sense will suggest how and when to lend your assistance.

We members of the European Defence Community will devote our most careful attention to this problem. Ratification of the European Defence Treaty will meet with difficulties of various kinds also in other countries. I have already mentioned to you the difficulties that we would encounter in Italy if a solution of the Trieste question were not on its way. But undoubtedly the state of Franco-German relations will influence the ratification procedures decisively. A satisfactory solution of the Saar problem would contribute to ensure early ratification of the Treaty and consolidation of the community, and would mean definite progress on the way to European unity.

I am, dear Mr. Acheson,

Yours very sincerely

F. TO DE GASPERI

Mr. Dean ACHESON
Secretary of State
WASHINGTON D.C.