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**THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
A NEW PATH TO PEACEFUL UNION**

**Lectures given by Prof. Walter Hallstein
President of the Commission
of the
European Economic Community
to the
Indian Council for Cultural Relations
in memory of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**

LECTURE I

THE UNITING OF EUROPE

I

I am sure that I need not say - and indeed it is difficult to express - how very greatly honoured I feel that the Indian Council for Cultural Relations should have invited me to give this year's lectures in memory of that great teacher, educationist, and statesman Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

Your country, it seems to me, has been particularly fortunate in attracting into political life scholars whose intellectual and spiritual greatness has given a characteristic and unmistakable tone to their work as practical men of affairs. If this was true of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, it was equally true of that other great man whom all India has so recently mourned, President Rajendra Prasad. Long may this great tradition continue.

Nor can I forbear to express the diffidence which I feel at following as your guest lecturer so distinguished a company of scholars and statesmen. I have had the opportunity, in particular, to read the lectures given before this forum by the Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, by Prof. Arnold Toynbee and by Earl Attlee; and I must confess that I am a little nervous at the prospect of trying to emulate their eloquence.

I am nervous for three reasons.

First, because I did not learn English until fairly late in life, and I have not yet learnt more than a few words of Hindi.

Secondly, because I am not a world historian, like Prof. Toynbee, nor a Prime Minister like Mr. Nehru or Lord Attlee. Indeed, I am rather in the position of a scholar, who many years ago now decided to leave academic life because I felt that I had a duty to politics. Like so many of us, I still cherish the belief that one day I may be able once more to shed the cares of office and return to more

academic pursuits: I still retain, indeed, my professorial chair. But, to speak quite frankly, I have to confess that each time I am tempted to shrug my shoulders in the face of difficulties and setbacks, each time, somewhere within me, a small voice insists that I should carry on.

This brings me in fact to the third reason for my nervousness before you today. Involved as I am in the day-to-day affairs of the European Economic Community, and believing as I do that this day-to-day work has an importance far transcending the humdrum subject matter with which it appears to deal, I may seem to resemble one of those chieftains of past history who believed that not only the whole of India, but the whole of Asia and even the whole of the world revolved round the doings of that small stretch of territory of which he happened to be Maharajah.

I hope that I shall never fall - and that we Europeans will never fall - into so ludicrous an error. But I hope, on the other hand, that you will understand me if I look at the affairs of the world from the viewpoint of a European, and if I try to explain in these lectures what Europe - the new Europe - is doing, and what contribution it can make to the better ordering of the world as a whole.

I am encouraged to think that our problems in Europe are not after all so remote from yours, nor yours from ours. The other day I was reading a description of the tasks that faced a certain group of statesmen in 1947. Let me repeat some of those words. "The ideals... were: politically, to ensure the freedoms associated with a liberal state, to uphold the rule of law, and to give to every section of the community... a sense of national solidarity; economically, to correct the unbalance of [the] economy through a planned development of... resources, to create a new technological civilization by the combination of science and industry, and thereby to provide a higher standard of living for all; and, socially, to invigorate and reorganize... [this] vast and amorphous ... society, by injecting into it a new sense of social purpose and by codifying its laws, eradicating its harmful customs and integrating it into a single community."

I have cheated a little by omitting certain words, but can you