

No. 24/1978

November 9, 1978

**JEAN MONNET CELEBRATES 90TH BIRTHDAY; FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED**

Jean Monnet, the "father of Europe", will celebrate his 90th birthday today. To honor him, and to inaugurate a foundation to pursue his dream of a united Europe, a group of European and American statesmen will gather tonight in Paris for the first meeting of the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe.

The Jean Monnet Foundation, according to foundation president Henri Rieben, director of the Center for European Research at the University of Lausanne, will organize and conserve the papers set aside by Mr Monnet during his 70 years of public service. The foundation will also set up conferences on European themes and initiate further study into the construction of Europe. Max Kohnstamm, president of the European University at Florence, will serve as vice president of the foundation.

The Foundation membership is a virtual Who's Who of Europe and includes these politicians who worked with Mr Monnet between 1955 and 1975 on the Action Committee for a United States of Europe: Willy Brandt, former German chancellor and current head of the United Nations' North-South committee; Edward Heath, former prime minister of Britain; Walter Hallstein, former president of the European Economic Community (EEC); Jean Rey, former president of the EC Commission; Roy Jenkins, current Commission president; Rene Plevin and Antoine Pinay, both former prime ministers of France; Gaston Thorn, Luxembourg prime minister; Leo Tindemans, Belgium's prime minister, and Pierre Werner, former Luxembourg prime minister.

Among other members of the Council, who worked with Mr Monnet during his tenure as president of the European Coal and Steel Community, are: Bernard Clappier, president of the Bank of France, Robert Marjolin, former vice president of the EC Commission, and Fernand Spaak, head of the EC delegation to the United States.

American dignitaries who are members of the Foundation council include George Ball, former U.S. under secretary of state; James Reston, New York Times columnist; John McCloy, former president of the World Bank and head of the post-World War II U.S. military government in Germany, and Katharine Graham, publisher of the Washington Post and Newsweek.

In a personal birthday message that will be delivered to Mr Monnet tonight, U.S. President Jimmy Carter writes that "few men have left such a profound impact on their time. Few have been so innovative in creating institutions which strengthen peace and prosperity."

"Your profound knowledge of the United States, combined with your energy, vision, and deep commitments, make you a true Atlantic, as well as European, statesman," concludes President Carter.

Mr Monnet's Memoirs were published recently in the United States by Doubleday.