

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

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COMMON MARKET • EURATOM • COAL & STEEL COMMUNITY

COMMON MARKET COMMISSION PRESIDENT HALLSTEIN IN PARIS,
ADDRESSES ACADEMIE DES SCIENCES MORALES ET POLITIQUES

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 21 -- The President of the Commission of the European Economic Community, Professor Walter Hallstein, today addressed members of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques in Paris on "The European Community in the Making."

President Hallstein declared that the powerful movement surging through Europe since the end of the war led from the creation of the Coal and Steel Community to the Common Market, from customs union to economic union, and now toward political union -- thus shaping new political, economic, and institutional structures.

He said that the Common Market is not so much a matter of the movement of goods as one of economic policy. If the customs union and the merging of the markets are to be well and truly accomplished, he said, then the states must observe the requisite uniformity in their economic policies.

Calls Draft Treaty for Political Union an Important Step Forward

Turning to the problem of extending cooperation between the six member governments to matters of diplomacy, defense, and culture, Professor Hallstein said that the preparation by experts of the Six of a draft treaty for political union is an important step forward. (Following the Bonn Declaration of July 18, 1961, adopted by the heads of government of the Six, the European Parliament's Political Committee, headed by René Plevén, French delegate to the Parliament, drafted recommendations to Parliament for moving toward political union.

M. Plevén's report containing the draft was adopted unanimously by the Parliament's Political Committee on December 12, 1961.)

(more)

President Hallstein remarked that there has been criticism of this draft by some who felt that it failed to provide for an institutional system similar to that of the Community and that it thus not only gave a somewhat "blurred picture" of the Community's aim but compromised the decision-making machinery of the existing Community. However, although negotiations for a political community had been broken off, President Hallstein said he thought the difficulties could be overcome, provided that the three Communities -- particularly the Common Market -- remain "going concerns" and the driving force behind them is maintained.

Hallstein Says Obstacles Can Be Overcome

All discussions between the Six come up against conflicting interests, opinions, and traditions, the Common Market President continued, but the history of the Community shows that -- given time and a readiness to agree arising from awareness of common interests -- there are no insurmountable barriers.

President Hallstein went on to underline three characteristics of the Community: It is an active force, pressing toward a clearly recognized goal; it is of a political nature because in fact it is already partly a political union and because it possesses institutions capable of taking political decisions. Finally, he said, the Community is a catalyst, not only juxtaposing existing systems and adjusting them to each other but bringing to life new structures and systems -- as, for example, the common agricultural policy. Moreover, he said, the Community has introduced a new factor in international relations and the eyes of the world are turned upon Europe.

In conclusion, President Hallstein said: "The European venture lies in the logic of history, and that is its strength. It has not only followed the main stream of history but also fulfilled the needs and profound aspirations of the contemporary European."