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PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

2100 M Street Northwest, Suite 707, Washington D.C. 20037 • Telephone: (202) 296-5131

May 6, 1970

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 9, 1970: THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHUMAN PLAN DECLARATION

This Saturday, May 9, Europe celebrates the twentieth anniversary of the Schuman Plan Declaration, the nucleus of Europe's united progress toward economic and political union.

On May 9, 1950, the then French Foreign Minister, Robert Schuman, in a historic statement, made his famous "Schuman Plan" proposal calling for a Franco-German "coal-steel pool" to be joined by other Western European countries.

The Declaration launched a revolutionary scheme based on a principle that was entirely new to international agreements: the transfer to a common organization of real powers over a limited field. As a result of Schuman's plan, the European Coal and Steel Community was in operation by 1952, and two other Communities, the European Economic Community (Common Market) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) came into existence by 1958.

. Included with the enclosed material on Robert Schuman Day is a story by François Fontaine giving an inside, behind-the-scenes view of how the Schuman plan came into being. It contains facts about the event

that have never been made public before.

Also included are:

- . The text of the Schuman Plan Declaration of May 9, 1950.
- . A brief chronological history of European unity after the Second World War.
- . A biography of Robert Schuman.
- . Quotes by statesmen on European unity.
- . Then and Now: basic figures showing European economic growth since the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community in 1952.
- . Photographs of Robert Schuman, then French Foreign Minister, with Jean Monnet, the chief drafter of the Declaration; and of the signing, April 18, 1951, of the Paris Treaty creating the European Coal and Steel Community. (Copies available on request.)

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ROBERT SCHUMAN (1886-1963)

A Biographical Note

Born on June 29, 1886, in Luxembourg, son of a Lorraine farmer, Robert Schuman attended secondary schools in Luxembourg and Metz and the universities of Bonn, Munich, Berlin, and Strasbourg. He received his doctorate from the University of Strasbourg and became a member of the bar in Metz in 1912 where he practiced law for some years.

Mr. Schuman belonged to the Popular Democratic Party and was first elected deputy from Moselle in 1919. He remained a Parliamentarian until 1940. He specialized on German problems, in particular those raised by Alsace-Lorraine, recovered after the French victory in 1918. In 1928 he became president of the Alsace-Lorraine Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, a post held until 1936.

On March 22, 1940, Mr. Schuman was nominated Under Secretary of State for Refugees in the Cabinet of Paul Reynaud. He served in that capacity for four months and then returned to Metz where he was arrested by the Gestapo and deported to Germany. He escaped German imprisonment in 1942 and joined the French resistance movement.

After the Liberation he joined the Mouvement Republicain Populaire and was elected deputy from Moselle in October 1945.

In June 1946, Premier Georges Bidault appointed him Minister of Finance. He remained in the Government until December 1952, except during the term of Leon Blum in December 1946.

He became Minister of Finance in the Ramadier Cabinet from February to November 1947. He was called upon in November of that year to form the new Government following a ministerial crisis and took leadership of the Government at a time when strikes had heightened political and economic instability. After the resignation of his Cabinet, in July 1948, M. Schuman became Foreign Affairs Minister in Premier Marie's Cabinet. But a few weeks later, President Vincent Auriol again called on him to form a new Cabinet. Invested by the National Assembly on August 31, his Premiership lasted only three days. He became Foreign Affairs Minister in the succeeding Queuille Cabinet, a post which he held until December 1952.

In January 1950, M. Schuman held discussions in Bonn with Chancellor Adenauer regarding the statute of the Saar and its bearing upon future Franco-German relations. On May 9, 1950, the eve of the London Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the United States, Great Britain, and France, he made his famous "Schuman Plan" proposal calling for a Franco-German "coal-steel pool," to be joined by other West European countries.

On March 19, 1958, M. Schuman was elected first President of the European Parliament -- the parliament of the European Community for Coal and Steel, of the European Economic Community, and of the European Atomic Energy Community. He served in this post for two years.

Robert Schuman died in Scy-Chazelles near Metz, France, on September 4, 1963.