

Jan. 20, 1959

MAX KOHNSTAMM

Biographical Notes

European Community Institute.

Mr. Kohnstamm is the Director of the newly-established ~~Center of European Studies~~ which has its headquarters in Brussels. He is also the Secretary of the Action Committee for a United States of Europe, and acts as Special Adviser to the Committee's President, Jean Monnet. For the past eight years, Mr. Kohnstamm has devoted himself exclusively to the work of building a United States of Europe.

Mr. Kohnstamm was born May 22, 1914 in Amsterdam, Holland, the son of an Amsterdam University professor. He studied modern history at Amsterdam University and spent a year in the United States (1938-1939) on a fellowship at the American University in Washington, D.C. His fellowship studies dealt with then current U.S. Government organizations and agencies set up during the 30's. He obtained his Master's Degree from Amsterdam University in 1939.

After the Germans overran Holland, he played a leading part in organizing anti-German activities in Netherlands universities and organizing protest meetings against the German expulsion of Jewish faculty members and students at Amsterdam University. As a result of his Resistance activities, Mr. Kohnstamm was arrested in January, 1942 and was held until his release in September, 1944.

In May, 1945 Mr. Kohnstamm was appointed Private Secretary to Queen Wilhelmina and remained in that post until her retirement in 1948.

In August, 1948 Mr. Kohnstamm entered the Foreign Service of the Netherlands Government and shortly thereafter became Director of European Affairs for the Foreign Office. He took part in all of the international meetings leading to the establishment of the Ruhr Authority and the setting up of the Federal Republic of Germany. In June, 1950 he was appointed Vice President of the Netherlands Schuman Plan Delegation. Following the successful negotiation of the European Community for Coal and Steel Treaty, Mr. Kohnstamm, at the request of Jean Monnet, the first President of the High Authority (executive branch of the Coal and Steel Community), resigned his Foreign Office post to become the High Authority's Secretary when it assumed its function on August 10, 1952.

In July, 1956 Mr. Kohnstamm took leave without pay from his High Authority post to work with the Action Committee for a United States of Europe. In December, 1956 he was asked by the three "Wise Men" appointed by the Foreign Ministers of the six Governments following the recommendation of the Action Committee to act as their secretary during studies by the trio into nuclear power prospects in Western Europe.

As a result of Mr. Kohnstamm's wide experience in formulating the report "A Target for Euratom", a result of the "Wise Men's" study, he was asked by the executive branch of the European Atomic Energy Community early in 1958 to take charge of negotiations between Euratom and the United States Government to establish a joint atomic power development program. This program, passed by the United States Congress in August, 1958 went into effect on February 13, 1959. Mr. Kohnstamm has also acted on behalf of Euratom in preliminary negotiations for agreements of cooperation in the nuclear field with Canada and the United Kingdom.

Mr. Kohnstamm is married and has five children.