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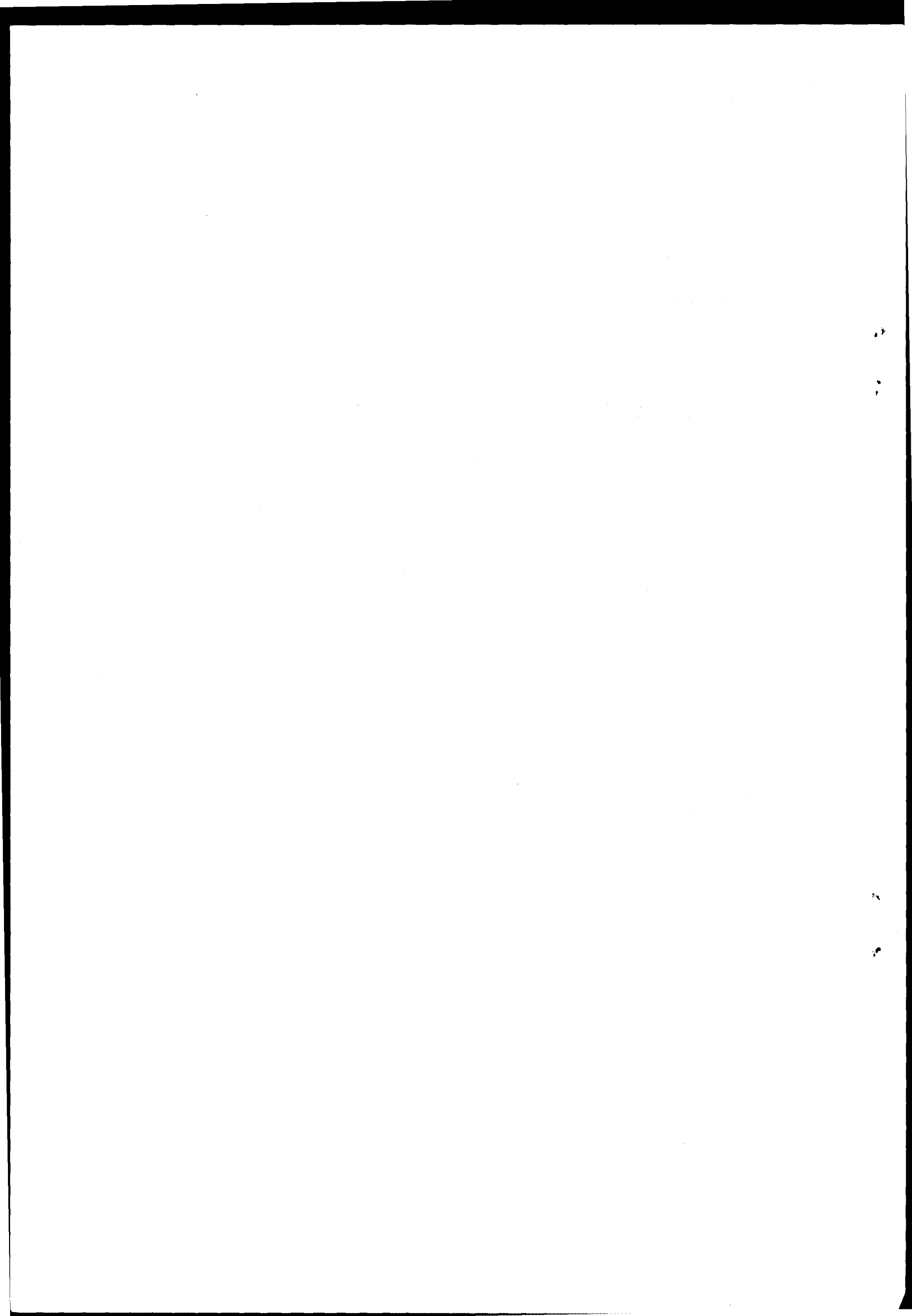
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TOPIC OF THE DAY

END OF STUDY SESSION IN FLORENCE

In the last edition of the Bulletin, we announced that the CD Group was organizing a study session in Florence on 28-30 May.

Everyone participating gave of their best and the press, particularly in Italy, gave its work frequent and prominent coverage. CD-Europe will devote a special pamphlet to the arguments aired in Florence, so that all concerned may have a complete record of the topics covered and the papers discussed.

The proceedings concluded with the approval of the final paper, printed below, which Chairman LUCKER elucidated at a press conference.

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

After a searching discussion opened by the vice-chairman of the Executive Commission, Mr SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA, the CD group of the European Parliament, assembled in Florence for its study session, completed its study of problems concerning relations between the European Community and the USA.

The Group endorsed the conclusions set out in the communiqué issued by the CD Political Committee of the Community after its meeting in Rome of 25 May last, and maintained that a global approach should be taken to the forthcoming negotiations. Such an approach, while leaving to the appropriate bodies the solution of current problems in the International Monetary Fund, GATT and the Atlantic Alliance, should place the negotiations and future relations between the European Community and the USA on a basis of frank and real partnership, not least in view of the world responsibilities borne by the USA and, from now on, by the Community. The Group therefore intends to propose at the June part-session of the European Parliament a meeting of representatives of Community governments within the Council of Ministers, in order to work out the general approach to be taken to individual aspects of the negotiations and to enable the Community to speak authoritatively with one voice.

MOTION BY THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF ECDU

The Political Affairs Committee of the European Christian Democratic Union (which liaises between the CD parties of the European Community and the CD Group of the European Parliament) met in Rome on 25 May.

The committee was chaired by Mr Mariano RUMOR, chairman of ECDU. Among those who addressed the meeting were the chairman of the CD Group of the European Parliament, Mr Hans August LÜCKER, the Vice-President of the EEC Commission, Mr Carlo SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA, and the former President of the European Parliament, Mr Mario SCELBA.

On the basis of an introductory report by Mr SCELBA, the committee considered relations between the EEC and the United States in the light of new developments since ECDU last considered the question at a meeting in Malta in March.

After outlining Adviser Kissinger's well-known proposal, Mr SCELBA stressed the arguments in favour of maintaining continuity in political relations with the United States and the need for the European organization to speak with one voice. 'Kissinger's message', added Mr SCELBA, 'is essentially a call for the Community to change itself without delay into a political Community.'

Mr LÜCKER, chairman of the CD Group of the European Parliament, dwelt on the need to establish a permanent dialogue with the United States, as a means both of expanding and preparing for official encounters within institutional bodies (GATT, NATO, etc.).

Mr SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA (author of the basic report at the previous meeting in Malta) also insisted on the need for a permanent dialogue, on a basis of equality, between the EEC and USA. He added that a new Atlantic Charter could be a danger, particularly on the psychological level, as it might suggest a return to the conception of opposing blocs.

Chairman RUMOR closed the debate by observing that recent international developments should spur on Europe to seek its individual political identity rather than relegate it to a subordinate role in the dialogue between the world powers.

At the close of proceedings, the Political Affairs Committee adopted the following resolution:

COMMUNIQUÉ

At its meeting of 25 May 1973 in Rome, the Political Affairs Committee of the Member States of the European Community continued to consider current relations between the European Communities and the United States of America - which the Political Affairs Committee had first begun to consider in Malta - taking into account the recent American proposal for negotiations which would include monetary, trade and foreign policy and defence policy.

The Political Affairs Committee, aware of the Christian Democrats' responsibilities in international politics and of the need for joint action, has agreed on the following points :

1. Continuous and closer cooperation between the European Community, the Member States of Nato and the United States of America is an essential precondition for the maintenance of peace, for economic and social progress and for improving the détente, which has already begun, with the Eastern countries;
2. Developments in Community policy and international trends in the economic, monetary and political field make it necessary to readjust the conditions of cooperation between the United States of America, the European Community and the Member States of NATO;
3. The close interdependence between economic and political affairs makes it necessary to seek a solution to all pending problems on the basis of an overall concept and true partnership;
4. Cooperation between the European Community, the Member States of NATO and the United States of America must cover all international affairs and the main objectives must be : peace, détente, protection of the rights of man, the independence of nations, and the system of democracy and liberty for the developing countries;

5. The American proposal challenges Europe to accelerate its political union so that it may speak with one voice on all issues and ensure that the Community assumes an independent and dynamic position in international politics.

The Political Affairs Committee, considering that even at this point the Member States can de facto achieve a joint policy covering all sectors, in particular in the light of the decisions of the Paris Summit Meeting, is convinced that Europe must make use of the opportunity which the proposal for Euro-American negotiations is offering at the precise moment when great international negotiations must be conducted - for this could be a historic opportunity for the future of the political union of the democratic states of Europe.

The Political Affairs Committee of the Christian Democratic parties of the Member States of the European Community

addresses

an urgent appeal to all Community bodies and all Member States' governments, having agreed upon a Community strategy, to find a means of speaking with one voice in order thereby to determine the future of the political union of all the democratic states of Europe;

calls upon

democratic political forces to support the initiatives aimed at accelerating the process of political integration of a democratic Europe.

A FOREIGN POLICY FOR EUROPE

The summit conference at The Hague in December 1969, and the one held more recently in Paris, laid the bases for bringing all the relations existing between Member States in the next few years closer and closer to political unity.

At the European Parliament's plenary sitting of 6 April two members of the Christian Democratic Group, Mr MOMMERSTEEG and Mr BERTRAND, stressed the significance and importance of every action likely to promote closer political cooperation between Member States. The basis of such cooperation must be the unification of these States' foreign policies. However, it would be unrealistic to deny that, if only because of its novelty, this will be achieved only with difficulty and then only in gradual stages.

The two members of the CD Group, far from indulging either in glib rhetoric or in stubborn defeatism, presented a realistic assessment of the present situation and a political appraisal of medium-term prospects. Thus Mr Mommersteeg was the first to recognize that political cooperation as currently practised ends up inevitably in a clash between national requirements and the demands of the European Community as an international political reality. However, he did not ignore the need to find a balance and a form of active cooperation between the Community institutions ('whose activities must not neglect certain aspects of foreign policy') and the Member States 'whose foreign policy must not distort or conflict with the Community policy'.

Mr Mommersteeg, author of a report on cooperation and European political unification submitted by the Political Affairs Committee, also pointed out that what is required is not to put cooperation in the foreign policy field on a Community basis but - and this is very important - to give it a real right of initiative in foreign policy matters.

Mr Mommersteeg's remarks were endorsed on behalf of the CD Group by Mr Bertrand, who sorrowfully observed that in every aspect of world politics the Community is playing the part of a mere bystander. 'Europe serves neither as a focal point nor as a balancing force on new developments throughout the world, as she is obviously meant to do.' Aware as it is of this, the CD Group of the European Parliament insists that the Community must speak with one voice - a view reflected in Mr Müller's report of last year, Mr Scelba's advocacy of a European role in the Middle East, and every other call for a European government and a directly elected Parliament.

The fact that the President of the Council spoke in Paris and Washington, at the height of the monetary crisis, on behalf of the whole Community, leads us to hope that a start has been made on the move towards political unity.

In this process the Davignon procedure may be considered to be an important but only transitory stage.

(Bulletin of 6 April)

ACTIVITIES OF CD MEMBERS

- At a meeting held in Rome on 17 May at which the Commission of the European Communities was represented, the Committee on Energy considered the Commission's answer to Oral Question No. 28/73 by Senator NOE on laying down a Community strategy for procurement of enriched uranium.
- Mr PETRE presented a report to the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment on the memorandum of the European Commission on its activities pursuant to the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 21 September 1971 concerning migrant workers.
- The Committee on Agriculture approved a report submitted by Mr VETRONE on the proposal for a Council regulation on the levies on imports of adult bovine animals and meat from Yugoslavia.
- At a meeting held in Rome on 23 May at which the European Commission was represented, the Committee on Development and Cooperation considered Mr DEWULF's report on the activities of the second Monetary Development Fund.
- At the meeting of the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport, Senator NOE was the rapporteur for a plan of 'Improvement of traffic infrastructures across the Alps'. He concluded by submitting a motion for a resolution, which the committee adopted.
- At the same committee meeting Mr KOLLWELTER submitted as rapporteur a proposal for a decision on setting up a common system of charges for the use of transport infrastructure which was adopted.
- At the same meeting, Mr VAN DER GUN acted as rapporteur for a proposal for a decision on the opening of negotiations with third countries on bus traffic.
- At a meeting of the Legal Affairs Committee, Mr HEGER was appointed rapporteur for Petition No. 1/73 concerning the proposal for an international statute on the rights of emigrants.
- On 23 May in Rome, the Legal Affairs Committee further considered the proposal by the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation concerning the Statute of a European Company. Mr BRUGGER acted as rapporteur.
- At a meeting of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment, Mr PISONI's draft report on initial measures to establish a common vocational training policy was considered and approved.

THE LABOUR BOYCOTT

by Luigi GIRARDIN^{x)}

The British Labour Party has refused to appoint representatives to the European Parliament. Its attitude seems to stem from emotional reaction rather than from mature political reflection. However, it stands in sharp contrast to England's age-old democratic and parliamentary traditions.

Through its decision, Labour has certainly not helped the European Parliament in its attempts to secure increased powers.

Mr Girardin has made a study of this question.

With its January part-session in Strasbourg, the European Parliament formally inaugurated its new composition.

The new arrivals from the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark not unnaturally were made the most fuss of by everyone and wooed out of curiosity not only about their political views but about certain singular traits displayed by some of them. Among those who aroused particular interest were the youngest English earl, a Scottish member complete with kilt and the Danish political singer Dich.

The assembly was packed (a rare occurrence!) when, on the morning of Tuesday, 6 January, the President opened the sitting. The presidents of the national parliamentary assemblies were the guests of honour, and included Senator Fanfani, the Speaker of the House of Commons and the newly elected President of the Bonn Bundestag.

After the official ceremony and opening addresses, a debate was started to sound out in particular the political intentions of the new arrivals.

The occasion for this debate was offered by a report on the economic situation of the EEC by the Vice-President of the Executive Commission, Mr Haferkamp.

The debuts made by some of the new members were interesting, not least because of the difficulty they obviously found in dealing adequately with the political problems of European unity.

The picture sketched by the leader of the British Conservative delegation of the hopes pinned by his country on entry into the Community somehow reflected the triumphal spirit in which the Conservatives and the English government had celebrated the undoubtedly historic moment of their accession to the EEC.

This was one way of exploiting the opportunity presented by the first meeting of the Parliament of the Nine to reply, even from Strasbourg, to Labour members who had obstinately refused to appoint their 15 delegates to the European Parliament.

Despite the attempts of the European socialists, particularly the Germans and Italians, to prevail upon them to reverse their decision, Labour refused to be swayed and indicated that its boycott would last beyond 1973.

Labour's attitude is all the more incomprehensible as it has been taken up by the Opposition in a parliament which - as also recognized at Strasbourg - has, with her age-old experience and democratic struggles, taught democracy to all. Labour's decision is hard to understand because a democratic party must accept the implications, above all for democratic representation, of any majority decision such as that to accede to the EEC, which is bound to have far-reaching consequences for the country and its economic, political and social prospects, even if it disagrees with the decision. Why then has Labour allowed the Conservatives to appoint a representative (chosen by the Labour Party) to the Executive Commission (the European government) of the calibre of Mr Thomson and yet not seen fit to represent its electorate in the European Parliament? Why is it represented in the Council of Europe and not in the European Parliament?

This deliberate absence has rendered a disservice to the European Socialist Group which, with the arrival of Labour members, could have become the largest parliamentary group, a title to which the Christian Democrats can still lay claim.

The Italian Communists showed a greater sense of realism and not only accepted but doggedly insisted on participation in the European Parliament. It is right that they should be proportionally represented, for all political forces in the European Parliament are entitled to be represented there even if, as in the case of the Communists, they came out against the treaties establishing the Community.

The Danish singer and composer Per Dich, a break-away socialist, did not share the views of British Labour.

He came to the Parliament and spoke in Strasbourg, putting forward a

curious thesis, but at least he had the opportunity to expound it in Parliament before European public opinion.

His argument was more or less as follows : I represent here the 37% of Danes who voted against Danish accession to the EEC; I am also here to defend the 67% who voted for it, to check whether the promises made to them are kept.

Therefore, added this anything but typical member, 'I am here to hinder you in your attempts to increase the powers of the European Parliament, because the more power you have the less the Danish Parliament will have, and I must oppose this aim.'

As may be imagined, his remarks were not attacked but met with a cold reception from the Assembly.

But his position, however isolated, is preferable to that of the British Labour Party which has chosen to be absent rather than to be present in critical opposition.

The Irish also face far from simple problems: one has only to think of Ulster and the disagreements between the government and opposition parties.

After attending the first meeting of the enlarged European Parliament, it can hardly be said that European unity is just round the corner.

All those who still believe in the goal of a united Europe must intensify their efforts and their political will.

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Mr Luigi Girardin, a lawyer, was born in Mirano(Venice). Starting in the trade union movement, he joined the CD party in 1944 and has been a deputy since 1963. He took an active part in the liberation. A militant member of the ICFTO, he became General Secretary of the General Council of Trade Union of Padua in 1953 and Chairman in 1958. Before joining the European Parliament in 1969, he spent two years with the Executive Commission in Brussels as Deputy Principal Private Secretary to the President.

