

'The Treaties were signed yesterday in Rome' from Le Drapeau rouge (26 March 1957)

Caption: On 26 March 1957, the Belgian Communist daily newspaper Le Drapeau rouge describes the signing of the EEC and Euratom Treaties in Rome as a further step towards the division of Europe.

Source: Le Drapeau rouge. Quotidien du Parti Communiste de Belgique. 26.03.1957, n° 60; 36e année. Bruxelles: Société Populaire d'Édition. "Les traités ont été signés hier à Rome", p. 1; 3.

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The Treaties were signed yesterday in Rome

The Treaties establishing the European Economic Community (Common Market) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) were signed yesterday at 6.50 p.m. in the Hall of the Horatii and Curiatii on the Capitol in Rome by Dr Adenauer, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, and by the Foreign Ministers of France, Italy, Belgium the Netherlands and Luxembourg — respectively Mr Christian Pineau, Mr Gaetano Martino, Mr Paul-Henri Spaak, Mr Joseph Luns and Mr Joseph Bech.

During the signing ceremony, broadcast on radio and TV, each of the 'Six' gave an address. While the Belgian Foreign Minister praised the 'benedictine' Robert Schuman, his counterparts praised Spaak as a 'great European', if ever there was one.

This day of noisy, Roman festivities in honour of 'little Europe' was rounded off in the evening by an official reception in the Palace of Venice, hosted by Mr Segni, President of the Council of Ministers.

In the morning, the Six had met to discuss where the headquarters of Euratom and the Common Market were to be located. It was decided in the end to postpone a decision until the Treaties had been ratified so as 'to avoid any risks that the choice of one city rather than another might offend certain members.' It was also decided to delay the selection of the Chairman of the Provisional Management Committee.

A declaration by the Italian Communist Party

In a declaration on the Common Market and Euratom, the Italian Communist Party points out that these two Treaties cannot solve the economic problems facing the countries of Western Europe.

Instead they are fraught with serious risks for all Europeans, especially for the weaker countries.

The two Treaties are the embodiment, as well as the instrument, of a policy that is dividing Europe ever more radically into two opposed military camps. They are based on the premise and the requirement that West Germany should be rearmed, and they want to allow it access to atomic energy for military purposes. They exacerbate the political division of Europe and the schism in Europe's world market, and subject the countries of Western Europe to competition from and dominance by American big business.

This basic flaw is worsened by the fact that the countries are obliged to support and defend the colonialism of French imperialism in particular.

Furthermore, the so-called economic community that they are trying to set up will be used by the powerful forces of monopolistic capital for their own ends. The dominant monopolies will enter into pacts that will ensure them bigger profits and give an unfair advantage to the strongest conglomerates, particularly those in West Germany.

The document goes on to examine the negative impact on Italy's industry, agriculture and people. It calls on the Communists to launch a campaign of broad-based, popular protest against the Treaties.

In its closing remarks, the Italian Communist Party's resolution emphasises that, if the Treaties are ratified, new tasks will face the working class and peasants' movements, particularly the unions, in order to defend wages, living standards, housing and social security in the face of more organised and aggressive employers and the difficulties caused by the expected movements of workers from one country to another. Workers' trade union rights and political freedoms must be vigorously defended, with support being sought from international networks and movements.