

## 'Feeling of euphoria throughout France' from Le Drapeau rouge (2 September 1954)

**Caption:** On 2 September 1954, the Belgian Communist daily newspaper Le Drapeau rouge expresses its satisfaction at the French National Assembly's rejection of the Treaty establishing the European Defence Community (EDC).

**Source:** Le Drapeau rouge. Quotidien du Parti Communiste de Belgique. 02.09.1954, n° 203; 33e année. Bruxelles: Société Populaire d'Édition. "Il y a de la joie en France", p. 1; 3.

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## Among the architects of the victory over the EDC

### Feeling of euphoria throughout France

In homes throughout France, the announcement of the rejection of the European Defence Community has been received with elation. On Tuesday morning, the momentous news was the subject of enthusiastic debate in factories and on construction sites up and down the country. Everywhere demonstrations were being organised; in a spontaneous gesture of patriotism in many places, both in Paris and in the rest of the country, people began to place flowers on the cenotaphs and the plaques commemorating those who had been shot by firing squad. They swore never to allow the Wehrmacht the opportunity to rise again and take revenge.

In Suresnes, where workers had downed tools for a time prior to the vote of the Assembly, the failure of the EDC was the signal for all kinds of celebrations.

At SIPA, where a meeting was being held in the canteen, one worker commented: 'For us, it's like the 14th of July all over again.' He was looked at in amazement, but he went on: 'It's a fact — a new Bastille has fallen ...'

Outside another factory, a group of dejected-looking workers came up to the gates.

When asked why they were looking so glum, one of the workers held out his arms and replied: 'We buried it this morning in our workshop.' It was true. A decorated coffin stand carried the inscription: 'Here lies the EDC.'

Out in the streets, people were calling to each other and laughing and could be heard saying: 'Now it's time to send the Americans back home.' There are certainly a lot of Americans in Suresnes, driving around in big cars and taking over the best of the accommodation, no matter what the cost.

[...]