

'In London, France may well propose the association of key European industries' from Le Monde (10 May 1950)

Caption: On 10 May 1950, the French daily newspaper Le Monde anticipates the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) by reporting it before Robert Schuman gives his official address.

Source: Le Monde. dir. de publ. Beuve-Méry, Hubert. 10.05.1950, n° 1 644. Paris: Le Monde. "A Londres, la France proposerait l'association des industries-clés", auteur:Millet, Raymond , p. 1.

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In London, France may well propose the association of key European industries

In Paris, the United States declares itself in favour of the defence of Indo-China. After his talks with Robert Schuman, Dean Acheson meets Ernest Bevin.

A French Government proposal, which informed sources describe as ‘very important’, is going to be put forward by Robert Schuman, Foreign Minister, to his American and British counterparts during the conference of the Three, which is to open on Thursday in London. It is, we believe, a bold proposal to make a new effort towards ‘economic integration’ by the nations of western Europe.

This morning, the French proposal was submitted for French Government approval by Mr Schuman at the end of his report on the outcome of his meeting with Mr Acheson. The Cabinet gave him its full assent.

It is to be made public in the course of a press conference which the Foreign Minister is holding this evening at the Quai d’Orsay.

In informed circles, its aim is said to be an international association of key industries in the West. Unlike the old international cartels, it would mean the States themselves, and not private groups, pooling these industries: it would therefore be a first step towards an economic union of western Europe, to which Germany would be able to contribute in its own right. For some time now, experts have been working on this project in the utmost secrecy.