

'What is hidden behind the United States of Europe?' from the Zeitung vum Lëtzebuerger Vollek (28 May 1949)

Caption: On 28 May 1949, the Luxembourg Communist daily newspaper Zeitung vum Lëtzebuerger Vollek portrays the British plans for European unification as an attempt by the United States to shield Western Europe from Soviet influence.

Source: Zeitung vum Lëtzebuerger Vollek. 28.05.1949. Luxembourg: Coopérative ouvrière de presse et d'éditions. "Was verbirgt sich hinter den "Vereinigten Staaten Europas"?".

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/what_is_hidden_behind_the_united_states_of_europe_from_the_zeitung_vum_letzebuerger_vollek_28_may_1949-en-0a969c98-6d42-4b4a-afa2-09574f0824ae.html



Last updated: 06/07/2016

What is hidden behind the ‘United States of Europe’?

Over the past eighteen months, the right-wing Socialists, under the leadership of the British Labour Party, have shown great commitment in their support for what is called the political and economic unification of Western Europe.

In 1948, Bevin declared that the establishment of a Western European Union played an integral role in British foreign policy. The annual Labour Party Conference in the summer of 1948 adopted a separate resolution on the ‘United States of Europe’, in which it was claimed that the latter would constitute a union of states based on Socialist principles.

The crux of the matter, however, is that the right-wing Socialists’ influence on workers in Western European countries has fallen rapidly. The fact is that support for reactionism and the fight against Communism have stirred up feelings of dissatisfaction amongst employees. This is why the Labour leadership decided to feed the masses with the imperialist idea of a ‘united, Capitalist Europe’ under a ‘Socialist’ disguise.

The idea of a ‘united Europe’ runs along the same lines as the theory on what is known as democratic Socialism, which is intended to provide the justification for the ‘separate path’ for the development of Western Europe. This ‘separate path’ is, according to Labour, the balance between the Capitalist USA and the Socialist Soviet Union.

Upon close examination of the facts, however, the true substance of this ‘Western European Union’, so avidly publicised, comes to light.

It should be noted in particular that this solution is advocated and supported by the American Imperialists. As the Labour politicians themselves admit, it runs in conjunction with the Marshall Plan. Thus can be read in Labour’s official brochure ‘Both feet on the ground’, published in late October 1948: ‘America persistently insists that the European states should join together to create a new independent centre of power which can fill the vacuum between America and Russia.’

This clearly indicates that the true initiators behind the ‘United States of Europe’ are the American monopolists.

The Brussels Union between Britain, France and the Benelux, founded in March 1948, whose permanent representative body is in London, the Consultative Committee, the setting up of a War Committee and of military defence staff headed by Field Marshal Montgomery all prove that the disguise of ‘democratic Socialism’ is merely the sanctimonious drivel of the Socialist press and that, in reality, the only policy being promoted is that of the Anglo-American expansionists.

Precisely that is the basic line of thought behind Labour’s propaganda for a ‘United Europe’. The Brussels Treaty shows equally clearly as the North Atlantic Pact that the propaganda for this planned organisation is only a link in the chain of numerous measures taken against the peaceful democratic camp.

Despite Labour’s ludicrous claims that dependence on American ‘help’ will be reduced, the American monopolists are not losing any sleep. They have sufficient effective means not only to prevent a reduction in Europe’s reliance on them but actually to increase dependency. The most important factor is the total prevention of trade relations with the USSR and the people’s democracies. The sooner Western Europe breaks away from the Soviet Union and the people’s democracies, which Anglo-American policy is using all its might to achieve, the more it will become economically dependent on the dominant circles in the USA, as we can already see today. These circles are not interested in political independence and renewed economic strength for Europe. The inevitable result will be that opposition between the USA and the countries of the Western bloc will intensify, as it will within that group.

One further objective of this ‘united Europe’ may be seen in Britain’s attempt to become the middle man between the countries of Europe dependent on the Marshall Plan and its American masters, with a view to

deriving some benefit for itself from that role at all events. And that is precisely the reason for the 'European Council' in which, according to the Labour leadership, Britain is to play first violin.

Behind all this talk of a 'united Europe' lies concealed the intention to create an Imperialist bloc under Anglo-American leadership and a military bloc against the USSR and the people's democracies, whilst subordinating Western Europe to the USA.

The forces fighting for peace, however, are stronger than those clamouring for war. 'The terror of the last war is still too vivid in the memories of the peoples and the social forces defending peace too strong for Churchill's aggressive disciples to overcome them and lead them towards another war.'