

Letter from Harold Macmillan to Ludwig Erhard on the United Kingdom's application for membership to the EEC (London, 9 August 1961)

Caption: On 9 August 1961, British Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, sends a letter to Ludwig Erhard, President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers of the European Community, informing him of the British Government's desire to begin negotiations on the United Kingdom's accession to the European Communities.

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Monsieur le Président,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that in accordance with the terms of the resolution carried by both Houses of Parliament on the 3rd of August, Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland wish to open negotiations with a view to acceding to the Treaty of Rome under the terms of Article 237.

As the Member Governments of the European Economic Community are aware, Her Majesty's Government have need to take account of the special Commonwealth relationship as well as of the essential interests of British agriculture and of the other Members of the European Free Trade Association. Her Majesty's Government believe that Member Governments will consider these problems sympathetically and therefore have every confidence in a successful outcome to the negotiations. This would constitute an historic step towards that closer union among the European peoples which is the common aim of the United Kingdom and of the Members of the Community.

(sgd. Harold Macmillan)