

Interview with Emery Reves in Fédération (April 1947)

Caption: In April 1947, in the French journal Fédération, the journalist Emery Reves, author of the best seller *The Anatomy of Peace*, argues in favour of the establishment of an international federal government.

Source: Fédération. Revue de l'ordre vivant. dir. de publ. Richard, Max. Avril 1947, n° 27. Paris: Imprimerie de la Seine. "M. Emery Reves, sur le fédéralisme international", p. 2.

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Mr Emery Reves on international federalism:

Mr Emery Reves is an outstanding British writer, living in America, whose book *Anatomy of Peace* has sold hundreds of thousands of copies in the United States and has been published in seventeen other countries. Daily newspapers all over the world give it vast coverage and those for and against federalism argue about it on the air from Rome to New York.

One evening recently, we were able to enjoy a long interview with the No 1 star of the American movement for a federal world government.

We congratulated Mr Emery Reves on his success. Mr Reves, who speaks perfect French replied:

– We had a slow start, but then success came suddenly, and even I was surprised by its magnitude. Now the campaign is spreading widely and encountering little opposition. In a number of States we have carried out some in-depth opinion polls, and we found that four people out of five agreed with our argument.

Mr Reves continued enthusiastically:

– The big question is whether people will agree to delegate part of their country's sovereignty in all areas where it is necessary to do so, in particular in the field of security. It is because the United Nations has not been able to achieve this that I am very dubious as to its effectiveness.

– But what do the Russians think of your idea of a world government?

– Mr Vishinsky, in a well-known statement, said that he thought a stable and durable peace required the delegation of some national powers to a supranational authority.

The important point is that those in favour of a world government in Western countries stress the fact that every nation should be involved and not just some nations, leaving out others. Might I say that, knowing your attachment to the notion of Europe, I fear that the enthusiasm of the Old Continent towards the United States might offend the USSR?

And Mr Reves came back to his main preoccupations:

– The current of opinion that I am trying to promote in every country and at every level is one of peace. Germans and French on either side of the Rhine hate each other and fight. I do not know if Swiss from different linguistic backgrounds like each other very much, but they do not fight. We must create institutions that enable men who do not see eye to eye with each other to settle their differences without fighting.

Mr Reves concluded:

– In America, at the moment, an unrivalled convention of federalists is being constituted. I know that in France a serious campaign to achieve unity has been pursued. Whatever the differences between the various groups, it is extremely important that they coordinate their activities closely in order to spread their influence more effectively.

Another war would bring about the end of civilisation. It is vital that we succeed.

A.V.