

'France will not go to Brussels' from the Luxemburger Wort (22 July 1965)

Caption: On 22 July 1965, the daily newspaper Luxemburger Wort describes the difficulties caused — in connection with the empty chair crisis — by the recall to Paris of Jean-Marc Boegner, the French Permanent Representative to the European Communities, and indicates the complex nature of the negotiations between the Six, in particular those connected with the financing of the common agricultural policy (CAP).

Source: Luxemburger Wort. Für Wahrheit und Recht. 22.07.1965, Nr. 202; 118e année. Luxembourg: Imprimerie Saint-Paul. "Frankreich geht nicht nach Brüssel", p. 1.

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France will not go to Brussels

Paris, 22 July. (AP) After a meeting of the French Cabinet, the French Information Minister, Alain Peyrefitte, reconfirmed yesterday that France would not attend the meeting of the EEC Council of Ministers in Brussels on 26 July at which a compromise proposal for the financing of a common agricultural policy was to be discussed.

Replying to a journalist's question on this subject, Mr Peyrefitte said, 'I would like to remind you that, under the present circumstances, France will not take part in any meetings relating to the Common Market.'

During the Cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville had presented a report to his colleagues on the Franco-Italian government talks held on the occasion of the opening of the Mont Blanc Tunnel and focusing on the deadlocked EEC policy.

No differences of opinion between the Germans and the Dutch

The Hague. The Dutch Deputy Foreign Minister, Leo de Block, yesterday denied press reports that the German Federal Republic had tried to persuade the Netherlands to accept a compromise on the financing of the EEC common agricultural policy. The Dutch newspaper *De Telegraaf* claimed that the German Junior Minister, Dr Rolf Lahr, had last week failed to convince the Netherlands to close temporarily the file on the issue of greater control powers for the European Parliament because of French opposition. Mr De Block confirmed that he had held a routine discussion with Dr Lahr and maintained that Bonn and The Hague continued to be of the same opinion concerning European Parliament control of agricultural financing.

European Parliament backs EEC Commission

The European Parliament's Political Affairs Committee adopted a resolution in Brussels yesterday which unreservedly backed the proposals of the EEC Commission on the financing of the Common Market's agricultural policy. With the exception of three Gaullist UNR delegates, the representatives of the main parties of the six EEC countries deplored French efforts to enforce her interests by breaking off the negotiations and boycotting the common institutions. They agreed with the EEC Commission President, Walter Hallstein, that the EEC Member States had still not exhausted all the dialogue possibilities. They were convinced that the EEC Commission had not overstepped the boundaries set in the Rome Treaties when it proposed that EEC agricultural financing be made subject to the budgetary control of the European Parliament.

Fanfani remains hopeful

The Italian Foreign Minister, Amintore Fanfani, yesterday told the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies that he hoped that France would, after all, attend the meeting of the EEC Council of Ministers in Brussels on 26 July and try to overcome the deadlocked situation.

Mr Fanfani pointed out that, since negotiations had been suspended on 1 July, both sides had had the opportunity to present their points of view. While he himself preferred not to enter the controversy, the forthcoming meeting of 26 July would provide a good opportunity for the resumption of discussions. He certainly hoped that France would, after all, take part in these talks.

As far as other subjects were concerned, Mr Fanfani affirmed that Italy supported all efforts to restore peace in South-East Asia.