

‘Against the Schuman Plan for slavery and war’ from L’Unità (4 July 1950)

Caption: On 4 July 1950, the Italian daily Communist newspaper L’Unità publishes a declaration by the Communist parties of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom in opposition to the Schuman Plan.

Source: L’Unità. Organo del partito comunista italiano. dir. de publ. Lajolo, Davide. 04.07.1950. Milano. "Contro il piano Schuman di schiavitù e di guerra", p. 1.

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Against the Schuman Plan for slavery and war

Common declaration by the Communist parties of France, Germany, Italy, Great Britain, the Netherlands and Luxembourg

The representatives of the Communist parties of France, Germany, Italy, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg have examined the disastrous consequences that the application of what is known as the Schuman Plan would have for world peace and for the interests of their peoples.

The representatives of these parties are unanimous in holding that such a plan, dictated by American imperialists, is an important stage in the preparations for war against the Soviet Union and the people's democracies. The Schuman Plan is not a plan for peace; it is a plan for war.

It is yet another violation of the Potsdam Agreements, perpetuating as it does the division of Germany into two parts, and it enables the American warmongers to renew, on a wider scale, the provocations they are currently perpetrating in Korea. It is, moreover, a violation of the United Nations Charter.

The Schuman Plan, a development of the Marshall Plan, aims to make of West Germany, placed as it is under American control, a political, economic and military base in Europe essential for a third world war. Its purpose is the complete integration into the Atlantic bloc of the German monopolists, whom the American warmongers regard as the most reliable aggressive force in Europe. It facilitates the rebuilding of an army in West Germany under the command of Hitler's ex-generals.

The implementation of the Schuman Plan would lead to the mining and steel industries — and, as a result, the whole economy — of France, Great Britain, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy and the Netherlands coming under the control of the major capitalists of the Ruhr, who act under the orders of Wall Street financiers. Industry and agriculture in those countries would thus complement West Germany's war industry on behalf of the American imperialists. The aim is to set up an arsenal for the Atlantic bloc, the most formidable war machine that Europe has ever seen. It is an alliance of arms dealers that brings together, under the leadership of the dollar tycoons, the big Nazi industrialists of the Ruhr, the *Comité des Forges* (Metallurgical Federation) which has been betraying France's interests for decades, certain captains of Britain's war industry and leading Belgian and Luxembourg industrialists.

The Schuman Plan would lead to the subjection of the Marshall aid countries, destroying once and for all their national sovereignty by handing over their economies to American imperialists, and it would confirm the colonisation of West Germany.

The salaries and working conditions of the French, British, Italian, Belgian, Dutch and Luxembourg workers would be reduced to a far lower level — on a par with West German workers, whom the imperialists want to keep in poverty. The Italian steel industry would be condemned to disappear. In the other countries, many mining and steel companies would have to close their gates on the pretext that they are 'uneconomic'. This would mean unemployment for millions of workers, and a collapse in the prices of agricultural products for farm workers.

Every nation, then, has an interest in blocking this new attempt by the American imperialists to secure global hegemony by precipitating other countries into poverty and war.

By agreeing to become the spokesman for the American imperialists in Europe, the French Government is trying to present itself as the most servile of intermediaries between the United States and the Europe of the Marshall Plan.

In enthusiastically accepting the Schuman proposal, the puppet government in Bonn is claiming its inheritance from Hitler in order to organise war against the Soviets in Europe.

The reservations formulated by the British Government are those of an imperialist government desirous of

defending its own interests in Europe, while at the same time holding onto its post there as America's chief lackey, a post that has now been promised to the reactionary government of West Germany.

These reservations confirm the judgement formulated in September 1947 by our late lamented Comrade Zhdanov when he pointed to Germany as the apple of discord among the American, British and French leaders.

The right-wing Socialist leaders of the Marshall Plan countries have, in essence, approved the plans of the international trusts for war and poverty. They are the agents not merely of their own countries' bourgeoisies, but of the American imperialists as well. The divergences surfacing among them reflect the contradictions that exist between US imperialism and the American vassals' versions of imperialism.

The capitalists of France, Great Britain, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg have lost all sense of patriotism. For the sake of class interests, they are openly betraying the vital interests of their own countries. They are abandoning their nations to the rapacity of international trusts and preparing to throw their peoples into another war. The capitalists are attempting to maintain, through violence and warfare, their dominion over the colonial peoples whom they oppress.

It is for the working class, the active exponent of the national interest in every country, to take up arms themselves in the fight for national independence and to support the struggle of the oppressed countries for their own national liberation.

In these circumstances, the Communist parties of France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg regard it as their duty to call on the people of their countries, and above all the entire working class, to fight to overthrow the Schuman Plan for slavery and war.

In a momentous demonstration of proletarian internationalism and as an important and effective contribution to the defence of peace, they salute the common manifesto of the *Confédération Générale du Travail* (General Confederation of Labour) and the *Freie Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund* (Free German Federation of Trade Unions), which calls on the workers of France and Germany to concerted action against the Schuman Plan.

They regard this initiative as an example to all workers in the Marshall Plan countries.

The Communist parties of France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg applaud the peace policy deployed by the Soviet Union, led by the Bolshevik Party and Comrade Stalin, that has brought about the constitution of the German Democratic Republic. They undertake to multiply their efforts to support this Republic and all the democratic and peaceful forces in West Germany, and they pledge themselves to work for a united, democratic and peaceful Germany.

In contrast to the solution of war that the imperialists are preparing by means of the Schuman Plan, they propose the solution of peaceful coexistence between different regimes, paving the way for the development of economic relations with the countries of central and eastern Europe.

In their fight for peace, the Communist parties of France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg will place themselves resolutely in the vanguard of the Partisans for Peace so that tens of millions of signatures may be added to the Stockholm appeal to ban the atomic bomb.

To defeat the warmongering alliance of arms traders, the Communist parties of France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg will work together to set up a peaceful alliance of peoples, of the millions of ordinary people who do not want war.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of France;

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Germany;

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Italy;

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Great Britain;

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Netherlands;

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belgium;

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Luxembourg.