

Joint Declaration of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe (26 June 1962)

Caption: On 26 June 1962, the Action Committee for the United States of Europe (CAEUE) welcomes the United Kingdom's request for membership of the European Communities and calls for stronger ties between the United States and a united Europe.

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I

The Action Committee for the United States of Europe, which groups the vast majority of political parties in our six countries, as well as the free and Christian trade unions representing ten million workers, considers that only through the economic and political unification of Europe, including the United Kingdom, and the establishment of a partnership between equals of Europe and the United States can the West be strengthened and the conditions created for peace between East and West.

Although progress in this direction may be slow and fraught with difficulties, it is nevertheless inevitable and the only sure path. The Committee believes that any other course would involve our separate countries in profitless adventures and preserve that spirit of superiority and domination which not so long ago led Europe to the brink of destruction and could now engulf the world.

Our countries have advanced gradually towards their goal, namely the creation one day of the United States of Europe which will advance the consolidation of the West. The concrete problems of economic integration have been tackled (European Coal and Steel Community, Euratom, Common Market). Our countries have never attempted to solve everything all at once.

Further headway is now possible and necessary. The points at issue are the accession of the United Kingdom to the European Community and the conclusion of a treaty initiating a political union.

The political parties and trade unions represented on the Action Committee for the United States of Europe consider that the negotiations:

- for the United Kingdom's entry into the European Community on the same basis as the Six;
- for the establishment of a treaty initiating a political union;

should be rapidly concluded.

II

1. The prospects open to Europe today are the outcome of the decision of European countries not to treat their economic problems as national ones but as common to them all. To solve these problems, they have adopted a new method of collective action.

After a period of trial and error, this method has developed into a regular interchange, between a European body responsible for suggesting solutions to common problems and the governments of member countries which put the national points of view.

This is a completely new approach. It does not create a central government. But it does result in Community decisions being taken within the Council of Ministers notably because the proposal of solutions to common difficulties by the independent European body makes it possible, without risk, to give up the unanimity rule. The Parliament and the Court of Justice underline the Community character of the whole.

This new method is the real unifying factor (French: "fédérateur") in Europe.

2. The entry of the United Kingdom into the European Community on a basis of equality under the conditions laid down in the Rome Treaty will reinforce the unity of Europe. The union will then comprise

240 million people. It will enable all its members to achieve greater economic growth. The Commonwealth countries among others, must benefit by this expansion.

Britain's participation in the beginnings of a European political union will increase the influence Europe can exert on the world's affairs. Separately neither the United Kingdom nor our countries could exercise such an influence.

As a member, the United Kingdom will want to contribute to the effectiveness of a Community, which confers such a role on Europe, and which will henceforth be just as much her own as ours. Entry into the Common Market will necessarily bring with it changes in the attitude of the United Kingdom as it has for each of our six countries.

3. Just as we have had to change outmoded forms of national economic relations in order to arrive at a European Common Market, so the forms of national political relations will have to be gradually changed before a unified political outlook is achieved.

At present, it is still not possible to apply to foreign policy rules and institutions such as are suitable for dealing with the material problems of the economy.

Any agreement organising the system of cooperation that will be necessary at the outset must clearly guarantee the continuity and future of economic integration, which is the basis of political union. This economic integration cannot be called in question either now or in the future.

Thus, when Heads of State and Government confer together about questions which are matters for the Communities they must necessarily be bound by the rules and procedures adopted under these treaties drawn up by the member States.

It should now be made clear that after the initial period of co-operation the revision of the commitments entered into by the States should provide for the gradual adaptation to the political sphere of the method which has already made it possible to achieve the economic integration of Europe.

4. While the economic unity of Europe is being consolidated and a start made on its political unification, the co-operation that has already grown up between the United States and European countries should gradually be transformed into a partnership between a united Europe and the United States.

The partnership between America and a united Europe must be a relationship of two separate but equally powerful entities, each bearing its share of common responsibilities in the world. This partnership is natural and inevitable because the peoples of Europe and America share the same civilisation based on freedom, and conduct their public life in accordance with common democratic principles.

Just as European unity is the result of progress step by step on concrete questions by the countries of Europe, so the new partnership of Europe and America will develop as the outcome of patient and practical efforts to tackle together the problems they have in common.

There is no doubt that the West is coming up against an ever-increasing number of economic problems which neither America nor Europe can solve on its own.

The application of a policy of continued economic expansion, the monetary stability of the West, the issues raised by agriculture in an increasingly industrial civilisation, aid to the less-developed countries and relations with those in the process of industrialisation — all these problems call for solutions by America and Europe together for only together have they the necessary resources to deal with them.

5. The partnership between Europe and the United States must not be merely economic. It is necessary that it should rapidly extend to the military and political spheres. Both are faced with common risks, the chief of which stems from the conflict with the East.

This conflict between East and West, and more particularly the question of disarmament, cannot be solved without a change by both sides in their conception of the future. While the West gives the impression that it can be divided, the USSR will not be disposed to come to agreements in the belief that it can always upset the world balance of power.

But when America and Europe have made it clear to everyone that the West is changing by its own will from within but cannot be changed by outside pressure, that it is consolidating its unity on a long-term basis, then the conditions will be created for a lasting peaceful settlement between East and West.