

'Washington pledges its support for European integration plans' from Il nuovo Corriere della Sera (16 January 1957)

Caption: On 16 January 1957, the Italian newspaper Il nuovo Corriere della Sera describes the stance taken by the United States regarding the Treaties establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom).

Source: Il nuovo Corriere della Sera. 16.01.1957, n° 14; anno 82. Milano: Corriere della Sera. "Washington assicura il suo appoggio ai programmi di intergrazione europea", auteur:Stille, Ugo , p. 1.

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Last updated: 05/07/2016

Washington pledges its support for European integration plans

According to an official statement from the State Department, these initiatives should strengthen the Atlantic Community and foster non-discriminatory multilateral trade and convertibility of currencies

From our correspondent

New York, 15 January.

In an official statement from the State Department, the United States Government this evening renewed its support for European integration and in particular for plans for the Common Market, which have now entered the decisive phase. Confirming this position, the statement says:

‘The attitude of the United States with respect to current Western European proposals for a common market and free trade area is determined by two traditional policies of the US Government: our consistent support for moves to further the political and economic strength and cohesion of Western Europe within an expanding Atlantic community and our long-standing devotion to progress toward freer non-discriminatory multilateral trade and convertibility of currencies.’

Invitation to the British

Further on in the statement, the State Department puts forward the view that Britain’s inclusion in plans for the Common Market and European integration would further strengthen the unity of the Atlantic Community and the free world.

Diplomatic observers in Washington are tonight highlighting two significant points in the American Government’s stance. The first is the explicit mention of European integration within the framework of the Atlantic Community. This seems to be shaped by a concern to nip in the bud any shift by Europeanism towards any kind of neutralism that would make Europe into a ‘third power’ standing apart from America.

Although stressing that they are sure that this has never been the intention of the promoters of European integration, who are, indeed, all traditional supporters of full understanding with America, the State Department’s spokesmen are well aware that the recent crisis in relations between the allies, caused by the events in Egypt, has revived currents of anti-Americanism in some European circles.

Washington is therefore keen to stress the idea that Europeanism and Atlanticism are not opposites but are complementary, part and parcel of a single process to consolidate the Western alliance. In this work of clarification, Washington is relying heavily on the personal action of the Belgian Foreign Minister, Mr Spaak.

The second interesting point in the State Department statement raises more or less the same problem, but from an economic point of view. It puts forward the American hope that the European Common Market will not lead to any trade or currency discrimination against the United States.

In short, the State Department is beginning to become aware in a more considered way of the difficulties and complex problems entailed in its ‘two-pedal policy’ (i.e. moving, at one and the same time, towards a stronger Atlantic community and towards rapprochement with the Afro-Asian bloc).

An example of the conflicting needs of these two areas of American policy emerged yesterday during the evidence given by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

There will be no war

Mr Dulles said, in substance, that if Congress were to endorse the Eisenhower policy, the probability of a conflict in the Middle East would be minimal; if not, however, it would be extremely high.

When Senator Estes Kefauver asked him why, on one hand, the Government was insisting that the defence of the Middle East was vital to keep Europe strong and why, on the other hand, he had not given the European countries any place in the Eisenhower programme for the Middle East, Mr Dulles replied that to do so would have doomed the US programme to failure from the outset, given the feelings currently prevailing in the Arab world.

While acting unilaterally and separately from Europe in the Middle East seems to the United States to be the only way of protecting the Afro-Asian block from Russian influence, Washington is also aware of the opposite danger that this raises, i.e. giving added force to those in Europe who would like to make it a 'third power' standing apart from America.

To avoid this, the US leaders are doing their utmost to seek reconciliation, both personal and political, with their European allies.

[...]

Ugo Stille