

‘The "European identity"' from L'Humanité (13 December 1973)

Caption: On 13 December 1973, commenting on the Copenhagen European Summit, the French Communist daily newspaper L'Humanité speculates on the future European identity.

Source: L'Humanité. Organe centrale du Parti communiste français. 13.12.1973. Paris: L'Humanité. "L'« identité européenne »", auteur:Moreau, Yves.

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European identity

Yesterday's surprise visit by Arab leaders to Copenhagen clearly caused some awkwardness at the opening of the summit conference of the nine Common Market countries.

Henry Kissinger's speech in Britain the day before had already provoked conflicting reactions in western European capitals. While London immediately welcomed the Secretary of State's suggestion that an 'energy action group' be set up, including Japan under American leadership, Paris saw Mr Kissinger's speech as an attempt to frustrate France's plans for talks between the Nine and the Arab states.

The arrival of the Arab states' representatives in Copenhagen seems to have caught French diplomacy on the hop. France's main concern now is that the Nine should speak to the Arabs 'with a single voice'.

As if it could possibly be in France's interest to make common cause with governments like that of the Netherlands which, for years, have systematically supported Israeli expansionism!

An energy agreement among the Nine would be directed against both the Arab countries and the workers of western Europe. As Georges Marchais pointed out at his press conference the day before yesterday, the Pompidou Government is **'using the oil crisis as a pretext to provoke an economic recession that will allow it to deal a serious blow to the employed and all strata of society except the monopoly capitalists.'** And the same applies to the other eight countries of the Common Market.

That being so, it is particularly laughable for the Nine to claim, as they did in the **'Declaration on European Identity'** adopted in Copenhagen, that they intend to **'build a society conceived from the outset as serving the people'**, when everything they do serves the interests of the big capitalists.

If *La Nation* is to be believed, the aim of the summit of the Nine is to **'define Europe ... independently of the United States'**. But the Declaration which Georges Pompidou signed in Copenhagen actually says something quite different. It states, for example, that 'the close links existing between the United States and the Europe of the Nine must be maintained.'

It even proclaims that **'there is currently no alternative to the security provided by the nuclear weapons of the United States and the presence of American forces in Europe.'** That is deliberately to ignore the prospects for transcending the bloc system and establishing collective European security. It means perpetuating the dangerous 'balance of terror' and the arms race. It signifies an inability to imagine little Europe otherwise than closely dependent on the Atlantic Alliance.

That, then, is the framework in which the Nine are working in Copenhagen to **'transform their relations into a European Union by the end of the decade.'**

And they are doing so immediately after Mr Kissinger abruptly ordered them back into line in his London speech.

'We do not accept', he said in peremptory fashion, 'the claim that the strengthening of Atlantic unity and the development of a European identity are incompatible.' And he also demanded that the opinion of the United States be sought before the Nine took any final decision.

The Copenhagen Declaration on 'European Identity' contains not a word of protest at America's wish to exercise strict control over European affairs. On the contrary, the most important passages in the Declaration give the American Secretary of State every reason for satisfaction.

So much so that on the 'European identity card' dreamed up by Mr Pompidou and his partners in Copenhagen, in the space reserved for 'distinguishing marks', we might safely write 'Atlantic Alliance'.

Yves Moreau