

Comments on the signing of the Élysée Treaty (22 January 1963)

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[Commentary] On 22 January 1963, the Franco-German Treaty was signed in Paris. De Gaulle spoke of a marriage that had been covenanted but was yet to be consummated. It is only in retrospect, once an appropriate amount of time has passed, that History judges the spirit of treaties and their effects. Did the two statesmen's dream come true?

[Maurice Couve de Murville] This Franco-German Treaty was a great dream that was fulfilled. It was de Gaulle's dream and it was certainly also Adenauer's.

[Gerhard Schröder] However, it must not be forgotten that this Treaty has been in force for more than 20 years, that it was drafted with great precision in many respects and that it has played a phenomenally important role in the development of Franco-German relations.