

‘The Schuman Plan, one step further towards war, was signed yesterday in Paris’ from L’Humanité (19 April 1951)

Caption: On 19 April 1951, the French Communist daily newspaper L’Humanité harshly criticises the signing of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and considers the numerous dangers of the Schuman Plan.

Source: L’Humanité. Organe Central du Parti Communiste Français. dir. de publ. Cachin, Marcel. 19.04.1951. Paris: L’Humanité. "Le plan Schuman, un pas de plus vers la guerre a été signé hier à Paris", p. 1; 3.

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The Schuman Plan, one step further towards war, was signed yesterday in Paris

In the French Foreign Ministry at the Quai d'Orsay the representatives of the mining barons and the steel kings of the six signatory countries of the 'Schuman Plan' yesterday initialled a pact which hands over to the American trusts the essential wealth produced by the workers of the Western European countries.

It is one more step towards the war to which the government of Truman, and those of Europe that are subservient to it, wish to lead their people.

Adenauer, the 'Chancellor' of the German imperialists and militarists, has not been slow to cry victory, and to point out that these raw materials are indispensable to modern warfare! And to lecture us thus: the Schuman Plan is the first step towards overcoming national selfishness. France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg are delegating their sovereign rights regarding coal and steel to a supranational body.

It is to taunt us in this way that Adenauer has been invited to Paris by his accomplice Schuman: to describe as 'national selfishness' the commitment of our people to their land and to the wealth that we wish to use to serve peace and the wellbeing of our children — as opposed to serving the cause of death, thus rewarding the gun merchants of America and Europe.

The body that has been set up is not 'supranational', as they would have us believe: it is American. The governments of the six signatory countries may well claim that they are delegating 'their sovereign rights'; such affirmations will remain a dead letter, and all the plans will merely be pieces of paper, if the people continue and strengthen the fight for peace.

It matters little to them that the 'Schuman Plan' has been printed on Dutch vellum, in French characters and with German ink. It is with the sweat and blood of the workers that they want it to be applied.

The eulogies from Washington, the statement from the Department of State (approved by Truman during his press conference) that affirmed yesterday that 'the signing of the Schuman Plan constitutes the most important event in Europe since the end of the war' are one more reason for the people to disown this signing and to unite in order to render inoperable this plot that the warmongers are waging against the peace-loving nations.