

## Press release on the convening of a European Assembly (London, 11 August 1948)

**Caption:** On 11 August 1948, the International Committee of the Movements for European Unity issues a press release giving details of the efforts that it has made among governments over the past three months to promote the establishment of a European Assembly.

**Source:** Archives historiques de l'Union européenne, Florence, Villa Il Poggiolo. Dépôts, DEP. ME Mouvement européen. Documents émanant du CICME concernant l'Assemblée européenne, ME 1052.

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Press Release No 2

## European Assembly. Latest Developments

Since the Congress of Europe at The Hague last May, at which a Resolution in favour of the early convocation of a European Assembly was unanimously adopted, the International Committee of Movements for European Unity, which was responsible for the organisation of the Congress, has made further progress towards the realisation of this aim.

It will be recalled that at the recent conference of foreign Ministers of the five Western Powers (also held at The Hague) the French Foreign Minister urged his colleagues to give the matter of the Assembly their sympathetic consideration.

A letter from the International Committee expressing the hope that their Governments would feel able to take the initiative in convoking the Assembly and offering the Committee's assistance was at the same time laid before the five Ministers.

The first reaction to this letter came on 29 th July from M. Spaak, Belgian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, in answer to a question addressed to him in the Belgian Senate by M. de la Vallée Poussin, one of The Hague Congress delegates. M. Spaak said:

“The idea of a European Parliamentary Assembly is good. It will be the organising Committee's task to draw up detailed plans for the elected Assembly. When those are ready and have been submitted to me, I am prepared to assist by laying them before other Governments and possibly interviewing in their favour through diplomatic channels”.

On 3rd August Mr. Duncan Sandys, Chairman, and Dr. J.H. Retinger, Secretary-General of I.C.M.E.U., visited Brussels at M. Spaak's invitation to discuss their proposals in greater detail. It is understood that M. Spaak made further suggestions as to the method of convocation of the Assembly.

The Brussels visit was followed on 6 th August by a meeting in Paris, when Mr. Sandys lunched with MM. Reynaud and Ramadier, both of whom had taken a prominent part in the proceedings of The Hague Congress and are now members of M. Marie's cabinet. Also present at the lunch were Mr. Leslie Hore-Belisha, Mr. Henry Hopkinson and M. de Menthon who was recently elected Chairman of the M.R.P.

The French Ministers received a full report on the conversation with M. Spaak, and themselves expressed the view that, following the adoption on 28 th July by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of a resolution calling for the creation of a European Constituent Assembly, the French.. Government would be in favour of the proposed European Assembly.

During his visit to this country last weekend, Mr. Spaak had a further meeting with Mr. Sandys.