

Memorandum on the organisation of the French Movement for the United States of Europe (1948)

Caption: In summer 1948, several eminent figures who participated in the Congress of Europe held in The Hague in the May decide to establish a 'French Movement for the United States of Europe' and devise a strategy in order to publicise it at local level. By immediately becoming a member of the French Council for a United Europe, this new non-political body automatically becomes part of the European Movement.

Source: Archives privées Guy de Rouville, Vabre (Tarn).

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The French Movement for the United States of Europe

I. Creation of an Interim Local Committee (to accommodate certain sensitivities).

Bring together, in this committee, enthusiastic people representing all political and religious positions, and the broadest possible social spectrum.

For example, a qualified representative from each major party; a company boss, a manager, a worker from the FO union and one from the CFTC, a shop owner, someone from the Rotary Club, a young person from the 40-45 war ; a young person from the youth movements, a representative from the teaching profession, anyone particularly noted for their knowledge of Europe, and so on.

It is unlikely that the CGT union will agree to take part.

II. Convene the committee to deal with organisational matters:

a. Posters. Will arrive from Paris. Add essential information

– date, time, venue, etc.

b. Invitations. It could be useful to have bulletins printed locally with the name of the Movement, the wording of the text shown below and, if possible, ending with: ‘The interim local committee with the list of members in alphabetical order’, for example.

Hand deliver as many as possible of these bulletins. Do not hesitate to post to local areas.

Do not forget the federations of the political parties of all the employer, trade and business unions and associations, bank and company managers, heads of department in local government, the Town Hall, the Chamber of Commerce and of Trades, representatives of various religious groups, youth movements, students preparing to enter university, sporting and travel groups, the media.

c. Plan to have, at the conference venue, tables set up for a membership drive during the interval and at the end. Between the two conferences there will be an interval to allow people to sign up, pay a membership fee and talk to the speakers and members of the local bureau in the foyer of the theatre or cinema. Committed young people should be found with pens to take the enrolments. Membership forms and the initial membership card will be sent from Paris.

Also plan for the possibility of collecting donations in one or more boxes, to cover expenses.

d. Do not forget to place an advertisement for the meeting in the local press and all the regional newspapers; if possible, at least in the local press, publish a short article explaining our aims and include a list of all the members of the local committee at the end of the advertisement.

People will only turn up if the publicity is well done.

e. In principle we could reserve the orchestra seats and the first rows of the balcony for people holding ‘INVITATIONS’.

Draft layout

French Movement for the United States of Europe

Major public information meetings:

– The Future European Institutions, by Mr Victor Marre, Naval Engineer, French Delegate to the Hague

Congress.

– How should Europe be organised?, by Mr René Courtin, Professor, Paris Law Faculty.