

Letter from Joseph Retinger on the EPU's attendance at the Hague Congress (London, 15 April 1948)

Caption: On 15 April 1948, Joseph Retinger, Secretary-General of the International Committee of the Movements for European Unity, sends to Ronald Mackay, Labour MP and leader of the British Section of the European Parliamentary Union (EPU), a letter notifying him of the reluctance of some European activists to give Count Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, founder of the Pan-European Movement and leader of the EPU, an overly conspicuous position at the Congress of Europe held in May in The Hague.

Source: Archives historiques de l'Union européenne, Florence, Villa Il Poggiolo. Dépôts, DEP. ME Mouvement européen. Préparation du Congrès de l'Europe devant se tenir à La Haye du 07 au 10/05/1948, ME 1175.

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15th April, 1948

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Herewith a copy of the Political Report for the Hague Congress. I also enclose the first draft of the Resolution proposing its adoption, on which I should be glad of your comments.

I shall be submitting the programme of speeches to the International Committee for final approval at its meeting at The Hague on May 5th. As we decided after lunch yesterday, I am putting your name down to propose a political resolution at the opening session of the Political Committee on Saturday, 8th May.

I am anxious to give Coudenhove-Kalergi an opportunity to make a speech in a plenary session, so that he may receive the acclamation of the Congress which is his due for his long years of pioneer work in the wilderness.

I proposed to our International Committee last week that he should be invited to speak during the opening session on the first day, but I came up against strong opposition on personal grounds. [...]

Resolution

That this Congress expresses its general agreement with the Political Report submitted to it and urges Governments to adopt forthwith the immediate measures advocated in Part II (as amended in Committee).