

Telex from the British Foreign Office on Paul Hoffman's criticism of the position adopted by the British Government with regard to European economic integration (18 February 1950)

Caption: On 18 February 1950, the British Foreign Office sends a telex to its representation in the United States outlining the criticism voiced in the national press by Paul Hoffman, US Administrator of the Economic Cooperation Administration (ECA), concerning the reluctant stance adopted by the British Labour Party and His Majesty's Government with regard to European economic integration.

Source: The National Archives of the United Kingdom, [s.l.], Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>, Records created and inherited by the Foreign Office, FO. European integration: economic and political union of Europe including Britain is desired by USA 1950, FO 371/87137.

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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/telex_from_the_british_foreign_office_on_paul_hoffman_s_criticism_of_the_position_adopted_by_the_british_government_with_regard_to_european_economic_integration_18_february_1950-en-ab7fbaa2-4f76-4789-aad5-990c9abd7c50.html

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Telex from the Foreign Office on US criticism of the British Government's attitude to European economic integration (18 February 1950)

European Reconstruction Distribution

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FRAME

Addressed to Washington telegram No. 973 of 18th February, and to U.K. Del. New York, repeated for information Saving to O.E.E.C. Paris (U.K. Del.).

My telegram No. 972 [18th February]. Report by Alastair Cooke in Manchester Guardian.

Mr. Hoffman is reported to have said the following about His Majesty's Government: "They can't make up their mind about an economic federation. They don't know if they want one, and secondly, if there is going to be one on the Continent, whether they should take part in it. In the meantime they are torpedoing our efforts towards achieving an integrated economy in Western Europe. The Conservatives strongly favour the federation. Winston Churchill said that publicly several months ago in a major speech. The plain fact is the Conservatives are much more interested in an integrated economy in Europe than the Labour Government."

2. He is further said to have blamed the Labour Government for the hesitancy of France which "is understandably reluctant to take the lead in setting up an economic union if Britain won't join".