

A Sample Commentary by Heinz Frentzel, Chief of the Foreign Affairs
Section (September 22, 1952):

"Good evening !

"Looking back at what has happened during the past twelve days in Strasbourg, one comes to the conclusion that the situation has changed considerably and noticeably. The fact that the European Coal & Steel Community will prepare a draft treaty for a federation or confederation of the six countries presently participating actually constitutes a fundamental advance pointing towards a supranational political union of European countries.

"Developments of such eminent political importance as this one - once they have been introduced - usually produce their own strong dynamics. You cannot turn them back; they move on steadily, at their own speed. The expressed confidence shown by the Belgian Socialist Paul Henri Spaak, President of the Coal and Steel Community, with regard to the success of this undertaking is, therefore, absolutely justified. It is, however, not advisable to expect too much and above all not to expect it too quickly.

"The debate of the free European nations here in Strasbourg revealed that even the most eager advocates of the political federation for the six Coal and Steel Community countries will not create an exclusive and self-sufficient federal state or a federation of states, but that the intended political union is to be effected in close contact with the other free European nations which are not yet participating in the Community. This union shall be nothing more than the nucleus from which an all European union could develop gradually.

"Therefore the countries not willing to participate in the planned supranational union of the six have been given an influential voice, but, of course, no right to vote.

"The fact that Great Britain, the Scandinavian and the Southeast European countries will also have a voice, will play a decisive role with regard to the speed and the extent of the political union of the countries of the Coal and Steel Community.

"There is not the slightest reason for regretting this fact, on the contrary, it will lead to a reasonable medium course between precipitation and hesitation, and, as we hope, our own great national interest - the reunification of Germany - will be duly considered.

"As far as the union itself is concerned, there are - apart from quite a few obstacles lying ahead - two possibilities: either a federal state will be created as suggested by a committee of constitutional experts, or a federation of states will arise which would maintain part of their sovereignty for the time being, but would execute defense and foreign policy jointly on a supranational basis.

"However, there is no reason for the exclusive creation of either the one or the other. A federation of states of this kind will not be enough for the governments of the participating countries, and a perfect federal state is hardly realizable for the time being. Possibly planning in the future will point towards a more united federation of states showing a tendency toward a federal state development.

"Within the next six months we will certainly know more about it. Such a supranational federation would and should, of course, allow the free nations to join it any time. In particular, this federation should guarantee close contacts with Great Britain.

"An isolated, self-sufficient Continental European community is impossible; it can only exist and develop if from the very beginning it intends to strengthen cooperation with the other nations represented in the European Council as well as with the British Commonwealth and the Atlantic Community. And this, too, is the wish of the fathers and advocates of this federation and the premise on which the success of this undertaking will depend.

"If both participating groups prepare a draft treaty for a political union of the six countries of the Coal and Steel Community - with due respect for the views of the other participants - a solution will be found which will not only satisfy both the partners (this would not be enough) but will lead to an ever increasing prosperity of the continent, coupled with the strengthening of its defensive capacity and the will of free Europe to maintain its position.

Good Evening!"