

OUR EUROPE (translated from the French version)

Is further from its goal, UNIFICATION, than the American states were under Washington. The problem of well-established sovereigns and the old enmities that have developed over the last ten centuries remains to be solved. At least ninety per cent of Europeans are in favor of an united Europe, and the desire for a Europe without borders and customs barriers has never been so strong. This ideal Europe, however, is currently being built under the laws of politics and slow diplomacy.

People talk in the capitals,
they are discussing in Strasbourg,
it is argued in parties and organizations.

But what actions are they taking?

Our aim is not to minimize what has been done so far: the Marshall Plan, the O.E.C.E., the Schuman plan, the preparation of a common defence of Europe, are milestones that are being set on the road that must lead us to a united Europe. In all Western countries, federalist associations were created, actively supported by courageous people. All tend towards the same goal. And yet the sacred spark seems to be missing both individuals and politicians.

WHO DID THE MOST FOR EUROPE?

Should we name the ruler of the Kremlin first? He, at least, has raised a common fear in Europe. This fear has given us the certainty that our fate is inextricably linked and that we must defend our common cultural heritage, our common way of life, our common homeland. Second, we must mention not the Europeans, but the Americans. After Stalin's negative influence, it was the Marshall Plan that first contributed to the unification of Europe.

The Americans are Europeans who have emigrated, but they have left Europe long enough to forget what we think is so important to us who have stayed there.

They judge with enough distance to understand that there are more important motives than fear to serve as the basis for a united Europe.

Free from prejudice in Europe,
strengthened by their federalist past,

Americans can look at the problem from a certain distance.

This is the basis that Europeans are missing and which we need to give them.

IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE REALIZATION OF THIS IDEAL that « a land » is being created that all Europeans can consider their own,

Where European issues can be discussed without mutual distrust and without hurting national sensitivities. If such an area existed, you would see the power that the common ideal would unfold and, like all obstacles on the way there, would quickly collapse.

LET'S SOLVE THE PROBLEM IN A PRACTICAL WAY and let's do what can be done most easily first. This tangible reality is this small territory of all Europeans.

THIS EUROPEAN LAND,

free of any nationalism,

free of partisan doctrine,

a platform for freedom of opinion,

a construction site for those who want to build ONE Europe,

a framework encouraging the mutual growth of the European idea. This will be a decisive step towards European unification and the ideal will replace fear. Those who desperately want Europe will have their « home ». They will no longer feel like guests of a foreign country, looked at with suspicion. Their faith in the future will lead others to follow them. And the spark that is missing will be born.

HERE'S OUR PLAN:

At the heart of Europe is the city of

WISSEMBOURG

in ALSACE,

very close to the German border. There are few places in Europe where borders have changed so often as here and where so many battlefields of these thousand years of fratricide wars adjoin. Nowhere else did a border appear to me as superfluous as this one. On both sides, the beautiful mountains of the Vosges, the same charming villages, the same people speaking the same language, and yet the border separates relatives and friends.

This harmonious landscape represents the earth and the sky of Europe so well that the French and Germans seem to have wanted to respect the will of the Divine Architect by diverting the Maginot and Siegfried lines, one towards the south, the other to the north. This fact is almost symbolic for the destiny of this territory; after centuries of struggle, Wissembourg should become the place of reconciliation and the origin of a united Europe.

THERE'S A LOT OF FRONTIERS IN EUROPE,

but none is as crucial to our continent as the one that separates Germany and France. Today we can tell that on this border the decision for or against the new Europe will be made. One can imagine many Europes, and with a hundred Europeans you will perhaps find a hundred different ideas about Europe. But all of them will admit that Europe is inconceivable without France and Germany.

THERE ARE MANY CITIES IN EUROPE,

Larger and more important than the modest city of Wissembourg. But it is precisely because they are so vast and so important that traditions of national pride are attached to them; and the greater their national importance, the less appropriate they are to represent a united Europe.

Wissembourg, on the other hand, surrounded by French Alsace and the German Palatinate, has never been much more than a small controversial subject. The national pride that we encounter there, which we must take into account as realists, cannot prevent France and Germany from pushing back their political border posts, one to the south, the other to the north, in order to give away this plot of territory to the new Europe.

THIS APPEAL IS ADDRESSED TO MEN AND WOMEN OF FRANCE AND GERMANY,

who have the heavy responsibility for the future of Europe, so that you may have the courage to renounce certain administrative rights in the territory that surrounds Wissembourg, so that it becomes a European land, while waiting for the day when your two countries will be part of the great Europe.

THIS EXEMPLARY ACTION

will prove to Europeans that statesmen have the cause of European unification at heart; that they not only discuss, but also act; it's the action that counts. By creating the nucleus of tomorrow's Europe, we will demonstrate the goodwill needed to create a center of unity.

Let us accept the real meaning of the name and emblem of Wissembourg. By bringing this name back to its primary meaning, we make it translatable in all languages and at the same time we have the emblem for a European federal land.

T h e n a m e o f t h e d i s t r i c t i s

THE WHITE CASTLE

LE BOURG BLANC

DIE WEISSE BURG

and its

S Y M B O L - the emblem of Wissembourg - is

THE WHITE DOOR TOWARDS THE FUTURE

flanked by impressive towers.

The federal land that should be created should not escape the existing administrations, represented in France by the sub-prefect of Wissembourg, in Germany by the Landrat of Bergzabern. However, in view of the common tasks, they should find an agreement, supported by a delegate that the French and German governments would annually elect within European organizations.

The current border, which would no longer exist as a political border, should not stop limiting the power of national tax administrations. Every European will be able to come to the White Castle, but we don't want to create a no-man's land or even a centre of attraction for dubious individuals. The solution to customs and monetary problems could be found under the current « border traffic » regulation.

We want to create a European spiritual home and not a new, economically independent territory. We will therefore see the formation of a geographical and intellectual enclave in which responsible statesmen will see on a daily basis that their creative cooperation and friendly relations are real facts and no longer actions of governments that face almost insurmountable obstacles. The results could only be excellent.

The platform for freedom of opinion,

The freedom in the field of European scientific research,

The germ containing the possibility of natural growth,

are things that can be realized.

WE CAN NOT WAIT UNTIL THAT UNIFIED EUROPE IS BORN at the conference table after endless negotiations.

SOMETHING TANGIBLE NEEDS TO BE ACHIEVED. We must accomplish what is accessible today, following the path of the least resistance, in order to ward off evil fate.

WISSEMBOURG, the « WHITE CASTLE »

Will become the expression of the European idea, perceptible to men everywhere, free from any national reserve,

Free from envy and suspicion,

A solid foundation for building a better future.

ON THIS EUROPEAN LAND,

We will see the living forces of our two nations converge for understanding and joint action:

European federalists, youth associations, employee and employer organizations, war veterans, war mothers and widows, students, artists, scholars - in short, all people of good will, all those who want to forget all that has separated us.

TO ALL OF YOU, TO YOU EUROPEANS,

addresses this call.

Consider this plan, accept it and insist that, driven by public opinion and won over by the idea of

WHITE CASTLE

Responsible politicians give us our

« E u r o p e a n L a n d ».

Paris and Godesberg, in July 1952