

proclamation establishing the common market in Western Europe for coal under the terms of the Schuman Plan, to be followed in April by the common market for steel. By these arrangements a start has been made in eliminating customs barriers and price discrimination in these vital materials over a vast area inhabited by millions of people. Today the European coal and steel community begins what should develop into close and fruitful European collaboration in the economic field.

In the conception and in the working out of this new supranational body, because that is what it is, Europe owes a great deal to the brilliance and energy of M. Jean Monnet, the first head of the high authority of the Schuman Plan, and also to the courage and initiative of M. Robert Schuman himself. M. Schuman has shown a remarkable capacity for reaching out to new concepts and bold designs. There are still many obstacles to overcome in the development of European integration, but the very fact that we can speak of the possibility of such integration at all is due in large part to M. Schuman's unsparing efforts to reach an understanding with the neighbours of France beyond the Rhine. I have every confidence that his distinguished successor as Foreign Minister of France M. Bidault, will continue this task with equal success.

Such, ... is the picture very roughly and inadequately sketched, and with many omissions, some of which I have no doubt will be pointed out in the course of this debate.

The picture continues to give cause for concern, but in some respects it is, I think, a shade brighter than when I spoke last June. Uncertainty and anxiety still darken the general design. We still live in a world which is groping for unity and peace. It is true, and we have been reminded of it with increasing vehemence recently, that the leaders of Soviet Communism are prepared to offer the world "unity" and "peace", but what unity what peace and at what price? If it is simply the acceptance of Soviet domination, and the relinquishing of our liberty, that price is too high and there can be no bargaining on that basis. For us, and for all people who value freedom at its true worth, that is a price which we shall not pay. But there is no reason for despair. We must, and I am sure we can, with patience and perseverance and the right use of our growing strength, discover another and a better way of finding a durable peace within the framework of freedom.

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