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EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

I. The Association of the Federal Republic of Germany with the West

The outstanding development of the year in Europe was the conclusion in London and Paris of arrangements for an acceptable alternative to the European Defence Community.

For the first half of the year, hopes were held that the European Defence Community would materialize. There had, however, been growing indications of dissatisfaction in France, and after the fall of the Laniel Government on June 13 and the accession to power of Mr. Mendès-France it became apparent that the French Parliament was unlikely to approve the treaty in its existing form. Accordingly, at the suggestion of the French Prime Minister, a meeting of the six signatory states was held in Brussels on August 19 to consider modifications in the treaty designed to make it more acceptable to France. It proved impossible to reach agreement, and on August 30 the French National Assembly rejected the treaty. The EDC states, nevertheless, remained in substantial accord on their principal aims—"to tighten European co-operation to protect Western Europe against the forces threatening it; to avoid any neutralization of Germany; to contribute to the unification of Germany and to her participation in the common defence; to draw up a political and economic formula for Western integration."

The United Kingdom accordingly convened at London on September 28 a conference of nine powers—Belgium, Canada, France, the German Federal Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

A settlement was reached calling for the termination of the occupation régime in the Federal Republic of Germany, which would thus become fully sovereign; for a recasting of the Brussels Treaty of 1948 to include the German Federal Republic and Italy in a new Western European Union, having power to limit and control armaments of the continental members and serving as a focus for European unity and co-operation; and for admission of the German Federal Republic to NATO, the machinery of which would be strengthened to ensure its effective use in the defence of Europe. An agreement on the Saar, reached in separate discussions at Paris between the French Prime Minister and the German Chancellor, is considered by the countries most directly concerned to be an integral part of the settlement.

Agreement on the essential issues involved compromises and commitments by the states most directly concerned. The United Kingdom made an outstanding contribution by initiating the discussions and by promising to maintain forces on the European continent. Equally important were French agreement to German membership in NATO, and the