

SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS made by Gen. De Gaulle at a press conference on 21 December 1951:

General De Gaulle gave an outline of his party's views on European unity and the formation of a European Army at a press conference on December 21, 1951, in which he had strongly criticized both the Schuman and Pleven Plans in their present form.

Three conditions, he said, were necessary for a European Federation which would be able to defend itself: (1) a strong France able to carry out a continuous policy; (2) the firm incorporation of Germany into European institutions, in order to abolish the danger of German hegemony; (3) a Franco-German understanding, brought about by direct negotiations between the heads of the two States, as the basis of European federation. The R.P.F., he declared, favoured the formation of a European Confederation in which each country would have equal rights and would contribute its own forces under clearly defined mutual obligations, so that "no one country could ever seek a position of hegemony over the rest." Condemning the Schuman and Pleven Plans as "substitutes" and "caricatures" which, he contended, "might endanger European unity by arousing popular disgust with unworkable schemes," he declared that the Schuman Plan might lead to France's being flooded with cheap goods from Germany and the Benelux countries, whilst the Pleven Plan eliminated the "essential national spirit," provided for "an army of infantrymen" which would be only an instrument of "another country," and was bound eventually to result in the revival of the German Army whilst abolishing the national armies of other countries, notably of France. Commenting on Britain's decision to take no part in either plan, he maintained that Britain had no intention of joining any movement for European unity, and recalled that Mr. Churchill had said to him during the war: "If I have to choose between you and Roosevelt, I'll choose Roosevelt, and if I have to choose between Europe and the open sea, I always choose the open sea." General De Gaulle also criticized the U.S.A. for using excessive pressure in favour of European unity, and suggested that U.S. officials should "use greater restraint in the way they treat Europeans, especially in Paris."