

E X T R A C T

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Source: Department of State Memorandum of Conversation  
dated 18 March 1959

Subject: United States and German Commercial Policy

Participants: Mr. Heinrich Kronstein, Professor of Law, Georgetown University  
Mr. William H. Bray, GEA  
Mr. Albert C. Cisanskas, GEA

Common Market

Professor Kronstein recalled that Dr. Ludwig Erhard, Minister of Economics, in the Federal Republic, had expressed fears during his earlier trip to the United States in 1954 that the Common Market might evolve into a high-tariff, protectionist customs union. Professor Kronstein claimed that Dr. Erhard attributed much of the impetus behind the formation of the Common Market to the United States which had only itself to blame if the EEC were to develop along these lines. The visitor was reminded that it was the responsibility of the member countries of the Common Market, of which the Federal Republic was one, to develop their association along liberal, trade-creating lines as originally intended. The political implications of the Common Market were also mentioned. Professor Kronstein acknowledged these points, but he was apprehensive that the Chancellor's desire to accommodate the French would permit them to indulge their protectionist tendencies in the Common Market.

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