Dear General Donovan,

As you have asked me, I will summarize briefly for you and the American Committee on United Europe the recent events which have brought Western Europe a long step closer to federal union.

In the short time which has passed since I addressed some of your members in New York last May, two events of prime importance for European unity have occurred: the institutions of the Schuman Plan have begun to operate, and a special Assembly has, at the invitation of the six governments concerned, launched the work of preparing the Statute for a supranational Political Authority.

These developments are very encouraging, but they are for us the starting point of a difficult and challenging task.

By ratifying the Treaty constituting the Coal and Steel Community, the parliaments of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands decided - after mature deliberation and by substantial majorities - to merge part of their national sovereignties and subordinate them to the common interest. For the first time in our history, a European institution - the High Authority - is empowered to take decisions which are immediately applicable throughout the entire territory of the six countries. The High Authority is responsible, not to the six governments, but to a European Assembly whose members vote as individuals; and the acts of the Authority are reviewable only before a European Court of Justice.
These institutions of federal character have provided Europe with the means to create a single market for coal and steel. Within a few months the High Authority will eliminate all the customs duties and like restrictions within the Community. Cartels, which hamper production, must be dissolved and replaced by healthy competition - for the Schuman Treaty under which we operate is Europe's first anti-trust law. In carrying out the duties assigned to us under the Treaty we shall thus create the conditions necessary to increase the production and lower the prices of these basic resources.

The Coal and Steel Community is the beginning of a revolution in Europe's economic and political life. The Treaty of the European Defense Community, which will establish a common European army, has been signed and has been put before the parliaments of the six countries for ratification. The governments of the six countries have recognized that if these Communities are to be fully effective, they must be placed under a common Political Authority. Accordingly, they have asked the members of the Coal and Steel Assembly to form with some of the delegates to the consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe a special Assembly that will draft a constitution for Europe. This draft constitution is expected to be ready for submission to the Ministers and the parliaments of the six countries early next year.

In this manner we are proceeding to build a United States of Europe. Because Americans understand the importance of this, for themselves as well as for Europe, they have supported and encouraged our efforts. The aid and encouragement of Americans which is marshalled by the American Committee on United Europe has done much to strengthen this great undertaking. Your continued support, now more crucial than ever, will help us greatly to advance toward the full realization of our plans.

Cordially yours,

General William DONOVAN,
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Jean Monnet.