PROPOSED DRAFT

Dear Mr. President:

Recently the British Cabinet reached the decision to recommend to the Council of Foreign Ministers that the heavy industry of Germany be socialized under international control and supervision. We are writing to you, Mr. President, to express our strong conviction that this is one of the most constructive proposals which has been made in the cause of European stabilization and sound reconstruction. Further, we would respectfully urge upon you the issuing of an early and vigorous public statement pledging American support of this proposal as the most effective means of preserving and extending democracy in Europe.

We are convinced that we can create a stable Europe in a peaceful and healthy world only if our insistence on the principles of political democracy in the liberated and former Axis countries is complemented by equally constructive economic proposals. Given the chaos and disintegration to which fascism and war have brought Europe, such a constructive economic program can flow only from the immediate and most efficient mobilization of the basic economic and industrial machinery to support the life and health of the peoples of Europe. These proposals, moreover, suggest a means of reconstructing central Europe without fostering the rekindling of German expansionism and aggression.

We appreciate that Americans may differ as to the merits of a completely free enterprise system in a country as wealthy as our own. But that is not the issue in Europe today. Any efforts on our part to insist upon a revival of such an economy in Germany will surely lead to the defeat of our democratic political concepts there perhaps elsewhere as well.

The recent Berlin elections demonstrate that the German people, chastened by twelve years of dictatorship and military defeat, want both economic security and political freedom. If our policy fails to offer hope of economic reconstruction on the only grounds European impoverishment can afford, it can certainly be expected that the appeal of security without freedom will be irresistible.

Respectfully yours,

Honorable Harry S. Truman, President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

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