

ADDRESS

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PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
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(Summary for the Press)

The European Community has no symbol, no flag, no anthem, no parades and no sovereign. It has no means of integration which appeal to the senses, to the eye or the ear.

This befits the style of our Community, the style of plain, hard, undramatic work which still earns us the reputation of being technicians, even technocrats. Our activity is founded on reason rather than on emotion, our strength is our readiness to recognize facts rather than myths, our struggles are discussions, not the unloosing of passion.

But let us interrupt for a moment the rapid pace of our advance and cast a glance behind us. Once again we see ourselves on that fine spring morning five years ago in the splendid hall of the Horatii and Curiatii on the Capitol in Rome, before the cameras of the world press as we set our signatures to the Treaty which is the very Constitution of our Community. Once again we feel the deep joy and triumph of thus putting the final touch to a great work. Once again the panorama of the past unfolds before our eyes: the founding of the Coal and Steel Community, the Messina Conference, the work in the Château de Val Duchesse in Brussels, the Venice Conference. And finally our glance takes in the astonishing sequence of events since the Treaty came into force on January 1, 1958: the fulfilment and the development of its content with a vigour and a rapidity which have exceeded all our expectations.

Our Community has proved itself: its organization has stood up to all the demands - frequently very heavy - that have been made upon it. Co-operation between the various institutions - the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers, the Commission and the Court of Justice - has been successfully established; with some unimportant exceptions the substantial content of the Treaty has been respected. The Community has proved its vitality and drive by achieving many of its aims before the dates laid down in the Treaty, including, for example, the reduction of internal customs duties, the moves towards the common external tariff, and the abolition of quantitative restrictions, to which must be added, at the beginning of this year, the move into the second stage of the Treaty's transition period.

The recognition accorded to our Community is in line with these successes. It is most evident in the applications from other European States to join the Community and the applications from certain States, not all of them Europeans, to be associated with it. A no less striking expression of this recognition is the fact that the great initiative taken by the President of the United States for the recasting of the whole trade - indeed the whole economic policy - of the Atlantic area is addressed to a Europe in the process of achieving unity, which is called upon to be the future partner in this undertaking.

European unity is first and foremost a work of freedom. Not violence, coercion, or threats, but persuasion has overcome the resistance of habit. Appeal was made not to force but to reason, to wisdom, and to solidarity. This is why our work is an enterprise of great daring, a triumph of creative imagination, which refused to be cramped by the legacy of the past, but which is none the less balanced and restrained.

It is with European decisiveness that our Community places itself at the service of mankind. The preamble to our Treaty sets out its guiding ideas: greater economic and social progress, and the constant improvement of the living and working conditions of the peoples. The Community serves no ideology, no pressure group; it serves us all, and its aim is to further well-being and civilization everywhere. We have not forgotten, finally, nor shall we forget, in anything we do, that one of the noblest features of Europe's culture is its universality.

We are reminded only too clearly that the political units in terms of which we were used to thinking are hopelessly out of date and behind the times. To become stronger through unity is not only in Europe's interest, it is Europe's duty.

At present the political sphere in which European integration operates is confined to economic and social policy. But we are waiting impatiently for our work to be translated into other political fields as well. Such a development would represent an advance, in that it would ensure the full development of our Community on the same basis as hitherto and further open new fields to common European action. May the day soon come when we celebrate not just one stage on the road to European unity, the day which we shall be able to celebrate as the birthday of Europe in the full sense of the word.