

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EUROPEAN UNITY

Summary of an address by Professor Walter Hallstein,  
President of the Commission of the  
European Economic Community  
to Dutch students on April 2, 1962 in The Hague

The move to Stage Two of the EEC transition period and the approval of the Regulation on a common agricultural policy were a double breakthrough, declared President Walter Hallstein in The Hague on April 2, 1962. In the first place, the Community had now entered the stage of common policy, the stage of economic union, and secondly a common solution had been reached in the field of agriculture, which was the most difficult sector that remained to be settled. Moreover, entry into Stage Two also strengthened the Community's institutions, since the principle of majority voting would gain in importance.

Looking back, it could be seen that the customs union was now secure. In making its acceleration decision the Community had given proof of its vitality in this particular field. The problem of industrial quotas had been solved so radically that it had almost fallen into oblivion. Infringements of the Treaty had remained in narrow limits: they arose from differences in the interpretation of the Treaty and were fairly evenly spread among the Member States.

At the beginning of his address President Hallstein, who was accompanied by M. Bernard M. Snulders, a Director-General of the EEC Commission, paid tribute to the Netherlands' specific and typical contribution to the evolution of the Community. He stressed the Dutch gift for internal conciliation as it emerged, for instance, from co-operation between both sides of industry or from the country's economic policy, and he mentioned Holland's tradition of keeping its doors open to the world. President Hallstein pointed out that Europe had benefited from Holland's agricultural talents in the person of Dr. Sicco L. Mansholt, a Vice-President of the Commission. He said that Dr. Mansholt had rendered historic service to Europe's agriculture.

A decisive turn had taken place in the Community's external relations. Great Britain's application for membership was an outward sign of this. The Community was recognized as an attempt to adapt the internal organization of Europe to the sweeping political and technological changes which had taken place. President Kennedy's call for partnership between the European Community and the United States challenged Europe to bring the Community to full maturity so that it should be able to meet the demands of such a partnership in world responsibility.

In conclusion President Hallstein referred to the endeavours to establish a political community and said that the existence of the Community, which had political aims - in the field of general economic policy - as well as political instruments, meant that the desired political unification of Europe had already been partially achieved. What had been won must be maintained at all cost; it was essential that a political union must go on beyond what was already won. This did not necessarily mean that the same forms would have to be used for political co-operation. Political integration would become easier as Europe becomes an entity feeling and acting in concert. Possibly this process could be expedited by the political opinions expressed by the European Parliament. Two things were of decisive importance: there must be no retrogression, and there would be no step forward unless an effort of will were made. This will, however, was not only a matter for the Governments acting in co-operation with the institutions of the Community; in the last resort it sprang from the heart of the men and women who were the Community's citizens.