

No. 28/1978

November 14, 1978

CARTER AND TWO EUROPEAN LEADERS SALUTE JEAN MONNET

President Carter last week sent a 90th birthday message to Jean Monnet. The full text of the letter is as follows:

The White House Washington

To Jean Monnet

I salute you on your 90th birthday -- an occasion for celebration on both sides of the Atlantic. For many decades you have been one of the world's foremost leaders in helping to create the foundation of a United Europe. Your goals have always been world peace, equality among peoples, economic prosperity and, most important, uniting individuals on the basis of common interests and mutual respect.

Much of your dream has already come true: The European Coal and Steel Community, Euratom, and the European Economic Community have brought nations and peoples of Western Europe closer together than ever before in cooperative effort. I am proud that the United States has consistently supported these moves toward European unity. Your hope that the United Kingdom would join the European Community has come to pass, and we now hope that direct elections to the European Parliament will involve Western European peoples ever more directly in the Community's development.

I wish to express my deep admiration for your unique and vital contribution in creating this increasingly United Europe. And I want to underscore your special achievement in fostering the enduring relationship between the United States and Western Europe.

As Europe moves toward new forms of unity -- whether in political, economic, or monetary affairs -- you can count on the United States to maintain and strengthen that relationship. The stronger and more united Western Europe becomes, the more opportunities for effective partnership open up between all the main industrial regions. The summit meetings in which Europe, Japan, and North America come together to concert their economic policies are, in a very real sense, a tribute to you. I hope that we will now be as ingenious in finding new ways to improve this inter-continental cooperation as you were in promoting unity in Europe.

Few men have left such a profound impact on their time. Few have been so innovative, in creating institutions which strengthen peace and prosperity.

Your profound knowledge of the United States, combined with your energy, vision, and deep commitments, make you a true Atlantic, as well as European statesman.

On behalf of the American People and Government, I salute you.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter

You have my best personal wishes and my thanks

Two European leaders President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France and Chancellor Schmidt of the Federal Republic of Germany also send birthday greetings.

* Letter from President Valery Giscard d'Estaing to M. Jean Monnet
November 9, 1978

At the time of your 90th birthday, I am particularly pleased to send you my warmest personal congratulations. I would also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of our nation, to pay a tribute to the great Frenchman and the great European which you are. France remembers the services which you have given during the two World Wars toward an alliance of democracies and on behalf of its freedom.

France has not forgotten that, after it was liberated, you became the architect of the reconstruction of its economy, with the team you had gathered at the Planning Commission.

France also knows the decisive role you have played in the birth of Europe, because it is part of history and because results are already felt in our present times.

In your Memoirs, you mentioned the reasons which made you plan this role during the crucial weeks of Spring 1950: the Cold War extended its shadow on the world; Europe -- still wounded and disabled -- seemed resigned to see her future being decided without her; France herself was uncertain, confused. It seemed impossible to find a way out of a situation irrevocably set toward decline.

This was the time when, thanks to well matured ideas and aided by a rare conviction, you won the support of Robert Schuman, then of Konrad Adenauer.

The course of events was changed. France recovered its ability to act. Franco-German relations took a different direction, lost their fatality and became the source of a new impulse. Europeans became confident again and felt sure enough of themselves to pave the way for their own future.

From that time, European construction was born. As you have written: "When an idea corresponds to the needs of a period, it stops belonging to those who invented it, it becomes stronger than those who are responsible for it." The undertaking which you started followed along the lines of your predictions. It has been pursued for more than a quarter of a century, through changing circumstances and in various forms, and thanks particularly to the actions of those who led our country, it has acquired its own life. It is up to the Europeans of today to make sure that this undertaking will progress in the context of the circumstances and problems of present times.

But it is not simply an undertaking to be continued and perfected which you leave us with. You also leave us with an example to be studied: that of a man who has shown us that there is no fatality for those who can use lucid analysis, bright imagination and a strong will in a great cause.

France is proud that such a man was hers.

M. President, please allow me to express, with my warmest congratulations, my heartfelt wishes to yourself and your family.

Valery Giscard d'Estaing

* Message from Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany to M. Jean Monnet:

M. President, Dear M. Monnet,

On the occasion of your 90th birthday, allow me to send you my warmest congratulations.

As the forerunner and pioneer of European unification, you can be proud today to find that in spite of many problems, the European Community is one of our century's most important political facts. In the Community framework, France and Germany cooperate more closely than they ever have during their common history.

Europe will continue to grow in the direction you have given it, as proven by renewed efforts toward a common monetary system, as well as the direct elections to the European Parliament which will take place for the first time in June 1979, and the enlargement of the Community by three other democratic nations, to take place in the near future.

A democratic system needs solid, strong institutions; it needs active parties and social groups; but it needs above all responsible citizens. Few are those, such as yourself, who have had the opportunity to work as not only citizens of their country, with acumen, efficiency, courage and determination in the interests of their own nation, but at the same time toward greater European unity. Whoever works for Europe is grateful for your achievements. You have given us an outstanding example of the significance of responsible, creative political action, and of the important results such action can have.

M. President, Dear M. Monnet, allow me to express my gratitude...

Helmut Schmidt