

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY  
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NOTE ON PRESIDENT HALLSTEIN'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

May 12 - 24, 1961

Dr. Walter Hallstein, President of the Commission of the European Economic Community, visited the United States from Friday, May 12, through Wednesday, May 24, 1961. During this time he met with United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, President John F. Kennedy, three Cabinet officers, the acting Secretary of State, and other officials of the U. S. Government, as well as labor leaders, educators, and leading representatives of the business community in the U. S. President Hallstein met the members of the press as a group on four occasions, delivered three major public speeches, and addressed four other groups in off-the-record sessions.

Following the 40-minute meeting between Presidents Hallstein and Kennedy, a joint communiqué was issued stating that President Kennedy "took the occasion to reaffirm the strong support of the U. S. Government for the European Economic Community and the movement toward European integration as envisaged by the Treaty of Rome." (Copy of the communiqué is attached.)

On his departure from New York on the evening of May 24 President Hallstein said: "Understanding between Europe and America is at a new high tide."

Highlights of the Visit

President Hallstein spent the first six days of the visit in Washington, where he discussed European integration and relations between the United States and the European Community with members of the Administration (list of officials with whom discussions were held is attached). In particular, questions regarding the common agricultural policy and cooperative efforts toward the developing nations were brought up during the talks. Also in Washington President Hallstein was entertained at luncheon by leaders of U. S. labor (AFL-CIO) and by U. S. journalists (the Overseas Writers' Club). He outlined the structure and goals of the European Economic Community in an address at Georgetown University.

In New York on May 18, an overflow audience of 600 business leaders at the Waldorf-Astoria heard President Hallstein deliver an address, "Free Trade in a Free World." During the question period the President explained the common external tariff, pointing out that the growing European economy will result in expanding markets for American goods. On May 19 Dr. Hallstein delivered another address, entitled "Europe and Africa," before a New York Council on Foreign Relations luncheon meeting and also met with Mayor Robert Wagner. On May 24 the President lunched with the Consuls General of the Six, conferred with Mr. Hammarskjold, and was guest of honor at a private dinner given by Mr. Robert Lovett with some 40 U. S. business and banking leaders present.

In Combridge, Massachusetts, May 22 and 23 President Hallstein addressed some 300 students and faculty members of Harvard University on "Economic Integration and Political Unity in Europe." He held meetings with faculty members of Harvard Law School and a seminar with the Fellows of the Harvard Center for International Affairs, the host group for Dr. Hallstein's Cambridge visit.

#### Press Relations

General press conferences were held in Washington at the National Press Club on May 17, in New York at the Waldorf-Astoria on May 18 under the auspices of the National Industrial Conference Board, and at the Harvard University Faculty Club in Cambridge on May 22. In addition, Dr. Hallstein was interviewed by more than two dozen White House correspondents following his meeting with President Kennedy on May 16. President Hallstein spoke outside the Executive Wing of the White House and gave statements for radio, television, and newsreels, including the National Broadcasting Company, Columbia Broadcasting System, American Broadcasting Company, Mutual Broadcasting System, Fox-Movietone News, Telenews, and the Voice of America.

On May 22 President Hallstein was interviewed over WGBH-TV in Boston by Louis Lyons, Curator of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism of Harvard University. He also made special broadcasts over the Voice of America, the North and West German Radio, and Deutschland Fernsehen. Washington, New York and Boston radio stations carried reports about the President's visit.

Special news articles appeared in The New York Times, Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, Journal of Commerce, Boston Globe, Boston Herald, Christian Science Monitor and several other leading newspapers. Six press releases and a special edition of the Bulletin from the European Community were issued by the Washington Bureau in connection with the President's visit. In addition, the National Industrial Conference Board released material in advance of the President's press conference and speech before the group's 45th annual meeting in New York, and the Harvard News Service distributed releases in advance of the President's visit to Cambridge.

The Washington press conference was the most heavily attended, with about 50 journalists present. The New York press conference was weaker, possibly because of the surfeit of world news at that time -- running the gamut from the Korean Government overthrow to Alabama race riots. Boston press coverage proved unexpectedly satisfactory, in a city where the press coverage of international affairs is not especially eminent.

#### Summary

The visit proceeded largely as had been planned in advance, apart from two unavoidable last-minute changes in the schedule. Press coverage and reaction was generous and adequate, considering especially the many international events competing for headline attention. Following the Washington visit, informal comment by State Department and other U. S. officials indicated that President Hallstein's talks in the nation's capital were particularly well-timed and well-received.

Perhaps it is noteworthy to comment that the reaction to the visit differed from that of two years earlier in the respect that upon this occasion there was no doubt in the minds of the press or the general public concerning the identity and goals of the European Common Market. Certainly a popular question uppermost in the

minds of journalists, businessmen, and persons in the academic community concerned whether or not the United Kingdom would enter the EEC. Questions and comments also reflected a clear understanding of the distinction between the associative arrangements of EFTA and the integration aims of the Community. The visit, in many respects, was reassuring in that it indicated that in the American mind the Common Market is a viable development of great importance to the United States.

The success of the visit was due to the efforts of a great many persons. In particular, excellent cooperation with the EEC Official Spokesman's Group before and during the visit was an important factor. Press and information officials of the State Department, the White House, and the U. S. Information Agency also gave ready cooperation. Accompanying the President were Messrs. Bernd von Staden, Chef de Cabinet, Joachim von Stuelpnagel, Press Secretary, and Richard Mayne, Assistant Press Secretary, and Miss Gertrude Schlichting, Personal Secretary, all of whom lent invaluable assistance during the entire visit.

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