

issues. I said I was now prepared to recommend to you that we take initiative in obtaining a joint declaration which could be signed by US, UK, France, Germany and possibly Benelux and which would indicate general European interest in Saar and determination of the signatories to bring about satisfactory settlement of issue without delay.

Hallstein said Chancellor had considered this possibility but had come to conclusion it was not enough. On previous occasions he had told Bundestag that he received assurances from the allies in regard Saar but now he must be able to present something more which would enable him to demonstrate that action was being taken to remedy crisis.

I agreed to put Cabinet's proposal up to you but said I had serious doubts that it was a practical one in the circumstances, given present state of Parliamentary opinion in France and awkwardness for France of appearing to admit validity of charges of anti-democratic practices in Saar. If, however, as Hallstein alleged, Schuman would be willing to examine repeal of objectionable law I said this might be done in response to unofficial suggestion but it was doubtful whether anything could be accomplished before Bundestag debate or in response to formal representations.

I also told Hallstein that if it were necessary inject new element in discussion the suggestion I have made might be modified to take form of an official declaration that US cannot permit this problem to block European unity and is prepared to participate in any effort to bring about early solution of Saar question in a manner which would reflect new situation created by Franco-German association in coal and steel community and EDC. Hallstein felt this would be preferable to mere declaration of Allied willingness to consider settlement before peace treaty but still believed it would be insufficient unless accompanied by further French guarantees. He will discuss matter with Chancellor further tomorrow.

I recognize none of these suggestions seems entirely satisfactory but believe definite assurance from US that it is willing to take part in promptly working out a satisfactory solution may be of some help. I realize it would have to be carefully worded in order not to give French any impression we are going back on assurances given them re Saar either at Moscow in 1947 or later.

McCloy