

which Germany should be united on the territory of the former zones) on the part of: the Supervisory Body *Unteilbares Deutschland* (Indivisible Germany), National Movement for Unification and the *Ministerium für gesamtdeutsche Fragen* (Ministry for all-German Affairs).

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### FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION ON THE SO-CALLED LITTLE EUROPE AND GERMANY

The article discusses views, prevailing in the French community, on the European union (including 6 countries of the so-called Little Europe) and on one of the partners of this union, namely the German Federal Republic.

For several years a majority of about 60 per cent of the French public supports the union idea. It would however be misleading to think that France agrees with any kind of means of uniting western Europe. In general the French society follows the accepted views, yet as regards the details and methods of organizing the union, the convictions vary. The "European idea" is given a broad meaning. According to a major part of the French public supporting the idea of understanding and cooperation between various nations, future united Europe should include other countries of the continent, among others countries of eastern Europe. In matters of political views and national sovereignty, French opinion favours the idea of a "Europe of states" rather than an "integrated Europe".

In spite of a conformity with the general principles of the union, it evokes no great enthusiasm in the French community. French people do not regard the accomplishment of the union as an important or pressing task. The degree of engagement is highest in the socially most privileged groups, whose judgment identifies the union with their class interests.

French-German relations are to remain in the sphere of economic and cultural activities; there is to be no military cooperation. French thinking is still haunted by a lack of confidence in Germans and an apprehension of a powerful and armed eastern neighbour. This attitude stems from experience born during the three French-German wars of the past 75 years.

Nevertheless, old memories fade and new experience takes hold the thoughts. The French community yearns for friendship and cooperation with the German neighbour. And yet, west-Germany's attitude towards war and peace remains the most important criterion of appraisal. Behaviour of Germans themselves and policy of the G. F. R. government therefore mould the public opinion in France and likewise the opinion of several other countries.