Record of a meeting of the British Prime Minster, C. Atlee, British Foreign Secretary, E. Bevin, with the French Prime Minister, R. Pleven and French Minister for Foreign Affairs, R. Schuman, 2 December 1950

TOP SECRET

2 December, 1950

RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY WITH THE FRENCH PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, 2ND DECEMBER, 1950

*Mr. Attlee* pointed out that the Americans took the view that a Supreme Commander should not be appointed until there were respectable forces for him to command. He went on to say that in his view it was necessary to have a proper mobilisation of the economic strength of the West as well as coordination in the field of defence was dependent on the economic strength of the countries concerned.

*M. Pleven* said that he was in full agreement on this point.

*Mr. Bevin* said that as he had said in the House of Commons, he was always worried about the possibility of the U.S.S.R. striking in the West as well as in the East, and he quite agreed that it was essential to avoid getting too heavily committed in the East.

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