

VI. - PROVISTONAL TERRITORIAL ARRANGEMENTS

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2013/03/22 : HIA-R MURPHY ROBERT

SIRD-5B-12-139-2 said that this item involved two subjects

- (i) the Benelux claims
- (ii) the Saar

We had always considered the Belgian claims reasonable, but those of the Netherlands and Luxembourg involved considerable territorial and economic changes. Our attitude had not been too favourable in the past and had recently hardened. We hoped that if we could make arrangements for

DOS REVIEWED 07-Mar-2013: DECLASSIFIED FOR RELEASE IN FULL

Benelux

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Feb 21, 1948 - 3:00 pm

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Benelux to be permanently consulted about developments in Germany and perhaps also give them something in the Ruhr, they would not insist on their claims.

MR. REBER suggested that a commission might be set up to hear and examine the claims, in order not to have to reject them out of hand.

SIR I. KIRKPATRICK said that such a commission would produce very unfavourable reactions in Germany. The Russians would claim that the German frontiers were being settled without them and would make the greatest use of this in their propaganda. He thought the advantages we should get from such a commission would be small, and that it would be better not to do so.

AMB/D-5B-12-139-2/HAS thought it might be best to hear the Benelux claims without accepting or rejecting them, and to let the matter rest for the time being.

As regards the Saar, SIR WILLIAM STRANG said that since agreement had been reached on technical matters in Berlin, we need raise no objection to the economic attachment of the Saar to France. We could not, however, agree to any legal regularisation of the status of the Saar until the Peace Treaty. We might, however, ask the French what their plans were, for the political future of the Saar.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The first plenary meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on 23rd February.

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