

Britain and Europe

① “I must now sum up the propositions which are before you.

Our constant aim must be to build and fortify the strength of the United Nations Organisation.

Churchill's vision was similar to Jean Monnet's (who wanted the US of Europe too).

5 Under and within that world concept, we must re-create the European family in a regional structure called, it may be, the United States of Europe.

It was a progressive project

The first step is to form a Council of Europe. This council was soon created.

If at first all the States of Europe are not willing or able to join the Union, we must nevertheless proceed to assemble and combine those who will and those who can.

Churchill's Europe would be based on freedom and democracy. It was hostile to totalitarianism.

10 The salvation of the common people of every race and of every land from war or servitude must be established on solid foundations and must be guarded by the readiness of all men and women to die rather than submit to tyranny.

In all this urgent work, France and Germany must take the lead together.

The most important statement, because Europe was made through a Franco-German reconciliation.

15 Great Britain, the British Commonwealth of Nations, mighty America, and I trust Soviet Russia - for then indeed all would be well - must be the friends and sponsors of the new Europe and must champion its right to live and shine.”

Churchill did not intend to join the united Europe. He was still thinking of Britain as a world empire.

The context : just after WW2. Churchill was no longer PM. Europe was ruined and divided (the USSR controlling Eastern and Central Europe).

In 1946, Churchill had invented the expression “iron curtain” about the European divide.

② “We are with Europe but not of it; we are linked but not compromised. We are associated but not absorbed. If Britain must choose between Europe and the open sea, she must always choose the open sea.”

Churchill had been reelected in 1951, and was PM from 1951 to 1955.

Winston CHURCHILL, speech delivered in the House of Commons on May 11, 1953.

A famous formula : Churchill gave priority to the Commonwealth and to the “special relationship with the USA.

➤ Using the documents and your knowledge, present Britain's dilemma towards European integration.