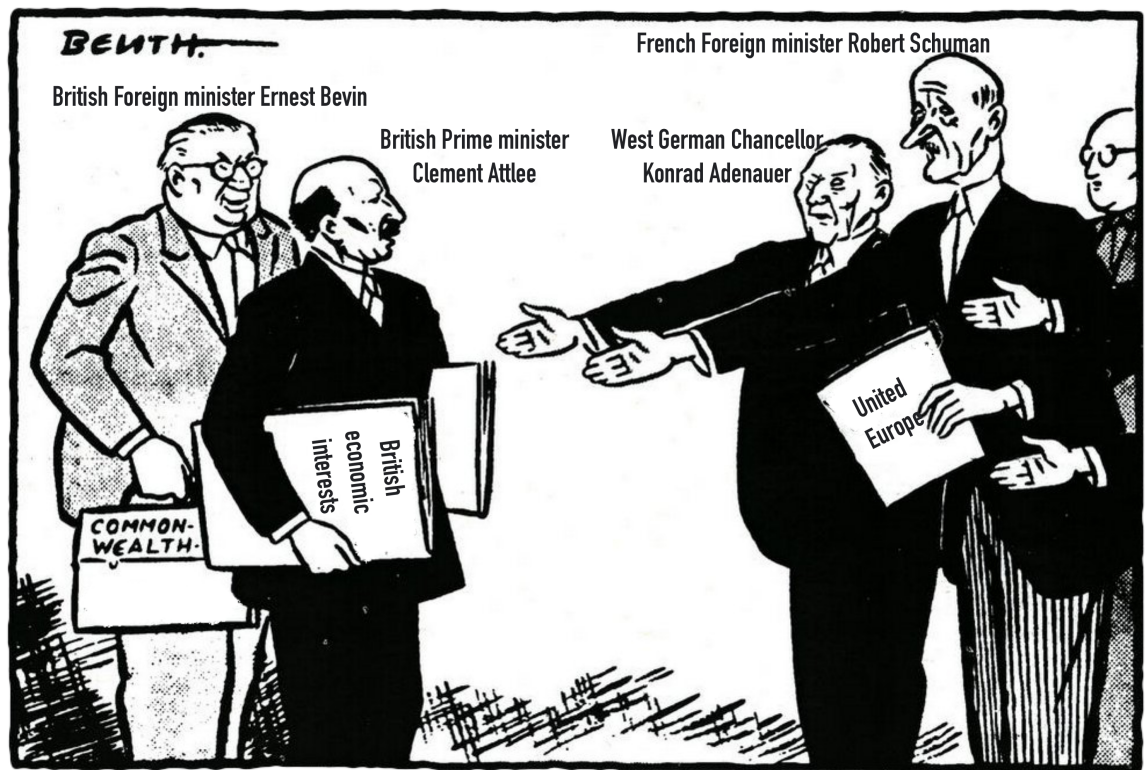

The temptation of Europe

① Edward Heath's¹ account on the mindset in West Germany following the announcement of the Schuman Plan.

"I found that their attitude was governed entirely by political considerations. I believe there is a genuine desire on their part to reach agreement with France and with the other countries of Western Europe. (...) I believe that these discussions would give us a chance of leading Germany into the way we want her to go. It was said long ago in the House that magnanimity in politics is not seldom the truest wisdom. I appeal tonight to the government to follow that dictum, and to go into the Schuman Plan to develop Europe and to coordinate it in the way suggested."

Edward HEATH, *The course of my life*, 1988, address to the House of Commons on June 26th, 1950.

② A West German cartoon on the British reluctance to join the Schuman Plan (1950).



"Sorry! All hands are busy..."

➤ Using the documents and your knowledge, present the historical context of the Schuman Plan and explain why the British were reluctant to join the European community.

1. In 1950, Heath was a Conservative MP. Later on, in 1973, he was the Prime minister who led Britain into the European Community.