

# Spaak, Martino & Van Zeeland for Atlantic Convention

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To the approval that General George C. Marshall and former French Premier Robert Schuman recently gave to the calling of an Atlantic Exploratory Convention can now be added the support of three more Western statesmen: Gaetano Martino of Italy and Paul-Henri Spaak and Paul Van Zeeland of Belgium. Their statements are given below. Messrs. Spaak and Martino gave their statements to Dr. Ralph Epstein, roving correspondent for FREEDOM & UNION, and Dr. Van Zeeland sent his directly to the magazine—THE EDITORS.

**Gaetano Martino, Foreign Minister of Italy:** I am glad that so many eminent members of the American Parliament have seen fit to introduce the Atlantic Union Exploratory Convention Resolution into the American Congress.

I agree with your Senator Kefauver that the peace of the world cannot be assured by methods of formal diplomacy alone; and I feel that any efforts on the part of leading citizens in different democratic countries to explore and carefully discuss the probable advantages, obstacles and problems connected with some possible form of eventual democratic federation are very desirable, because the more discussion we have of these problems the greater the likelihood of their eventual solution.

**Paul-Henri Spaak, Foreign Minister of Belgium:** The Atlantic Union Exploratory Convention Resolution proposed in the American Congress by Senator Kefauver, Senator Flanders and other leading Americans seems to me a most praiseworthy effort to obtain at least a preliminary examination of the advantages and disadvantages of closer cooperation between the Western democracies. I personally hope that such discussion will take place between citizens of the Atlantic nations very soon.

**Paul Van Zeeland, former Prime Minister of Belgium:** Any step leading to the acceptance or the support by the United States of the creation of a truly well balanced and equitable Atlantic community would, in my opinion, be a great support and a strong inducement for those who are doing their best to create a European union.

In fact, the fear of seeing a united Europe more or less separated from the United States and enclosed in a policy of economic autarchy is one of the considerations which has kept several European leaders from supporting the idea of a European economy.

The movement towards economic integration in Europe is on its way, will not stop, and we hope to be able to complete it without too long a delay. To me there is no doubt that such realization would be and should be a stepping stone towards a greater union: The Atlantic Union.