

THE GROUP

The Group in question was founded by Chancellor Adenauer and former Prime Minister Antoine Pinay soon after World War II. At the beginning it was mainly concerned with cutting through bureaucratic red tape to ensure co-operation between the governments of Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg. These all happened to be Democratic Christian in ideology.

Later, as other political Parties came to power, the Group was enlarged to become an informal round table of European and American personalities belonging to the political, financial or diplomatic worlds.

It was planned that its meetings should take place twice a year and allow for an exchange of views and news on the world situation from which all concerned could benefit.

It was also very much in the minds of the founders that these meetings would lead to personal relationships which would be politically important. Experience has showed that these relationships have indeed been useful in overcoming difficulties both within Europe and between Europe and the United States.

Since 1953 the Group has met usually twice a year; once when possible in Washington; the other time in a European city or occasionally in another part of the world, e.g. South Africa or Oman.

The list of those taking part varies according to the particular themes under discussion and the personalities involved.

There is thus no membership. Members are invited. The organisation is completely flexible. In principle the Group does not exist, it reaches no conclusions and no conclusions are thus made public. In practice, a member of the Group in each country acts as convenor of those he thinks should be invited.

The Chairman retains the right to invite who ever he thinks appropriate. There have been three Chairmen.

Chancellor Adenauer of Germany, former Prime Minister Antoine Pinay and Mr. Julian Amery, Member of the House of Commons and previously a Minister in several Departments of State.

Dr. Adenauer appointed M. Violet, a French lawyer, as Secretary. He has been followed by Ambassador Franz Josef Bach who was head of Chancellor's Adenauer's private office.

Generally speaking the Group has studied the different threats Soviet policy posed to the freedom of Europe, both directly and through its subversive activities in other parts of the world. It has also been deeply concerned with the building of Europe and the maintenance of a close cooperation between Europe and the United States.

Since 1953 a very large number of distinguished people have taken part in the work of the Group. It would be invidious to try to list them all but it might be worth mentioning that Mr. Franz Josef Strauss, Mr. David Rockefeller, Mr. Kissinger, Mr. Andreotti among many others have taken part. Former President Nixon, Mr. Brezinski and Mr. 'Pik' Botha have also been among the guests who have addressed the Group.

BUDGET OF THE GROUP

The Group proceeds on a simple financial basis. Members invited pay for their own travel and accommodation. The Group is responsible for providing the necessary conference facilities including meals from the Thursday evening when delegates arrive until the Sunday morning, after which they leave.

Experience suggests that the approximate cost of each meeting of the Group is \$50,000. for each meeting, therefore \$100,000. a year.

It would, however, be extremely valuable to have an additional \$50,000. in reserve to finance the travel expenses of distinguished people who cannot always afford their own. This is particularly the case in the United States where members of the Administration cannot claim travel expenses against their emoluments. Thus, a total of \$150,000. a year would be extremely welcome.

Hitherto most of the necessary finance has been raised from friends in European industry and finance. With the end, however, of the 'Cold War' and the continuing recession, these sources are becoming increasingly hard to tap. And yet the rapidly changing map of the world suggests that the need for the Group's form of discussion is more important than ever.

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