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THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN FEDERAL CLUB LONDON

STATEMENT OF AIMS

As members of different nations of Central Europe we wish to make known to all people of good will the objectives for which we have decided to come and work together in the Central European Federal Club in London.

Our fellow-countrymen are deprived of freedom of speech and association. We enjoy this freedom and are determined to use it to prepare, by all legal means in our power, the grounds for a better organisation of our native lands, ensuring lasting peace, true democracy and prosperity for this unfortunate part of Europe.

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Analysis of the history, of the social, geographical and economic problems of Central Europe has brought us to certain conclusions, which do not pretend to be either new or revolutionary. The experiences of the period between the two wars and of the last few years have taught us that the idea of federation of this region, already present in men's minds before the war, will prove to be the best solution for the future. We wish to make it quite clear that this idea is not peculiar to us. Information reaching us constantly from Central Europe shows that people there are coming to the same conviction and are taking more and more interest in this solution.

This makes us confident that our conclusions, elaborated eventually on constitutional lines, will be acclaimed by our fellow-countrymen as their own wish and programme as soon as they are allowed to express their will freely. This is our justification for setting them forth in the following statement:

(1) Central Europe—that is the area between Germany and Russia—forms a natural geographical and economic entity inhabited by a number of medium-sized and smaller nations possessing mutual interests and similar culture, and therefore ought to be organised on the basis of a Federation. In this way only, Central Europe will cease to be a field of rivalry between the big powers and an area of constant unrest, endangering the peace.

(2) Within the framework of a Central European Federation (in the following paragraphs referred to as: the FEDERATION) every nation shall have full rights to preserve its national individuality, to cultivate and develop its own culture and to bring up its young generation in this spirit. The existence side by side of nations with distinct individual characteristics is important for the cultural development of humanity and is a powerful incentive for the progress of civilisation. Every nation shall also have the right to organise its religious, political, social and economic life according to the will of its people, in conformity with the Federal Constitution.

(3) The FEDERATION must be built upon the fundamental constitutional principle of respect for the full rights of the free man. The Central Federal Authority shall take care that these rights are safeguarded, and that internal peace, based on Christian charity, universal justice and agreed constitutional order, is maintained.

(4) The essence of the FEDERATION is that the relations of its members be peaceful, settled on principles of justice, order and mutual consideration. Frontier disputes—a source of acute difficulties between entirely unrelated states—would find within the Federation satisfactory solutions. This would be more easily attained when they were based not so much on the political interests of the states as on the practical advantage of the peoples who by the Federal Constitution would be assured of free circulation for persons and goods.

(5) The federated states of Central Europe shall have a common foreign policy.

(6) A common Defence Force of the FEDERATION would contribute to the security of the World and safeguard the whole region against any aggression. It would secure even the smallest partners from any violation from outside. The fact that this Defence Force is formed from different national groups and controlled in common, by itself guarantees that it will not be used for any aggressive purpose.

(7) In the economic field the FEDERATION would combine several countries, too weak to stand alone as economic units, into one great economic organism; this would facilitate a rapid economic development unattainable by small countries acting in isolation. To the outer world the Federation would present a common customs area. The mutual internal interests of the partners and the plans for the whole organism as an entity would be adjusted after detailed research. Communications would be operated and developed in the interests both of the individual nations and of the Federation as a whole. Furthermore, this Federal Economic Organisation would link up the individual nations with the world economy and so contribute to the international exchange of goods and to the economic advance of backward parts of the world.

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Our main object is to work in every possible way for a Central Europe organised on those lines and to familiarise the peoples of the free world with our ideas so that they may give them their support and help in their fulfilment.

Being firmly convinced of the justness and urgency of the task set before us, we may embark upon our work in full confidence that in spite of a long and thorny road ahead we shall finally achieve our aims.

In propounding this constructive plan for our countries we are making our contribution to that lasting peace for which the harassed and disillusioned peoples are longing, and so we have the right to ask them for their support.

THE FEDERATION COMMITTEE OF
THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN FEDERAL CLUB IN LONDON

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