

LECTURE ON EUROPEAN UNITY

MR. David Howell, Conservative M.P. for Guildford, delivered a lecture on Monday 20th May for members of the Malta Council of the European Movement and the British Council.

Talking on 'Time for a New European Policy', Mr. Howell pointed out that three different approaches to Europe are being put forward in Britain at the moment: (1) to give up Europe, possibly for a North Atlantic free trade area (2) to mark time, and meanwhile keep knocking at Europe's door (3) to follow parallel paths to Europe, increase contacts with the Six and other European countries and thus pave the way to EEC membership, according to suggestions contained in the Benelux Proposal, the Fanfani Memorandum and the Majonica Plan. This third approach is obviously the one to follow, in the firm belief that Britain in 1968 is as European-minded as any other European country.

European integration is an irreversible process, and is taking shape not so much in the field of trade and commerce as in that of know-how, planning and decision-making and industrial development. Mr. Howell also suggested that the Rome Treaty, now eleven years old, though providing a sound basis for a United Europe, does not go all the way, and needs be brought up-to-date to cover important matters such as technology and defence policy, in which Britain has a large contribution to make.

While disavowing any spirit of spite against France, the speaker expressed the hope that the present student and workers' unrest in that country might reduce General De Gaulle's stubborn energy towards a French hegemony in Europe, in the interests of an all-important and dynamic enlargement of the European Community.

Professor Salvino Busuttill thanked Mr. Howell for his penetrating and thought-provoking lecture on a very interesting and topical subject; and for his clear exposition of the theme. Various questions were put to the speaker by the Hon. Mabel Strickland, Mr. I.P. Allnutt, Mr. G. Zarb Adami and others.

Mr. Howell, who was in Malta in May, as co-chairman of an Anglo-American Parliamentarians' Conference, is a prominent member of the Conservative Party, and has been in fact editor of 'Crossbow' and Director of the Party's Political Centre. He was special Brussels correspondent to the 'Daily Telegraph' during Britain's first bid to join the Common Market in 1962-63. He is co-Secretary of the strong U.K. Council of the European Movement.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE SECRETARIAT

MR. Sforza Galeazzo SFORZA (Italy) was elected Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe on May 8 by the Organisation's international parliamentary Assembly. Mr. Sforza, who comes from a well-known Italian family, will

take up his new functions in Strasbourg in October. He will succeed Mr. Polys MODINOS (Greece).

The Secretary General is Mr. Peter SMITHERS (Britain), who has visited our Island on more than one occasion, and is a friend of Malta and the Malta Council of the European Movement.

As a result of Mr. Smithers' contacts with Malta, the Council of Europe 13th Exhibition, on 'Neo-Classicism', will be held in Malta in 1970: the necessary preparations have already been put in hand to ensure a successful outcome of such a useful and memorable event.

We hope and believe that in Mr. Sforza, who hails from the country that is nearest to us both geographically and otherwise, Malta will find another friend, who will likewise use his influence to help us solve some of our problems. We sincerely wish him every success in his new, important post.

THE FIRE-RAISERS

EUROPE Day was this year commemorated by the University Players' production of Max Frisch's THE FIRE-RAISERS. As I see it, there were two main reasons behind this choice. First of all the author is a well known contemporary whose vision embraces Europe as a whole. This is not only in keeping with the once again resurgent idea of a European rather than a limited national background for the races inhabiting this continent, but it is also in line with the current trend which wants to demolish national barriers for the promotion of peace.

The fact that THE FIRE-RAISERS attempts to re-write history by attributing the rise of Nazism to the commercial middle-class is of secondary importance. What was of primary importance, especially in connection with Europe Day, is the message that evil, once recognised, is to be combatted immediately and that it is the responsibility of the individual citizen to spare no effort to ensure a healthy way of life. Max Frisch's conception of the modern state rests to a large extent on the ability of the average citizen to recognize his duties and carry them out.

The cast was made up of Mario Azzopardi, Godwin Scerri, Christopher Warren, Therese Micallef, Monica Debono, Marianne Burlò, Mario Philip Azzopardi, Philip Grima, Albert Fenech and Chorus. Direction was in the hands of Beatrice Dennis. Well done!

G.S.

~~RIGHT-HAND DRIVE~~

~~Does the road wind up-hill all the way?
Yes, to the very end.~~