**MALTA**

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**Dialogue between De Gasperi, Schuman and Adenauer**

June 21st 2019 – De Gasperi, Schuman and Adenauer occasionally met at Victoria, Gozo. They decided to sit at “Galea’s Bar” in the heart of the old city – The Cittadella. The three statesmen enjoyed a half an hour chat over coffee while nibbling Maltese cheese and peas cakes.

After a while De Gasperi got up and walked towards the Cittadella fortifications. He was enriched by the view, having all the island of Gozo visible was a feast for his eyes. He turned again towards his friends and began to wonder.

De Gasperi: Do you think that took place in March 1957 are still relevant for nowadays?

Robert Schuman looked directly towards De Gasperi and began to murmur: “Keep this in mind, back then Europe was still trying to overcome a disastrous world war which left 60 million dead and whole cities destroyed to level zero. Refugees, famine and poverty was the order of the day. European Union forefathers had a vision for a better future, hence unifying all possible energies to rebuild what was dismantled by war.”

Konrad Adenauer: Adenauer’ face turned serious, thinking on the present European situation. His facial expression said it all. What was actually happening all over Europe was exactly the opposite for what all his friends had worked for to unite the whole continent. He stood silent staring at the ground while he began to quoting Henry Ford. “Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.” Adenauer looked up and directed his attention towards his friends. “But how can we possibly call for a united Europe which is being divided between egocentrism, nationalism, ethnic hatred and closed borders to work together for success?”

De Gasperi: Alcide became nervous and uneasy. He looked down in the ditch where children were happily playing with their parents. Immediately he felt hope, looked at his friends and proudly said, “They are our future, Europe’s future! It’s our duty to work hard to make Europe a better place. What Europe is today can and may break but still what will remain is the core – there are countries who still believe in a European Unity can work together to re-direct Europe back on the right track.”

Schuman was amazed. De Gasperi comments made him realize that even though the children playing in the ditch had different nationalities. They all strived for one aim – win the game. Schuman agreed and added: “Children are truly. I fully recall what Marc Effron declaration that, “Children do provide us feedback which is the broccoli of conversations. It’s not very appetizing and we’d prefer something else if possible, but deep down we know that ultimately it’s good for us.”

Adenauer was deeply touched by Schuman’s and De Gasperi’s comments and began to think what possible alternatives are there for our continent to change direction. Out of the blues he began to utter some words. Schuman, he asked “What do you think if instead of having internal rivalries among the states, all of them unite and seriously give attention to other possibilities which were previously unexplored like the Middle East, Asia and the African countries. These places offer challenges but at the same time they have golden opportunities which can be exploited to our benefit. Moreover one has to keep in mind that on the old continent we already have a multi-ethnic society with substantial communities arriving from these geographical locations. As we know, Rome was not built in a day! Therefore for Europe to be revived will take some time, but will be built through achievements which will first create a de facto solidarity.”

De Gasperi: “I am really astounded with your views on the matter. Your way of thinking is a clear picture to where we need to go from here and surpass the present political impasse. What really worries me is that among the European countries there seems to be no political consensus on how to proceed from here. Every country wants to protect its territory and frontiers whilst forgetting what were the common principles and values on which the European Union was founded. Can anyone explain why there this drastic shift?”

Adenauer was really anxious to reply to his friends and said, “European diplomats need to keep in mind that more often history is a cyclical pattern which tends to repeat itself along a span of time. During the last fifty years the European Union was strong enough to offer stability for its citizens and prevent the occurrence of another destructive war. When the people forget what war really means, one begins to take for granted values like peace, ethnic plurality, solidarity and good will. Over time due to mishappenings, Europeans began to feel afraid and so following Maslow’s list of needs, they began to protect themselves and their country’s borders. Still one can encourage and enlighten Europeans to believe that Europe – as their native homeland.”

Schuman did not agree to the analysis because he thought of what European forefathers did and how this will dismantle in one or two years. All of a sudden Schuman exclaimed some sentences that were hardly understandable. He said, “Dear friends, what do you think if each one of us helps in returning the European offices in the hands of its citizens. De Gasperi and Adenauer were not able to follow his argument! Schuman continued to explain more in detail. “What Europe needs is to hear what really concerns its people and what vision do they have of the old continent.” Once that the concerns were collected, these can be given to the politicians who can envisage ad hoc rules to protect their hopes while keeping in mind the central role of the European Institutions.

Schuman, Adenauer and De Gasperi realized that was lacking in Europe is the centrality of the person in the European structures and laws. Once all this was cleared, De Gasperi invited his friends to come with him to see a film at the local cinema. Coincidentally the film indicated was named “Europe, one nation and one heart.”

Although these three friends are old, they still dream about Europe and one has to keep in mind that dreaming helps to make our reality.