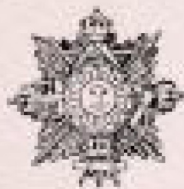


Das historische Schlüsseldokument

**Richard Graf
Coudenhove - Kalergi
(1894 – 1972)
als Freimaurer**



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Der höchste Freimaurer-Tempel in den USA: Chicago 1891



Der projectirte Freimaurertempel für Chicago.

Der projectirte Freimaurertempel für Chicago.

In dem schönsten Stadttheil von Chicago wird gegenwärtig ein großartiger Freimaurertempel errichtet, dessen Bau am 1. Mai 1892 beendet sein soll. Im Jahre darauf hofft man denselben einweihen zu können. Der Bauplatz allein hat 5 Mill. Frs. gekostet. Der eigentliche Tempel wird die vier höchsten Stockwerke einnehmen, während in den übrigen Stockwerken Magazine und Geschäftsräume untergebracht werden sollen. Auf der Terrasse des Gebäudes werden Gärten angelegt, zu welchen täglich 40 000 Personen in Ascensoren hinaufbefördert werden können. Außerdem wird ein astronomisches Observatorium auf dieser Terrasse sich befinden. Der Grundstein zu dem Riesenbau ist am 6. November v. J. unter der Leitung des Großmeisters John W. Pearson und in Anwesenheit von 5000 Freimaurern Canadas und der Vereinigten Staaten gelegt worden. Dieselben hatten sich im Zuge, geführt von General John Carlan Smith und bekleidet mit maurerischen Insignien, auf den Festplatz begeben.

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OTTO ZUBER

RICHARD NICHOLAS COUDENHOVE-KALERGI (1894-1972)

Europe unites you! The Paneuropa Movement as a precursor to the establishment of the United States of Europe as a European Federation and Duty Association. A European Union for the protection of European peace, European liberty and the European economy was the aim of Richard Nikolaus Coudenhove.

He was born on the 17th of November, 1894 in Tokyo as a son of the Japanese Mitsuko Aoyama and Heinrich Coudenhoves. Heinrich, educated in the Jesuit College Kalksburg near Vienna, turned to the diplomatic career. His first post was Athens, his second Rio de Janeiro, then Constantinople. Very linguistic-gifted, finally, he controlled eighteen languages and had himself transferred to Tokyo. Here the meeting with Mitsuko Aoyama became the determining event of his life. He was 33 years old, she eighteen. In culture and education, they were as different as if they were from other planets.

Born as a 7 month child Edjiro Richard was so weak that his life seemed to hang by a thread. A Japanese diplomat's wife, known for their second face, calmed the mother: "This child will stay alive and be a famous man one day".

The Coudenhoves, from North Brabant old nobility, fought in the Dutch war of liberation on the part of the Habsburgs and at that time emigrated to Flanders. During the revolutionary wars when the Habsburgs were expelled from Belgium they followed their emperor to Austria.

The Dutch family Coudenhove and the Greek race of the Kalergis combined at the middle of the 19th century in Paris by the marriage of the grandparents. The Kalergis are descendants of the Byzantine imperial dynasty Phokas. The emperor Nikophoro Phokas who snatched Crete from the Arabs in the tenth century entrusted one of his relatives with the colonisation and management of this island laid waste. In the thirteenth century this branch of the Phokas led for the first time the name Kalergi compound from both Greek words Kalon = nicely and Ergon = action. A chronicler reports that this name reminds one of the peace treaty which Alexios Phokas Kalergis concluded, as Crete combined with the Venetian sea empire: "Because of the nice action of the peace". Richard Nicholas grew up together with his fourteen month-older brother Hansi in castle Ronsperg, Bohemia, in perfect harmony. Later another five children joined them whom the mother summarised under the collective name "the Bohemians".

The father, even a deep-religious nature, placed the biggest value of the religious education of the children. A

cloister woman of the Ronsperger Borromäerinnen cloister which was received from the Coudenhove family gave the first lessons in the reading and writing. Later the town priest took over the ecclesiastical education and an Austrian court tutor the worldly one. With the meals at the parental table there sat English and French governess, the Hungarian companion of the mother and the Bavarian private secretary of the father. Castle Ronsperg lies, as a cosmopolitan oasis, in German Bohemia, the football of the national disputes between Germans and Czechs. The father Heinrich died when Richard was eleven years old, on the 14th of May, 1906. In his testament he had determined his "Japanese wife" as the sole heir and guardian of seven children.

In September 1908 Richard joined as a pupil the Theresian Academy, an educational institution founded by Empress Maria Theresa, to educate the sons of the nobility as diplomats, officers and civil servants in one of the palaces of her father. In this "laboratory for practical psychology" he learnt in five years knowledge of human nature and human treatment. The environment of the Theresianum was international, an image of the Habsburg multi-ethnic state, with an Austrian patriotism which culminated in the common admiration for the aged emperor Franz Joseph. At that time Vienna was the most international capital of the world, and, nevertheless, Richard felt dissatisfied; his heart pulled him into the Bohemian Forest. There his mother lived in the small Castle Stocken after the dissolving of the Ronsperger household.

After graduation he registered at the Viennese university for philosophy and modern history. He did a doctorate on "objectivity as a basic principle of morality".

In the last winter of the European peace he often accompanied his mother to the theatre. One evening at the German national theatre the play "The Czarina" was performed. There was a young actress, who grew to be the shining star in the Viennese Theater sky: Ida Roland. The frequent meetings with the beautiful actress led, in spite of the difference of age and environment, to the marriage decision. The veto of the mother and the co-guardian Max Coudenhove, family chief and governor in Bohemia, led to the severing of the relations of the not yet 20-year-old Richard with the family Coudenhove. Through Ida Roland he came to know a new environment: that of the artists and authors. They succeeded in overcoming the impediments to marriage: a priest married them in the castle chapel without civil marriage. Only after end of the war the wedding was transferred with the help of the Archbishop of Salzburg and the government agencies there to the civil registers of Austria.

In spite of all gloomy and well-intentioned prophecies of both families 37 years of happy marriage followed. Both interests indeed lay far apart, but a common basic approach to life connected them.

The time of the First World War came, caused by the collision between European nationalism and the supranational Habsburg monarchy in July, 1914. Coudenhove became interested in politics from the moment when President Wilson came on the scene with his worldwide peace program. Finally, the war seemed sensible to him, as a fight between past and future, between the European ideals of nationalism and the American ideal of national reconciliation. After the end of the First World War civilisation had a new world: democratic, republican, socialist and pacifistic. For this new world he wanted to work and fight.

He was just 24 years old and an adult according to Austrian law. Instead of a parliamentarian he became a freelance author and was known through publications in the first German magazines in the intellectual circles of Central Europe. He wrote several books and a number of smaller writings on the exposition of his ideas about politics, history and philosophy. He studied how the European democracies would become united in a federation according to the model of the Pan-American Union. This led him irresistibly to the Paneuropean Idea. In it he saw the only way for the prevention of a second world war. Another argument for Paneuropa was that, by the creation of a great European Market without tariffs, a quick elevation of the European standard of living [would occur]. The third argument for Paneuropa was the menacing Bolshevik's broad danger. Only a union of 300 million Europeans in a common defensive system could protect the peace with 150 million Soviet citizens and allow a mutual disarmament.

However, the main difficulty for the unification of Europe lay in the British question. This head of a worldwide empire, a great power on five continents, would hardly bind itself unilaterally to Europe.



*Richard Count Coudhove-Kalegeri in 1923
when he founded the Paneuropa-Union*

When by the Treaty of Saint Germain people became citizens of Czechoslovakia, he tried to win Thomas Masaryk for his plans. He received him in the Hradschin, listened and answered: "I believe, your idea is right, one day the United States of Europe will come about. But I fear that the time is not ripe for it".

In 1922 the 29th world peace congress took place in Vienna. Prof. Dr. Vladimir Misar, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Austria, presented in his welcoming address a commitment to peace and to Europe, and Prof. Dr. Friedrich Hertz, member of the Viennese Lodge "Zukunft" presented his memorandum "The Economic Emergency in Central Europe and World Peace". At this congress the Paneuropean-Idea was born. Count Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, accepted in 1922 into the Viennese lodge "Humanitas", developed his ideas. In harmony with the pacifistic ideas of the Nobel Prize Laureate Alfred Hermann Fried (1864-1921), member of the Viennese lodge "Socrates", the Freemason Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi founded the Pan-European Union. As a symbol the solar cross was chosen: a red cross on the golden sun. The motto was the saying of St. Augustine: in necessariis unitas - in dubiis libertas - in Omnibus Caritas (unity in necessary things; liberty in doubtful things; charity in all things.) Prof. Hertz became a secretary. The Grand Lodge of Austria paved the way of the "European Count" into the public.

He wrote a book "Paneuropa" which appeared in the first days of October from the newly-founded Paneuropa Publishing Company in Vienna. Thousands of propaganda copies were necessary for the rapid dissemination of the idea. Without foreign financing or subsidy, more than a thousand members of the Union signed up within months. Because there was no membership fee, the Paneuropa-Union but had members, but no funds.

Due to the popularity of the idea, Vienna became the cradle of the Paneuropa Movement, soon their Mecca. A German Paneuropa group became established under the chairmanship of Reichstag President Paul Loebe. The leader of German foreign affairs, Dr. Gustav Stresemann, wrote after the meeting in the Chancellery of the Reich in his diary: "Today Mr. Coudenhove-Kalergi was with me, his thoughts of Paneuropa make great progress. Whatever one may think about him, he is, in any case, a man of extraordinary knowledge and great energy. I am convinced that he will still play a great role." In France statesman Edouard Herriot argued for the United States of Europe.

Although the Paneuropa movement spread like wildfire, high politics remained untouched by it. Thomas Mann gives in a "Paris accountability report" the following description:

"Count Coudenhove-Kalergi, the small red-gold cockade of his "Paneuropa" in the buttonhole of the evening suit, is one of the most remarkable, and incidentally, nicest people I have ever met. Half Japanese, the other half mixed from the international nobility blood of Europe, as one knows, really an Eurasian type of distinguished humanity which is extraordinarily captivating and before which the Average-German feels rather provincial. Two folds between the Far-Eastern seated black eyes, under the pure, steady and proudly worn forehead, lend to his smile something serious and resolute. His attitude like his word gives customers unshakeable faith in a political idea of whose flawlessness I am not convinced, however, he knows how to carry and promote with the clearest energy literarily and personally in the world".

The first European Congress met from the 3rd to the 6th of October, 1926 in the gigantic marble hall of the Vienna Concert Hall. More than 2000 delegates as representatives of 24 nations participated. The world echo of the Congress was strong. All newspapers of the world discussed this first Congress of European Unity as a prelude of a new policy.

Millions hoped for Paneuropa and now believed in the possibility of its realisation. It became the new idea and great hope of the young generation.

When the opposition became too great because of his affiliation with Freemasonry, the "European Count" asked in 1926 for dismissal from the alliance.

At the end of September, 1929 the future looked bleak: after his return from the League of Nations meeting in Geneva Dr. Gustav Stresemann, the undisputable leader of German foreign affairs died; in New York the great stock market crash occurred. The consequences were the worldwide economic crisis, great unemployment in Germany, triumph of the Hitler movement, the third Reich and the Second World War. This was probably the end of all chances for a European customs union.

To counteract these trends, Count Coudenhove organised a lecture tour for Paneuropa in Vienna, Berlin and Prague. The second Paneuropa congress was convened on the 17th of May, 1930 in Berlin.

On the 7th of March, 1932 Aristide Briand died lonely, powerless, exhausted by his tireless and courageous struggle for peace. The frequent trips to Geneva brought Richard in ever closer contact with Switzerland. In summer, 1931 he and his wife Ida bought a farmhouse from the year 1764 with stable and barn and a large pasture in Gruben, between Saanenmöser and Gstaad. The rebuilding lasted eight long summers because the work was suspended in winter. Ida led the rebuilding personally, until the greatly enlarged house was hardly distinguishable on the outside from the surrounding farmhouses and inside had the character of a cozy hunting lodge.

From the 1st to the 4th of October, 1932 the third Paneuropa congress met in the congested hall of the Basl Mustermesse. On the 29th of January, 1933 president Hindenburg dismissed the imperial government and commissioned Adolf Hitler with the formation of a cabinet; von Papen became Vice-Chancellor; the Weimar republic was dead; the Third Reich was born; of the Paneuropa movement a heap of rubble remained.

In Austria, Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss was well disposed towards the Pan-European movement. The official residence in the Hofburg was the office for the organization of the Pan-European propaganda headquarters. After the assassination of Chancellor Dollfuss by a group of Nazis on July 25, 1934 Kurt von Schuschnigg became his successor. He continued the policy in the Austrian Paneuropa-Kommitee. With the occupation of Austria in 1938, 40,000 volumes of the Europa Publishing Company were destroyed, as well as all archives and correspondence. Born from the international situation at that time he wrote in Gstaad a new Europe-Book. It should revive dwindled hopes for Paneuropa anew.

His great hope on the political horizon was the England of Winston Churchill. After the outbreak of the war in 1939, he went on the 9th of May, 1940 to Geneva to set up the new headquarters of the Paneuropa movement in the Wilson Palace.

After the encirclement of Switzerland by Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy, remaining in Switzerland would mean the end of political activity for Coudenhove. On receipt of the visas to Spain and Portugal the escape began into exile. After Barcelona and Lisbon he and his wife landed 3rd of August, 1940 in New York. A new headquarters of the Paneuropa movement was founded at New York University. On the 8th of December, 1941 the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbour occurred. At the same time he received the message of the death of his mother in Mödling. In a radio speech, Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister argued:

"You are the one who has created this movement."

At the end of 1947 the leadership passed into the hands of the parliamentarians. They created in 1949 the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. It had little resemblance to the European Federal State demanded in the Congresses, but was nevertheless a step forward in the direction of the United States of Europe. After 25 years, the Pan-European movement had at least partly achieved the utopia of its own Europe. On August 10, 1949, the first European Parliament met in the Strasbourg University. Churchill was the focus. On May 18, 1950 Count Richard Nikolaus, Coudenhove Kalergi, after a solemn high mass in the Duomo, in the Emperor's Hall of Aachen received the first International Charlemagne Prize: A golden medallion and 5,000 DM by chief burgomaster Mass.



Certificate of the first international Charlemagne Prize for Count Coudhove-Kalergi

Conducting the foreign policy of continental Europe, were three men. Konrad Adenauer, Alcide de Gasperi, and Robert Schumann attempted to realise the unification of Europe. The crucial treaty was signed on the 31st of December, 1950 in Paris.

On Easter Tuesday in 1951 his wife Ida, born Roland, died 37 years after their first meeting. He had considered her as his most loyal friend and closest collaborator. He spent April in Gstaad and wrote a commemorative writing "In memoriam Ida Roland".

The Paneuropa movement was also subjected to the movements forward coming in waves.

He found a good colleague in the person of countess Alix Tiele-Bally, a neighbour from Gstaad. She controlled three world languages German, French and English, was the daughter of a famous doctor from one of the best known Swiss industrialist's family and granddaughter of the famous Swiss architect Bernhard Simon, member of the imperial academy of the arts of St. Petersburg and founder of the Ragazer health resort institutions. On the 3rd of April,

1952 Richard was married with countess Alix in the Paris church St. Pierre de Chaillot. He adopted his stepson Alex, born in 1926 from whom he expected that he would take the organizational duties of the movement and the organisation from congresses from him.

The Council of Europe, whose founding had aroused such high hopes, proved a disappointment. Only a few staff of the Paneuropa movement were at its front. In 1954 a reorganisation of the Paneuropa Union organised thirty years ago was tackled. It was the attempt of establishing a common market.

The eighth Paneuropa Congress took place in the Swiss health resort Bad Ragaz. The creation of a European Federal State was stipulated, a Federal Government, which would have to put European interests above national interests. This should be the job of the generation which is today at the helm. The multilingual nation of Switzerland may be a model for the creation of a great European nation. Count Coudenhove was no longer as active for Paneuropa in his last seven years. He limited himself primarily to finding financiers and support, e.g., with Giscard d'Estaing, with industries and Swiss major banks. Unfortunately, not with the expected success. After the death of his second wife in 1968 he moved to Binningen (Basel country), where he lived for about a year, then he took residence in Witikon (Zurich). In May, 1969 he married his long-standing friend, the widow of the composer Ralph Benatzky. They were confirmed by a high priest in Salzburg, but were never married of state officially. Mrs. Benatzky kept her American citizenship and lived furthermore in her own flat in Zurich.

Shortly before his death, another Paneuropa congress took place in Vienna. The Paneuropa was brought into serious financial difficulties. In addition the European Idea was endangered by the liberalism of America and the communism of Russia. Therefore, he began to work for the third political ideal: that of Brotherhood, which he hoped would reconcile the two others: Liberty and Equality. Thus peace and civilisation could be saved. A crusade for human brotherhood could prevent a clash between two world revolutions, communism and capitalism.

Richard did not consider Brotherhood in the spirit of early Buddhism and early Christianity as a political ideal such as freedom or equality, but as a deeply human ideal that every man, even in his heart, home and family, dealing with relatives, friends and co-workers could and should exercise in thought, word and deed. This was his call to a revolution of Brotherhood. In treatment in Seirruns, he succumbed on the 27th of July to a stroke. He was buried in the tomb at Gruben.

Count Richard Nikolaus Coudenhove-Kalergi was an unusually dedicated, genuine personality, a citizen of the world with warm charisma. The eloquent and committed Herald of European Integration is to be given thanks for all that he has given Europe.

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Gedenktafel an den Besuch Churchills in Zürich.



Graf Coudenhove-Kalergi wird 1950 der erste Karlspreis der Stadt Aachen von Oberbürgermeister Dr. A. Maas überreicht.