

The United States of Europe – an aspiration since...?

*Congratulations to long-standing CIB member and independence campaigner **Sonya Porter**, whose letter (below) was published in last Friday's Daily Mail.*

Back in 1960, I learned which country was destined to be the organ grinder to whose tune the monkeys of Brussels would have to dance.

I was a shorthand typist with the International Labour Office, one of the UN agencies in Geneva.

One morning my boss took me to a conference by the European Coal and Steel Community, a forerunner of the EU. It was extremely dull and, after putting on the translation headphones, I dozed off.

I woke with a start when the German delegate said: 'And we hope within a few years, Europe will be one country.' I thought: Goodness, gracious, they're at it again! That delegate might have meant it in the nicest possible way, but it was only 15 years after World War II, and that was not the way I took it.

I think I was right, wasn't I?

Sonya Porter