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Karl Marx, *[On the Importance
of Having the International]*⁸²

[...] The difference between a working class without an International, and a working class with an International, becomes most evident if we look back to the period of 1848. Years were required for the working class itself to recognize the Insurrection of June 1848, as the work of its own vanguard. The Paris Commune was at once acclaimed by the universal proletariat.

You, the delegates of the working class, meet to strengthen the militant organization of a society aiming at the emancipation of labour and the extinction of national feuds. Almost at the same moment, there meet at Berlin the crowned dignitaries of the old world in order to forge new chains and to hatch new wars.⁸³

Long life to the International Working Men's Association!

⁸² This text is a short excerpt from the *Report of the General Council To The Fifth Annual Congress Of The International Working Men's Association Held at The Hague*. This writing was approved during a session of the GC in late August (date unknown) and read in German by Karl Marx (see note 1) in a session of this Congress on 5 September. His first printed edition appeared in the biweekly *Der Volksstaat* on 18 September. In October, it was translated into English, Spanish and French. The full version is in GC, V: 453–62.

⁸³ The emperors of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia met in September 1872, attempting to restore the reactionary alliance of these states.