

Draft reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 310 on the spread of nuclear energy and defence problems (London, 20 January 1978)


Caption: On 20 January 1978, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a draft reply from the WEU Council, prepared by the French delegation, to Assembly Recommendation 310 on the spread of nuclear energy and defence problems. The document emphasizes that the member governments of the WEU Council are promoting cooperation on controlling the peaceful use of nuclear energy between nuclear technology-exporting countries, but also notes that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is responsible for controlling all sensitive exports to non-nuclear weapon states. With regard to the protection of nuclear facilities and nuclear materials, the French delegation points out that each state must make its own arrangements for the implementation of such protection, although studies on various international protection measures are also under examination within the IAEA. This French draft reply is taken up almost in its entirety in the final reply by the Council (C (78) 52).

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Recommendation 310 on the stand of nuclear energy and defense problems. London: 20.01.1978. WPM (78) 7. 5 p. Archives nationales de Luxembourg (ANLux). <http://www.anlux.lu>. Western European Union Archives. Secretariat-General/Council's Archives. 1954-1987. Organs of the Western European Union. Year: 1977, 28/11/1977-22/04/1985. File 202.415.32. Volume 1/1.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_310_on_the_spread_of_nuclear_energy_and_defence_problems_london_20_january_1978-en-d5909988-bb4f-4ced-9512-e0b4a7751326.html

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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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WPM (78) 7

Original: French

20th January, 1978

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Recommendation 310 on the spread of nuclear energy and defence problems (C (77) 154)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply, prepared by the French delegation, to Assembly Recommendation 310 on the spread of nuclear energy and defence problems.

This draft will be considered by the working group at a forthcoming meeting.

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Draft reply to Recommendation 310 prepared
by the French delegation

1. The member governments of the Council have already acted to promote co-operation between nuclear technology exporting countries for the purpose of safeguarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy by appropriate controls.

The directives communicated to the I.A.E.A. on 11th January, which were adopted by the fifteen nuclear technology supplying countries composing the London group provide that this Agency shall control the peaceful use of all sensitive exports to non-nuclear weapon States.

2. The I.A.E.A. is the controlling body for the peaceful use of nuclear materials. Its responsibilities are set out in its statutes. The Board of Governors of this Agency, on which a number of member States are represented, is the appropriate body to improve the terms of these controls.

The subject of multinational centres of the nuclear fuel cycle industry will be considered by the experts taking part in the I.N.F.C.E. study (Group 3 for supply and Group 4 for reprocessing), for which the general conditions

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and essential details are set out in the final communiqué of the organising conference held in Washington from 19th to 21st October, 1977.

3. Those members of the Council who participated in the London meetings did concert their policies on civil nuclear assistance to third countries. The result of this action is made clear in the directives referred to above, which contain no ban on nuclear exports to states which have not made all nuclear installations and materials on their territory or under their control subject to I.A.E.A. control.

The Council believe it is the responsibility of each State to define its own export policy and express the hope that the directives referred to above will receive wide international support.

4. Measures to protect nuclear facilities and nuclear materials, in storage or in transit, from illicit use by individuals are police measures for the implementation of which each State is responsible within its own territory. Whilst there is an agreement on the level of physical protection necessary (London directives), the details and implementation of this protection are the exclusive responsibility of the sovereign States.

Studies on the various measures possible are also carried out within the I.A.E.A.

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RECOMMENDATION 310
on the spread of nuclear energy
and defence problems

The Assembly,

Considering that nuclear energy is a fact of international life which will provide a high percentage of the world's electricity by the end of the century, that several other energy options might eventually be available and that decisions regarding nuclear energy should take account of the major concern to avoid further proliferation of nuclear weapons capability;

Aware that at present the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna exercises safeguard and control measures only with regard to certain specific nuclear equipment and material imported under bilateral agreements, and nuclear material in or under the control of non-nuclear weapon parties to the non-proliferation treaty;

Welcoming the agreement reached by the fifteen nuclear exporting countries in London in September 1977 to prevent further sales of nuclear material, equipment and technology without adequate safeguards and controls;

Stressing the need to avoid any form of safeguard and control measures which would undermine the existing non-proliferation treaty, which guarantees countries non-discriminatory access to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

Urge member governments:

1. To promote worldwide co-operation in monitoring all the various activities in the field of nuclear energy;

/2. ...

2. To make full use of diplomatic channels in order to strengthen worldwide international safeguards and controls, increase the responsibilities of the I.A.E.A. and establish multinational nuclear fuel centres;

3. To concert their policies with other supplying countries to make the supply of civil nuclear assistance of any sort to third countries dependent on the latter's acceptance of full I.A.E.A. safeguards on all nuclear installations and materials on their territory or under their control.

4. To give impetus to the development and international application of procedures and stringent measures to protect nuclear facilities and nuclear materials, in storage or in transit, from terrorist seizure or diversions.