

Extract from minutes of the 307th meeting of the WEU Council (23 November 1966)

Caption: At the meeting of the Council of Western European Union (WEU) held on 23 November 1966, the British delegation suggests that the opportunity afforded by the ministerial meeting in Bonn should be used to discuss the consequences that the recent developments in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) might have on WEU. French Ambassador Geoffroy de Courcel expresses the reservations of the French delegation regarding this proposal, which he considers premature; he believes that the question should first be discussed by the Permanent Council before being referred to the Ministers.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Extract from minutes of 307th meeting of WEU Council held on 23 novembre 1966. II. Next meeting of the Council at ministerial level. CR (66) 24. 1 p. Archives nationales de Luxembourg (ANLux). <http://www.anlux.lu>. Western European Union Archives. BTO. Interpretation of Brussels Treaty & Paris Protocols. Year: 1966, 01/03/1966-30/03/1967. File 113.2. Volume 1/2.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/extract_from_minutes_of_the_307th_meeting_of_the_weu_council_23_november_1966-en-7f6a63f7-fd38-4ab6-a350-5e426c34e6e9.html

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EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF 307th MEETING CR (66) 24
OF W.E.U. COUNCIL HELD ON 23rd November 1966

II NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL

2. Agenda

The CHAIRMAN asked whether there were any comments on the agenda for the ministerial meeting.

Mr. DAY said that the United Kingdom had no specific proposal, but he thought that the British representative would wish to take the opportunity afforded by the Bonn ministerial meeting to make some general remarks on recent developments in NATO, which were certain to have repercussions on W.E.U. If other members of the Council could agree, a general exchange of views might be held on this subject.

At the request of the FRENCH representative, Mr. DAY explained that the purpose would be to consider the implications for W.E.U. of certain decisions affecting NATO, having due regard to the close links existing between the latter and the W.E.U. organs in Paris. The British delegation would be glad to learn, perhaps at the Council's next meeting, what other members thought of the proposal.

M. de COURCEL said that he would inform his Government of this suggestion, but he felt obliged to enter a reservation straight away. Although it was not the first time that the idea had been put forward, it would still seem premature to tackle such an issue before the situation within NATO itself had been further clarified. It would be better to allow a longer interval to elapse between any decisions which might be taken by NATO in December and the Council's discussions of their effect on W.E.U. Moreover, it would be more suitable for the matter to be examined by the Permanent Council before being referred, if necessary, to Ministers. It was for all these reasons that the Ambassador thought it inadvisable to plan for a debate on the subject at the meeting of 19th December. . . .