

Draft reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 371 on European security and events in the Gulf area (London, 22 September 1981)


Caption: On 22 September 1981, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a draft reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 371 on European security and events in the Gulf area. The document, originally drawn up by the United Kingdom, contains several suggestions for amendments by the various delegations, particularly the French and German delegations. The points considered include the situation resulting from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the settlement of the Arab/Israel dispute and the Iran/Iraq conflict, the oil question and WEU's relations with the Gulf States. The Council's draft reply particularly emphasises the importance of maintaining and enhancing stability in the Gulf area.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Recommendation 371 on European security and events in the Gulf area. London: 22.09.1981. WPM (81) 23/1. 7 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: 1981, 01/06/1981-29/04/1983. File 202.413.999.13. Volume 1/1 .

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URL:
http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_371_on_european_security_and_events_in_the_gulf_area_london_22_september_1981-en-92d6b94a-bc27-4869-8ff2-094be1cf6ef3.html

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Original: English/French

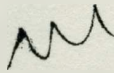
22nd September, 1981

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Recommendation 371 on European security and events in the Gulf area (C (81) 96)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply to Recommendation 371 on European security and events in the Gulf area.

This text, prepared at the working group of 18th September, 1981, on the basis of WPM (81) 23, will be considered at the next meeting of the group on Monday, 28th September, at 3 p.m.


9, Grosvenor Place,
London, S.W.1.

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Draft reply to Recommendation 371

: 1. The Council note that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
: has had a detrimental effect on international relations.
: They are aware of the threat to the stability of the region
: of which the Gulf is a part and which has developed over the
past two years. They are determined to oppose any attempts
by the Soviet Union to exploit the situation. In this context,
they continue to deplore the occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet
: troops. In this matter, they believe that both the United Nations
Organisation and its Secretary-General, and the European Council
and the Islamic Conference Organisation have an important role to
play towards promoting a political solution in accordance with the
United Nations General Assembly Resolutions of 14th January and
20th November, 1980. The Permanent Council of W.E.U. wish also
to recall the recent proposals put forward by the European
Council, as expressed in its Declaration of 30th June, 1981.
Indeed, they consider these proposals to be of such a nature
: as to show the way to a political settlement of this problem.
The Governments of Western European Union await, from the Soviet
Union, a positive and constructive response to this initiative.
They repeat their call for an immediate withdrawal of all

/Soviet troops ...

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Soviet troops from Afghanistan and call on all parties to work for a peaceful settlement which would enable Afghanistan to return to its traditional independent and non-aligned status.

2. [The Council reaffirm their support [for the Afghan resistance movement and]⁽¹⁾ for the Afghan people who are striving to re-establish the independence of their country. The opposition of the Afghan people to the Soviet invasion has been demonstrated by increasing resistance activity in nearly every province of the country and by the continuing exodus of Afghan refugees (now numbering more than 2 million) into Pakistan and Iran.]⁽²⁾

OR

[The Council believe that one of the major elements of the situation in Afghanistan is the existence of a nationwide movement of resistance to Soviet intervention and to the setting-up of a puppet regime in Kabul.]⁽³⁾

3. [In order to counteract the destabilising effects of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan]⁽⁴⁾ the Council believe it is essential that States should also give economic aid

/to Pakistan to ...

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- (1) The German delegation proposes deletion of these words.
(2) Original United Kingdom version.
(3) Version proposed by the French delegation.
(4) The German delegation proposes the addition of these words.

to Pakistan to help provide for the Afghan refugees. The W.E.U. member States express their support and admiration for the generosity and humanity with which Pakistan has taken in so many refugees. [The Council recognise that Pakistan has a right to equip itself for its self-defence.](1)

4. [The Gulf States have clearly recognised the danger from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, which they have condemned unequivocally. They have also recognised the threat to their stability from other sources.](1) Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman have recently formed the Gulf Co-operation Council, in order to increase their

/co-operation in many ...

(1) The French delegation proposes deletion of this passage.

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co-operation in many spheres. European States, concerned [to maintain and enhance]⁽¹⁾ OR [about the maintenance of]⁽²⁾ stability in the Gulf area, have noted the wish of the Gulf States to co-operate among themselves without asking for external support. They therefore heartily welcome the creation of the Gulf Co-operation Council [which they expect will enhance stability in the region].⁽³⁾ [European States have [neither the capacity nor the intention]⁽¹⁾ OR [no intention whatsoever]⁽²⁾ to interfere in the internal affairs of Gulf States, and expect the Soviet Union to show a similar concern for the integrity and independence of all States bordering the Gulf.]⁽⁴⁾ W.E.U. member States recognise the need for continuous and close [political contact between Europe and the Gulf States. There has been an increased number of high-level visits between the two regions, and European States attach]⁽¹⁾ OR [contacts of every kind between Europe and the Gulf States, as evidenced by the increased number of high-level visits between the two regions. European States, moreover, attach]⁽⁵⁾ much importance to the continuation of contacts through such means as the Euro/Arab dialogue. Europe's

/greatest ...

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- (1) Original United Kingdom version.
 - (2) Version proposed by the Netherlands delegation.
 - (3) The Netherlands delegation proposes the addition of this phrase.
 - (4) The French delegation proposes the deletion of this sentence.
 - (5) Amended version by the Belgian delegation.

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greatest contribution to the stability of the Gulf can be made by the continuation of E.C. efforts on the Arab/Israel dispute, [the core of which is the Palestinian problem and]⁽¹⁾ which remains the primary concern of all Arab Gulf States.

5. The Council welcome the efforts being made to solve the Iran/Iraq war by the Islamic Conference, the Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General and by the Non-Aligned Movement. The Council will readily support any measures which seem likely to be effective in bringing an end to the hostilities and which can command the necessary international approval. [The Council recall that on 23rd September, 1981, immediately after the worsening of the conflict between Iran and Iraq, the Foreign Ministers of the Nine at their meeting in New York recalled, in a declaration concerning the conflict, the supreme importance that the entire international community attaches to ensuring the freedom of navigation in the Gulf which should in no way be impeded.]⁽²⁾

/6. ...

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- (1) The Belgian delegation proposes the addition of this phrase.
(2) The Belgian delegation proposes the addition of this sentence.

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6. The W.E.U. member States are concerned to do what they can to maintain and enhance stability in the Gulf area. They have in the past expressed their condemnation of aggressive acts in the Middle East and [will continue to do so.](¹) OR [would do so again if the need arose.](²)

In view of the sharp increase in the price of oil over the past few years, the countries of W.E.U. are all concerned to work for lower energy consumption, through such bodies as the International Energy Agency. There is already regular consultation with governments of other States which face the same need. All oil consuming countries share an interest in seeing a stable world energy market. As for the Gulf producers, the Council note that certain of them have made significant reductions in their oil production.

(1) Original United Kingdom version.

(2) Version proposed by the Italian delegation.

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