

## Reply by the WEU Council to the written question on threats to peace in the Indian Ocean (London, 26 February 1975)

**Caption:** On 26 February 1975, the Secretariat-General circulates the reply by the Council of Western European Union (WEU) to written question 153 put by Paul de Bruyne, a member of the Assembly. Paul de Bruyne asks the Council about the framework in which the seven WEU member countries gave consideration to possible threats to peace in the Indian Ocean in 1973 and 1974. In its reply, the Council informs the Assembly member that, under Article VIII of the modified Brussels Treaty, nothing prevents the Council from discussing any situation that may constitute a threat to peace, in whatever area this threat should arise. But in answer to his question, it confirms that possible threats to peace in 1973 and 1974 were not considered by the Council; the matter was discussed among member governments in other contexts.

**Source:** Council of the Western European Union. Secretariat-General note. Written Question 153 put to the Council by a member of the Assembly. London: 26.02.1975. C (75) 41. 2 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: 1962, 01/04/1962-18/05/1976. File 202.413.6. Volume 1/1 .

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**URL:**

[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply\\_by\\_the\\_weu\\_council\\_to\\_the\\_written\\_question\\_on\\_threats\\_to\\_peace\\_in\\_the\\_indian\\_ocean\\_london\\_26\\_february\\_1975-en-808e54f7-4e21-48d4-9791-f9257bccab26.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply_by_the_weu_council_to_the_written_question_on_threats_to_peace_in_the_indian_ocean_london_26_february_1975-en-808e54f7-4e21-48d4-9791-f9257bccab26.html)



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# WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. UNCLASSIFIED

C (75) 41

Original: English/French

26th February, 1975

## SECRETARIAT-GENERAL NOTE

Written question 153 put to the Council  
by a member of the Assembly

The Secretariat-General circulates herewith the Council's reply to written question 153 put to the Council by M. de Bruyne (C (75) 14).

This reply, which was approved by the Council at their meeting of 26th February, 1975, has now been transmitted to the Assembly (CR (75) 3, III, 1).

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

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Text of written question 153

In their reply to Recommendation 254, the Council stated that the Indian Ocean was outside the area of W.E.U. In his reply to an oral question put by M. Leynen in the Assembly on 5th December, 1974, Lord Goronwy-Roberts admitted that the notion of the area of W.E.U. concerned the application of Article V and not Article VIII of the modified Brussels Treaty, even if other organisations, including NATO could be called upon to study matters within the field of application of the latter Article.

Can the Council indicate in what framework the seven member countries gave joint consideration to possible threats to peace in the Indian Ocean in 1973 and 1974 ?

Reply by the Council

The Member of the Assembly is right in pointing out that under the provisions of Article VIII of the modified Brussels Treaty no restrictions are placed upon the Council's competence to discuss any situation which may constitute a threat to peace, in whatever area this threat should arise. However, in answer to his question, the Council inform the Member of the Assembly that they did not discuss possible threats to peace in the Indian Ocean in 1973 or 1974. This question was occasionally discussed among member Governments in other contexts.