

Draft reply by the French delegation to the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 341 on the situation in the Near and Middle East (London, 5 March 1980)


Caption: On 5 March 1980, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a draft reply prepared by the French delegation to Assembly Recommendation 341 on the impact of the evolving situation in the Near and Middle East on Western European security. The text is subsequently reproduced in full in the final reply by the Council (C(80)50). The draft reply sets out the position of the WEU Council on the situation of the American hostages in Iran and raises the question of the settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, referring to the statement issued by the Nine on 18 June 1979. Finally, the Council notes that the Member States are determined to continue their efforts to secure a settlement of the Middle East conflict. The document will be examined by a working group at a forthcoming meeting.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Recommendation 341 on the impact of the evolving situation in the Near and Middle East on western European security. London: 05.03.1980. WPM (80) 16. 4 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: 1979, 01/11/1979-30/04/1980. File 202.413.999.11. Volume 1/1 .

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URL:
http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_french_delegation_to_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_341_on_the_situation_in_the_near_and_middle_east_london_5_march_1980-en-21e1a2e8-5dca-4ebc-b440-799145c2dfao.html

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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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Original: French

WPM (80) 16

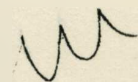
5th March, 1980

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Recommendation 341
on the impact of the evolving situation
in the Near and Middle East
on western European security
(C (79) 163)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply, prepared by the French delegation, to Assembly Recommendation 341 on the impact of the evolving situation in the Near and Middle East on western European security.

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



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London, S.W.1.

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Draft reply to Recommendation 341
prepared by the French delegation

1. The Nine stated their views on Afghanistan on 15th January, 5th February and, through the Chair, on 19th February, 1980.

As regards Iran, the Ambassadors of the Nine in Tehran have remained in very close consultation since the start of the crisis.

2. Also as regards Iran, the Council condemn the taking as hostages of members of the staff of the United States Embassy in Tehran, contrary to international practice and law, and call urgently on the new Iranian State now being set up, to put an end to this situation immediately. They recall that the governments of member States have supported all moves, both in the United Nations Security Council and in the European Communities, to secure the immediate and unconditional release of these hostages.

Accordingly, the Council recommend that until such time as the hostages are actually released, member States should refrain from selling arms to Iran, provided this kind of sanction is effectively applied by the United States Government itself. The Council have no knowledge that member States are at present delivering armaments to Iran.

/In any case,....

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In any case, they cannot associate themselves with expressions of opinion on the strictly internal aspects of the Iranian revolution.

3. As regards the Middle East conflict, the Council recall the position adopted by each of the member States and formulated in agreed terms by the Nine countries of the European Community, as in fact mentioned in Recommendation 341.

The Council agree with the Assembly that a just and lasting peace can be established only on the basis of a comprehensive settlement in accordance with Security Council Recommendations 242 and 338 and on:

- the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force;
- the need for Israel to end the occupation of the territories it has occupied since 1967;
- respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognised boundaries;
- recognition of, and respect for, the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, including their right to a homeland.

/The Council recall ...

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The Council recall the terms of the statement issued by the Nine on 18th June, 1979, deploring "any action or statement which could constitute an obstacle to the pursuit of peace" and, in particular, Israel's claim to eventual sovereignty over the occupied territories and its policy of establishing settlements.

They consider that all the parties involved should be called on to participate in working out and implementing such a settlement, and in particular the Palestinian people who, as the Chairman of the Nine declared at the last General Assembly of the United Nations, "are entitled within the framework set by a peace settlement, to exercise their right to determine their future as a people" and, through their representatives, to play their full part in the negotiations.

The Council note that the member States are determined to continue their efforts to further the search for an overall settlement of the Middle East conflict.

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RECOMMENDATION 341

on the impact of the evolving situation in the
Near and Middle East on Western European security

The Assembly,

Considering that the maintenance of peace in the Near and Middle East is essential for Western Europe's security and economic prosperity;

Regretting that Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, far from establishing internal peace, political stability and a resumption of economic activity in that country, has led to intercommunal and religious strife and created yet another difficult refugee problem;

Considering that the upheaval in Iran in 1978, inspired by revolutionary principles, has further delayed the introduction of democracy and the restoration of national unity;

Concerned that by taking and detaining employees of the United States Embassy, in violation of all principles of international law, Iran may endanger world peace;

Noting that the Camp David agreements, while establishing peace between Israel and Egypt, have so far provided no solution to the main problems in the Middle East, especially the Palestine question;

Considering that solutions which exclude participation by the Palestinian people do not offer them the possibility of exercising their right to self-determination and militate against the underlying causes of the conflict;

Considering that the positions adopted by Jordan and expressed by His Majesty King Hussein in the United Nations on 25th September, 1979 constitute a positive step towards peace;

Deploping that the continuing establishment of Israeli settlements on the West Bank only makes more difficult a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem;

/Welcoming the ...

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Welcoming the fact that the Nine have been able to speak with a single voice on Middle Eastern matters on several occasions, particularly on 25th September, 1979 in the United Nations General Assembly,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

1. Either directly or where more appropriate indirectly through the participation of its membership in European Political Co-operation among the Nine, ensure that consultation between its members is extended to cover matters relating to Afghanistan and Iran;
2. Ensure that its members refrain from selling arms to Iran as long as internal strife and armed repression continue in that country and call upon all other arms-supplying countries to impose a similar moratorium;
3. Ask Iran to free immediately the hostages held in the United States Embassy;
4. Continue to co-ordinate the positions of its members in the United Nations and call for a clarification from the Security Council of the actual implications of Resolution 242;
5. Ask Egypt, Israel and the United States urgently to consult with a view to reaching agreement on a mutually accepted interpretation of the implications of the Camp David agreements;
6. Ask its Members to urge Israel immediately to accept the existence of the Palestinian people and to renounce its policy of settlements on the West Bank and commence negotiations with valid Palestinian representatives to achieve self-determination, including the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip;
7. Ask its Members to urge the P.L.O., also immediately to declare its acceptance of an independent Israeli State within internationally agreed and defined borders;
8. Ask its Members to urge upon both sides a total abandonment of all acts of violence, which call into question the validity of any such declarations;
9. Use its best endeavours, if these preconditions are met, to promote a broader-based conference than Camp David including representation from all the countries directly involved in the Palestinian dispute.

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