

Draft reply by the French delegation to the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 264 on the proliferation of nuclear weapons (London, 30 September 1975)

Caption: On 30 September 1975, the Secretariat-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a draft reply from the WEU Council, prepared by the French delegation, to Assembly Recommendation 264 on the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The document confirms that the Council is not in a position to express an opinion on the working of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), since not all WEU Member States are parties to the treaty. Given that access to nuclear techniques is important for the economic development of many countries, trade in this field is encouraged. With regard to arms control and disarmament, the balance of forces is the most important factor in maintaining peace. On the physical protection of nuclear material, a more in-depth examination of this question is being carried out by the European Economic Community (EEC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretariat-General note. Recommendation 264 on the proliferation of nuclear weapons. London: 30.09.1975. WPM (75) 35/A. 3 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: 1969, 01/12/1969-16/10/1985. File 202.413.999.06. 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_264_on_the_proliferation_of_nuclear_weapons_london_30_september_1975-en-fb455f56-1437-4588-9afc-ea2fcd8284fc.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. RESTRICTED

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30th September, 1975

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL NOTE

Recommendation 264

on the proliferation of nuclear weapons

(WPM (75) 35)

The Secretariat-General circulates herewith a new draft reply, prepared by the French delegation, to Assembly Recommendation 264 on the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

This draft will be considered by the working group at its next meeting.

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Draft reply to Recommendation 264
prepared by the French delegation

1. The Council, whose members are not all parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, are not in a position to express an opinion on the working of the Treaty or on the results of the Review Conference held in Geneva last May.

2. All members of the Council nevertheless hold firmly to the principle of non-proliferation. They are fully aware of the importance of access to nuclear techniques for the economic development of many countries, and continue to encourage trade in this field, while taking appropriate steps to ensure that exports of nuclear equipment and materials are used for peaceful purposes only.

3. Arms control and disarmament are matters of concern to the member countries of W.E.U. and to the Atlantic Alliance. The balance of forces is, moreover, a vital factor in maintaining peace and all action of the kind mentioned above must take account of the need to safeguard member countries' security and stability.

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WPM (75) 35/A

4. The Council are also convinced of the need to harmonise member countries' positions in the appropriate international fora.

5. The Council stress that the problem of physical protection of nuclear material, particularly against loss, theft and sabotage, has until now been essentially the concern of the military nuclear states, but that it is in fact also the concern of other states, whether or not they have acceded to the Treaty, particularly as such protection involves heavy expenditure which affects the economic balance and the conditions of production and trade of nuclear material.

A fuller examination of this problem has been undertaken by the E.E.C. and by a group of experts meeting under the auspices of the I.A.E.A., which has submitted its conclusions to member countries.

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