

Reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 386 on the situation in the Middle East (15 November 1982)

Caption: On 15 November 1982, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the final reply by the WEU Council to the Assembly Recommendation on the situation in the Middle East. In view of the cycle of violence currently prevailing in that area of the world, the Council unreservedly condemns the violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and particularly deplores Israel's invasion of Lebanon. The Council is convinced that the Middle East can only enjoy lasting peace and true stability through the participation of all parties in a comprehensive settlement which should be based on the principles of security for all states, justice for all and the renunciation of force. The Council therefore welcomes all the peace initiatives adopted with a view to resolving the Palestinian question and reconciling those parties involved.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Recommendation 386 on the situation in the Middle East. London: 15.11.1982. C (82) 121. 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: 1981, 01/06/1981-29/04/1983. File 202.413.999.13 Volume 1/1 .

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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. UNCLASSIFIED

C (82) 121

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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Recommendation 386
on the situation in the Middle East
(C (82) 76)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the Council's reply to Assembly Recommendation 386.

This reply, approved by all delegations, has been forwarded to the Assembly.

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

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Reply to Recommendation 306
on the situation in the Middle East

1. The Council unreservedly condemn the violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon and express their determination to support all efforts aimed at re-establishing the authority of the Lebanese Government over all its national territory. The member countries of W.E.U. affirm their solidarity with a friendly country whose population has suffered so cruelly and whose stability is dangerously threatened. They strongly hope that after the election of the new President the Lebanese people will be able to bring about national reconciliation and they are prepared to assist in the relief and reconstruction of the country.

2. The Council strongly condemn the cycle of violence, especially the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. They express their profound revulsion at the massacre of Palestinian civilians in Beirut. Following these tragic events, the governments of the W.E.U. countries welcome U.N. Security Council Resolution 521, and consider that deployment of multinational forces in Beirut, in which forces belonging to France, Italy and the United States are participating, will contribute significantly to the security of the civilian population of Beirut.

The Council are convinced that a return to lasting peace in Lebanon and the restoration of its national sovereignty require the rapid and complete withdrawal of all foreign forces from the country except those authorised by the Government of Lebanon whose authority should be fully re-established over all its national territory. The Council support all efforts designed to achieve these objectives.

3. The Council are convinced that, looking beyond the solution of the Lebanese problem, the Middle East can only enjoy lasting peace and true stability through the participation of all parties in a comprehensive settlement which should be based on the principles of security for all States, justice for all peoples of the region and renunciation of force by all parties concerned. Such a settlement should be founded on mutual recognition by all the parties involved of Israel's right to exist within secure and internationally-recognised frontiers and also of the right of self-determination for

/the Palestinians ...

the Palestinians with all that this implies. For such negotiations to be possible, the Council consider that the Palestinian people must be represented and the P.L.O. will have to be associated with negotiations.

In view of the principles mentioned above, the Council welcome President Reagan's new initiative contained in his speech on 1st September, 1982, which offers an important opportunity for peaceful progress towards a solution of the Palestinian question and the reconciliation of the parties involved. In this connection, they underline the importance of the statement adopted by Arab heads of State and Government at Fez on 9th September, which they see as an expression of the unanimous will of the participants, including the P.L.O., to work for the achievement of a just peace in the Middle East encompassing all States in the area, including Israel. Finally, the Council believe that discussions of the Franco-Egyptian draft resolution by the Security Council could play a useful part in establishing a common basis for a solution of the problems of the area.