

French note on the plans for those units of the forces of the WEU countries which are under NATO command (London, 30 May 1956)


Caption: On 30 may 1956, the Secretary-General circulates a note presented by the French delegation. This note is a draft resolution on the level of forces of the seven Western European Union (WEU) powers under the command of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The draft resolution suggests the following procedure: given the Council's responsibilities on this matter, the Council would invite the WEU Member States to instruct their permanent representatives to NATO to meet during the NATO annual review to determine whether their level of forces is in compliance with the limits set by Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol II on the forces of Western European Union and to report on this matter to the WEU Council, which would take a unanimous decision on the possibility of increasing force levels.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretrary-General's note. Plans for those unitis of the forces of the Seven WEU Powers which are under NATO command. London: 30.05.1956. C(56) 114. Copy No 61. 2 p. Archives nationales de Luxembourg (ANLux). <http://www.anlux.lu>. Western European Union Archives. Secretariat-General/Council's Archives. 1954-1987. Organs of Western European Union. Year: 1959, 01/07/1955-11/12/1959. File 243.20. Volume 1/5.

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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Plans for those units of the forces of the Seven W.E.U. Powers
which are under N.A.T.O. command.

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the text of a note, dated 29th May last, received from the French Embassy, on the plans for those units of the forces of the Seven W.E.U. Powers which are under N.A.T.O. command.

In accordance with the decision of the Council at their 49th meeting (CR (56) 15, page 5), the text of the draft resolution submitted by the French delegation will be studied by a Working Party before being considered by the Council.

2, Eaton Place,
London, S.W.1.

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FRENCH EMBASSY.

LONDON

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29th May 1956

The French Embassy present their compliments to the Secretariat of W.E.U. and wish to recall that, at the last meeting of the Council, it was agreed that the French delegation would submit a draft on the procedure for carrying out the requirements of those clauses of Protocol No. II to the Paris Agreements relating to the level of forces of member countries placed under N.A.T.O. command.

The French delegation's reasons were given at the Council meeting and are to be found in the minutes.

A decision by the Council along these lines could therefore take the form of a resolution approximately as follows:

The Council of W.E.U., taking into account the provisions of Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No. II on the forces of Western European Union, and considering that their duty is to ensure that the limits laid down in Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol are respected, would recommend Member States to instruct their permanent representatives to the N.A.T.O. Council:

- (a) to meet once a year, at a suitable time during the preparation of the N.A.T.O. annual review, to determine whether the level of the forces of the seven member countries to be included in the review is in conformity with the provisions of Articles 1 and 2 referred to above;
- (b) to report thereon to the Council of W.E.U. The Council would consider and take a unanimous decision on all estimates, the effect of which would be to increase the level of the forces beyond the limits laid down in Articles 1 and 2 referred to above.

The French delegation proposes that this draft be submitted to the deputies for consideration.

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