

Secretary-General’s note on the level of forces of the Member States of WEU placed under NATO command (London, 28 February 1980)


Caption: In this note, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the text of the report for 1979, adopted at the meeting on 25 February 1980 in Brussels and signed by the permanent representatives of the WEU Member States in the North Atlantic Council, with the exception of France. This document is an example of the ad hoc procedure that was first established in 1967 (document CR (67) 21) and applied for subsequent years concerning the examination of force levels of WEU Member States under NATO command. The document indicates that these forces fall within the limits previously established in accordance with Protocol No II of the modified Brussels Treaty and that a declaration on the French forces will be made by the French representative in the WEU Council when the annual examination of force levels takes place. The annex refers to a request by the German authorities to increase the number of naval operational aircraft to 125 so as to enable Germany to carry out the defensive missions assigned to it by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General’s note. Level of forces of the member states of WEU placed under NATO command. London: 28.02.1980. C (80) 30. Copy No 44. 4 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: 1980, 01/10/1968-31/05/1980. File 243.20. Volume 3/5.

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URL:
http://www.cvce.eu/obj/secretary_general_s_note_on_the_level_of_forces_of_the_member_states_of_weu_placed_under_nato_command_london_28_february_1980-en-0549bce5-57c3-40bf-8a7a-a4ad65c58210.html

Last updated: 25/10/2016



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. SECRET

Original: French

C (80) 30

Copy No. 44

28th February, 1980

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Level of forces of the member States of W.E.U.

placed under NATO command

(Resolution of 15th September, 1956)

(CR (79) 2, III)

1. The Secretary-General circulates herewith the text of the report, for 1979, adopted and signed by the permanent representatives (or their substitutes) of member governments of Western European Union in the North Atlantic Council, with the exception of France, at their meeting in Brussels on 25th February, 1980.
2. This report indicates that the level of forces of member States under NATO command, as set out in the NATO Force Plan (DPC/D (79) 14) falls within the limits previously established in accordance with the provisions of Protocol No. II of the modified Brussels Treaty, with the exception of that set out at annex which would increase the forces to levels above the limits.
3. In accordance with the report, it is recommended that the Council of W.E.U. - whose decision is required, by the terms of Article III of Protocol No. II, to be unanimous - authorise the State concerned to make this increase in its force levels.

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4. It is further recalled that, in accordance with the ad hoc procedure first established for 1967, and which has been applied for subsequent years, a declaration on the level of French forces is made by the French representative in the Council of W.E.U. when the annual examination of force levels of member States of W.E.U. under NATO command takes place.

5. This question will be considered at the next meeting of the Council, to be held on 12th March, 1980.

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

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Procès-verbal

"The permanent representatives, or their substitutes, on the North Atlantic Council, of the member States of Western European Union, with the exception of France, have met today, 25th February, 1980, and have recorded that the level of forces of the member States of W.E.U., as set out in the NATO Force Plan (DPC/D(79)14) - which does not include any French forces - falls within the limits specified in Articles I and II of Protocol No. II to the modified Brussels Treaty, as at present in force, with the exception of those set out at Annex which would increase the forces to levels above the limits. They recommend that the Council of W.E.U. agree that the State concerned shall be free to make these increases."

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ANNEX

"Concerning the limits for NATO forces specified in Articles I and II of Protocol No. II to the modified Brussels Treaty. (Text appearing in document DPC/D(79)14 (Germany) paragraphs 34, 35 and 36.)

The German authorities strongly emphasized the need to increase the maximum number stipulated for German naval operational aircraft by the Brussels Treaty and Protocol No. II on the forces of Western European Union. The present maximum, authorised by the Council of W.E.U. in 1966, is 72 aircraft, with a logistic reserve of 28 aircraft authorised in 1968.

The German authorities have found that, particularly because of wear and corrosion resulting from prolonged service over the sea, a bigger logistic reserve is essential in order to keep the 72 aircraft at the necessary high all-weather combat readiness. The present inventory of the German Navy therefore comprises the following:-

72 F 104 G aircraft, authorised

38 F 104 G aircraft, logistic reserve

2 F 104 G aircraft for technical training

13 F 104 G training aircraft (two seaters)

Total 125

As SACEUR confirmed, this figure of 125 aircraft is the minimum which the German Naval forces require in order to maintain the combat capability needed to carry out the defensive missions assigned to them by NATO. In accordance with Articles II and III of Protocol No. II on the forces of Western European Union and with paragraph 3 of the Resolution to implement Section IV of the Final Act of the London Conference, (*) it is recommended that the Council of W.E.U. increase the maximum number of operational aircraft of the German Naval forces to 125."

(*) Note by the Secretariat-General of W.E.U.: see the Resolution adopted by the Council of W.E.U. on 15th September, 1956.

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