

## Recommendation 349 of the WEU Assembly on the impact of the evolving situation in the Near and Middle East on Western European security (Paris, 3 June 1980)

**Caption:** On 3 June 1980, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 349 on the impact of the evolving situation in the Near and Middle East on Western European security. The Assembly believes that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan represents a threat to the fundamental principles of international law and that it endangers the balance and peace in an area which is vital for the security of the Western world. This situation makes it essential to take urgent measures to guarantee the maintenance of a just peace in the Near and Middle East. The Assembly therefore recommends that consultations should be held on questions concerning the security in areas not covered by the Brussels Treaty and the North Atlantic Treaty.

**Source:** Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 349 on the impact of the evolving situation in the Near and Middle East on Western European security (Paris, fourth sitting, 3rd June 1980)' in Proceedings: Twenty-sixth ordinary session, First Part, Vol. II, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. June 1980, pp. 36-37.

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**RECOMMENDATION 349*****on the impact of the evolving situation  
in the Near and Middle East on Western European security***

The Assembly,

Considering that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan is a threat to the fundamental principles of international law and is a serious threat to the balance and peace in an area which is vital for the security of the western world;

Believing that this intervention makes it essential to take urgent measures to guarantee the maintenance of peace in the Middle East;

Considering furthermore that democratic countries must make use of all the peaceful means at their disposal to demonstrate their non-acceptance of the fait accompli;

Considering also that the holding of United States diplomats as hostages in Tehran is an intolerable violation of international law and a threat to peace in Asia and prevents the improvement of relations with Iran;

Believing that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan makes it essential to strengthen without delay the defence means of the members of the Atlantic Alliance and considering that in this context the establishment of just and lasting peace in Palestine is essential for stability in the area;

Recalling that in their declaration of 29th June 1977 the Nine said that fair and lasting peace could only be established in the Middle East in an overall context. Such a settlement must be based on relevant resolutions of the Security Council and establish the right of the Palestinian people to a homeland, through self-determination, without prejudicing the existence of Israel as an independent state within internationally secure and recognised boundaries;

Recalling that the Nine deplored the policy of settlements pursued by the Israeli Government in the occupied territories, which is illegal from the point of view of international law and contrary to decisions of the Security Council in its most recent resolution;

Noting that the Palestine Liberation Organisation is the only body recognised as representing the Palestinian people by the Arab states as early as in 1974;

Noting that an increasing number of western countries, including several WEU member states, have acknowledged that a solution of the Palestine problem is difficult, if not impossible, to attain without the participation of the PLO;

Considering that Europe, when it manages to speak with a single voice, could be in a position to make an effective contribution to the maintenance of peace with justice in the Near and Middle East;

Recalling and reiterating all the as yet unfulfilled and still relevant recommendations in Recommendation 341, approved by the Assembly of WEU in December 1979 ;

Noting with approval the declaration on the international situation adopted by the Nine on 28th April 1980 affecting the matters raised in the present document,

**RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL**

1. Intensify consultations between its members on all questions concerning the balance and security in areas not covered by the Brussels Treaty and the North Atlantic Treaty with a view to agreeing on joint action whenever and wherever possible;
2. Develop forthwith the means of defence at Europe's disposal and reinforce, on the most appropriate basis, the capacity of Pakistan and other threatened countries in the region to defend their territorial integrity;
3. Make use of all means at the disposal of member countries without resort to military measures to demonstrate collectively their non-acceptance of the fait accompli by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan;

4. Demonstrate their solidarity in requiring Iran to free the United States diplomats now being held hostage;
5. Supply Turkey with economic support to assist in overcoming the difficulties it is encountering and for associating that country as closely as possible with the economy of Western Europe;
6. Initiate, after 26th May 1980, new steps necessary to contribute to the establishment of a just and lasting peace in Palestine;
7. Urge the Security Council either to review and supplement Resolution 242 to express beyond argument the original fundamental purposes and scope of that resolution; or else to consider and declare a new composite resolution on the one hand designed to provide adequate security for the integrity of Israel within secure and internationally-recognised boundaries whilst on the other hand assuring Palestinians of an inherent right of self-determination on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip to establish their own homeland;
8. Propose, thereafter, the preparation of a conference between Israel, all adjacent Arab countries, a delegation truly representative of the Palestinian people, the United States and Western European countries in a position to contribute to its success;
9. To this end, endeavour to secure before that conference unequivocal declarations by the Arab participants in this settlement recognising Israel's right to exist and by Israel recognising the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.