

Recommendation 341 of the WEU Assembly on the impact of the evolving situation in the Near and Middle East on Western European security (Paris, 4 December 1979)

Caption: On 4 December 1979, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 341 on the impact of the evolving situation in the Near and Middle East on Western European security. It emphasises that the maintenance of peace in that region is essential for Western Europe's security and economic prosperity. The document particularly sets out the Assembly's position on the consequences of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, on the question of the American hostages in Tehran and on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It proposes a series of recommendations for the Council, calling on its members to adopt common positions with regard to Iran, Afghanistan, Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 341 on the impact of the evolving situation in the Near and Middle East on Western European security (Paris, eleventh sitting, 4th December 1979)' in Proceedings: Twenty-fifth ordinary session, Second Part, Vol. IV, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. December 1979, pp. 34-35.

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RECOMMENDATION 341***on the impact of the evolving situation in the
Near and Middle East on Western European security***

The Assembly,

Considering that the maintenance of peace in the Near and Middle East is essential for Western Europe's security and economic prosperity ;

Regretting that Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, far from establishing internal peace, political stability and a resumption of economic activity in that country, has led to intercommunal and religious strife and created yet another difficult refugee problem ;

Considering that the upheaval in Iran in 1978, inspired by revolutionary principles, has further delayed the introduction of democracy and the restoration of national unity ;

Concerned that by taking and detaining employees of the United States Embassy, in violation of all principles of international law, Iran may endanger world peace ;

Noting that the Camp David agreements, while establishing peace between Israel and Egypt, have so far provided no solution to the main problems in the Middle East, especially the Palestine question ;

Considering that solutions which exclude participation by the Palestinian people do not offer them the possibility of exercising their right to self-determination and militate against the underlying causes of the conflict ;

Considering that the positions adopted by Jordan and expressed by His Majesty King Hussein in the United Nations on 25th September 1979 constitute a positive step towards peace ;

Deploring that the continuing establishment of Israeli settlements on the West Bank only makes more difficult a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem ;

Welcoming the fact that the Nine have been able to speak with a single voice on Middle Eastern matters on several occasions, particularly on 25th September 1979 in the United Nations General Assembly,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

1. Either directly or where more appropriate indirectly through the participation of its membership in European political co-operation among the Nine, ensure that consultation between its members is extended to cover matters relating to Afghanistan and Iran ;
2. Ensure that its members refrain from selling arms to Iran as long as internal strife and armed repression continue in that country and call upon all other arms-supplying countries to impose a similar moratorium ;
3. Ask Iran to free immediately the hostages held in the United States Embassy ;
4. Continue to co-ordinate the positions of its members in the United Nations and call for a clarification from the Security Council of the actual implications of Resolution 242 ;
5. Ask Egypt, Israel and the United States urgently to consult with a view to reaching agreement on a mutually accepted interpretation of the implications of the Camp David agreements ;
6. Ask its members to urge Israel immediately to accept the existence of the Palestinian people and to renounce its policy of settlements on the West Bank and commence negotiations with valid Palestinian representatives to achieve self-determination, including the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip ;

7. Ask its members to urge the PLO, also immediately, to declare its acceptance of an independent Israeli state within internationally agreed and defined borders ;
8. Ask its members to urge upon both sides a total abandonment of all acts of violence, which call into question the validity of any such declarations ;
9. Use its best endeavours, if these preconditions are met, to promote a broader-based conference than Camp David including representation from all the countries directly involved in the Palestinian dispute.