

Recommendation 371 of the WEU Assembly on European security and events in the Gulf area (Paris, 18 June 1981)

Caption: On 18 June 1981, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 371 on European security and events in the Gulf area. The document particularly refers to the situation brought about by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the prevailing instability and tension throughout the entire Middle East region. The Assembly's recommendations to the Council include expressing the opposition of its members to any intervention by the Soviet Union in the Middle Eastern countries.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 371 on European security and events in the Gulf area (Paris, sixth sitting, 18th June 1981)' in Proceedings: Twenty-seventh ordinary session: First Part, Vol. II, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. June 1981, p. 47.

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RECOMMENDATION 371***on European security and events in the Gulf area***

The Assembly,

Recalling its Recommendation 361;

Noting that the situation brought about by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has not changed since then but that the consequences for the Afghan people have become considerably worse;

Considering that this invasion also constitutes a direct threat to the security of all southern Asian countries as well as to peace in the world;

Recognising that the lack of progress towards peace between Israel and its neighbouring countries makes it impossible to restore stability throughout the Middle East;

Deploring the prolongation of the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran;

Deploring, in condemning Israel's air attack on Baghdad, the resultant increase in tension throughout the whole Middle East which reduces the credibility of the West, especially of the United States, in seeking to provide compromise solutions to intractable problems in the area;

Considering that it is of vital interest to Europe to maintain good relations with all the Arab countries but not to intervene in any way in the internal affairs of any of these countries,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

1. Demonstrate the will of its members to oppose any intervention by the Soviet Union in the Middle Eastern countries;
2. Concert its efforts with the United States to afford assistance to the Afghan resistance movement;
3. Furnish substantial economic aid to Pakistan in order to help it to receive refugees on its territory without unacceptable social and economic damage to its own economy and also provide that country with the defensive armaments it urgently needs for its own security;
4. At the same time express Europe's determination to oppose Soviet military intervention and its will not to intervene in disputes which remain confined to the area;
5. Offer active support and help to all efforts made by the countries of the area to assume collectively their own security;
6. Actively and jointly seek agreement between all countries likely to supply weapons to Iraq and Iran with a view to halting arms supplies to the two belligerents;
7. With a view to making Europe less dependent on Middle Eastern oil producers, propose consultations with the governments of other oil-consuming countries designed to promote an energy policy aimed at a progressive reduction in world oil consumption;
8. Express its condemnation of any aggression against countries in the area, and propose that the United Nations use appropriate sanctions against any aggressor whatsoever.