

Minutes of the 405th meeting of the WEU Council: question on arms deliveries to the Middle East (Luxembourg, 16 December 1970)

Caption: On 3 November 1970, at the 405th meeting of the Council of Western European Union (WEU) in Luxembourg, the General Affairs Committee reviews questions from Members of the WEU Assembly, including the question put by Lord Gladwyn of the United Kingdom. Lord Gladwyn asked the Council whether it agreed that arms deliveries by WEU member countries to the Middle East should be organised in accordance with a plan acceptable to the Council as a whole. The German Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to London, Karl-Günther von Hase, says that the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) has abstained from making any arms deliveries in this region, while his French counterpart, Ambassador Geoffroy Chodron de Courcel, explains that France has proclaimed an embargo on arms supplies to all the countries in the battle area since the Six-Day War.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Extract from minutes of the 405 meeting of WEU Council held on 3rd November 1970 at the Centre européen, Kirchberg, 16 December 1970. CR (70)20. Final. Archives nationales de Luxembourg (ANLux).<http://www.anlux.lu>. Western European Union Archives. Secretariat-General/Council's Archives. 1954-1987. Organs of the Western European Union. Year: 1970, 01/11/1970-18/03/1971. File 202.32.11. Volume 2/2.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/minutes_of_the_405th_meeting_of_the_weu_council_question_on_arms_deliveries_to_the_middle_east_luxembourg_16_december_1970-en-e71a88d3-c4ad-49bb-8dc5-dd78a17ac1a9.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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16th December, 1970⁺

MINUTES OF THE 405TH MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION
HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER, 1970
AT THE CENTRE EUROPEEN, KIRCHBERG, LUXEMBOURG

Present:

<u>CHAIRMAN</u>	S.E. M. G. THORN	Président en exercice du Conseil, Ministre des affaires étrangères du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg
<u>BELGIUM</u>	S.E. le baron J. van den BOSCH	Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire, Londres
	M. J. BOUSSE	Conseiller, Londres
<u>FRANCE</u>	S.E. M. G. de COURCEL	Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire, Londres
	M. J.-P. ANGREMY	Premier secrétaire, Londres
<u>FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY</u>	H.E. Mr. K.-G. von HASE	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, London
	Mr. O.M. von der GABLENTZ	Counsellor, London
<u>ITALY</u>	M. P. RICCIULLI	Ministre plénipotentiaire, Londres
	M. V. FARINELLI	Conseiller, Londres

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⁺ The draft of these minutes was circulated on 10th November, 1970

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<u>LUXEMBOURG</u>	S.E. M. A. CLASEN	Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire, Londres
	M. P. HELMINGER	Premier secrétaire, Londres
<u>NETHERLANDS</u>	H.E. Mr. J.H. van ROIJEN	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, London
	Mr. P.A. van BUUREN	Counsellor, London
<u>UNITED KINGDOM</u>	Sir Thomas BRIMELOW	Deputy Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
	Mr. J.M. CROSBY	Western Organisations Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
<u>SECRETARIAT-GENERAL</u>	M. M. IWEINS d'EECKHOUTTE	Secretary-General
	Mr. F.-K. von PLEHWE	Deputy Secretary-General
	Mr. P.B. FRASER	Assistant Secretary-General
	M. J. WESTHOF	Legal Adviser
	M. J. MARTIN	General Affairs
<u>AGENCY FOR THE CONTROL OF ARMAMENTS</u>	General U. FIORI	Director
<u>STANDING ARMAMENTS COMMITTEE</u>	M. M. ROUX	Assistant Secretary-General, Head of the International Secretariat
<u>NATO INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT</u>	Mr. F. von DUNGERN	Director of Defence Plans and Policies Division
	M. R. MEUWIS	Administrator, Political Division
<u>SHAPE</u>	Rear-Admiral A. CASWELL	Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics

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M. de COURCEL proposed that they give a single reply, in general terms, to these two questions. The Council's written reply recognised that the Russians had gained some foothold and that it was consequently all the more necessary to reach a political settlement. On the other hand, it would be very difficult to produce a more accurate assessment and to give estimates, which would undoubtedly differ from one delegation to another.

6. Question III, 2

- "Would the Council agree that Palestinian representatives should take part in any negotiations?" (Mr. Judd)

It was agreed to reply that such a question did not fall within the Council's competence.

7. Question III, 3

- "What is the Council's appreciation of the difference between the English and French texts of the Resolution of 22nd November?" (Mr. Blumenfeld)

It was agreed to reply that there were indeed different interpretations for the two versions because the adoption of the text of the Resolution had been surrounded by some ambiguity. However, the difference did not appear to be fundamental.

8. Question III, 4

- "Are not the Council seeking a common policy on arms deliveries? Why not?" (Lord Gladwyn)

Sir Thomas BRIMELOW pointed out that Lord Gladwyn had formulated his question differently during the meeting and had asked whether the Council agreed that arms deliveries by W.E.U. countries should be organised in accordance with some plan acceptable to the Council as a whole. Unfortunately, Sir Thomas saw little possibility of this.

Mr. von HASE said that his country had abstained from making any arms deliveries in this region for a number of years. He would be in favour of a fairly evasive reply.

/M. de COURCEL stated ...

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M. de COURCEL stated that the French Government, for their part, had proclaimed an embargo on arms supplies to all the countries in the battle area since the six-day war.

The CHAIRMAN therefore proposed replying that it would be difficult to formulate a plan such as that suggested by Lord Gladwyn, in view of the differing positions of member countries. Moreover, such a plan would only be useful if it were accepted not only by the seven countries, but by all countries which supplied arms.

9. Question III, 5

- "Do the Council consider that U.N.R.W.A. should continue to supply the refugees with aid allowing agitation to be continued by the Palestinians?" (Mr. Blumenfeld)

The CHAIRMAN noted that when putting his question at the meeting, Mr. Blumenfeld had dropped the second part concerning agitation, mentioning instead the small success of the aid given.

Baron van den BOSCH considered that in any case the link between aid and agitation was debatable.

After a brief exchange of views, it was agreed to stress the humanitarian aspect of the problem, which was undeniable.

- "Why are Arab countries which have received refugees and European countries which have found themselves in the same circumstances not treated in the same way?" (Mr. Sieglerschmidt)

Mr. von HASE remarked that circumstances differed greatly, as did the attitudes of the refugees themselves.

M. de COURCEL pointed out that there were United Nations decisions on the subject.

/10. Questions III, 6