

Draft reply by the United Kingdom delegation to the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 383 on the problem of nuclear weapons in Europe (London, 31 August 1982)


Caption: On 31 August 1982, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a draft reply from the WEU Council, prepared by the British delegation, to Assembly Recommendation 383 on the problem of nuclear weapons in Europe. The WEU Council shares many of the Assembly’s views, particularly on the importance of the signing of the SALT II Agreement (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) in 1979, the opening of the START negotiations (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) and the continuing discussions on intermediate nuclear forces (INF). The Council also believes that arms control and defence measures should complement each other in a balanced security policy. Furthermore, the Council agrees with the Assembly that preparations should be continued for the possible deployment of cruise missiles and Pershing II missiles in Western Europe.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General ‘s note. Recommendation 383 on the problem of nuclear weapons in Europe. London: 31.08.1982. WPM (82) 17. 4 p. 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: 1982, 01/04/1982-30/11/1982. File 202.413.30. Volume 1/1.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_united_kingdom_delegation_to_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_383_on_the_problem_of_nuclear_weapons_in_europe_london_31_august_1982-en-27ba21bc-738e-4dd8-9784-7d35dd39a3e3.html

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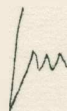
31st August, 1982

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Recommendation 383 on the problem of nuclear weapons in Europe (C (82) 76)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply, prepared by the United Kingdom delegation, to Recommendation 383 on the problem of nuclear weapons in Europe.

This draft will be considered at the next meeting of the working group on Friday, 17th September, 1982.



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London, S.W.1.

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Draft reply to Recommendation 383
prepared by the United Kingdom delegation

1. The Council welcome the continued interest of the Assembly in NATO's policy on intermediate nuclear forces (INF) and take careful note of the Assembly's views. The Council endorse many of the opinions expressed in the Recommendation and its preamble, notably the need for arms control and defence measures to complement each other in a balanced security policy, and the importance of the 1979 Double Decision as the basis for redressing the imbalance in INF.
2. The Council agree with the Assembly on the need to continue the current close consultations amongst the Allies on the subject of INF. They welcome the addition of regular briefings of the North Atlantic Council, by the leaders of the United States Delegation to the INF negotiations, to the continued series of meetings of the Special Consultative Group for those member countries which participated in the Dual Decision of December 1979.
3. The Council further agree with the Assembly on the importance to be attached to the continuation of preparations for the deployment of Ground Launched Cruise Missiles and Pershing II missiles. NATO's resolve in implementing its 12th December, 1979

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decision was the key factor in persuading the Soviet Union to enter into arms control negotiations in Geneva and will continue to be crucial to achieving concrete results. Members of the Council who participated in the December 1979 decision will continue to do all within their power to promote early progress towards negotiated agreement on the basis of the so-called 'zero option' or 'zero level outcome' for the longer range land based INF missiles. They reconfirm that in subsequent phases of the negotiations other INF systems could be subject to limitation. They believe, however, that it would be premature to prejudge the forum in which any arms control agreement covering short range or battle-field nuclear systems might be considered. The priority must be to focus on those systems which are of most concern to both sides.

4. The Council are happy to repeat the welcome which has been given by member Governments to the renewal of strategic arms control through the opening of the START talks and to the assurances that existing agreements will not be undercut pending the negotiation of a START agreement. The Council endorse the Assembly's concern to see effective verification measures in any arms control agreement.

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5. The Council doubt that the United States Government need outside encouragement to keep under review the existing measures to prevent any possibility of war by accident or miscalculation and in this respect have noted the initiatives outlined by President Reagan in his speech in Berlin in June 1982.

6. The Council agree that the figures published on the forces of the Alliance and the Warsaw Pact, such as those in the NATO Force Comparisons Paper published in the Spring of 1982 may need to be updated from time to time. They also accept that member Governments will need to continue their active information policies to ensure that public opinion is well informed about Alliance security policy, and the threat faced by members of NATO.

7. As regards a European approach to the political aspects of the discussions in the North Atlantic Council, the European members of the Alliance discuss the issues on the agenda of the NAC with each other as well as with their North Atlantic Allies, as part of normal informal consultations. A number of these subjects are also discussed by the members of the European Community as a normal part of the Community's political co-operation procedures.

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