

Reply by the WEU Council to Recommendation 367 of the WEU Assembly on talks on long-range theatre nuclear force reductions in Europe (London, 22 October 1981)

Caption: On 22 October 1981, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 367 on talks on long-range theatre nuclear force reductions in Europe. The WEU Council welcomes the intention by the United States and the Soviet Union to start TNF (Theatre Nuclear Forces) negotiations. It emphasises that these negotiations should take place in the wider framework of the SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) process and that they should proceed step by step, the first step focusing on the most immediate threat, namely the Soviet deployment of SS-20 missiles. The Council also announces its continued support for the French proposal to organise a conference on disarmament in Europe and welcomes the recent publication by the United States of an analysis on the Soviet nuclear threat.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General 's note. Assembly Recommendation 367. London: 22.10.1981. C (81) 140. 3 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: 1981, 01/06/1981-30/10/1981. File 202.413.28. Volume 1/1.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply_by_the_weu_council_to_recommendation_367_of_the_weu_assembly_on_talks_on_long_range_theatre_nuclear_force_reductions_in_europe_london_22_october_1981-en-543f82ce-1e03-4ec8-8591-64624f98d75c.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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C (81) 140

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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Assembly Recommendation 367

(C (81) 96)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the Council's reply to Assembly Recommendation 367.

This reply, adopted by the Council at their meeting on 21st October, 1981, has been forwarded to the Assembly (CR (81) 14, III, 1).

9, Grosvenor Place,
London, S.W.1.

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Reply to Recommendation 367
on talks on long-range theatre
nuclear force reductions

1. The Council take note of the ideas expressed by the Assembly in its recommendation on the talks relating to the reduction of long-range theatre nuclear forces and of the underlying concerns.

The W.E.U. member countries which participated in the dual decision of 12th December, 1979 (long-range theatre nuclear forces modernisation and negotiations on L.R.T.N.F. limitations on both sides) share these ideas as a whole. They insist that the two aspects of this decision must be implemented. In this context, the Council note with satisfaction the intention expressed by both the United States and the Soviet Union, to start T.N.F. negotiations on 30th November, 1981.

2. The Council continue to hold the opinion that negotiations on the reduction of T.N.F. should take place within the wider framework of the SALT process. They have noted the decision of the new United States Administration to observe, in the meantime, limits set by the earlier agreements, which the Soviets apparently also intend to respect.

3. The Council recall that, according to the Allies who participated in the December 1979 decision, negotiations on arms control in the field of theatre nuclear weapons should proceed step by step. In keeping with this view, the first of these steps should be centred on the most immediate threat constituted by the Soviet long-range theatre missile systems, particularly the SS-20, which is the most modern and efficient of them.

Subsequent steps could provide an opportunity for extending the range of systems dealt with and increasing the rigour of the limitations sought. In any case, any future limitation of American systems designed mainly for theatre use should be accompanied by appropriate limitations of Soviet theatre systems.

/4. ...

4. The Council consider that it is for the Allies who participated in the decision of 12th December, 1979, particularly the United States, to provide objective and comparable assessments of the balance of forces which would serve as a basis for negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union. Furthermore, they welcome the fact that a new, objective and thorough analysis of the Soviet nuclear threat has recently been made available to the governments represented on the Nuclear Planning Group. They also welcome the fact that the United States Government has published the essentials of this documentation in an unclassified version (entitled "Soviet Military Power"), to enable the public to be aware of a set of facts, figures, proofs and assessments hitherto available only to ministers.

5. The Council continue to support the French proposal for a conference on disarmament in Europe which would seek, in the first instance, to achieve agreement on a coherent set of confidence-building measures which would be militarily significant, binding and verifiable, applicable to the whole continent of Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals. Taking account of the progress which has so far been possible towards agreement at Madrid on a specific, unambiguous mandate incorporating the above criteria, the Council hope that the Eastern countries will now be prepared to resolve the main outstanding issue by agreeing to the application of these confidence-building measures from the Atlantic to the Urals, as proposed by the West, which would be a contribution to a substantial and balanced result of the Madrid meeting.