

Reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 194 (London, 20 March 1970)

Caption: In a note dated 20 March 1970, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 194 on the international trade in armaments. This final reply is identical to the text of the British proposal of 13 February (WPM(70)16).

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Assembly Recommendation 194. London: 20.03.1970. C(70)44. 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: 1968, 01/11/1968-30/10/1970. File 202.413.16. Volume 1/1.

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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply_by_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_194_london_20_march_1970-en-4ed14212-2b25-4d7a-a87d-d5cd45f0ff69.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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C (70) 44

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20th March 1970

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Assembly Recommendation 194

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the Council's reply to Recommendation 194 of the Assembly.

The reply, adopted by the Council at their meeting of 18th March 1970, has now been forwarded to the Assembly (CR (70) 6, VI, 2).

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Reply to Assembly Recommendation 194 on
the international trade in armaments

1. The Council take note of the views expressed in the Assembly's recommendation and would welcome international agreement on effective measures to control the international arms trade. In their view, however, the primary requirement for the implementation of an effective international agreement is the active support of all major supplying countries; the attitude of recipient countries would also be a key factor. Past experience, both within the United Nations and outside, suggests that such an effective agreement will be very difficult to reach. The member governments of W.E.U. will continue their efforts in every way possible, both within and outside the United Nations, towards achieving international control of armaments. Pending an effective agreement, these governments will follow their practice of carefully scrutinising each individual application for the supply of arms on its merits.

2. As regards an Arbitration Tribunal capable of providing a peaceful settlement of international conflicts, there already exists, as the Assembly are aware, at The Hague, the International Court of Justice, a principal organ of the United Nations.

3. The Council consider that the Agency is not authorised by the texts governing its activity to perform the tasks mentioned in paragraph 3 of Recommendation 194.

The position is as follows:

1. By virtue of Article VII of Protocol No. IV, the Agency only has authority to direct its attention to the armaments listed in Annexes II, III and IV of Protocol No. III.
2. The Agency is normally informed only of the quantities of armaments to be exported (Article XXII of Protocol No. IV), without details of their destination outside W.E.U. The last sentence of Article XXII is concerned only with cases where levels of stocks appear abnormal.

/3. Article XXII ...

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3. Article XXII of Protocol No. IV excludes the United Kingdom from the control of exports.

The role which the Assenbly would like the Agency to play in this matter would therefore involve amendment of the actual texts governing the activities of the Agency, that is, of the Protocols themselves.

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