

Recommendation 292 of the WEU Assembly on the role of the Atlantic Alliance in the world today (Paris, 29 November 1976)

Caption: On 29 November 1976, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 292 on the role of the Atlantic Alliance in the world today, particularly emphasising the decisive role played by the Alliance in maintaining peace in Europe. The Assembly recommends that the WEU Council carry out a fair assessment of the difficulties and dangers facing the Atlantic Alliance and that it invite the members of the Council to offer their support, in the appropriate frameworks, for policies in the areas of security, disarmament, defence, promotion of parliamentary democracy and respect for human rights.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 292 on the role of the Atlantic Alliance in the world today (Paris, seventh sitting, 29th November 1976)' in Proceedings: Twenty-second ordinary session: Second Part, Vol. IV, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. November 1976, p. 20.

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RECOMMENDATION 292***on the rôle of the Atlantic Alliance in the world today***

The Assembly,

Recalling the decisive rôle constantly played by the United States (and Canada) in ensuring security and peace in Western Europe ;

Considering the maintenance and cohesion of the Atlantic Alliance to be the only military guarantee of lasting peace in Europe ;

Considering that its maintenance and cohesion require continuous and frank consultations in many fields between the European and American members of the Alliance ;

Considering that it is the duty of the European and American members to help each other effectively avoiding any policy or undertaking contrary to the principles of democracy ;

Considering that since the second world war member States of the Atlantic Alliance have not always managed to fulfil the obligations to adhere to such principles ;

Recalling, finally, that next to the alliance for the necessary military defence a genuinely comprehensive policy for security and peace should consist of relevant and fully adequate components in the field of social-economic solidarity between the rich and the poor parts of the world population, as well as in the field of elimination of all discrimination on grounds of race, colour or creed,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

1. Encourage its members to initiate or consistently afford their support in the appropriate frameworks to the following policies which are essential components of a comprehensive security policy :
 - necessary military defence and mutual, balanced and controlled disarmament ;
 - defence and the promotion of parliamentary democracy ;
 - respect for the equivalence of men and peoples ;
 - recognition of the fact that all men are entitled to a fair share of this earth's wealth and its possibilities of well-being ;
2. Constantly remind its partners in the Atlantic Alliance and elsewhere (notably in the OECD) of these guidelines ;
3. Ensure that NATO, like the Council of Europe, WEU and the European Communities, groups only countries with democratic régimes ;
4. Give the Assembly a fair assessment of relevant difficulties and dangers facing the Atlantic Alliance as such or individual member countries and, if possible, the means for meeting them.