

Draft reply by the United Kingdom delegation to the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 382 on disarmament (London, 4 October 1982)


Caption: On 4 October 1982, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a new version by the United Kingdom delegation of point (b) (vii) of the draft reply by the WEU Council to Recommendation 382 on disarmament. The text concerns the negotiations on mutual and balanced force reductions (MBFR) in Europe. The majority of the British proposal is included in the final reply to the Recommendation (C(82)117).

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Draft reply to Recommendation 382. London: 04.10.1982. FL (82) 14. 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: 1982, 01/04/1982-30/11/1982. File 202.413.30. Volume 1/1.

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URL:
http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_united_kingdom_delegation_to_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_382_on_disarmament_london_4_october_1982-en-1db19320-6922-43e5-9bff-1c9bcbacffb1.html

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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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FL (82) 14

Original: English

4th October, 1982

Draft reply to Recommendation 382

(WPM (82) 18)

New version of point (b) (vii) (page 6)
proposed by the United Kingdom delegation

(b) (vii) The West submitted a proposal for an interim phase I agreement in Vienna on 20th December, 1979. This initiative was designed to simplify the M.B.F.R. negotiations by concentrating in a first phase on reduction of American and Soviet land force, and thus initially requiring agreement only on the size of their land forces in the area of reductions. It was hoped that this simplified approach would provide an impetus towards a comprehensive phase II agreement involving the forces of other participants in the area of reductions.

However, the East repeatedly demanded that there should be a firm contractual link between the proposed phase I and phase II agreements. In the final analysis, the East's aim was to have all participants incorporated in an agreement from the very outset.

/The West has ...

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: The West has complied with this Eastern requirement
: in its draft treaty, tabled in Vienna on 8th July, 1982. The
: main new element is a commitment by all direct participants
: from the outset to take a significant share of its side's
: reductions quota in conformity with the principle of collec-
: tivity. These reductions would take place in four stages, each
: one to be satisfactorily verified before progress to the next
: one. This process would lead to the establishment of common
: collective ceilings of 700,000 land forces and 900,000 combined
: land and air forces, and hence to parity of forces in central
: Europe. With this comprehensive proposal the West is offering
: a constructive solution to the linkage question resulting from
: the previous approach, with its two separate, phased agreements.

: The Council consider it essential that there should be
: agreement between the two sides on the level of their forces in
: the area of reductions before the conclusion of an M.B.F.R.
: agreement. It is also essential that an agreement should
: include measures to verify agreed reductions and compliance with
: residual ceilings, and to build confidence between participants.
: The draft treaty submitted by the West contains the package
: of such 'associated measures' first proposed by NATO partici-
: pants in December 1979. These measures would be implemented

/as soon as the ...

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FL (82) 14

: as soon as the agreement became effective so as to perform
their function of verification and confidence-building.
: The Council hope that the East will recognise the importance
: of this major concession on the part of the West and will
: themselves show a corresponding readiness to work constructively
: towards a resolution of the remaining questions of agreement
: on the data base and 'associated measures'.

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