

Amendments proposed by the French delegation to the WEU Council to Recommendation 238 of the Assembly on European security – relations with the countries of Eastern Europe (19 September 1973)

Caption: On 19 September 1973, the French delegation to the Council of Western European Union (WEU) proposes amendments to the draft reply (WPM(73)24) to Recommendation 238 of the WEU Assembly on European security – relations with the countries of Eastern Europe. The French emphasise that détente between East and West, which has become a reality since the opening of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), requires the maintenance of an adequate defence capability. They stress Europe's contribution to Western defence and mention the Standing Armaments Committee (SAC), the European Defence Improvement Programme (EDIP) and the Standing Naval Force Channel in connection with the Eurogroup. On the matter of the negotiations on mutual and balanced force reductions (MBFR) in Europe, the French delegation notes that the aim of these negotiations is to secure, step by step, practical arrangements which ensure undiminished security in central Europe at a lower level of forces. Precautions must be taken, however, to ensure that the special status of the zone to which the resolutions apply does not foreshadow the establishment of a neutral zone. As regards the SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) negotiations, the French delegation emphasises that the WEU Member States are informed of the progress of the negotiations by the United States in the North Atlantic Council. The WEU Member States are therefore able to ensure that these discussions do not jeopardise their security or their interests.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Amendements proposed by the French delegation to the draft reply to Recommendation 238. London: 19.09.1973. Copy No. 33. 6 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: 1973, 01/06/1973-30/11/1973. File 202.413.20. Volume 1/1.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/amendments_proposed_by_the_french_delegation_to_the_weu_council_to_recommendation_238_of_the_assembly_on_european_security_relations_with_the_countries_of_eastern_europe_19_september_1973-en-6046e4f3-4d27-42e7-9125-d1224cd72243.html



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Amendments proposed by the French delegation
to the draft reply to Recommendation 238

(WPM (73) 24)

(The amended passages are marked in the margin)

The détente between East and West, which has become
: a reality since the opening of the C.S.C.E., requires the
: maintenance of an adequate defence capability. Ministers
: of the member countries of the Alliance have reiterated
: this view on many occasions.

: At Copenhagen, for example, the representatives of
: the countries participating in the integrated defence
: programme re-affirmed "the conviction of their governments
that unilateral action on the part of countries of the
Alliance to reduce or withdraw forces would undermine the
negotiation of satisfactory agreements aimed at enhancing
military stability".

The dual concept of "defence-détente" therefore
remains the basis of the Alliance's policy.

1. As regards Europe's contribution to the common defence,
the Assembly is certainly aware of the measures put in
: hand in various institutions. With regard to the

/S.A.C., its recommendations, . .

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: S.A.C., its recommendations are always carefully studied
: by the member States; furthermore its whole role is now
: being re-examined by the Council. As to the Eurogroup,
75% of the European Defence Improvement Programme (E.D.I.P.)
referred to in paragraph 1. of Recommendation 238 has been
implemented in the case of infrastructures and 100% in the
case of transport aircraft (C.130 and C.160), the armoured
reconnaissance regiment is now available to SACEUR, and
the programme for the "Jaguar" support aircraft is going
forward on schedule.

Under the heading of European participation, the
Assembly will also have noted the formation last spring
of a Standing Naval Force Channel.

The members of the Eurogroup, guided by the "principles
of equipment collaboration" adopted by them in December,
1972, are constantly strengthening their co-operation in
the field of joint development, production and procurement.
For example:

a) the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium and the
United Kingdom have accepted, either officially or
conditionally, the offers from the United States for
co-ordinated purchase of the LANCE missile system and will,
as a result, be able to work out more favourable and

/effective arrangements ...

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effective arrangements as regards costs, deliveries and logistic support;

b) the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom have signed a memorandum of agreement for joint research and development work on a self-propelled 155 mm. howitzer (the SP 70);

c) the Federal Republic of Germany and Norway have signed an agreement to co-operate in the development of the VIPER air-to-air missile;

d) substantial progress has been achieved with battlefield communications, particularly to ensure interoperability with non-European allies.

2. The question of relationships between the United States and Europe is at present being studied by the members of both the Atlantic Alliance and the European Economic Community.

Thus, the fifteen Ministers from the member countries of the Alliance instructed the Permanent Council to examine inter-allied relationships "in a spirit of solidarity and by a common effort", having regard to the changes which have taken place in every field of international activity.

/All the partners ...

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All the partners realise that the American military presence in Europe remains an essential element in the
: overall defence of the Alliance.
:

3. As regards the M.B.F.R., the governments taking part in the negotiations have given their partners an undertaking that they will bear in mind the indivisibility of the security of the Alliance, and will only enter into commitments which ensure undiminished security for everyone in the central region of Europe.

Member governments will attach all due importance to the study of the rational deployment of forces on the central front and will give the fullest possible help to the persons entrusted with that study.

4. As recalled in the preceding paragraph, the aim of the negotiations on M.B.F.R. is to secure, step by step, practical arrangements which ensure undiminished security
: in central Europe at a lower level of forces. Precautions
: must be taken to ensure that the special status of the
: zone to which the resolutions apply does not foreshadow
: the establishment of a neutral zone.

/5. The member governments ...

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5. The member governments hope that the C.S.C.E. will
: achieve positive results opening the way to further
: action.

: They consider, however, that for the implementation
: of such further measures, consideration should first
: of all be given to the possibility of using existing
: institutions (Economic Commission for Europe, United
: Nations, UNESCO, etc.).

No undertaking was given by the western countries
in Helsinki and the question is to be studied not by a
special commission, but by the Co-ordinating Committee,
which will co-ordinate the work of the various commissions
during the second stage of the Conference. The view that
any study of the follow-up to the Conference depends on
the progress achieved on the first three items of the
agenda is therefore recognised.

: 6. As regards the SALT, the United States have given
: their Allies certain information on the progress of
negotiations. In Copenhagen, the North Atlantic Council
recognised "the importance of this subject for the
Alliance and reaffirmed the continuing need for close allied
: consultation". This is the condition on which the member
: governments of W.E.U. will be able to ensure that these

/negotiations do not ...

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negotiations do not jeopardise either their security
or their interest; the point raised in paragraph 6 of
: Assembly Recommendation 238 must of course be taken
: into consideration.

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