

Draft reply by the United Kingdom delegation to Recommendation 375 on negotiations on theatre nuclear forces (London, 26 January 1982)

Caption: On 26 January 1982, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a draft reply from the WEU Council, prepared by the United Kingdom delegation, to Assembly Recommendation 375 on negotiations on theatre nuclear forces. The text is taken up almost in its entirety in the final reply to the Recommendation (C (82) 47).

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Recommendation 375 on negotiations on Theatre Nuclear Forces. London: 26.01.1982. WPM (82) 4. 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: 1982, 01/01/1982-30/10/1982. File 202.413.29. Volume 1/1.

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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

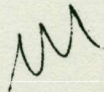
Recommendation 375

on negotiations on Theatre Nuclear Forces

(C (81) 161)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply, prepared by the United Kingdom delegation, to Recommendation 375 on negotiations on Theatre Nuclear Forces.

This draft will be considered at a forthcoming meeting of the working group.



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London, S.W.1.

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WPM (82) 4

Draft reply to Recommendation 375
prepared by the United Kingdom delegation

1. The Council take careful note of the views of the Assembly expressed in their Recommendation on negotiations on Theatre Nuclear Forces (now generally known as intermediate range nuclear forces). The Council echo the opinion of the Assembly on points made in the Recommendation, in particular concern about the growing number of Soviet land-based intermediate range nuclear forces, (not only in Europe but also those targetted on Europe from elsewhere), the welcome extended by the Assembly to President Reagan's proposals announced on 18th November, 1981, and the importance of cooperation and consultation between the NATO Allies in discussion of intermediate range nuclear forces both in the Special Consultative Group and in the North Atlantic Council.

2. The Council also welcome the attention paid by the Assembly to the importance of the public presentation of the policies of member countries both on defence and deterrence and on arms control.

/3. The Council ...

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WPM (82) 4

3. The Council wholeheartedly accept the Assembly's recommendation that the North Atlantic Council should continue to rely on the double decision of 12th December, 1979, on intermediate range nuclear forces. They reiterate the view expressed in December 1981 by the Allies who participated in the 1979 double decision, namely that the dual track decision opened the way to reducing the threat to the Alliance through arms control negotiations, and that determination in implementing both tracks of the decision has been a key factor in convincing the Soviet Union to negotiate without preconditions, thus creating the opportunity of achieving genuine arms reductions.

4. The Council attach the greatest importance to the position and attitudes of the publics in member countries on the subject of nuclear weapons and their arms control. They believe that an important and continuing task is the explanation of the defensive nature of the North Atlantic Alliance, the rationale behind the strategy of deterrence and the essential role of multilateral arms control. The task of explanation is all the greater in the light of the sustained Soviet propaganda campaign which aims to undercut public support for agreed objectives

/and policies of ...

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WPM (82) 4

and policies of the Alliance. In their task of providing their publics with accurate information, members of the Council will rely on material from their own national sources and on material coordinated and agreed by the Allies, in particular the forthcoming report which will compare NATO and Warsaw Pact forces.

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RECOMMENDATION 375

on Negotiations on Theatre Nuclear Forces

The Assembly,

- (i) Stressing the continued validity of Recommendation 367;
- (ii) Welcoming the Council's reply to Recommendation 367;
- (iii) Noting with concern the still growing number of Soviet land-based theatre nuclear forces in Europe;
- (iv) Fully aware that public opinion in Europe and particularly youth are moved by feelings of insecurity and are deeply concerned about the present high levels of nuclear weapons and about the dangers of a new and unlimited arms race;
- (v) Believing the growing expression of public concern about all aspects of nuclear weapons reveals also misunderstanding and a lack of objective information;
- (vi) Convinced that governments and parliament should pay continuous attention to the fact that security policy must rely on the trust and support of properly informed public opinion, thereby stressing the point that only balanced and properly verifiable reductions are compatible with European security, and that such reductions will not be achieved without serious negotiations;
- (vii) Welcoming President Reagan's negotiating proposals of 18th November, 1981;
- (viii) Welcoming the opening of talks on theatre nuclear forces in Geneva on 30th November, 1981 and the view of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group that "on the basis of reciprocity the zero-level remains a possible option under ideal circumstances";

/(ix) ...

- (ix) Stressing the importance of European-American co-operation in the Special Consultative Group;
- (x) Hoping that the negotiations in Geneva will provide the political impetus for a gradual development of a broad negotiating process on the limitation and reduction of all nuclear weapons and will lead to a decisive turn in the armaments race;
- (xi) Believing that the failure of the major nuclear weapons powers to introduce the reductions provided for in Article 6 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty undermines the aims of that treaty, thereby diminishing the chances of establishing generally respected full safeguards on the peaceful use of nuclear energy and even increasing one risk of nuclear war,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

Call on member governments:

1. To urge the North Atlantic Council to continue to rely on the dual decision of 12th December, 1979 on long-range theatre nuclear forces as a realistic basis for negotiating seriously on reductions in the levels of these weapons;
2. To ensure that the public acquires a better understanding of the real situation drawing among other sources on the report to be prepared "within the Alliance as soon as possible which would compare, for the information of the public, NATO and Warsaw Pact forces".

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