

## Amendments proposed by the British delegation to the WEU Council to Recommendation 238 of the Assembly on European security – relations with the countries of Eastern Europe (20 September 1973)

**Caption:** On 20 September 1973, the British 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 British emphasise that the development of genuine détente between East and West, which has become a real possibility since the opening of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), does not reduce the need to maintain an adequate defence capability. They stress Europe's contribution to Western defence and mention the Standing Armaments Committee (SAC), the Eurogroup, the European Defence Improvement Programme (EDIP) and the Standing Naval Force Channel. The recommendation emphasises that the United States intends to maintain and improve its forces in Europe. On the matter of the negotiations on mutual and balanced force reductions (MBFR) in Europe, the British delegation notes that the aim of these negotiations is to secure, step by step, practical arrangements which ensure undiminished security at a lower level of forces. There can therefore be no question of creating a neutral zone. With regard to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), the WEU Member States must ensure that the negotiations do not jeopardise their security or their interests.

**Source:** Council of the Western European Union. Amendements proposed by the British delegation to the draft reply to Recommendation 238. London: 20.09.1973. 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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# WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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20th September, 1973

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

(WPM (73) 24)

(The amended passages are marked in the margin)

: The development of genuine détente between East and  
: West, which has become a real possibility since the opening  
: of the C.S.C.E., does not reduce the need to maintain an  
adequate defence capability.

Ministers representing countries which participate in the NATO integrated defence programme have reiterated this view at all recent meetings of the North Atlantic Council. At Copenhagen, for example, they reaffirmed "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 ...

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1. As regards Europe's contribution to the common defence, the Assembly is certainly aware of the measures put in hand through the Eurogroup. For example, 75% of  
: the work on Infrastructure financed by the European  
: Defence Improvement Programme (E.D.I.P.) referred to in  
: paragraph 1 of Recommendation 238 has been completed  
: or is in hand, all the transport aircraft (C.130 and  
: C.160) have been delivered, the armoured reconnaissance  
: regiment is now available to SACEUR, and the programme  
: for the extra "Jaguar" close 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 formally or  
: conditionally, the Letters of Offer from the United States  
: for the co-ordinated purchase of the LANCE missile system,  
: thereby achieving more favourable and effective arrangements  
as regards cost, deliveries and logistic support;  
/b) the Federal ...

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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 both by the Atlantic : Alliance (as regards the security aspects) and the members : of the European Economic Community (as regards, for example, : economic and related matters). The different competence of : these groups, and of the wider international organisations : concerned, such as the GATT and the I.M.F., makes it : necessary to consider these aspects separately and inhibits : any formal correlation between them.

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. Indeed, when Allied Foreign Ministers met in Copenhagen, Mr. Rogers repeated to his colleagues the United States' promise that "given a similar approach by their Allies, they would maintain and improve their forces in Europe and not reduce them except in the context of an East/West agreement". This promise has been confirmed by President Nixon.

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.

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 : at a lower level of forces. There can be no question of creating a neutral zone.

/5. No commitment ...

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: 5. No commitment to agree to the establishment of  
: permanent machinery was given by the western countries in  
: Helsinki. The question - Item IV on the agenda - is to be  
: studied not by a separate 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 Conference has thus accepted the  
: Western view that any study of how to follow-up the  
: Conference depends on what progress is achieved on the  
: other three items of the agenda.

The member governments hope that the C.S.C.E. will  
: achieve positive results in which case there may be room  
: for the establishment of machinery for certain specific  
: purposes.

They believe, however, that for the implementation  
: of whatever is agreed at the Conference, consideration  
: should first be given to the possibility of using existing  
: institutions (United Nations Economic Commission for  
: Europe, etc.).

6. As regards the SALT, the United States have kept their  
Allies duly informed of 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".

/The member ...

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Il est évident que les gouvernements membres de l'U.E.O. veillent attentivement à ce que ces négociations ne portent pas atteinte à leur sécurité, ni à leurs intérêts. Le point soulevé au paragraphe 6 de la Recommandation No 238 de l'Assemblée n'a pas échappé à leur attention.

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