

Draft reply by the WEU Council to question 160 put by a member of the Assembly on nuclear forces (London, 10 October 1975)


Caption: On 10 October 1975, the Council of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a draft reply to question 160 put by Mr Krieg, a member of the Assembly. The member had asked if the nuclear forces of two WEU member countries (France and the United Kingdom) are capable of playing a role in a western defence system based on selective nuclear retaliation. In the absence of an agreement on the full text, the German delegation suggests that the Council should limit its reply. Opinions differ between the Netherlands delegation and the French and British delegations on the paragraph concerning the Declaration on Atlantic Relations signed in Ottawa: the French and British explicitly recognise the deterrent role played by the two countries in the overall strengthening of the deterrence of the Alliance.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Written question 160 put to the Council by M. Krieg. Draft reply to written question 160. 10.10.1975. 2 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: 1975, 01/05/1975-30/04/1976. File 202.413.22. Volume 1/1.

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URL:
http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_weu_council_to_question_160_put_by_a_member_of_the_assembly_on_nuclear_forces_london_10_october_1975-en-85a5c804-3ef3-4eb9-a8e7-4940375e3f05.html

Last updated: 25/10/2016



WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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10th October, 1975

Written question 160 put to the Council

by M. Krieg

(C (75) 75)

Do the Council consider that the nuclear forces of two W.E.U. member countries are capable of playing a role in a western defence system based on selective nuclear retaliation?

Draft reply to written question 160

(Doc. CR (75) 11, IV, 1 and
unnumbered documents of 18th September
and 3rd October, 1975)

Any nuclear force could be assigned to and play a role in a defence system which had a selective targeting doctrine. Whether any nation's force is in the event so assigned is a matter for political decision.⁽¹⁾ The United Kingdom's nuclear forces are assigned to NATO. Those of France, the other W.E.U. member which is a nuclear power, are not.

// In this context ...

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- (1) In the absence of agreement on the full text, the German delegation suggest that the Council limit their reply to these two sentences.

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✓In this context, the Council may refer to the Declaration on Atlantic Relations, approved on 19th June, 1974, at Ottawa by the North Atlantic Council and the views expressed by the various governments in that respect. 7⁽¹⁾

OR

✓In this context, the Council may refer to the passage on this subject in the Declaration on Atlantic Relations, approved on 19th June, 1974, at Ottawa by the North Atlantic Council. 7⁽²⁾

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- (1) Version proposed by the Netherlands delegation
(2) Version proposed by the French delegation.

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