

# Reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 375 on negotiations on theatre nuclear forces (London, 24 March 1982)

**Caption:** On 24 March 1982, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 375 on negotiations on theatre nuclear forces. The Council shares the Assembly's concerns on the growing number of Soviet land-based intermediate-range nuclear systems. Regarding the Assembly's recommendation on the double-track decision of 12 December 1979, the Council notes that the allies intend to implement the two tracks of the decision, namely intermediate-range nuclear force modernisation and arms control, and that their determination to do so has also convinced the Soviet Union to negotiate without preconditions. On the question of public opinion, the Council emphasises the importance of keeping the public informed, particularly in the light of the Soviet propaganda campaign.

**Source:** Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Assembly Recommendation 375. London: 24.03.1982. C (82) 47. 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, 01/12/1982-30/10/1982. File 202.413.29. Volume 1/1.

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[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply\\_by\\_the\\_weu\\_council\\_to\\_assembly\\_recommendation\\_375\\_on\\_negotiations\\_on\\_theatre\\_nuclear\\_forces\\_london\\_24\\_march\\_1982-en-ec2bf669-91f6-480e-b498-ee960d6263ca.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply_by_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_375_on_negotiations_on_theatre_nuclear_forces_london_24_march_1982-en-ec2bf669-91f6-480e-b498-ee960d6263ca.html)



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# WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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C (82) 47

24th March, 1982

## SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Assembly Recommendation 375

(C (81) 161)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the Council's reply to Assembly Recommendation 375.

This reply, adopted by the Council at their meeting on 24th March, 1982, has been forwarded to the Assembly (CR (82) 3, V, 2).

9, Grosvenor Place,  
London, S.W.1.

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Reply to Recommendation 375  
on negotiations on Theatre Nuclear Forces

1. The Council take careful note of the views of the Assembly expressed in their Recommendation on negotiations on Theatre Nuclear Forces (now 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 systems; - the welcome extended by the Assembly to President Reagan's proposals announced on 18th November, 1981;- the importance of cooperation and consultation between the NATO Allies concerned in discussion of intermediate-range nuclear forces in the Special Consultative Group as well as of the exchange of information 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. Regarding the Assembly's recommendation that the North Atlantic Council should continue to rely on the double decision of 12th December, 1979, the Council recall that it is the declared intention of the NATO Allies concerned that they will move ahead with the December 1979 two-track decision on intermediate-range nuclear force modernisation and arms control. 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 intermediate-range nuclear force modernisation and 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. ...



4. The Council attach the greatest importance to the positions 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 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 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, for those who participated in the drafting of it, on material coordinated and agreed by the Allies, in particular the forthcoming report which will compare NATO and Warsaw Pact forces.