

Recommendation 351 of the WEU Assembly on the international situation and European security (Paris, 4 June 1980)

Caption: On 4 June 1980, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 351 on the international situation and European security. The Assembly is concerned at the USSR's military intervention in Afghanistan and Soviet expansion in the Middle East, an area which is of vital interest to the West. The deployment of new Soviet weapons in Eastern Europe is also liable to upset the balance on which peace depends. The Assembly therefore recommends that the Council ensure that the European members of the Atlantic Alliance should hold regular consultations on the policies they pursue outside the area covered by the North Atlantic Treaty. While continuing their efforts to sustain the defensive capability of NATO in the light of new Soviet weapons, they should make sure that disarmament negotiations are pursued between East and West. The members of the Atlantic Alliance should also agree on effective measures to be taken to convince the Soviet Union of their unanimous condemnation of the invasion of Afghanistan.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 351 on the international situation and European security (Paris, fifth sitting, 4th June 1980)' in Proceedings: Twenty-sixth ordinary session: First Part, Vol. II, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. June 1980, p. 44.

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Last updated: 25/10/2016

RECOMMENDATION 351***on the international situation and European security***

The Assembly,

Considering that the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan is a pure violation of the law of nations as defined *inter alia* in the Charter of the United Nations and the final act signed in Helsinki;

Considering that Soviet expansion in the Middle East is a threat to stability in that area which is of vital interest to the West;

Considering that the deployment of new weapons in Eastern Europe is also liable to upset the balance on which peace depends;

Considering that consultations between members of the Atlantic Alliance were not held quickly enough or in sufficient detail to allow a joint policy to be drawn up in face of these threats;

Deploring in particular that these countries were not in a position to define jointly the measures made necessary by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan;

Recognising nevertheless the need for the decision taken by the members of NATO to increase progressively the proportion of their expenditure allocated to joint defence;

Endorsing the proposal by the Nine to seek the departure of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, a status of neutrality and non-alignment being conferred on that country by agreement between the parties;

Considering that the search for a balance of forces and armaments in Europe at the lowest possible level, even if this cannot be achieved in the short term, is still in conformity with the interests of the West;

Considering that it is in the interest of all to develop contacts and exchanges of all kinds between Eastern and Western Europe;

Considering that the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all countries is still one of the West's major objectives,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

1. Ensure that the European members of the Atlantic Alliance concert regularly and efficiently the policies they pursue outside the area covered by the North Atlantic Treaty;
2. Ensure that the members of the Atlantic Alliance agree on effective measures to be taken to convince the Soviet Union of their unanimous condemnation of the invasion of Afghanistan;
3. Ensure that its members pursue their efforts to sustain the defensive capacity of the Atlantic Alliance in face of new Soviet weapons;
4. Ensure the pursuit of negotiations with the Soviet Union and its allies to achieve a limitation and reduction of forces and armaments to establish a true balance in forces and in conventional weapons and continental-range nuclear missiles at the lowest possible level;
5. Ensure that the application of the final act signed in Helsinki is the subject of strict and exhaustive scrutiny at the Madrid conference.