

Recommendation 160 of the WEU Assembly on the defence of the Mediterranean and the NATO southern flank (Paris, 5 December 1967)

Caption: On 5 December 1967, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 160 on the defence of the Mediterranean and the NATO southern flank, recommending that the WEU Council consider what action it can take to further the implementation of a series of proposals to guarantee the stability of the Mediterranean area.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 158 on the defence of the Mediterranean and the NATO southern flank (Paris, eighth sitting, 5th December 1967)' in Proceedings: Thirteenth ordinary session: Second Part, Vol. IV, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. December 1967, pp. 21-22.

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RECOMMENDATION 160
***on the defence of the Mediterranean and
the NATO southern flank***

The Assembly,

(a) Concerned at Soviet political penetration in the Mediterranean area and at the recent build-up of the Soviet fleet in the Mediterranean ;

Welcoming the continued presence of the United States Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean as the main element in the defence of the area ;

(b) Deploing the establishment of a non-parliamentary régime in Greece ;

Considering the need for a peaceful settlement between Israel and the Arab States ;

Believing that the introduction of checks on the present international trade in armaments could help to stabilise the situation in the Mediterranean and the Near East ;

(c) Convinced that the Mediterranean area will not be truly secure until mass poverty and social backwardness are removed from this region ;

Believing that the industrialised countries of the West could help to bring about profound changes in the social and economic structure in the Mediterranean area through financial and technical aid,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

Consider what action it can take to further the implementation of the following proposals :

1. That an international body should be established, under the auspices of the United Nations, to supervise the implementation of the Convention of Constantinople of 1888, governing the passage of vessels through the Suez Canal ;
2. That the Montreux Convention of 1936, governing the passage of ships through the Turkish Straits, should be revised to bring it into line with naval and armaments development ;
3. That the North Atlantic Council should persuade the present Greek Government to restore a freely elected parliamentary system ;
4. That Western European countries should work for direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab States with a view to the peaceful settlement of the outstanding problems ;
5. That an International Armaments Register should be established, under the auspices of the United Nations, which could record every transaction by which participating countries, including private firms within them, passed new or used arms to other countries ;

6. That the western governments should: instruct the International Industry Advisory Body to draw up new contingency plans to ensure that a normal flow of oil supplies is maintained in the event of future and possibly even more grave crises; agree not to make unco-ordinated bilateral deals with third countries concerning oil supplies nor to practise flag discrimination against each other, and encourage the construction of large tankers and pipelines and the search for oil and gas supplies inside Europe and elsewhere;
7. That special measures of economic aid, following the example of Puerto Rico, should be given to Malta, possibly by Great Britain and by the EEC within the framework of an eventual economic association agreement, to restore its economic health;
8. That a Mediterranean Development Organisation should be created through which the United States and the industrialised countries of Western Europe would contribute economic and technical aid to those countries of the Mediterranean area which are prepared to use aid on economic development and not on military adventures or inflammatory propaganda, and in which both the donor and recipient countries would participate.