

Draft reply by the WEU Council to question 160 put by a member of the Assembly on nuclear forces (London, 18 September 1975)


Caption: On 18 September 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. The draft reply, drawn up following the discussions that took place at the Council meeting on 17 September 1975, includes the original proposal by Britain and France (WPM(75)24) as well as a series of amendments proposed by other delegations. Opinions differ on the paragraph concerning the Declaration on Atlantic Relations signed in Ottawa, which the French and British see as explicitly recognising 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. London: 18.09.1975. 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: 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_18_september_1975-en-c718a5b8-9faa-445b-934b-59c52dc547b1.html

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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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18th September, 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 based on discussion at the meeting of the Council on 17th September, 1975

(C (75) 100; CR (75) 11, IV, 1)

First paragraph

: 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. 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.

Second paragraph

Moreover, paragraph 6 of the Declaration on Atlantic Relations, approved on 19th June, 1974, at Ottawa by the North Atlantic Council, recognised explicitly that two of the European members "possess nuclear forces capable of playing a deterrent role of their own contributing to the overall strengthening of the deterrence of the Alliance."⁽¹⁾

/OR ...

(1) Original Anglo-French version as in C (75) 100.

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OR

∟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.∟⁽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.∟⁽²⁾

New third paragraph

∟This deterrent role therefore strengthens all the forces intended for the protection of the security of Europe, the nuclear defence of which, in present circumstances, depends not only on the role of the United States nuclear

/forces, but also ...

(1) Version proposed by the Netherlands delegation.

(2) Compromise version suggested by the French delegation.

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forces, but also on this European contribution.⁷⁽¹⁾

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The German delegation suggest, as another possibility, that the Council limit their reply to the first two sentences of the first paragraph.

(1) The Italian delegation proposes the addition of this paragraph.

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