# ‘Guided missiles “pool”. Plan proposed by WEU Assembly’ from The Manchester Guardian (8 May 1957)

**Caption:** On 8 May 1957, the British daily newspaper The Manchester Guardian leads with the recommendation adopted by the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) proposing that the Member States begin joint research on the production of guided missiles. It also reports on the lively debates on the question of the reduction of British forces in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG).

**Source:** "Guided Missiles "Pool". Plan proposed by WEU Assembly" from The Manchester Guardian. Manchester: Guardian Newspapers. 08.05.1957, p.9.

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**URL:**
http://www.cvce.eu/obj/guided_missiles_pool_plan_proposed_by_weu_assembly_from_the_manchester_guardian_8_may_1957-en-b92aa134-90fc-4a83-b112-151d24812726.html

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# GUIDED MISSILES "POOL"

## Plan proposed by W.E.U. Assembly

STRASBOURG, MAY 7.

The Western European Union's Parliamentary Assembly to-day unanimously approved a recommendation that their Governments should draw up a plan for joint research on, and production of, guided missiles.

This plan should be drawn up by the Assembly's defence committee by August 1, "utilising the latest technical advances made in each member State and such information as may be communicated by the United States." A joint "design team" should be set up to begin work on September 15.

The guided missiles, it was added, "should be available in numbers to equip the forces of member States which are at the disposal of the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and the W.E.U. territorial defence forces within the shortest time possible."

### N.A.T.O. deficiencies

Earlier, Mr Kenneth Younger, British Labour M.P., referred to the "disturbing" report presented yesterday to the Assembly, which had said that the N.A.T.O. Supreme Commander could count on only fifteen divisions instead of the requisite minimum of 30. If the deficiencies were true then "the record of recent years is bad," he said.

"We are not able to fight on the line of the Iron Curtain," he added, "the international military integration is not yet sufficient, and there has been no unification of national mobilisation plans. Equipment has not been standardised and no international intelligence service exists. Lines of communication have not been properly organised."

But, on the question of Britain's defence cuts, he said that the problem of military reorganisation had had to be faced, and, in spite of the cuts, the British contribution to European defence was still proportionately high. He was surprised to see French signatures on the motion of censure (on the W.E.U. Council form approving the cuts) when the French defence contribution was ten times less than the figure promised.

A vote on the censure motion is due to take place to-morrow. But Assembly sources said that there was a possibility that it might be radically watered down or even withdrawn.

### Not consulted

Colonel Fens, of Holland, one of the twelve Parliamentarians who signed the motion, told a press conference to-day that it was not technically aimed against the British Government but against the council of seven Foreign Ministers. "We did not like the council's failure to consult us before agreeing to the British cuts, and, secondly, we did not like the decision itself."

M. Pierre Henri Teitgen, of France, said that there was now a crisis in W.E.U. over the problem of protection of Europe from atomic destruction. "We can either hope for a general disarmament or accept nuclear weapons as a deterrent," he said, adding that the United States must supply its allies with atomic armaments. Of the British defence cuts he said:

"They pose the general problem of the modernisation of our armies and the balance between conventional and nuclear weapons. To these problems the W.E.U. Council of Ministers should have given a collective reply in the form of a European White Paper. But it is not acceptable that an individual country should take a decision as if W.E.U. did not exist."

Sir James Hutchison, British Conservative M.P., has been elected president of the Assembly.—Reuter and British United Press.