

Recommendation 194 of the WEU Assembly on the international trade in armaments (10 December 1969)


Caption: On 10 December 1969, the WEU Assembly adopts a Recommendation on the international trade in armaments. In view of the fact that arms are being supplied to war zones with often dramatic consequences, the Assembly recommends that the WEU Council urge member governments to make every effort, at the highest international level and in particular in the framework of the United Nations, to ensure that all trade in armaments is strictly controlled and that an arbitration tribunal is established that is capable of providing a peaceful settlement of international conflicts. The Agency for the Control of Armaments should also prepare a full report for the Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments on armaments exports and on the effects which these exports have on the maintenance of peace in the world.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. ‘Recommendation 194 on the international trade in armaments (Paris, tenth sitting, 10th December 1969)’ in Proceedings: Fifteenth ordinary session: Second Part, Vol. IV, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. December 1969, p. 41.

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RECOMMENDATION 194
on the international trade in armaments

The Assembly,

Considering that in all areas of the world where murderous wars are actually raging, the armaments are supplied by highly industrialised countries foreign to the areas ;

Aware however that the greater part of such supplies of armaments is effected under military agreements ;

Noting therefore — since most arms exports are subject to government authorisation — that murder and genocide through intermediaries have acquired a legal foundation ;

Concerned at the public and members of parliaments of the countries involved being kept in ignorance of these matters ;

Recalling that by law the United States Congress must receive twice-yearly reports specifying the types, quantities and destination of all armaments exported from the United States ;

Having noted that several proposals have been made to end this state of affairs, in particular draft recommendation A/C1/L 446, on the registration of international arms transfers with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, introduced by three NATO countries on 21st November 1968 ;

Noting finally that the fate of the underdeveloped countries is the subject of many stealthy meetings, while these countries bear the cost in material wealth and human lives of this arms trade, and noting that many conferences are held to limit the armaments of countries which are not fighting, but that no one gives a thought to disarming the men who are now dying, mostly without knowing why, but to the great advantage of those who armed them,

RECOMMENDS TO THE COUNCIL

1. That it urge member governments to make every effort, at the highest international level and in particular in the framework of the United Nations, to ensure that all trade in armaments is strictly controlled and that an arbitration tribunal is established capable of providing a peaceful settlement of international conflicts ;
2. That it request countries who manufacture and hold them to cease exporting major armaments likely to increase the risk of war in any region of the world : military aircraft, missiles, tanks, warships, heavy artillery, radar, etc. ;
3. That it instruct the Agency for the Control of Armaments to prepare a full report for the Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments on all armaments exports and on the effects which these exports have on the maintenance of peace in the world.