

## Draft reply by the United Kingdom delegation to written question 97 put to the Council by a member of the Assembly (London, 21 March 1966)

**Caption:** On 21 March 1966, the WEU Secretary-General communicates a draft reply prepared by the United Kingdom delegation to written question 97 put to the Council by Lord Grantchester, a member of the WEU Assembly Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments. This draft reply particularly looks at the role played by the United Kingdom in maintaining stability in the areas east of Suez, a matter which the Council believes is of concern to WEU as a whole. The Council also notes that a copy of question 97 and of the reply to this question is being forwarded to the North Atlantic Council.

**Source:** Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Written question 97 put to the Council by a member of the Assembly. London: 21.03.1966. WPM(525). Copy n°53. 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: 1965, 01/05/1965-30/10/1966. File 202.424.05. Volume 1/1.

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**URL:**

[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft\\_reply\\_by\\_the\\_united\\_kingdom\\_delegation\\_to\\_written\\_question\\_97\\_put\\_to\\_the\\_council\\_by\\_a\\_member\\_of\\_the\\_assembly\\_london\\_21\\_march\\_1966-en-6127334b-9838-4a41-b5f7-2850f8470c68.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_united_kingdom_delegation_to_written_question_97_put_to_the_council_by_a_member_of_the_assembly_london_21_march_1966-en-6127334b-9838-4a41-b5f7-2850f8470c68.html)



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# WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. CONFIDENTIAL

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21st March 1966

## SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Written question 97 put to the Council  
by a member of the Assembly

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply prepared by the United Kingdom delegation to written question 97, put to the Council by Lord Grantchester, a member of the Assembly Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments, and circulated as document C (66) 19.

This draft reply will be examined by the working group at its next meeting, on 24th March 1966 at 3 p.m.

  
9, Grosvenor Place,  
London, S.W.1.

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Text of written question 97 put to the  
Council by Lord Grantchester (\*)  
(cf. C (66) 19)

Appreciating the Council's reply to question 96, in which it states that the United Kingdom "by continuing to play her special part in maintaining stability in the areas referred to in written question 96" - those covered broadly by the description 'East of Suez' - "is acting in the interests of the Western Alliance as a whole", may the Assembly assume that the Council of Ministers, reviewing these responsibilities, considered the acceptance of them to be of importance to Britain's European partners in Western European Union as a whole and is not passing on an opinion expressed in some other body?

If so, can the Council of Ministers say whether the sense of its relevance as of European concern was considered sufficiently strong that the duty ought to be shared by the seven members of Western European Union rather than carried by one member?

If this consequence from the decision reached was not discussed, would the Council of Ministers give further consideration to the implications of their reply?

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Draft reply

As stated in their reply to question 96, the Council consider that this subject is of concern to the Western Alliance as a whole. In this connection the Council wish to point out that the relative effect of the defence expenditure of the members of the Alliance on their economies is under examination in NATO.

A copy of question 97, and of this reply, are therefore being transmitted to the North Atlantic Council.

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(\*) Delegations will notice that reference is made to written question 96, the text of which is attached, together with the reply, for information.

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WPM (525)  
ANNEX

Text of written question 96  
put to the Council by Lord Grantchester

Question 95 drew the attention of the Council to the economic strain upon the resources of the United Kingdom caused by their responsibilities and obligations in various parts of the world.

Does the Council of Ministers, meeting as a body which is concerned to co-ordinate the policies of member States, consider that the discharge of these responsibilities by the United Kingdom, in particular those covered broadly by the description "east of Suez" serves the interests of Europe?

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Reply by the Council

The Council are satisfied that by continuing to play her special part in maintaining stability in the areas referred to in written question 96, the United Kingdom is acting in the interests of the Western Alliance as a whole.

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