

## Reply to written question 175 put to the WEU Council by Sir Frederic Bennett, a member of the WEU Assembly (London, 2 August 1977)

**Caption:** On 2 August 1977, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the Council's reply to written question 175 put by Sir Frederic Bennett, who is keen to know whether the WEU Member States have taken the necessary measures to 'improve their own defensive military forces' in accordance with the decisions adopted by the members of the Atlantic Alliance. In its reply, the Council emphasises that, following the ministerial meetings held in December 1976 by the North Atlantic Council and the Defence Planning Committee, appropriate steps have been taken by the Member States to achieve the agreed goals concerning forces and to improve conventional defences. Furthermore, in accordance with the 1977 ministerial directive and with a view to establishing a long-term defence programme, the governments have asked the Defence Planning Committee to draw up an action plan based on a limited number of areas where collective action is urgently required.

**Source:** Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Written question 174, 175 and 176 put to the Council by a member of the Assembly. London: 02.08.1977. C (77) 96. 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: 1977, 01/05/1977-30/03/1979. File 202.413.24. Volume 1/1.

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**URL:**

[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply\\_to\\_written\\_question\\_175\\_put\\_to\\_the\\_weu\\_council\\_by\\_sir\\_frederic\\_bennett\\_a\\_member\\_of\\_the\\_weu\\_assembly\\_london\\_2\\_august\\_1977-en-d745e8d7-6bc1-4a54-abf1-8e9271ea2c69.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply_to_written_question_175_put_to_the_weu_council_by_sir_frederic_bennett_a_member_of_the_weu_assembly_london_2_august_1977-en-d745e8d7-6bc1-4a54-abf1-8e9271ea2c69.html)



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# WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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Original: English/French

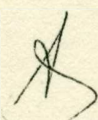
2nd August, 1977

## SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Written questions 174, 175 and 176 put to the Council  
by a member of the Assembly

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the Council's replies to written questions 174, 175 and 176 put to the Council by Sir Frederic Bennett, a member of the Assembly (C (77) 72).

These replies, which have been approved by all delegations, have been communicated to the Assembly.



3, Grosvenor Place, —  
London, S.W.1.

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Text of written question 175

What measures have the W.E.U. member countries taken since 10th December, 1976, to "improve their own defensive military forces" in accordance with the decisions taken jointly by the members of the Atlantic Alliance and quoted by the Council in their reply to Recommendation 291?

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Reply by the Council

As a follow-up to the meetings in ministerial session of the North Atlantic Council and the Defence Planning Committee in Brussels in December, 1976, the countries which participate in the NATO integrated defence programme have taken appropriate steps to implement the decisions taken by ministers. These countries have for example increased efforts to implement in full the agreed force goals and to improve NATO's conventional defences, particularly in the areas of anti-armour, air-defence and anti-submarine warfare. They have undertaken significant equipment replacement and modernisation programmes. At the meeting of the NATO Defence Planning Committee in ministerial session in Brussels on 17th and 18th May, 1977, ministers concerned approved the 1977 ministerial guidance as a directive for all defence planning activities including supporting programmes, both national and international, in NATO. In accordance with the recommendations and decisions adopted in London on 11th May by the North Atlantic Council meeting with the participation of Heads of State and government, these ministers agreed, as stated in their final communiqué, that the member countries participating in the integrated defence programme should, as a means of strengthening ongoing NATO force planning and national programmes, undertake a long-term defence programme to implement 1977 ministerial guidance and to enable NATO forces to meet the changing defence needs of the 1980s.

/In this regard, they ...



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In this regard, they directed the Defence Planning Committee in permanent session to prepare a time-phased defence action programme concentrating on a limited number of areas where collective action is urgently required and to review the means for strengthening NATO programming and implementing machinery. This action programme and the findings of the review will be submitted to them for approval in the spring of 1978 and then transmitted to the North Atlantic Council when it meets in Washington. To complement this effort, they agreed to initiate, on a more immediate basis, a programme of short-term measures in areas of anti-armour, war reserve munitions, and readiness and reinforcement.

*u/s.*

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