

Recommendation 324 of the WEU Assembly on the limitation of strategic arms (Paris, 21 November 1978)

Caption: On 21 November 1978, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 324 on the limitation of strategic arms, in which it asks the WEU Council to work together to reach agreement on a common defence policy based on nuclear deterrence and to make a coordinated effort to re-establish the true balance of forces between the Atlantic Alliance and the Warsaw Pact. The Assembly recommends that the North Atlantic Council should examine every aspect of the strategic arms limitation talks.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 324 on the limitation of strategic arms (Paris, tenth sitting, 21st November 1978)' in Proceedings: Twenty-fourth ordinary session: Second Part, Vol. IV, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. November 1978, p. 30.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/recommendation_324_of_the_weu_assembly_on_the_limitation_of_strategic_arms_paris_21_november_1978-en-5babee36-e1fc-43f3-9a36-05e64d8a8e2a.html



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RECOMMENDATION 324
on the limitation of strategic arms

The Assembly,

Believing that the security of Europe must continue to rely both on a credible nuclear deterrent, i.e. a clearly-demonstrated threat of destruction to the adversary far greater than the stake represented by the territories defended, and on sufficiently numerous conventional forces ;

Considering that the United States strategic nuclear forces form the preponderant part of the allied deterrent but that the British and French nuclear forces, through the uncertainties with which they face Soviet planners, make a greater contribution than their size would suggest ;

Stressing that the Atlantic declaration made in Ottawa on 19th June 1974 assigns to the British and French strategic nuclear forces a deterrent rôle of their own ;

Deploring the inadequacy of progress in détente and concerned by the deterioration of East-West relations ;

Welcoming any attempt to curb or stop the quantitative or qualitative strategic arms race ;

Convinced of the essential and urgent nature of genuine European concertation on defence matters, for which the WEU Council is the natural framework,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

1. Work together to reach agreement on a common defence policy based on deterrence and taking account of the results of the strategic arms limitation talks ;
2. Accept no restrictions, imposed or implied, on the forces of allied countries not directly participating in the talks ;
3. Maintain the right of nuclear powers members of the Alliance to provide mutual assistance in respect of nuclear weapons ;
4. Look to a co-ordinated effort to re-establish the true balance of nuclear and conventional forces between the Alliance and the Warsaw Pact ;
5. Monitor the pursuit, deepening and extension of the process of détente ;
6. Ensure that the North Atlantic Council effectively examines every aspect of the strategic arms limitation talks and that the WEU member states may through this channel assert their interests in this field.