

Reply by the WEU Council to Recommendation 374 of the Assembly on the reappraisal of global dangers to western peace and security – final version (London, 24 March 1982)


Caption: On 24 March 1982, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the final reply to Recommendation 374 of the Assembly on the reappraisal of global dangers to western peace and security, which reproduces the draft reply submitted by France on 5 February 1982 (WPM (82) 4) in its entirety.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General note. Assembly Recommendation 374 . London : 24.03.1982. C (82) 46. 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: 1982. File 202.413.29. vol 1/1 .

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URL:
http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply_by_the_weu_council_to_recommendation_374_of_the_assembly_on_the_reappraisal_of_global_dangers_to_western_peace_and_security_final_version_london_24_march_1982-en-3be60395-482f-4fef-80fb-cc69fc677adf.html

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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. UNCLASSIFIED

C (82) 46

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24th March, 1982

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Assembly Recommendation 374 (C (81) 161)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the Council's reply to Assembly Recommendation 374.

This reply, adopted by the Council at their meeting on 24th March, 1982, has been forwarded to the Assembly (CR (82) 3, V, 2).

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London, S.W.1.

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Reply to Recommendation 374
on the reappraisal of global dangers
to western peace and security

The Council intend to act in order to maintain the global balance of forces - which is the condition for ensuring peace - if possible at the lowest level. In this spirit, the W.E.U. member countries support the holding of negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union concerning their respective nuclear arsenals and designed to lead to significant and verifiable reductions and limitations.

The Council, however, are clearly aware of the considerable and continuous growth of Soviet military power and offensive potential which today is evident, in particular, in the sphere of the intermediate-range weapons directly threatening western Europe. This is especially true in as much as this development of the Soviet arsenal, which affects the overall balance of forces between East and West, adds to the Soviet Union's increasing ability to deploy its potential on a global scale. The W.E.U. member countries are therefore determined to maintain their deterrent potential at the required level.

The Council, at the appropriate moment, will examine in depth and with the aim of efficiency, the action to be taken on the study conducted by the Standing Armaments Committee on the "Armaments Sector of Industry in the W.E.U. member countries". It is hoped that this study will assist the governments of the W.E.U. member countries to move towards greater cooperation in their programmes and military investment expenditure.

The Council of W.E.U., which, under the terms of Article VIII of the modified Brussels Treaty, are the political decision-reaching body, wish to point out that they have always endeavoured to carry out fully and rigorously the tasks devolving upon them. In this spirit, they pay particularly close attention to the various aspects of the development of East-West relations and in this connection examine the possible sources of tension or crisis and the means of remedying them.

/This is also ...

This is also true of the North Atlantic Council. It is impossible to dissociate the security and welfare of the peoples living within the area covered by the North Atlantic Treaty from events occurring in other parts of the world. The W.E.U. member countries, therefore, support any machinery for concerted political action which would enable a common assessment to be made of crisis situations endangering international peace, whenever they consider it necessary. They point out, however, that it is up to each member country to define the contribution that it can make to establish a more stable and just international order.