

Recommendation 57 of the WEU Assembly on the state of European security – establishment of a NATO nuclear force (Paris, 1 December 1960)

Caption: On 1 December 1960, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 57 on the state of European security – establishment of a NATO nuclear force. The Assembly, anxious that every effort should be made to ensure the defence of Europe and to avoid a dangerous and costly proliferation of atomic weapons, recommends to the WEU Council that the shortages in conventional defence should be remedied; that a permanent nuclear force should be established in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), placed under a single authority and embracing all the nuclear means present in Europe; and that the North Atlantic Council should establish joint procedures for the use of nuclear weapons. The Assembly also requests that these three proposals be communicated to the North Atlantic Council at its meeting in Paris on 16 and 17 December 1960.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation No. 57 on the state of European security – Establishment of a NATO nuclear force (Paris, thirteenth sitting, 1st December 1960)' in Proceedings: Sixth ordinary session, Second Part, Vol. IV, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. December 1960, p. 36.

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RECOMMENDATION No. 57
on the state of European security

Establishment of a NATO nuclear force

The Assembly,

Considering the reply of the Council to Recommendation No. 40 and the statement by SACEUR on 21st November, 1960 ;

Anxious that every effort should be made to ensure the defence of Europe, and at the same time to avoid a dangerous and costly proliferation of atomic weapons ;

Considering the evolution of the political situation and opinion in the NATO countries,

I. RECOMMENDS

1. That the shortages recognised by the Council to exist in all fields of conventional defence should be promptly remedied ;
2. That a nuclear force be established within N.A.T.O. which SACEUR shall agree to be capable of ensuring the direct defence of Europe in the event of a particularly serious attack, which would be a permanent force placed under a single authority and which would embrace in any case all the nuclear means present in Europe ;
3. That the North Atlantic Council establish agreed procedures to be determined by all members of the Council on an equal footing, which would ensure political control of the use of nuclear weapons and the speed of decision required in an emergency ;

II. RECOMMENDS THAT THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF W.E.U.,

Communicate the three foregoing proposals to the North Atlantic Council at its meeting in Paris on 16th and 17th December, without the Council of W.E.U. taking up a collective position ;

III. RECOMMENDS THAT THE MEMBER STATES OF W.E.U.

Support the policy embodied in the three foregoing paragraphs at this meeting of the North Atlantic Council.