

Recommendation 323 of the WEU Assembly on disarmament (Paris, 21 November 1978)

Caption: On 21 November 1978, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 323 on disarmament, in which it calls on the WEU Council and the member governments to take concerted action to secure universal agreement on a programme of immediate disarmament and arms control measures.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 323 on disarmament (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, pp. 28-29.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/recommendation_323_of_the_weu_assembly_on_disarmament_paris_21_november_1978-en-f51e4a6d-6b52-48f5-80b6-d360cd05b07b.html



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RECOMMENDATION 323***on disarmament***

The Assembly,

- (i) Aware that world expenditure on armaments has now reached \$400 billion per annum and that some of the poorest countries are devoting more than half of their public expenditure to defence ;
- (ii) Noting that, apart from the biological warfare convention of 1972, no arms control agreement since the war has yet achieved any measure of disarmament ;
- (iii) Believing that new impetus must be given to negotiating certain urgent and concrete measures of arms control and disarmament but that the ultimate objective must remain general and complete disarmament under effective international control ;
- (iv) Welcoming the conclusions of the special session on disarmament of the United Nations General Assembly to the extent that it has focused world opinion on the urgency and importance of arms control measures, and transformed the Committee on Disarmament into a more effective negotiating forum ;
- (v) Recalling its proposals of 1972 and 1974 for a United Nations satellite observation capability ;
- (vi) Recalling further the expertise acquired by the WEU Agency for the Control of Armaments and urging that it be placed at the disposal of any international disarmament organisation ;
- (vii) Recalling the annual publications of the League of Nations : “Armaments Year Book” and “Statistical Year Book of the Trade in Arms and Ammunition” ;
- (viii) Recalling the work under the diplomatic conference of 1975-77 of the ad hoc committee on inhumane weapons and the associated conferences of government experts ;
- (ix) Accepting the responsibility shared by WEU members with other major arms suppliers to seek agreements to reduce the world trade in armaments,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL AND MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

Take concerted action in all appropriate bodies with the following objects in view :

- I. To secure universal agreement on a programme of immediate disarmament and arms control measures to be concluded in the next five years, including :
 - (a) a comprehensive test ban ;
 - (b) a chemical weapons treaty ;
 - (c) a strengthened nuclear non-proliferation régime with rigorous safeguards at all stages of civil nuclear fuel cycles, linked with appropriate security assurances to non-nuclear countries ;
 - (d) a substantial reduction to restore the balance of forces and armaments in Europe ;
 - (e) agreements involving both supplier and recipient countries to restrict the international transfer of conventional arms which recognise the special responsibility of the major arms-producing countries to exercise restraint in their arms transfer policy ;
 - (f) the scrupulous and systematic application of measures provided by the CSCE final act to strengthen mutual confidence in the military field ;
 - (g) the extension to other areas of confidence-building measures of the type included in the CSCE final act ;

- (h) agreements to restrict the development of new generations of inhumane conventional weapons and incendiaries ;
- (i) the creation of denuclearised zones and zones free of military bases in various regions of the world ;

and, concurrently if possible with the first agreement providing for independent verification :

- (j) the establishment of an international disarmament agency under United Nations aegis equipped with its own means of verifying compliance with arms control agreements and peacekeeping arrangements, and responsible *inter alia* for publishing, on the basis of its own sources of information as well as mandatory reports by all countries, annual reports on the forces and armaments of all countries and arms transfers between countries ;

2. To secure the participation of all nuclear weapon powers and previous members in the transformed Committee on Disarmament and the negotiations in that body of agreements on the foregoing items 1 (a), (b), (e), (g) and (h) ;

3. To examine sympathetically the proposals for an all-European conference on disarmament convened with the participation of all signatory states of the CSCE final act with a view to ensuring the progressive achievement of a programme of confidence-building measures and controlled limitation of forces ;

4. To maintain the expectations of progress on concrete measures of disarmament engendered by the special session of the United Nations General Assembly, by the convening of a further special disarmament session in 1981 to review progress.