

Recommendation 375 of the WEU Assembly on negotiations on theatre nuclear forces (Paris, 2 December 1981)

Caption: On the 2 December 1981, as the Euromissiles crisis unfolds, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 375 on negotiations on theatre nuclear forces. Noting the growing number of land-based theatre nuclear forces deployed by the Soviet Union in Europe, the Assembly recommends that the WEU Council should urge the North Atlantic Council to continue to rely on the dual-track decision of 12 December 1979 on long-range theatre nuclear forces — the NATO decision to install missiles in Western Europe in response to Soviet SS-20 missiles and at the same time to begin talks to secure their withdrawal — as a realistic basis for future negotiations. The Assembly also asks the Council to make every effort to ensure that the public acquires a better understanding of the situation, particularly of the balance of forces.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. ‘Recommendation 375 on negotiations on theatre nuclear forces (Paris, eleventh sitting, 2nd December 1981)’ in Proceedings: Twenty-seventh ordinary session: Second Part, Vol. IV, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. December 1981, p. 43.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/recommendation_375_of_the_weu_assembly_on_negotiations_on_theatre_nuclear_forces_paris_2_december_1981-en-fcd6a99d-daad-4300-b570-bfd1ceed1430.html



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RECOMMENDATION 375***on negotiations on theatre nuclear forces***

The Assembly,

- (i) Stressing the continued validity of Recommendation 367;
- (ii) Welcoming the Council's reply to Recommendation 367;
- (iii) Noting with concern the still growing number of Soviet land-based theatre nuclear forces in Europe;
- (iv) Fully aware that public opinion in Europe and particularly youth are moved by feelings of insecurity and are deeply concerned about the present high levels of nuclear weapons and about the dangers of a new and unlimited arms race;
- (v) Believing the growing expression of public concern about all aspects of nuclear weapons reveals also misunderstanding and a lack of objective information;
- (vi) Convinced that governments and parliament should pay continuous attention to the fact that security policy must rely on the trust and support of properly-informed public opinion, thereby stressing the point that only balanced and properly verifiable reductions are compatible with European security, and that such reductions will not be achieved without serious negotiations;
- (vii) Welcoming President Reagan's negotiating proposals of 18th November 1981;
- (viii) Welcoming the opening of talks on theatre nuclear forces in Geneva on 30th November 1981 and the view of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group that "on the basis of reciprocity the zero level remains a possible option under ideal circumstances";
- (ix) Stressing the importance of European-American co-operation in the Special Consultative Group;
- (x) Hoping that the negotiations in Geneva will provide the political impetus for a gradual development of a broad negotiating process on the limitation and reduction of all nuclear weapons and will lead to a decisive turn in the armaments race;
- (xi) Believing that the failure of the major nuclear weapons powers to introduce the reductions provided for in Article 6 of the non-proliferation treaty undermines the aims of that treaty, thereby diminishing the chances of establishing generally-respected full safeguards on the peaceful use of nuclear energy and even increasing one risk of nuclear war,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

Call on member governments:

1. To urge the North Atlantic Council to continue to rely on the dual decision of 12th December 1979 on long-range theatre nuclear forces as a realistic basis for negotiating seriously on reductions in the levels of these weapons;
2. To ensure that the public acquires a better understanding of the real situation drawing among other sources on the report to be prepared "within the Alliance as soon as possible which would compare, for the information of the public, NATO and Warsaw Pact forces".