

## Reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 264 on the proliferation of nuclear weapons (London, 26 November 1975)

**Caption:** On 26 November 1975, the Secretariat-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the final reply from the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 264 on the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Most of the draft reply by the French delegation has been included in the Council's reply. The Council emphasises that all member countries of WEU, whether or not they are parties to the treaty, hold firmly to the principle of non-proliferation. Given that access to nuclear techniques is important for the economic development of many countries, it encourages exchanges in this field. With regard to arms control and disarmament, the Council notes that this is an important matter for WEU Member States but emphasises that the balance of forces is the most important factor in maintaining peace. On the physical protection of nuclear material, the Council points out that this problem concerns all countries and that a more in-depth examination of this question is being carried out by the European Economic Community (EEC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

**Source:** Council of the Western European Union. Secretariat-General note. Assembly Recommendations 260, 264 and 265. London: 26.11.1975. WPM (75) 164. 2 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: 1969, 01/12/1969-16/10/1985. File 202.413.999.06. Volume 1/1.

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[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply\\_by\\_the\\_weu\\_council\\_to\\_assembly\\_recommendation\\_264\\_on\\_the\\_proliferation\\_of\\_nuclear\\_weapons\\_london\\_26\\_november\\_1975-en-8fc5a532-d8db-4419-bdb2-909a86ff43b6.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply_by_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_264_on_the_proliferation_of_nuclear_weapons_london_26_november_1975-en-8fc5a532-d8db-4419-bdb2-909a86ff43b6.html)



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# WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. UNCLASSIFIED

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## SECRETARIAT-GENERAL NOTE

### Assembly Recommendations 260, 264 and 265

The Secretariat-General circulates herewith the text of the Council's replies to Assembly Recommendations 260, 264 and 265.

These replies, which have been approved by all delegations, have been communicated to the Assembly.

9, Grosvenor Place,  
London, S.W.1.

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C (75) 164

Reply to Assembly Recommendation 264  
on the proliferation of nuclear weapons

1. All member countries of W.E.U., whether or not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, hold equally firmly to the principle of non-proliferation, which in their view should lead to an improvement in international relations.
2. They are also fully aware of the importance of peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the economic development of many countries, and continue to encourage exchanges of equipment, materials and scientific and technical information in this field, while taking appropriate steps to ensure that exports of such nuclear equipment and material are not diverted from their peaceful purposes.
3. Arms control and disarmament are matters of concern to the member countries of W.E.U. and to the Atlantic Alliance; all member countries will therefore give particular attention to any measures designed to discourage proliferation. The balance of forces is, moreover, a vital factor in maintaining peace and all action of the kind mentioned above must take account of the need to safeguard member countries' security and stability.
4. The Council are also convinced of the need to harmonise member countries' positions in the appropriate international fora.
5. The Council stress that the problem of physical protection of nuclear material, particularly against loss, theft and sabotage, has until now been essentially the concern of the military nuclear states, but that it is in fact also the concern of other states, whether or not they have acceded to the Treaty, particularly as such protection involves heavy expenditure which affects the economic balance and the conditions of production and trade of nuclear material.

A fuller examination of this problem has been undertaken by the E.E.C. and by a group of experts meeting under the auspices of the I.A.E.A., which has submitted its conclusions to the countries concerned.

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