

Draft reply to Recommendation 69 on the state of European security (London, 4 May 1962)

Caption: On 4 May 1962, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the Council's reply to Assembly Recommendation 69 on the state of European security. The Council's reply focuses on the various aspects covered by the Recommendation, namely the need for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to strengthen its defence capability as long as no real disarmament has taken place and the importance of achieving a balance between conventional and nuclear forces to guarantee the greatest possible flexibility in responding to Soviet aggression. When forwarding the Recommendation to NATO, the Council drew its attention to the need to give greater authority to allied commanders in the deployment of land forces assigned to NATO. The Council's reply also focuses on international cooperation for joint arms research and production, a field in which the WEU Member States play an important role. The Council also refers to the provision of information by NATO to the Assembly Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments, mentioning the procedure agreed between the two organisations in 1958. The Council intends to ask NATO to adopt as liberal an approach as possible in the provision of information.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General note. Assembly Recommendation n°69. London : 04.05.1962. C (62) 74. 6 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: 1962, 01/01/1962-30/06/1962. File 202.413.08. Volume 1/1.

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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. UNCLASSIFIED

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C (62) 74

4th May 1962

REPLY
to Rec
69

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Assembly Recommendation No. 69

(C (62) 57; WPM (263))

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the reply to Recommendation No. 69 on the state of European security, as amended and adopted by the Council on 2nd May 1962 (CR (62) 9, II, 2).

This reply has been transmitted to the Assembly and forwarded to NATO for information.

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Paragraph 2

In transmitting Recommendation No. 69 to NATO, the Council drew the latter's attention to paragraph 2 of Section I, which urges the need to give greater authority to allied commanders in the deployment of land forces assigned to NATO and at least the right to determine their supply requirements.

Paragraph 3. (a) and (b)

In 1957, the NATO Heads of Government recognised the need for NATO countries to pool their scientific, industrial and economic resources in order to achieve greater standardisation and interchangeability of arms and equipment. In 1960, the Defence Ministers agreed that, in order to speed up this process, the Armaments Committee should select and study a limited number of major items of equipment potentially suitable for multilateral co-operation. This examination has shown that only moderate progress is possible in the short-term since many countries are already committed to their own developments, but the review has served as a useful basis in assessing the requirements of each country. Discussions are now turning to the longer-term requirements where it is recognised that, if interdependence is to be achieved, co-operation must start at the earliest stage, i.e. with the establishment of a common basic military requirement, and continue throughout the subsequent stages.

The members of Western European Union are playing an important part in these discussions and in the bilateral and trilateral negotiations which complement them.

The difficulties of achieving interdependence must not be under-estimated. Each participating country has its own special defence problems, financial, industrial and geographic. Whilst, however, it is recognised that there may be projects which are of interest to one or two countries only, every effort must, on the other hand, be made to achieve as effective and extensive multilateral co-operation as possible in research, development and the production of armaments.

In conclusion, it can be said that progress made so far in this completely new sphere of international co-operation offers the hope of further useful results in the coming years.

/ Paragraph 4 ...

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Paragraph 4

The W.E.U. countries are fully aware of the dangers which world nuclear anarchy would create for international peace. In this connection the Council wish to refer to the Irish Resolution against the dissemination of nuclear weapons which was adopted unanimously by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 4th December 1961 (Resolution No. 1665).

There is no possibility of nuclear anarchy in the West because the countries concerned are all members of the same alliance and no member which is a nuclear power has expressed any intention of not taking part in essential co-operation in this matter.

Paragraph 5

In transmitting Recommendation No. 69 to NATO, the Council drew the latter's attention to paragraph 5 of Section I which asks the North Atlantic Council to improve the allied command structure in the Baltic approaches, the Channel and the Mediterranean.

Paragraph 6, (a) and (b)

Paragraph 6 (a) and (b) of the Recommendation calls on the Council to determine the levels of internal police and defence forces of member countries on the mainland of Europe.

An appropriate procedure for this purpose is laid down in the agreement drawn up in implementation of Article V of Protocol No. II, which came into force in November 1961.

Tables fixing the levels of forces of member States stationed on the mainland of Europe, under national command, are now being prepared.

For the compilation of these tables, NATO has to communicate the strengths of forces for the common defence referred to in paragraph 5 of the Resolution implementing Section IV of the Final Act of the London Conference, adopted by the North Atlantic Council on 22nd October 1954. The two Organisations are in contact on this question.

/Paragraph 6 (c) ...

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Paragraph 6 (c)

The Assembly recommends that the Council should request the Governments of member States, which have not already done so, to proceed immediately with the ratification of the Convention signed in Paris on 14th December 1957, concerning measures to be taken to enable the Agency to carry out its control effectively and making provision for due process of law in accordance with Protocol No. IV of the modified Brussels Treaty.

The Council wish to refer to their reply to Recommendation No. 67 on the activities of the Armaments Control Agency, in which they pointed out that in most cases ratification of the Convention is subject to a procedure involving national parliaments.

The Council have already several times drawn the attention of the Governments concerned to the importance of this question. The Council are kept regularly informed of the progress made in ratification in member countries.

Paragraph 7

This paragraph relates to the provision of information to the Assembly Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments and asks the Council to invite the North Atlantic Council to review its position in the matter.

In this connection, the Council wish to recall the procedure agreed between the two Organisations in 1958.

They also wish to refer to the letter sent by the Chairman in Office of the Council on 25th January 1962 to the Chairman of the Committee in question, stating that the Council intend to approach NATO, at an appropriate moment, requesting the latter to adopt as liberal an attitude as possible in the provision of information for the W.E.U. Parliamentarians.

Paragraph 8

Paragraph 8 recommends that the Council propose that NATO should examine the possibility of satisfying the need for democratic parliamentary supervision of common defence expenditure, in particular expenditure on infrastructure.

A question along these lines was put to the Council by the Assembly Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments at the joint meeting held in Luxembourg on 9th November 1961.

/In their ...

In their reply, the Council recalled that NATO has in fact no institutional parliamentary body with powers to carry out such financial controls.

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Paragraph 9

The Council sympathise with this Recommendation and recognise the need to settle the problem of the peaceful uses of outer space on a world-wide basis.

The Council therefore welcomed the unanimous adoption on 20th December 1961 of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on "International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space". The United States and the Soviet Union, principally concerned as the only real "space powers" at present, both sponsored this important Resolution, which enunciates certain basic juridical principles which should govern international conduct in space. The Resolution also establishes a Committee and a focal point in the United Nations Secretariat to deal with space matters, including the registration of the launching of objects into orbit and beyond; and suggests the study of certain practical tasks by the World Meteorological Office and the International Telecommunications Union.

At the present time when little is known about the subject and so many problems remain unsolved, it would be premature to consider the conclusion of a world-wide convention. But the United Nations Resolution represents a useful advance towards peaceful international co-operation in space.

Meanwhile, the Council have noted with pleasure that talks are taking place between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. on specific projects for co-operation in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space.

Paragraph 10

The Council are in favour of promoting co-operation between the Western nations, and such co-operation between the United States and European countries in the field of space research already exists. The American National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has offered to make rockets available for the launching of satellites containing scientific payloads designed by European scientists. This offer has already been taken up by the United Kingdom and France. There are also agreements between the United States, Great Britain, France and Germany for experiments with communications satellites. Italy is undertaking the development, with the assistance of the U.S.A., of its own satellite launching vehicles.

/In 1961, ...

In 1961, European countries have combined to undertake more ambitious space projects than would be possible on a national basis. Two international organisations are expected to be set up shortly; the European Space Research Organisation (E.S.R.O.) and the European Launcher Development Organisation (E.L.D.O.). The ESRO Preparatory Commission, of which a dozen European States are members, has almost completed its talks, and the convention establishing ESRO is likely to be signed towards the end of May. The purpose of ESRO is to conduct scientific research in space for peaceful purposes as a co-operative venture among European countries.

ELDO is intended in the first instance to develop a satellite launcher based on the British Blue Streak with a French second stage and third stage developed under German leadership. This launcher will be for peaceful purposes only. Within the framework of this co-operation, Belgium is to be responsible for constructing the equipment for the ground guidance stations, Italy for constructing satellite test vehicles, including the electronic equipment therein, and the Netherlands for telemetry links. The ELDO Convention has been signed by Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The launchers developed by the Organisation would be made available to member States and to ESRO and could be used for the purposes of satellite communication. In addition, they could under certain conditions be supplied to other international organisations or to states outside ELDO. The Organisation will also start research into the more advanced methods of propulsion.

Both these Organisations hope to work in close co-operation with the United States. The European programme would be complementary to the space research programme in the United States, and the scientific talent and technological resources available in Europe should enable important advances to be made. It was the belief that Europe could make a positive contribution of its own to space research which induced the European nations to co-operate in this sphere. The United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration has expressed its willingness to co-operate with regional organisations in matters of space research, on the same basis as with individual countries.