

Extract from minutes of the 290th meeting of the WEU Council (6 April 1966)

Caption: On 6 April 1966, the Permanent Council of Western European Union (WEU) meets to discuss the reply to written question 97 put to the Council by Lord Grantchester, a member of the Assembly Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments. French Ambassador Geoffroy Chodron de Courcel confirms that his government can accept document WPM(525) submitted by the working group, but not document C(66)42 by the United Kingdom delegation, since it is inappropriate for WEU to deal with a matter that is currently being examined by the North Atlantic Council. Even if the British representative, Lord Samuel Hood, feels that there is no fundamental difference between the two texts and that agreement should be possible, the French representative believes that it is impossible to make progress because there are basic differences between the delegations. The Council asks the Secretary-General to inform the Assembly that it is unable to reply to the written question.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Extract from minutes of the 290th meeting of WEU Council held on 6th April 1966. V.Questions diverses. CR (66)7. 1p. 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: 1965, 01/05/1965-30/10/1966. File 202.424.05 Volume 1/1.

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EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF 296^H MEETING
OF W.E.U. COUNCIL HELD ON 6th April 1966

V. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Written question 97

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the text of this written question, put to the Council by Lord Grantchester, member of the Assembly Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments, had reached the Secretariat-General on 21st February 1966, and had been circulated as document C (66) 19. After examination by the working group of a first draft reply, figuring in document WPM (525), the United Kingdom delegation had made a second draft, bearing in mind the opinions expressed at the working group. This had been circulated as document C (66) 42. Could delegations agree on this draft reply?

M. de COURCEL said that his delegation could accept the text in document WPM (525), but not that in document C (66) 42. He considered it would be inappropriate for Western European Union to deal with this matter whilst this problem was being examined by the North Atlantic Council.

Mr. van ROIJEN could not accept the text in document WPM (525).

M. GUIDOTTI could agree with the text in document WPM (525).

Lord HOOD felt that there was no fundamental difference of view in the two texts and that agreement should be possible. He suggested that the matter might be referred back to the working group.

M. de COURCEL considered that the working group would make no progress on this question as a basic difference existed between delegations.

In view of the foregoing, the Council requested the Secretary-General to inform the Assembly that they were unable to reply to written question 97.