

Extract of the summary record of the 10th Joint Meeting with the Defence Committee (Brussels, 27 September 1962)

Caption: On 27 September 1962, the Council of Western European Union (WEU) holds a meeting with the Defence Committee to discuss whether to support Recommendation 78 on defence outside the area of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). Although the Council does not contest the fact that the interests of the Atlantic Alliance extend outside the defined geographical area, it recognises that this question does not come within its terms of reference, but rather within those of NATO. French member of parliament Jacques Baumel suggests that the Member States should harmonise their views within WEU before a subject is dealt with in NATO. The Chairman of the Council reassures the Committee that effective political consultations do take place within WEU but notes how dangerous it could be for the seven countries to appear to form a bloc within NATO and emphasises that major decisions should be taken within the latter organisation.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Extract of Summary Records of 10th Joint Meeting with Defence Committee. Brussels, 27 September 1962. Question n°. I.,2,: Défense en dehors de la zone O.T.A.N. JM/19. 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: 1962, 01/04/1962-18/05/1976. File 202.413.6. Volume 1/1.

Copyright: (c) WEU Secretariat General - Secrétariat Général UEO

URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/extract_of_the_summary_record_of_the_10th_joint_meeting_with_the_defence_committee_brussels_27_september_1962-en-d24e489d-cf7b-4f0d-a13b-b6a8dae6a713.html



Last updated: 13/10/2016

Sheet of Summary Record of 10th
Jt. Meeting with Defence Cttee,
Brussels, 27 Sept. 1962.

202.413.6

CONFIDENTIAL

JM/19

Question No. I, 2: Defence outside the
NATO area

"(i) Will the W.E.U. countries support Recommendation 78 (on Defence outside the NATO area) in the North Atlantic Council? What progress is to be expected in this field?

(ii) On what problems arising outside the NATO area is it most easy, and on what most difficult, for the NATO countries to adopt a common policy?

(iii) Does the Council consider it possible for agreements to be reached with countries outside the NATO area in which certain NATO countries have special military facilities, for these facilities to be extended multilaterally to all NATO countries?"

[M. Fayat, Belgian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs]

The Chairman gave the following reply:

Recommendation 78 on defence outside the NATO area, which affirms that the interests of the Alliance extend outside the geographical area defined in Article 6 of the North Atlantic Treaty, is based, as Mr. Kershaw pointed out in his report (Document 230, paragraph 2), on the idea that the Treaty has as its main object the preservation of a way of life and cannot therefore be limited to the defence of a geographical area.

The Council do not contest the soundness of this view.

The concrete proposals in the Recommendation, and their implementation, do not come within the terms of reference of the Council of W.E.U.

Mr. DUYNSTEE asked whether the United States Government had expressed any readiness to share their responsibility for world-wide peace.

Mr. KLIESING pointed out that Article VIII, 3 of the Treaty provided that:

"At the request of any of the High Contracting Parties the Council shall be immediately convened in order to permit Them to consult with regard to any situation which may constitute a threat to peace, in whatever area this threat should arise, or a danger to economic stability."

The Council was wrong to say, therefore, that the proposals in the recommendation did not come within their terms of reference.

/Replying ...

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

JM/19

Replying to Mr. DUYNSTEE, the CHAIRMAN said that the United States had publicly expressed the desire for the defence burden to be more equitably shared among their allies.

As regards Mr. KLIESING's remark, it was absolutely correct that, under the terms of the Treaty, any country could invoke Article VIII, 3; in many cases, however, countries might prefer to raise matters in the larger framework of the North Atlantic Council. It was not possible to foretell which procedure a member country might adopt.

He recalled the text of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Recommendation 78, observing that the matters raised in them were more appropriate for discussion in NATO than in W.E.U.

Mr. BAUMEL suggested that the views of the seven countries should be harmonised within W.E.U. before a subject was dealt with in NATO.

The CHAIRMAN could assure the Committee that effective political consultations took place within W.E.U. - for instance, these had been held regarding the Berlin question, the Congo, New Guinea, Latin America, etc.

He recalled, however, how dangerous it could be for the seven countries to appear to form a bloc in NATO and that principal decisions should be taken in the latter Organisation.

MM. BAUMEL and HOUSIAUX observed that the Chairman's remark differed materially from the written reply of the Council.

The CHAIRMAN, after repeating the terms of the written reply, could only recall that such questions were better dealt with in NATO.

Mr. MOYERSOEN asked whether W.E.U. had any policy in this field. It was pointless to say that W.E.U. was not competent; it was permissible to say that a subject had not been discussed or that agreement had not been reached.

Mr. KLIESING referred to Document 230 in the absence of Mr. Kershaw, the rapporteur. Annex IV thereto listed eleven cases where NATO countries had taken different viewpoints in the Assembly of the United Nations. This was a disastrous state of affairs. An attempt should be made in W.E.U., at least, to harmonise a policy.

In conclusion, the CHAIRMAN said that general discussions were held between the Governments, but at times it was not possible for sovereign governments to be unanimous even within Benelux, let alone within W.E.U. Apart from the points on which disagreement had been regretted by the Committee, one should not forget the many major items of policy on which the member Governments were at one. The Council would take note of the points made.

/Question No. I, 3 (ii) ...

CONFIDENTIAL