

## Extract from minutes of the 483rd meeting of the WEU Council (11 September 1974)

**Caption:** The Council of Western European Union (WEU) agrees to mention that common defence is ‘one and indivisible’ and that the presence of Canadian and United States armed forces in Europe plays an irreplaceable role in the defence of North America as well as that of Europe. Moreover, European military forces also defend both Europe and the North American continent. Consequently, the Council rejects any notion of ‘compensation’.

**Source:** Council of the Western European Union. Extract from minutes of the 483rd of WEU Council held on 11 September 1974. Questions concerning the Assembly. CR (74) 14. 1 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: 1973, 01/1/1973-20/09/1974. File 202.413.999.09. Volume 1/1.

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### III QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE AGREEMENT

#### 1 Written Questions...

##### c) Written question 147

(CR (74) 13, II, 2 b); C (74) 117, 130 and 137)

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the draft reply prepared by the working group and circulated as C (74) 137 on 5th September, was submitted to the Council for approval.

Mr. SCHAAPVELD having initially indicated a preference to have the second paragraph of the draft reply deleted as being redundant, it was subsequently agreed that this paragraph should read as follows: "The Congress of the United States has drawn attention to the burden on the United States balance of payments resulting from the deployment of United States forces in Europe in fulfilment of treaty commitments and obligations. In 1973, it asked that such expenditure in the year ending June 1974 should be fully offset."

Delegations agreed to a proposal by M. de BEAUMARCHAIS to replace the words "the Council conclude" in the first line of the last paragraph by "it would appear . . .".

Delegations further agreed, after a short discussion, that in the same paragraph, lines 8 to the end should read: ". . . 26th June, the common defence is 'one and indivisible . . . All members of the Alliance agree that the continued presence of Canadian and substantial United States forces in Europe plays an irreplaceable role in the defence of North America as well as of Europe. Similarly, the substantial forces of the European allies serve to defend Europe and North America as well.' The question of 'compensation' does not therefore arise."

Taking account of these amendments,

the COUNCIL:

APPROVED the draft reply to written question 147 set out in C (74) 137.