

Draft reply by the French delegation to the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 310 on the spread of nuclear energy and defence problems (London, 21 mars 1978)

Caption: On 21 March 1978, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the final reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 310 on the spread of nuclear energy and defence problems. The Council emphasises that the member governments of the WEU Council are promoting cooperation on controlling the peaceful use of nuclear energy between nuclear technology supplier countries, but it also notes that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is responsible for controlling all sensitive exports to non-nuclear weapon states. With regard to the protection of nuclear facilities and nuclear materials, the Council points out that each state must make its own arrangements for the implementation of such protection, although studies on various international protection measures are also under examination within the IAEA.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Assembly Recommendations 307, 308, 309, 310 and 311. London: 21.03.1978. C (78) 52. 3 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: 1977, 28/11/1977-22/04/1985. File 202.415.32. Volume 1/1.

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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_french_delegation_to_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_310_on_the_spread_of_nuclear_energy_and_defence_problems_london_21_mars_1978-en-b3fe6be0-9720-4fad-83ef-61a13ad6b57a.html



Last updated: 13/10/2016

WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. UNCLASSIFIED

C (78) 52

Original: English/French

21st March, 1978

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Assembly Recommendations 307, 308, 309, 310 and 311
(C (77) 154)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the Council's replies to Assembly Recommendations 307, 308, 309, 310 and 311.

These replies, adopted by the Council at their meeting on 20th March, 1978, have been forwarded to the Assembly (CR (78) 2, V, 2).



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London. S.W.1.

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Reply to Recommendation 310 on the spread of
nuclear energy and defence problems

1. The member governments of the Council have already acted to promote co-operation between supplier countries for the purpose of safeguarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy by appropriate controls.

The guidelines which were adopted by the fifteen countries composing the London group, and were communicated to the I.A.E.A. on 11th January, provide that this Agency shall control the peaceful use of all sensitive exports to non-nuclear weapon States.

2. The I.A.E.A. is the controlling body for the peaceful use of nuclear materials. Its responsibilities are set out in its statute and it was also empowered under the terms of the N.P.T. to control all the peaceful nuclear activities of non-nuclear weapon States party to the N.P.T. The Board of Governors of this Agency, on which a number of member States are represented, is the appropriate body to improve the terms of these controls, in compliance with the agreements concluded by the Agency, e.g. the I.A.E.A./Euratom agreement.

The subject of multinational centres for the nuclear fuel cycle industry, with which the I.A.E.A. has already been concerned for a number of years, will be considered by the experts taking part in the I.N.F.C.E. study.

3. Those members of the Council who participated in the London meetings did find common ground for their policies on civil nuclear assistance to third countries. The result of this action is made clear in the guidelines referred to above, which contain no ban on nuclear exports to States which have not made all nuclear installations and materials on their territory or under their control subject to I.A.E.A. control.

The Council believe that, while taking account of the London guidelines, it is the responsibility of each State to define its own export policy and express the hope that the guidelines referred to above will receive wide international support.

/4. Measures to...

4. Measures to protect nuclear facilities and nuclear materials, in storage or in transit, from illicit use by individuals are police measures for the implementation of which each State is responsible within its own territory. Whilst there is an agreement on the level of physical protection necessary (London guidelines), the details and implementation of this protection are the exclusive responsibility of the sovereign States.

Studies on the various measures possible are also carried out within the I.A.E.A.; they include, in particular, consideration of a draft international agreement for the physical protection of nuclear materials during transfer.