

Amendments proposed by the United Kingdom delegation to the WEU Council for the draft reply to Recommendation 254 on security and the Mediterranean (London, 20 November 1974)

Caption: On 20 November 1974, the United Kingdom delegation to the Council of Western European Union (WEU) proposes various amendments to the draft reply prepared by the Italian delegation to Assembly Recommendation 254 on security and the Mediterranean. Most of the amendments are incorporated into the final reply (C (74)196). The amended document covers various points including the general question of defence in the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean, the use of anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles, the role of observation satellites and the passage of the Turkish Straits by aircraft carriers from Black Sea states. One of the matters covered is also the suggestion that France should resume its former command responsibility in the western Mediterranean, but the idea that this would require an initiative which would be the responsibility of the French Government alone is not included in the final reply, which instead refers to France's relations with NATO.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Recommendation 254 on security and the Mediterranean. London: 20.11.1974. WPM (74) 28/1. Copy N°53. 7 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: 1969, 01/01/1969-30/12/1974. File 202.413.999.01. Volume 1/1 .

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/amendments_proposed_by_the_united_kingdom_delegation_to_the_weu_council_for_the_draft_reply_to_recommendation_254_on_security_and_the_mediterranean_london_20_november_1974-en-8dbbaca8-daf1-4779-8883-bbd9af5ae564.html



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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Recommendation 254
on security and the Mediterranean
(C (74) 101)

As agreed at the meeting of the working group on 18th November, the Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply to Recommendation 254 including the amendments proposed by the United Kingdom delegation to the draft reply prepared by the Italian delegation.

This draft will be considered by the working group at its next meeting.

PAF

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Draft reply to Recommendation 254

The problems raised by Recommendation 254 on security and the Mediterranean have been considered and studied by all the member countries of W.E.U. and ~~/NATO/~~⁽¹⁾ OR ~~/the Atlantic Alliance/~~⁽²⁾

However, changes in some aspects of the political and military situations in the Mediterranean area would suggest that studies already completed will have to be brought up to date and that, in some cases, new criteria will have to be adopted for assessing and evaluating facts and data previously accepted as definite.

Nevertheless, the basic reasons which ~~/led~~ the Assembly to urge the member governments of W.E.U.~~/~~⁽¹⁾ OR ~~/lead~~ the member governments~~/~~⁽²⁾ to watch over any developments in the security situation remain valid.

/The Council ...

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- (1) Original wording as drafted by the Italian delegation.
(2) Alternative wording proposed by the United Kingdom delegation.

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The Council therefore accept the soundness of the point made in the Recommendation, that full use should be made of the lessons learned from the latest conflict in the Middle East to complement the study, referred to in the Recommendation, of anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles and observation satellites.⁷⁽¹⁾ OR that the NATO study, referred to in the Recommendation should fully cover the use of anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles and observation satellites in the latest conflict.⁷⁽²⁾

In this context, however, the Council are convinced that the use of missiles has not basically affected the value of the tank and the fighter bomber, particularly in view of Europe's special geographical configuration. With regard to the recommendation that the above-mentioned study should cover the problem of the use of observation satellites, the Council consider that the question is worthy of detailed study and that information and data could be obtained from the United States, which is the only western country at present equipped with such satellites.⁷⁽¹⁾ OR While agreeing that the problem of the use of observation satellites is worthy of detailed study, the Council doubt whether it would be appropriate for them to call for the establishment of a United Nations observation satellite capability.⁷⁽²⁾

The proposal ...

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- (1) Original version drafted by the Italian delegation.
(2) Alternative wording proposed by the United Kingdom delegation.

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∟The proposal that France and the United Kingdom should agree on reciprocal use of their respective Indian Ocean facilities also seems opportune.

On the other hand, the Council feel it would be more difficult for the naval presence in the Indian Ocean to be maintained by NATO countries at a level commensurate with that of the Soviet Union in the same area, which is outside the sphere of responsibility of the Alliance. It should be borne in mind that only some of the NATO countries are in a position to contribute to the naval forces in the Indian Ocean.∟(1)

OR

∟As the Indian Ocean is outside the area both of Western European Union and of the Atlantic Alliance, the Council, while taking note of the Assembly's views, do not feel able to comment on the strength or disposition of naval forces maintained there by certain members of the Alliance.∟(2)

/∟With regard to ...

(1) Original version drafted by the Italian delegation.

(2) Replacement proposed by the United Kingdom delegation.

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∟With regard to∟⁽¹⁾ the recommendation that the present on-call force in the Mediterranean (NAVOCFORMED) should be transformed into a standing force ∟, this could be effected fairly quickly. It⁽¹⁾ has already been under consideration in NATO for some time; there are difficulties arising from the limitation of the defence budgets of some of the countries concerned ∟but there is hope of an early solution∟⁽²⁾

More generally, the Council wish to recall that a draft Declaration on the Mediterranean, prepared jointly by the nine member countries of the E.E.C. and approved by all the member countries of the Atlantic Alliance has been submitted to the C.S.C.E., in the context of the close links which exist between security on the mainland of Europe and in the Mediterranean area. ∟This draft is intended to give notice to a multilateral conference, meeting for the first time to discuss problems of security and co-operation in Europe, that the situation in the Mediterranean cannot be ignored.∟⁽³⁾ OR ∟This draft is intended to provide an opportunity to the conference, 35 states meeting for the first time to discuss problems of security and co-operation in Europe, to indicate to the non-participating Mediterranean states that the implications for security in the Mediterranean have not been ignored.∟⁽⁴⁾

∟∟Lastly, with ...

- (1) The United Kingdom delegation requests the deletion of these words.
- (2) The United Kingdom delegation requests the addition of this phrase.
- (3)(4) The United Kingdom delegation suggests the replacement of (3) by (4). The latter version is the wording of the Helsinki Recommendations, paragraph 15.

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∟Lastly, with regard to the proposal that the passage of aircraft carriers from the Black Sea states through the Turkish Straits should be prevented, in accordance with the Montreux Convention, it would appear that Annex II-A does not permit the refusal of such movements which, from the point of view of required formalities, are considered equivalent to those allowed for other heavy tonnage surface warships.

It should also be noted that under Article 24 of the Convention, the task of enforcing the rules laid down is entrusted to the Turkish Government. It is, therefore, the responsibility of that Government to determine whether, in any given case, the passage of an aircraft carrier is or is not in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.∟⁽¹⁾

OR

∟The proposal that the passage of aircraft carriers from Black Sea states through the Turkish Straits should be prevented necessitates a close examination of complicated legal issues relating to the interpretation of the Montreux Convention to which nine States in all are party. The Council have been assured by the two W.E.U. member governments concerned that this matter will be given careful consideration.∟⁽²⁾

/Finally, ...

(1) Original version drafted by the Italian delegation.

(2) Replacement proposed by the United Kingdom delegation, using wording of the Council's reply to written question 133.

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Finally, as regards the suggestion that France should resume its former command responsibility in the western Mediterranean, the Council are not in a position to reply since this is clearly a matter for the French Government alone.⁽¹⁾ OR would clearly require an initiative which would be the responsibility of the French Government alone.⁽²⁾

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- (1) Original wording as drafted by the Italian delegation.
(2) Alternative wording proposed by the United Kingdom delegation.

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