

Draft reply from the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 185 on the political implications of the Soviet intervention in the Mediterranean (London, 22 September 1969)

Caption: On 22 September 1969, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a revised draft reply to Assembly Recommendation 185 on the political implications of the Soviet intervention in the Mediterranean, including an amendment proposed by the British delegation (in the first sentence on page 3) and emphasising the importance for Europe of a return to peace in the Middle East. The working group recommends approval of the revised draft by the Council.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Recommendation 185 on the political implications of the Soviet intervention in the Mediterranean. London: 22.09.1969. C (69) 118 revised. Copy N°55. 5 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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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_from_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_185_on_the_political_implications_of_the_soviet_intervention_in_the_mediterranean_london_22_september_1969-en-c25a7372-9b34-49d0-8c44-be961a4bff49.html



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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Recommendation 185 on the political implications of the Soviet intervention in the Mediterranean (C (69) 98)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a revised draft reply to Assembly Recommendation 185.

This revised draft includes an amendment proposed by the British delegation (in the first sentence on page 3), approval of which the working group recommend to the Council.

This draft will be submitted to the Council for approval at their next meeting.

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Draft reply to Recommendation 185
(C (69) 118)

1. In their earlier reply to Recommendation 177, the Council, who share the Assembly's concern regarding Soviet naval activity in the eastern Mediterranean, referred to the discussions in which members had already taken part within NATO, and in particular to the adoption by the Defence Planning Committee of the principle of an allied "on-call" force. All members participating in the work of this Committee have since given their full support to the establishment of such a force, as agreed at the London meeting in May 1969; it could be called together immediately in an emergency and would carry out exercises and goodwill visits to allied ports. It may be noted that two W.E.U. member governments have already assigned ships to this force.

The Council consider that western solidarity should be maintained without provocation, but with unremitting vigilance, in order to be in a position to counter any threat and to guarantee security in the area.

Member governments will, therefore, continue in both W.E.U. and NATO to keep a close watch on developments in the Mediterranean and will pursue their consultations on any measures which may be required.

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2 and 3. The Council, like the Assembly, are convinced of the importance, for Europe no less than for the peoples of the area, of a return to peace and stability in the Middle East. Following earlier consultations, they expressed the view, in their replies to Recommendations 157, 158 and 160 that the United Nations and more particularly the Security Council, constitute a suitable framework for seeking means of reaching a settlement and that the Resolution adopted on 22nd November 1967 provides a valid basis for a just and lasting solution. In this spirit, they supported the mission of Dr. Jarring, the special representative appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the move by France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the U.S.S.R. to try and reach a concerted position within that organisation. While these Four-Power conversations were proceeding, the Council frequently exchanged information and views on this subject. The Council greatly regretted that the French Government did not feel able to participate in these exchanges. Discussions dealt with all the aspects of the Middle East problem - and particularly the very worrying question of the Palestinian refugees - which in the Council's view should be covered by a general settlement freely acceptable to all the parties. They had to recognise, however, that the mutual distrust

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fostered by the Arab states and Israel, and the growing activity of resistance movements, were tending to perpetuate violence and that the continuing supply of arms was helping to sustain it. As long as this situation prevails, it will obviously be extremely difficult to arrive at a settlement.

Moreover, as the Assembly is aware, the permanent representatives of the Four on the Security Council decided, early in the summer, to suspend their search for a concerted approach "because of important consultations taking place among the four governments" and stated that "appropriate contacts 'would' be made with the parties directly concerned". The Council then hoped that these consultations and contacts would bring the various positions close enough to facilitate work within the United Nations and the resumption of the Jarring mission. For their part, the member governments of W.E.U. will continue to support, to the best of their ability, any efforts to hasten the prospect of restoring peace in the Middle East. Like the Assembly, the Council hope that the French Government will in future be prepared to make their valuable contribution to discussions in W.E.U.

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4. The member countries believe that an agreement between all supplying states on the problem of arms deliveries to all parties to the conflict would be a vital factor in restoring peace in the Middle East; they will, therefore, take every opportunity of putting their views to their American allies and to the Soviet Government so that a solution may be sought along these lines.

5. Being aware, moreover, that stability in the region would be furthered by the more rapid development of economic resources, the member states of W.E.U. agree that they, together with the non-member countries equally affected, should seek to promote the co-ordination of economic aid to the peoples of the Middle East, particularly through United Nations programmes. They will also continue to play an active part in implementing the Resolution on aid to refugees, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in July 1967.