

Reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 313 on security in the Mediterranean (London, 13 October 1978)

Caption: On 13 October 1978, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the WEU Council's reply to Assembly Recommendation 313 on security in the Mediterranean. The Council welcomes the call for more public support by the members of the Atlantic Alliance for the arrangements made in the Mediterranean, and for assurance of their participation in exercises and contingency planning. It points out that command arrangements are primarily a matter for NATO. The text notes the commitment of some non-Mediterranean countries (the United Kingdom, the FRG and the Netherlands) in these exercises and particularly mentions the strengthening of France's naval forces in the area. Finally, the Council believes that the increase in Soviet forces in the Mediterranean or the establishment of new facilities for them in the area would be harmful to peace.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Assembly Recommendations 312, 313, 315, and 319. London: 13.10.1978. C (78) 129. 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, 01/11/1977-30/10/1978. File 202.413.999.04. Volume 1/1

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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. UNCLASSIFIED

C (78) 129

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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Assembly Recommendations 312, 313, 315, and 319

(C (78) 89)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the Council's replies to Assembly Recommendations 312, 313, 315 and 319.

These replies, adopted by the Council at their meeting on 13th October, 1978, have been forwarded to the Assembly (CR (78) 9, II, 1).

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London, S.W.1.

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Reply to Recommendation 313
on security in the Mediterranean

1. The Council welcome the call for more public support, by member countries participating in the integrated military structure, for the arrangements made in the Mediterranean, and to ensure their participation in exercises and contingency planning. Of the non-Mediterranean members of the Union the United Kingdom contributes from time to time a ship to the Naval On-Call Force in the Mediterranean, and all three United Kingdom services participate in exercises in the area. Furthermore the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands regularly participate in naval exercises in the Mediterranean. It should also be pointed out that ACE Mobile Force, which includes troops from several non-Mediterranean nations, regularly participates in exercises planned for the area. NATO make a point of drawing public attention to these exercises through the media. It is also significant that France has in recent years strengthened her naval forces in the Mediterranean.

2. It is the Council's view that command arrangements are primarily a matter for NATO.

3. Member States participate in the efforts of the Alliance to help Greece, Portugal and Turkey and indeed all allies to meet their legitimate defence needs.

4. The Council invite member nations to consider carefully what could usefully be done to develop co-operation with Greece and Turkey in specific areas of defence industry and individual projects.

/5. The member countries

5. The member countries of the Alliance have consistently encouraged Greece and Turkey to continue negotiations to settle their remaining bilateral differences.

They likewise urge the two Cypriot communities to resume their direct negotiations.

6. The Council believe that expansion of Soviet forces in the Mediterranean or the establishment of new facilities for them in that area would not be in the interests of peace generally.

7. The Council support unequivocally the independence, territorial integrity and unity of Yugoslavia and its continued non-aligned status.

8. The Council attach importance to the use of the consultative Co-ordinating Committee for reviewing certain aspects of policy on arms exports to certain countries outside the Alliance. Full harmonisation of policy, however, is not always within reach given the national interests involved.