

Draft reply by the British delegation to the WEU Council to written question 225 from Sir Frederic Bennett on the measures that WEU is contemplating taking to assist the Afghan resistance movements (London, 1 April 1981)

Caption: On 1 April 1981, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the draft reply by the British delegation to the WEU Council to the question put by Sir Frederic Bennett, a British member of the WEU Assembly, on the measures that WEU member countries have taken or are contemplating taking to assist the Afghan resistance movements. Frederic Bennett particularly raises the question of deliveries of weapons to the resistance movements. The Council, while recognising the Afghan resistance's need for weapons, remains cautious and considers that it would not be helpful to give a specific answer to the question so as to avoid providing any information that might help identify supply sources.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Written Question 225 put to the Council by a member of the Assembly. London: 01.04.1981. WPM (81) 20. 2 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: 1980, 01/11/1980-05/05/1981. File 202.413.999.12. Volume 1/1 .

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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_british_delegation_to_the_weu_council_to_written_question_225_from_sir_frederic_bennett_on_the_measures_that_weu_is_contemplating_taking_to_assist_the_afghan_resistance_movements_london_1_april_1981-en-17d3ac2d-2a7e-4ffe-b20a-a957082f2695.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. RESTRICTED

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1st April, 1981

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Written question 225 put to the Council
by a member of the Assembly

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply to written question 225 prepared by the United Kingdom delegation and amended at the meeting of the working group on 30th March, 1981.

This draft will be considered by the working group at its next meeting on 6th April at 3 p.m.


9, Grosvenor Place,
London, S.W.1.

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Written question 225

Would the Council indicate what measures W.E.U. member countries have taken or are contemplating taking to assist the Afghan resistance movements?

Have some of these countries delivered, or are they planning to deliver, the weapons which the resistance movements urgently require?

Draft reply

The member countries of W.E.U. admire the courageous opposition of the Afghan people to the Soviet invasion of their country. They recognise that those forced to defend their freedom against 85,000 Soviet troops need **arms**.

It would not be helpful to give a specific answer to this question. However, to the extent that some arms may be reaching the resistance, it would not be desirable to make any comment that might help to identify the sources of supply.

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