

## Revised draft reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 371 on European security and events in the Gulf area (London, 4 November 1981)

**Caption:** On 4 November 1981, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a revised draft reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 371 on European security and events in the Gulf area. The revised document is the result of an initial British reply followed by various amendments. Most of the French and British amendments are taken up in the final version. The delegations that have not already done so are requested to notify their formal approval of this text by sending a letter to the Secretariat-General.

**Source:** Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Recommendation 371 on European security and events in the Gulf area. London: 04.11.1981. C (81) 143. 4 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: 1981, 01/06/1981-29/04/1983. File 202.413.999.13. Volume 1/1 .

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**URL:**

[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/revised\\_draft\\_reply\\_by\\_the\\_weu\\_council\\_to\\_assembly\\_recommendation\\_371\\_on\\_european\\_security\\_and\\_events\\_in\\_the\\_gulf\\_area\\_london\\_4\\_november\\_1981-en-3581e385-b914-4067-9c4a-11ce22a21417.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/revised_draft_reply_by_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_371_on_european_security_and_events_in_the_gulf_area_london_4_november_1981-en-3581e385-b914-4067-9c4a-11ce22a21417.html)



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# WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. RESTRICTED

C (81) 143 revised

Original: English/French

4th November, 1981

## SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Recommendation 371  
on European security and events in  
the Gulf area  
(C (81) 96)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a revised draft reply to Recommendation 371.

As agreed, delegations which have not already done so, are requested to notify their formal approval of this text by sending a letter to the Secretariat-General.

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

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Draft reply to Recommendation 371

1. The Council note that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has had a detrimental effect on international relations. They are aware of the threat to the stability of the region of which the Gulf is a part and which has developed over the past two years. They are determined to oppose any attempts by the Soviet Union to exploit the situation. In this context, they continue to deplore the occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet troops. They welcome the initiatives taken by the Islamic Conference, the European Council and the U.N. Secretary-General to promote a political solution in accordance with U.N. General Assembly Resolutions of 14th January, 1980, and 20th November, 1980. The Permanent Council of W.E.U. wish also to recall the recent proposals put forward by the European Council, as expressed in its Declaration of 30th June, 1981. Indeed, they note that these proposals remain on the table and offer a reasonable, practical framework for moving towards an internationally acceptable settlement of this problem. The governments of Western European Union await, from the Soviet Union, a positive and constructive response to this initiative. They repeat their call for an immediate withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan and call on all parties to work for a peaceful settlement which would enable Afghanistan to return to its traditional independent and non-aligned status.

2. The Council believe that one of the major elements of the situation in Afghanistan is the existence of a nationwide movement of resistance to Soviet intervention and to the setting-up of a puppet regime in Kabul. The opposition of the Afghan people to the Soviet invasion has also been demonstrated by the continuing exodus of Afghan refugees (now numbering considerably more than 2 million) into Pakistan and Iran.

The Council regret that the International Red Cross has not been allowed to carry out its humanitarian mission in Afghanistan.

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3. In order to alleviate the grave humanitarian problems caused by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan the Council believe it is essential that States should also give economic aid to Pakistan to help provide for the Afghan refugees. The W.E.U. member States express their support and admiration for the generosity and humanity with which Pakistan has taken in so many refugees.

4. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman have recently formed the Gulf Co-operation Council, in order to increase their co-operation in many spheres. European States, concerned about the maintenance of stability in the Gulf area, have noted the wish of the Gulf States to co-operate among themselves without asking for external support. They therefore heartily welcome the creation of the Gulf Co-operation Council and the objectives which it is pursuing. W.E.U. member States recognise the need for continuous and close contacts of every kind between European and the Gulf States, as evidenced by the increased number of high-level visits between the two regions. European States, moreover, attach much importance to the continuation of contacts through such means as the Euro/Arab dialogue. Europe's greatest contribution to the stability of the Gulf can be made by the continuation of E.C. efforts on the Arab/Israel dispute, the core of which is the Palestinian problem and which remains the primary concern of all Arab Gulf States.

5. The Council welcome the efforts being made to solve the Iran/Iraq war by the Islamic Conference, the Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General and by the Non-Aligned Movement. The Council are ready to support any measures which seem likely to be effective in bringing an end to the hostilities and which can command the necessary international approval. The Council recall that on 23rd September, 1981, immediately after the worsening of the conflict between Iran and Iraq, the Foreign Ministers of the Nine at their meeting in New York recalled, in a declaration concerning the conflict, the supreme importance that the entire international community attaches to ensuring the freedom of navigation in the Gulf which should in no way be impeded.

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6. The W.E.U. member States are concerned to do what they can to maintain and enhance stability in the Gulf area. They have in the past expressed their condemnation of all acts of violence in the Middle East and would do so again if the need arose.

7. In view of the sharp increase in the price of oil over the past few years, the countries of W.E.U. are all concerned to work for lower energy consumption, whether at European or world level, through such bodies as the International Energy Agency, as regards those States which are members. There is already regular consultation with governments of other States which face the same need. All oil consuming countries share an interest in seeing a stable world energy market. As for the Gulf producers, the Council note that certain of them have made significant reductions in their oil production.

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