

Draft reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 371 on European security and events in the Gulf area (London, 6 October 1981)

Caption: On 6 October 1981, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a second amended version of the draft reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 371 on European security and events in the Gulf area. The document again contains several suggestions for amendments by the various delegations, particularly the British, French and German delegations. The amendments mainly concern the situation arising from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, as well as WEU relations with the Gulf states. Most of the French and British amendments are taken up in the final version (revised document C(81)143).

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Recommendation 371 on European security and events in the Gulf area. London: 06.10.1981. WPM (81) 23/2. 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: 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/draft_reply_by_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_371_on_european_security_and_events_in_the_gulf_area_london_6_october_1981-en-fd6e8b5c-8431-4e67-865f-9880of65563d.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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Original English/French

WPM (81) 23/2

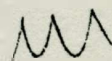
6th October 1981

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

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

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply to Recommendation 371 on European security and events in the Gulf area.

This text, prepared at the working group of 5th October, 1981, on the basis of WPM (81) 23 and 23/1, will be considered at the next meeting of the Group on Monday, 12th October, at 3 p.m.


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. [In this matter, they believe that both the United Nations Organisation and its Secretary-General, and the European Council and the Islamic Conference Organisation have an important role to play towards promoting a political solution in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions of 14th January and 20th November 1980.]⁽¹⁾ OR [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.]⁽²⁾

/The Permanent ...

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- (1) Version in WPM (81) 23/1, proposed by the French delegation.
- (2) Text of original UK version as amended at the working group.

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 consider these proposals to be of such a nature as to show the way to a political 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 reaffirm their support for the Afghan people who are striving to re-establish the independence of their country. The opposition of the Afghan people to the Soviet invasion has been demonstrated by increasing resistance activity in nearly every province of the country and by the continuing exodus of Afghan refugees (now numbering more than 2 million) into Pakistan and Iran.]⁽¹⁾

/OR ...

(1) Amended UK version.

OR

[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.](1)

: The Council regret that the International Red Cross
: is not able to carry out its humanitarian mission in Afghanistan.

: 3. [In order to alleviate certain of the destabilising
effects of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan](2) 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 ...

(1) Version proposed by the French delegation.
(2) Text amended at the working group of the addition to
the sentence proposed by the German delegation.

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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 which they expect will enhance stability in the region. [European States have no intention whatsoever to interfere in the internal affairs of Gulf States, and expect the Soviet Union to show a similar concern for the integrity and independence of all States bordering the Gulf.](¹) OR [European States recognise the integrity and independence of all States bordering the Gulf and therefore have no intention whatsoever of interfering in the internal affairs of Gulf States. The Council expect the Soviet Union to show a similar intention for the Gulf States.](²) OR (³). W.E.U. member States recognise the need for continuous and close contacts of every kind between Europe 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 ...

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- (1) Amended text of the original UK version.
(2) Alternative version proposed by the UK delegation.
(3) The French delegation proposes the deletion of the sentence in question.

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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 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 will readily 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.

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 ...

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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, through such bodies as the International Energy Agency. 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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