

Draft reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 264 on the proliferation of nuclear weapons (London, 18 November 1975)

Caption: On 18 November 1975, the Secretariat-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a draft reply from the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 264 on the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The proposed amendment from the French delegation concerning the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) outlines that all the member countries of the Council, whether or not they have signed the treaty, hold firmly to the principle of non-proliferation. But the other delegations in the working group emphasise that France is the only WEU Member State not to have signed the NPT.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretariat-General note. Recommendation 264 on the proliferation of nuclear weapons. London: 18.11.1975. WPM (75) 35/2. 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: 1969, 01/12/1969-16/10/1985. File 202.413.999.06. Volume 1/1.

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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_264_on_the_proliferation_of_nuclear_weapons_london_18_november_1975-en-9ee6d203-f7c9-4505-9c5d-e837d6108fd5.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. RESTRICTED

WPM (75) 35/2

Original: English/French

18th November, 1975

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL NOTE

Recommendation 264

on the proliferation of nuclear weapons

(C (75) 86)

The Secretariat-General circulates herewith a draft reply to Assembly Recommendation 264 on the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

This text, prepared at the working group of 18th November, 1975, on the basis of WPM (75) 35/1, will be considered at the next meeting of the group on Friday 21st November, 1975.

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WPM (75) 35/2

Draft reply to Recommendation 264

1. All member countries of the Council hold firmly to the principle of non-proliferation which in their view should lead to an improvement in international relations. Six members are full parties to the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the seventh has consistently said that it will act as if it had signed the Treaty.⁽¹⁾

OR

Whether or not they have signed the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, all member countries of the Council hold firmly to the principle of non-proliferation⁽²⁾ which in their view should lead to an improvement in international relations. Those who are full parties to the Treaty attach great importance to it from that standpoint.⁽³⁾

: 2. They are also fully aware of the importance of
: peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the economic development
of many countries, and continue to encourage exchanges of
equipment, materials and scientific and technical information
in this field, while taking appropriate steps to ensure that
: exports of nuclear equipment and material are not diverted
: from their peaceful purposes.

/3. ...

(1) Version appearing in document WPM (75) 35/1.

(2) Version proposed by the French delegation.

(3) Addition proposed in the working group.

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3. Arms control and disarmament are matters of concern to the member countries of W.E.U. and to the Atlantic Alliance; all member countries will therefore give particular attention to any measures designed to discourage proliferation. The balance of forces is, moreover, a vital factor in maintaining peace and all action of the kind mentioned above must take account of the need to safeguard member countries' security and stability.

4. The Council are also convinced of the need to harmonise member countries' positions in the appropriate international fora.

5. The Council stress that the problem of physical protection of nuclear material, particularly against loss, theft and sabotage, has until now been essentially the concern of the military nuclear states, but that it is in fact also the concern of other states, whether or not they have acceded to the Treaty, particularly as such protection involves heavy expenditure which affects the economic balance and the conditions of production and trade of nuclear material.

A fuller examination of this problem has been undertaken by the E.E.C. and by a group of experts meeting under the auspices of the I.A.E.A., which has submitted its conclusions to member countries.