

Information note from the French Embassy (28 June 1971)

Caption: In a note dated 28 June 1971 and circulated on 7 July, the French Embassy notifies the Council of Western European Union (WEU) that the French General Secretariat of National Defence has informed the Embassy that it is not customary in France to give Members of Parliament permits to access classified information and that there is no authority with the power to do so. However, although defence secrets result in special arrangements between the executive and the legislative, solutions have been found for sovereign assemblies so there is no reason why a solution should not also be found for a consultative assembly.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Follow-up to the Council's reply to Assembly Recommendation 197 on military security and parliamentary information. Information received from the French Assembly, 28th June 1971. 07.07.1971. Copy No 32. 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: 1970, 01/06/1970-21/10/1973. File 202.414.22. Volume 1/1.

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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/information_note_from_the_french_embassy_28_june_1971-en-31442548-b2e2-49fc-9fcf-2131f7fff196.html



Last updated: 13/10/2016

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Copy No. 32

7th July, 1971

Follow-up to the Council's reply to Assembly
Recommendation 197 on military security and
parliamentary information

(CR (71) 3, VI, 2 and unnumbered document dated 5th May, 1971)

Information received from the French Embassy,
dated 28th June, 1971

"The division of the Secrétariat Général de la Défense Nationale concerned with this matter has informed this Embassy that it is not customary in France to provide Parliamentarians with permits for access to secret material or with security clearances. In the first place, the principle of the separation of powers prevents the authorisation procedures defined by the executive from being applied to them; and secondly, there is no authority with power to issue such permits to the representatives of the sovereign people.

In practice, in matters involving defence secrets, relations between the executive and the legislature and the internal organisation of parliamentary business, are the subject of arrangements which are not governed by any pre-established rule, but are always based on a common concern to avoid compromising, or any risk of compromising, secret information.

/Since it has been ...

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Since it has been possible to work out such solutions in the case of sovereign Assemblies, it should be no more difficult to do so in the case of a consultative Assembly."

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