

Recommendation 185 of the WEU Assembly on the political implications of the Soviet intervention in the Mediterranean (Paris, 18 June 1969)

Caption: On 18 June 1969, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 185 on the political implications of the Soviet intervention in the Mediterranean. The Assembly recommends that the WEU Council lend its support to the 'on-call' naval force established by the Atlantic Alliance in the Mediterranean and that it continue to concert all necessary action to address the political and military threat represented by the build-up of the Soviet fleet. It also urges the Council, together with the United States and the Soviet Union, to seek means of bringing the armaments race in the Middle East to an end and to work for peace and stability in the region.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation No. 185 on the political implications of the Soviet intervention in the Mediterranean (Paris, fourth sitting, 18th June 1969)' in Proceedings: Fifteenth ordinary session: First Part, Vol. II, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. June 1969, p. 39.

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RECOMMENDATION 185***on the political implications of the Soviet intervention
in the Mediterranean***

The Assembly,

Recalling Recommendation 177 since which time there has been a continuing build-up of Soviet naval strength in the Eastern Mediterranean ;

Recognising the importance for Europe of a return to peace and stability in the Middle East ;

Considering that no lasting settlement is possible until guerilla activities cease, the refugee problem is resolved, and the import of arms into the Middle East is halted ;

Appreciating and supporting the efforts being made by the four powers to find, under the auspices of the United Nations, a solution acceptable to both sides ;

Noting with satisfaction the decision of the Council to pursue its discussions on the Middle East, and expressing the hope that all member countries of WEU will henceforth take part in these deliberations ;

Considering finally that any lasting settlement must make provision for the rapid economic and social development of the Middle East region, whose own resources can be harnessed more effectively for this purpose,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

1. Lend its support to the "on-call" naval squadron established in the Mediterranean by NATO, and continue further to concert all necessary action to meet the political and military threat represented by the build-up of the Soviet fleet ;
2. Reaffirm the right and duty of western countries to sustain their legitimate interests in the East Mediterranean, and keep the question of peace in the Middle East on the agenda of its meetings ;
3. Assist by every means at its disposal efforts to bring about a lasting settlement in the Middle East through the good offices of the United Nations, four-power negotiations and by all other appropriate means ;
4. Together with the United States and the Soviet Union, seek means of ending the armaments race in the Middle East ;
5. Co-ordinate assistance by member countries so as to make an effective contribution to solving the problem of refugees and to the more rapid development of the economic resources of the area for the benefit of all Middle East peoples.