

## Recommendation 254 of the WEU Assembly on security and the Mediterranean (Paris, 20 June 1974)

**Caption:** On 20 June 1974, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 254 on security problems in the Mediterranean area as a whole. The Assembly, convinced that there is no alternative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) as the basis of European defence, both in the Mediterranean and elsewhere, recommends that the WEU Council should press for improvements in NATO defence arrangements in the Mediterranean, highlighting the role that France can play in the Western Mediterranean.

**Source:** Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 254 on security and the Mediterranean (Paris, fifth sitting, 20th June 1974)' in Proceedings: Twentieth ordinary session, First Part, Vol. II, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. June 1974, p. 46.

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**RECOMMENDATION 254**  
***on security and the Mediterranean***

The Assembly,

Deploring the resumption of hostilities in the Near and Middle East in 1973, and expressing its sympathy with all the peoples involved ;

Considering that Europe should make its views known and its voice heard through the European Community, and endorsing therefore the communiqué issued by the nine governments on 13th October and the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 17th October 1973 ;

Expressing its full support for Security Council Resolutions 338, 339 and 340 ;

Recalling paragraph 8 of its Recommendation 227 ;

Concerned at the possible strategic consequences of Soviet involvement in the Middle East ;

Having considered the security problems of the Mediterranean area as a whole, the attitudes of the Western Mediterranean countries in particular, and hoping that at an appropriate time it will be possible to associate Spain with the defence of Europe ;

Welcoming in this connection the decisive step on the road to democracy taken by Portugal ;

Convinced however that there is no alternative to NATO as the basis of European defence both in the Mediterranean and elsewhere,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

Urge member governments :

1. To call for the establishment of a United Nations observation satellite capability under the authority of the Secretary-General ;
2. To ensure that the intensive study being carried out in NATO of the lessons which that organisation might learn from the conduct and outcome of the Middle East conflict covers fully the use of anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles and observation satellites ; the conclusions to be drawn for the equipment of NATO forces ; and the downgrading of the concept of political warning of impending hostilities ;
3. To call on all WEU countries able to deploy naval forces in the Indian Ocean to provide reciprocal access to all available bases, and to co-ordinate their plans to ensure that the total naval presence maintained by NATO countries in the Ocean is commensurate with that of the Soviet Union ;
4. To make appropriate representations to ensure that the Montreux Convention of 1936 is correctly applied, in particular so that aircraft carriers do not pass through the Turkish Straits ;
5. To press for improvements in NATO defence arrangements in the Mediterranean, especially through the resumption by France of its former command responsibility in the Western Mediterranean and by transforming the present on-call force into a Standing Naval Force, Mediterranean, with a substantial European contribution and with international financing in appropriate circumstances.