

## Extract from minutes of the 200th meeting of the Council of Western European Union (21 March 1962)

**Caption:** On 21 March 1962, the minutes of the 200th meeting of the Council of Western European Union set out the discussions on written question 51 of the Assembly. British representative Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh says in his proposed reply that the importance of standardising small weapons and their ammunition is well understood. Moreover, the Armaments Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) has recently set up a working group to review national requirements for 20 mm weapons and the standardisation or operational interchangeability of their ammunition. It is agreed that the Council's draft reply to the WEU Assembly will only be sent after it has secured the agreement of NATO.

**Source:** Council of the Western European Union. Extract from minutes of the 200th meeting of WEU Council held on 21 March 1962. III. Questions concerning the Assembly. CR (62)6. pp.[s.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: 1960, 01/03/1960-30/05/1962. File 202.411.05. Volume 1/1 .

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EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF 200th MEETING  
OF W.E.U. COUNCIL HELD ON 21 MARCH, 1962  
CR (62) 6

III. QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ASSEMBLY

1. Written questions to the Council

c) Question No. 51 (Mr. Kliesing)  
(C (62) 35)

The CHAIRMAN reminded the Council that written question No. 51 put by Mr. Kliesing had been circulated as C (62) 35. He had obtained some information regarding the weapon referred to. It was a Swiss weapon (Hispano-Suiza) for which several countries held production licences.

It had been studied by a working sub-group of the S.A.C. in October 1957, and was not an anti-tank gun but an infantry weapon which could also be used in a secondary capacity against very low flying aircraft. It had only sufficient penetrative power for use against lightly armoured vehicles.

Sir Evelyn SHUCKBURGH stated that the NATO Armaments Committee had recently set up a working party to study requirements for 20 mm. weapons and the standardisation of the necessary ammunition. The United States was represented on this Group. The United Kingdom delegation, therefore, proposed that the reply should read:

"The importance of achieving standardisation of small arms weapons, and more particularly of their ammunition, is well understood. The NATO Armaments Committee has recently set up a Working Group to review national requirements for 20 mm. weapons and to make specific recommendations regarding the possibilities of securing standardisation or operational interchangeability of 20 mm. ammunition. The United States are represented on this Group."

On Baron BENTINCK's proposal, the last sentence of this draft was amended to read:

"The United States, who are understood to be interested in this matter, are, of course, members of this Group."

In view of security requirements, it was agreed that the agreement of NATO should be sought before communicating this reply to the Assembly.

The COUNCIL:

APPROVED the draft reply to question No. 51;

AUTHORISED its transmission to the President of the Assembly, subject to the agreement of NATO.