

## Extract from minutes of the 501st meeting of the WEU Council (17 December 1975)

**Caption:** At the 501st meeting of the Council of Western European Union (WEU), held on 17 December 1975, the delegations discuss question 160 put by Assembly member Mr Krieg. The member had asked if the nuclear forces of two WEU member countries (France and the United Kingdom) are capable of playing a role in a Western defence system based on selective nuclear retaliation. The Council admits that it is unable to reach agreement on a reply to this question.

**Source:** Council of the Western European Union. Extract from Minutes of 501st meeting of WEU Council held on 17th December 1975. 17.12.1975. CR (75) 14. 1 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: 1975, 01/05/1975-30/04/1976. File 202.413.22. Volume 1/1.

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**Last updated:** 13/10/2016

IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ASSEMBLY

Twenty-first Ordinary Session (second part) of the  
Assembly, including Recommendations transmitted to  
the Council

(C (75) 166)

1. Before dealing with the recent debates in the Assembly and their follow-up, the CHAIRMAN reminded delegations that the replies to Recommendations 260, 263, 264 and 265, and to written questions 163 and 164, which had been approved by the written procedure agreed by the Council, had been forwarded to the Assembly before the start of its Session (cf. C (75) 164, 163, 165 and 162).

The COUNCIL took note.

2. As regards the Session held from 1st to 4th December in Paris, the CHAIRMAN recalled a point concerning written question 160. The Council, having been unable to agree on the text of a reply, had decided on 13th November that, if the Assembly raised the matter, the Acting Secretary-General would explain verbally to the President of the Assembly that the Council were unable to reply.

During one of the speeches which he made during the Session, a member of the Assembly, M. Radius, had asked the Italian Secretary of State for Defence, M. Dalvit, why the Council had not yet replied. M. Dalvit had answered that he could not make any statement on this point. The problem of substance had earlier been raised by M. de Montesquiou in a question to Mr. Luns.

The Chairman wished to ask the Council whether they thought he should now contact M. Nessler along the lines agreed on 13th November, or whether they confirmed their decision to wait for any fresh move by the Assembly on the question.

Mr. von HASE thought that there was no need for the Council to take any action on a remark made during the Assembly's debates and that, in the circumstances, they could perfectly well await an official move by the Assembly. He therefore favoured leaving things as they were.

M. de BEAUMARCHAIS said that the French Minister for Foreign Affairs had received a question put in the National Assembly by ~~the same~~ <sup>another</sup> parliamentarian, who had asked M. Sauvagnargues in very precise terms why the Council had not answered written question 160.

Delegations agreed to confirm the decision taken at the previous meeting in the terms recalled earlier.