

Reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 57 on the state of European security – establishment of a NATO nuclear force (7 December 1960)

Caption: At the 168th meeting of the Council of Western European Union (WEU), held on 7 December 1960, the Council examines Recommendation 57 of the WEU Assembly on the state of European security – establishment of a NATO nuclear force. The Council decides to follow the Assembly's request and communicate its proposals to the North Atlantic Council at its meeting on 16 and 17 December 1960 in Paris, but the Council does not intend to report to the Assembly on the progress made within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). As regards the substance of the Recommendation, since the problems raised are to be discussed at the NATO ministerial meeting, the Council is of the view that no useful purpose would be served by examining it further at present.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Extract from minutes of 168 meeting of WEU Council held on 7 Dec 60. Recommendation No. 57. CR (60) 27. 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: 1960, 02/12/1960-30/11/1961. File 202.413.07. Volume 1/1.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply_by_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_57_on_the_state_of_european_security_establishment_of_a_nato_nuclear_force_7_december_1960-en-cf892d4f-c8b5-4d6f-af54-500b1e45388c.html



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EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF 168 MEETINGOF W.E.U. COUNCIL HELD ON 7 Dec 60II. Questions concerning the Assembly: Sixth Session (2nd part) Recommendations2. Recommendation No. 57

The text of this Recommendation, and the covering letter of the President of the Assembly, had been communicated to the Council with document C (60) 178.

(a) The President underlined in his letter the recommendation that the Chairman-in-office of the Council communicate the three proposals contained in paragraph I of the Recommendation to the North Atlantic Council at its meeting in Paris on the 16th and 17th December, without the Council of W.E.U. taking up a collective position.

It was noted that M. Wigny would be attending this meeting as Belgian Foreign Minister, and not as Chairman of the W.E.U. Council, and it might be difficult

for him to communicate the Recommendation as proposed. It was therefore felt that the Assembly's wishes would best be met by the Chairman-in-office transmitting the Recommendation to M. Spaak, as Chairman of the North Atlantic Council, on the occasion of the forthcoming meeting of that Council, making it clear that the W.E.U. Council had not taken up any position in the matter.

The COUNCIL:

INVITED the Chairman-in-office to transmit the three proposals contained in paragraph I of Recommendation No. 57 to NATO.

(b) The President further stated in his letter that "the Assembly has also expressed a wish that the Council should be enabled to keep it informed of progress made on the study of this problem within NATO".

It was noted that no such request was contained in the Recommendation, nor did it appear to result from the debates at the recent session. In any case, the NATO discussions would be highly secret, and it would furthermore not be appropriate for the W.E.U. Council to report to the Assembly on these matters.

(c) As regards the substance of the Recommendation, it was noted that the problems raised therein were to be discussed at the NATO Ministerial meeting, and no useful purpose could be served by examining it further at present.

So far as paragraph III was concerned, which recommended that the member States of W.E.U. support the policy embodied in the three paragraphs under point I at the forthcoming meeting of the North Atlantic Council, no further action was required by the Council since all Governments were informed of the contents of the Recommendation.