

Draft reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 324 on the limitation of strategic arms (London, 7 February 1979)

Caption: On 7 February 1979, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a draft reply from the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 324 on the limitation of strategic arms. The document comprises the original British version plus a French amendment, which is partly included in the final reply to the recommendation (C(79)54). On the matter of the SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) negotiations, the French delegation emphasises that the United States has kept the North Atlantic Council informed of progress throughout the negotiations, especially on issues of particular interest to the WEU member governments.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Recommendation 324 on the limitation of strategic arms. London: 07.02.1979. WPM (79) 2/1. 4 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: 1977, 01/05/1977-30/03/1979. File 202.413.24. Volume 1/1.

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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_324_on_the_limitation_of_strategic_arms_london_7_february_1979-en-ff95dd5b-258c-4e71-a173-f9f10c88ccbc.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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WPM (79) 2/1

Original: English/French

7th February, 1979

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Recommendation 324
on the limitation of strategic arms
(C (78) 154)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply to Recommendation 324 on the limitation of strategic arms.

This reply, prepared at the working group on the basis of WPM (79) 2, will be considered at the next meeting of the group on Thursday, 8th February at 3 p.m.

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Draft reply to Recommendation 324

1. The member governments have recently reaffirmed their resolve to seek further improvement in East/West relations and their continued commitment to a policy of détente as the best means of promoting stable and mutually beneficial relationships between governments and better and more frequent contacts between individuals. Concrete, balanced and verifiable arms control and disarmament measures would in their view contribute significantly to this search for security, stability and peace.

2. In this context a SALT II Agreement which contributes to strategic stability, maintains deterrence and responds to the security interests and concerns of the North Atlantic Alliance is considered to be in the common interest. Member governments have recently welcomed the progress made in the negotiations, and have expressed support for American efforts to bring them to a successful conclusion.

3. SALT bears directly on the interests of member governments because of the role of American strategic forces in the : "NATO Triad" of conventional forces, theatre nuclear forces and strategic nuclear forces, which provide a spectrum of

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military capabilities enabling NATO to meet aggression at any level with an appropriate response, while also making it impossible for an aggressor to calculate in advance the nature of the response his attack will provoke, or how the conflict may develop thereafter.

4. ~~Conscious~~ of this direct interest, the Americans have kept the North Atlantic Council informed of progress throughout the negotiations. There have been close consultations on those issues of particular interest to member governments of W.E.U. ⁽¹⁾ ~~OR~~ ~~Conscious~~ of this direct interest, the Americans have kept the North Atlantic Council informed of the progress of the negotiations, in particular on those issues of special interest to member governments of W.E.U. ⁽²⁾ ~~These~~ are: the likely provision on non-circumvention in the SALT II Treaty; the limitations on cruise missiles; and the question whether the SALT process should be extended to address nuclear delivery systems of less than intercontinental range at present excluded from the negotiations ("grey area systems"). The American position on these issues takes account of European interests. ⁽³⁾

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- (1) Original United Kingdom version.
 - (2) Version proposed by the French delegation.
 - (3) The deletion of the remainder of this paragraph was proposed in the working group.

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5. Notwithstanding repeated eastern assurances that their aim is not to seek military superiority, member governments have continued to note with concern the steady build-up of Warsaw Pact forces and armaments, both conventional and nuclear. In the face of these developments, it remains the view of member governments that there is a need to devote the resources necessary to modernise and strengthen allied capabilities to the extent required for deterrence and defence.

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