

Reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 351 on the international situation and European security (7 November 1980)

Caption: On 7 November 1980, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the Council's reply to Recommendation 351 of the WEU Assembly on the international situation and European security, which incorporates the amendments proposed by the French delegation (document FL(80)16). The Council expresses its concern at the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, which is affecting the overall strategic situation. Given these circumstances and the growing military strength of the USSR, the Council emphasises the determination of the Atlantic Alliance to maintain, strengthen and modernise its defence posture in the interests of deterrence.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Assembly Recommendation 351. London: 07.11.1980. C (80) 145. 3 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: 1980, 01/11/1980-30/06/1981. File 202.413.27. Volume 1/1 .

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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

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
SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Assembly Recommendation 351

(C (80) 78)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the Council's reply to Assembly Recommendation 351.

This reply, approved by all delegations, has been forwarded to the Assembly.


9, Grosvenor Place,
London, S.W.1.

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Reply to Recommendation 351
on the international situation
and European security

The Council share in general terms the concern expressed by the Assembly in its recommendation with regard to the international situation and security in Europe and wish to refer in this connection to the communiqué issued after the ministerial session of the North Atlantic Council on 25th and 26th June last.

The Council recall the grave concern that was expressed by the Ministers at the continued occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet armed forces. They agreed that the international crisis thus caused called for a resolute, constant and concerted response on the part of the Allies.

In line with the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations of 14th January, 1980, which appeals to all states to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and non-aligned character of Afghanistan and to refrain from any interference in the internal affairs of that country, the Ministers at the Ankara meeting stressed the need for an immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. While recognizing that the security of the region is primarily the concern of the countries there, Ministers welcomed the fact that members of the Alliance are by reason of their relations with those countries in a position to make a contribution to peace and stability in the region.

The Council recall equally the ministerial session of the Defence Planning Committee of NATO on 14th May, 1980. Against the background of the Soviet military intervention in a non-aligned country, in a way which affects the overall strategic situation and which upsets stability in south west Asia, the member countries of the Alliance, both individually

/and collectively, ...

and collectively, underlined at this meeting the need to maintain and strengthen the Alliance's defence posture in the interests of deterrence. At the same time they pledged to increase their efforts to improve the capability of the full spectrum of forces committed to the Alliance.

In the face of growing Soviet military strength, particularly in the field of theatre nuclear weapons, the Council recall the decision of the member countries of the integrated military structure to undertake a modernisation programme on long-range theatre nuclear forces, at the same time offering a wide range of arms control initiatives, including an offer to negotiate limitations on L.R.T.N.F. in the SALT III framework, which ran parallel and was complementary to the modernisation decision. In this connection, the Council note with interest that exchanges on this subject between the United States of America and the Soviet Union are being held in Geneva.

The member States of Western European Union participating in the Vienna talks on mutual and balanced force reductions continue to attach great importance to these talks as a means of seeking a more stable force relationship in central Europe. A first reaction, recently given by the East to the western proposal for an interim Phase I agreement for M.B.F.R. of December 1979, is being carefully studied by the members of the Alliance concerned. The Council may finally reiterate the firm determination of the member States to enter at the forthcoming C.S.C.E. follow-up meeting at Madrid into a thorough and frank discussion on the implementation of the principles and provisions as laid down in the Final Act of Helsinki and to work towards the adoption, as part of a balanced outcome, of a mandate for further negotiations under the aegis of the C.S.C.E. on militarily significant and verifiable confidence-building measures, applicable to the entire continent of Europe.