

Recommendation 202 of the WEU Assembly on the situation in the Middle East (19 November 1970)

Caption: On 19 November 1970, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 202 on the situation in the Middle East. The Assembly believes that the countries of Western Europe can make an effective contribution to the economic and social development of the Middle Eastern countries and recognises the need for effective guarantees for any peaceful settlement. It calls on the Council to pursue its discussions at ministerial level on the situation in the region so as to contribute to a just and lasting peace between Israel and neighbouring countries. The Assembly also emphasises the importance of economic and humanitarian aid for refugees and the countries hosting them.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation 202 on the situation in the Middle East (Paris, ninth sitting, 19th November 1970)' in Proceedings: Sixteenth ordinary session: Second Part, Vol. IV, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. November 1970, pp. 38-39.

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RECOMMENDATION 202
on the situation in the Middle East

The Assembly,

Considering that the countries of Western Europe can make an effective contribution to the economic and social development of the Middle Eastern countries and recognising the need for effective guarantees for any peaceful settlement;

Considering, however, that the effectiveness of this contribution largely depends on the European countries agreeing on definite ways and means of making it;

Considering that any foreign military presence constitutes one of the main obstacles in the way of a negotiated settlement;

Recalling action by the United Nations and particularly Resolution 242 of 22nd November 1967;

Welcoming the renewal of Ambassador Jarring's mission and the decision to maintain the cease-fire;

Considering that the militant activities of Palestinian organisations in Lebanon and Jordan resulting from the continual failure to solve the refugee problem constitute a threat to the legal governments of those countries,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

1. Pursue its discussions at ministerial level on the situation in the Middle East so as to agree on the expression of a truly European point of view in the different international bodies designed to contribute to a just and lasting peace acceptable to Arabs and Israelis;
2. Propose a draft agreement prohibiting all countries from affording military assistance to the belligerents and setting out the conditions for a policy of détente and use its full influence to ensure that the cease-fire is respected and prolonged until a peaceful settlement is reached;
3. Assist in the economic and social resettlement of refugees in whichever country they may be or in other countries in this area;
4. Reconsider Europe's financial contribution to undertakings intended to facilitate the economic development of the States integrating them;
5. Encourage the prompt opening of part negotiations between Israel and neighbouring countries to ensure the success of the Jarring mission and a peaceful settlement guaranteeing:
 - (a) recognition by all of all States in the area with all the attributes of sovereignty and of secure and recognised boundaries;
 - (b) the accession of the whole of the Middle East to a harmonious economic development programme;

(c) the protection by the powers concerned of all parties against any violation of these agreements including in particular a mutual undertaking to oppose resolutely any form of subversive action, terrorism or guerilla warfare;

6. Study a number of measures aimed at lowering tension, reducing mutual mistrust, ending the boycott and freeing trade, reopening the Suez Canal to international merchant shipping, encouraging the coexistence of the communities and, finally, preparing the way for a lasting solution.