

Draft reply by the WEU Council to question 175 put by a member of the Assembly on the improvement of defensive military forces (London, 5 July 1977)


**Caption:** On 5 July 1977, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates the draft reply to question 146 put to the WEU Council by Sir Frederic Bennett, a member of the Assembly. The member asks about the measures that have been taken by the WEU member countries to improve their own defensive military forces in accordance with the decisions taken by the members of the Atlantic Alliance in December 1969. The draft reply, which outlines the various programmes that have been launched to enable the forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to meet changing defence needs, incorporates several French amendments. The French delegation wants to emphasise that this question does not concern all the NATO member countries but only those belonging to the military command structure (which France left in 1966).

**Source:** Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-general's note. Written question 175 put to the Council by a member of the Assembly. London: 05.07.1977. WPM (77) 16/1. 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\\_question\\_175\\_put\\_by\\_a\\_member\\_of\\_the\\_assembly\\_on\\_the\\_improvement\\_of\\_defensive\\_military\\_forces\\_london\\_5\\_july\\_1977-en-5a2cdc31-5a1d-4c2e-b0b5-cof3d57a37bf.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/draft_reply_by_the_weu_council_to_question_175_put_by_a_member_of_the_assembly_on_the_improvement_of_defensive_military_forces_london_5_july_1977-en-5a2cdc31-5a1d-4c2e-b0b5-cof3d57a37bf.html)

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# WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. RESTRICTED

WPM (77) 16/1

Original: English/French

5th July, 1977

## SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Written question 175 put to the Council  
by a member of the Assembly

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply to written question 175, put to the Council by Sir Frederic Bennett, a member of the Assembly.

This draft, prepared by the working group on 5th July 1977 on the basis of WPM (77) 16, incorporates amendments proposed by the French delegation. It will be considered at the next meeting of the group on Wednesday, 13th July at 11 a.m.

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

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Text of written question 175 put to the Council

by Sir Frederic Bennett

(C (77) 72)

What measures have the W.E.U. member countries taken since 10th December, 1976, to "improve their own defensive military forces" in accordance with the decisions taken jointly by the members of the Atlantic Alliance and quoted by the Council in their reply to Recommendation 291?

Draft reply

As a follow-up to the meetings in ministerial session of the North Atlantic Council and the Defence Planning Committee in Brussels in December 1976, NATO and its member countries<sup>(1)</sup> OR the countries belonging to the military command structure<sup>(2)</sup> have taken appropriate steps to implement the decisions taken by ministers. Among other things, member countries have increased<sup>(1)</sup> OR These countries have for example increased<sup>(2)</sup> efforts to implement in full the force goals agreed by the Alliance<sup>(1)</sup> OR agreed force goals<sup>(2)</sup> and to improve NATO's conventional defences, particularly in the areas of anti-armour, air-defence and anti-submarine warfare. The Allies<sup>(1)</sup> OR They<sup>(2)</sup>

have been and ...

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(1) Original version.

(2) Version proposed by the French delegation.

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~~have been and are undertaking~~<sup>(1)</sup> OR ~~have undertaken~~<sup>(2)</sup> significant equipment ~~,~~ replacement and modernisation<sup>(3)</sup> programmes. At the meeting of the NATO Defence Planning Committee in ministerial session in Brussels on 17th and 18th May, 1977, ministers ~~concerned~~<sup>(4)</sup> approved the 1977 ministerial guidance as a directive for all defence planning activities including supporting programmes, both national and international, in NATO. As set out in the final communiqué issued at the end of the meeting ~~these~~<sup>(4)</sup> ministers, in response to recommendations and decisions ~~made at the London summit meeting~~<sup>(1)</sup> OR ~~adopted by the North Atlantic Council in London on 11th May~~<sup>(2)</sup> for improving Alliance defences, agreed that the Alliance should, as a means of strengthening ongoing NATO force planning and national programmes, undertake a long-term defence programme to implement 1977 ministerial guidance and to enable NATO forces to meet the changing defence needs of the 1980s. In this regard, they directed the Defence Planning Committee in permanent session to prepare a time-phased defence action programme concentrating

/on a limited number ...

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(1) Original version.

(2) Version proposed by the French delegation.

(3) The French delegation propose deletion of these words.

(4) The French delegation propose the addition of this word.

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on a limited number of areas where collective action is urgently required and to review the means for strengthening NATO programming and implementing machinery, for ministerial approval in the spring of 1978 and to be transmitted to Heads of State and government at their next meeting in Washington.<sup>(1)</sup> To complement this effort, ministers<sup>(2)</sup> OR ~~they~~<sup>(3)</sup> agreed to initiate, on a more immediate basis, a programme of short-term measures in areas of anti-armour, war reserve munitions, and readiness and reinforcement.

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- (1) The French delegation propose deletion of this phrase.  
(2) Original version.  
(3) Version proposed by the French delegation.

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