

Recommendation 40 of the WEU Assembly on the state of European security (Paris, 3 December 1959)

Caption: On 3 December 1959, the Assembly of Western European Union (WEU) adopts Recommendation 40 on the state of European security, in which it asks the WEU Council to base a regional policy for European security within the Atlantic Alliance on two factors: the creation of a Joint European Strategic Nuclear Force and the improvement of ground, naval, tactical air and air defence forces in Europe. The Assembly also makes recommendations on the standardisation and rational use of air defence forces.

Source: Assembly of Western European Union. 'Recommendation No. 40 on the state of European security (Paris, twelfth sitting, 3rd December 1959)' in Proceedings: Fifth ordinary session: Second Part, Vol. IV, Minutes: Official Report of Debates. Paris: Assembly of WEU. December 1959, p. 36.

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RECOMMENDATION No. 40
on the state of European security

The Assembly,

Informed of the conclusions reached by its Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments after visiting allied headquarters ;

Having debated the present state of European security in the light of nuclear parity, and the consequent move from a threat of total war to a threat of limited war ;

Stressing the paramount importance it attaches, in the light of the rapid development of greater means of destruction, to the conclusion of a disarmament agreement even if this can only be achieved in stages ;

Expressing concern that, in the absence of agreement regarding general, simultaneous and controlled disarmament or the creation of a "non-nuclear club", more and more nations will develop a nuclear capacity in the near future,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

1. Base regional policy for European security within the NATO Alliance on the following two factors :
 - (a) the creation of a Joint European Strategic Nuclear Force as a deterrent to strategic aggressions on Western Europe and as a complement to the US Strategic Air Command ;
 - (b) the improvement of ground, tactical air and air defence, as well as naval forces in Europe, with a view to creating a modern, efficient, overall balanced collective force as a deterrent to all kinds of minor aggressions which do not warrant strategic nuclear retaliation, equipped with weapons produced in common, these forces to be capable of opposing effectively by conventional or nuclear means any form of attack ;
2. Take the appropriate steps to ensure :
 - (a) that aircraft, communication equipment and procedure in respect of the allied tactical air forces in Europe are standardised ;
 - (b) that common supply depots are established enabling every type of aircraft to be serviced on all airfields ;
 - (c) that the responsibility for air defence, in peacetime and wartime, is transferred from national authorities to SACEUR, and that air defence forces, fighters and surface-to-air missiles are assigned to him in the same way as tactical air forces, for use in accordance with common rules which should be agreed and adopted by all the member governments concerned as a matter of urgency ;
 - (d) that passive air defence is also made an allied responsibility.