

Reply by the WEU Council to Assembly Recommendation 348 (London, 21 October 1980)

Caption: On 21 October 1980, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) sends the Member States the Council's reply to Assembly Recommendation 348 on the application of the Brussels Treaty following the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union. The text underlines that the Member States have discharged themselves of the full range of their responsibilities both as member States of the Western European Union and as partner within the Atlantic Alliance. Measures have been taken to strengthen the Alliance's defence capability in Europe. The text also incorporates point 6 of the British draft (WPM(80)22/1), in which the United Kingdom undertakes to provide an annual statement of the strength of its Second Tactical Air Force.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General note. Assembly Recommendation 348. London : 21.10.1980. C (80)128. 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: 1979, 01/11/1979- 30/04/1980. File 202.413.999.11 Volume 1/1.

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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/reply_by_the_weu_council_to_assembly_recommendation_348_london_21_october_1980-en-095c43eb-6d84-4cf2-94bf-7c2b3375edae.html



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WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION

W.E.U. UNCLASSIFIED

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21st October, 1980

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

Assembly Recommendation 348

(C (80) 78)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith the Council's reply to Assembly Recommendation 348.

This reply, adopted by the Council at their meeting on 20th October, 1980, has been forwarded to the Assembly (CR (80) 11, III, 2).

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

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Reply to Recommendation 348
on the application of the Brussels Treaty
following the invasion of Afghanistan by
the Soviet Union

1. The Council note with interest the view of the Assembly as stated in their Recommendation 348, Article 1, that consultations in the North Atlantic Council may supplement, where appropriate, those provided for in Article VIII, 3 of the modified Brussels Treaty.

Furthermore, the Council wish to emphasize that member States at all times have been aware of their obligations as set out in the modified Brussels Treaty, and acting accordingly, have discharged themselves of the full range of their responsibilities both as member States of the Western European Union and as partner within the Atlantic Alliance.

2. At their joint meeting on 14th May, 1980, the Defence and Foreign Ministers of the countries participating in the integrated military structure approved two programmes designed, in view of the changed international situation,

- to strengthen the Alliance's defence capability in Europe through short and medium-term measures and thus to safeguard the policy of détente;
- to mitigate, through division of labour and increased efforts on the part of the countries concerned, any military weaknesses arising from the possible deployment in South/West Asia of U.S. reinforcement forces originally intended for Europe.

At the D.P.C. meeting due in December, 1980, the Ministers intend to decide on individual measures in certain sectors such as mobilization of reserves; build-up of war reserves; improvement of air transport capacity; maritime defence planning; host nation support; defence aid for Portugal and Turkey; infrastructure.

/3. The German ...

3. The German Federal Security Council decided on 19th June, 1980, that

- the Federal Republic of Germany will declare to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization its willingness to let German naval and naval air forces henceforth be deployed also outside the area limits at present existing for the German navy in the Northern flank command;
- this measure does not imply the intention to reinforce the German naval and naval air forces beyond the present level or beyond the level at present projected;
- this offer shall affect neither the German navy's present chain of command nor the limits of the NATO command area as applying at present;
- the German Government will make this offer to the competent NATO bodies.

4. In response to Recommendation 348, Article 4, of the Assembly the Council should like to communicate that the Federal Republic of Germany, in accordance with the procedure foreseen in Article II, Part I, Protocol No. III, of the revised Brussels Treaty, on 18th June, 1980, introduced into the W.E.U. Council a formal request for the cancellation of the provisions concerning limitations on the construction of naval ships as contained in Article V, Annex III, Protocol No. III, of the said Treaty. The Supreme Allied Commander Europe fully supported this request and recommended that it be approved by the Council, thus enabling the Council on 21st July, 1980, to take their unanimous decision to cancel the provisions mentioned above.

5. As to NATO material and background information the Council have always made use of such information in their replies to appropriate Assembly recommendations where necessary and in conformity with the respective regulations, and will continue to do so.

/6. The Council ...

6. The Council have been informed by the Government of the United Kingdom that they will in future provide an annual statement of the strength of the U.K.'s Second Tactical Air Force and a reference to any redeployment affecting this strength. This information will be published in future annual reports.

7. The Council recall that in their last report to the Assembly they specified that the Agency for the Control of Armaments had asked all member States, as it did every year, to indicate whether they held stocks of chemical weapons and they all replied in the negative.