

Draft reply to Assembly Recommendation 118 on the joint production of armaments (27 September 1965)

Caption: On 27 September 1965, the Secretary-General of Western European Union (WEU) circulates a draft reply by the British delegation to the WEU Assembly Recommendation on the joint production of armaments. The Council considers that industrial collaboration should be encouraged and promoted where possible. The introduction of a financial compensation system to indemnify countries or industries that might suffer losses through the adoption of common weapons is deemed impracticable, and such situations should therefore be avoided.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Secretary-General's note. Recommendation 118 on the joint production of armaments. London: 27.09.1965. WPM (494). 2p. Archives nationales de Luxembourg (ANLux). <http://www.anlux.lu>. Western European Union Archives. Secretariat-General/Council's Archives. 1954-1987. Committee on Defence Questions and Armaments on Standing Armaments Committee, questions and recommendations on the Standing Armaments Committee, cooperation in arms production and compensation, 1965-1971. File 202.411.08.

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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S NOTE

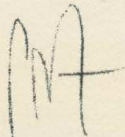
Recommendation 118

on the joint production of armaments

(C (65) 116)

The Secretary-General circulates herewith a draft reply to Assembly Recommendation 118, supplied by the British delegation and examined by the working group on 24th September.

This draft, incorporating an amendment by the Belgian delegation, will be further considered by the working group at its next meeting at 3 p.m. on 4th October.


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London, S.W.1.

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Draft reply to Recommendation 118
on the joint production of armaments

The Council consider that the Standing Armaments Committee can play an important role in the field of arms research, development and production within the framework of its present terms of reference. Although it is necessary for the Committee to work in close relation with NATO, in order to avoid duplicating the work of that Organisation, the Council wish to point out that they have at no time taken any decision to subordinate the Committee to NATO.

As the Assembly was informed in the reply to Recommendation 108, the Council some time ago requested the Standing Armaments Committee to study a possible system of compensation or any other arrangement to indemnify countries or industries that might suffer losses through the adoption of common weapons.

The Council concur with its main conclusion that such a compensation system is impracticable, and that, therefore, situations which would justify requests for compensation should be avoided by applying the basic principle that the adoption of common weapons must be the result of co-operation from the earliest stage of development. In this connection, the Council also agree that industrial collaboration should be encouraged and promoted wherever possible.

The Committee has also made a number of useful suggestions for developing co-operation on defence research development and production and the Council are now studying them.