



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Washington, D. C.,

November 7, 1961.

Excellency:

Next week we will be together for the first OECD Ministerial meeting. Citizens of OECD countries and the rest of the world will be watching what we do there. Attention will focus especially on action we take in regard to the three major aims of OECD.

We in the United States Government have thought a good deal about what could best be done to ensure a successful meeting and, more importantly, to advance toward realization of our common objectives as set forth in the OECD Convention. We think that the greatest single stimulus to this end would be to set a collective target for economic growth, as suggested recently by Ambassador Eckhart. A common target for economic growth would help demonstrate to our citizens and to the rest of the world the vitality and strength of the Atlantic community. It would signal our determination to give concrete meaning to the aims of OECD.

Accordingly, President Kennedy has asked me to propose as a common objective the further economic growth of 50% or more in 9 years, 1962 through 1970. He has also asked me to put the enclosed draft communique

His Excellency

Dr. Friedrich T. Wahlen,

President of the Swiss Confederation,

Bern.



- 2 -

draft communique before you for consideration at the OECD Ministerial meeting.

We are confident that this growth target can be attained if we are jointly determined that it shall be. The OEEC precedent is encouraging. In 1950 OEEC set as a goal 25% increase in Gross National Product by the end of 1955. This goal was surpassed. A proposed goal of further economic growth of 50% or more by the end of the decade can also be realised if we follow appropriate national policies and, equally important, if we coordinate these policies in the OECD.

I hope that you will be able to consider this suggestion favorably at the OECD Ministerial meeting. To facilitate our discussions at that time, I would suggest that our permanent representatives on the OECD Council begin at once intensified consideration of the draft communique embodying this proposal.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

George W. Ball

Enclosure