

an	PF				ao
Datum	179				
Visa	FR				FR
EPD		17 SEP. 1969			
No. o. 121.61 Uch 2		Council of Europe			
		The Secretary General			

Personal

10th September 1969

Dear Mr Spühler,

I was extremely moved on returning from my holiday to find your letter of 12th August.

When I became Secretary General of the Council of Europe, I knew very little about Switzerland, having only been there on one or two extremely brief visits, generally on public business. In the course of the past five years and of my constant contact with your Permanent Representative in Strasbourg, as well as with many prominent Swiss in public and private life, and as a result of repeated visits to Switzerland, I have come to have a deep admiration and affection for that extraordinary country and for its people. Somehow or other, the Swiss seem to have managed to transfer the more admirable elements of human nature into the affairs of daily life at a time when the contrary is to be seen in so many countries all over the world. This is a greater achievement even than their scientific, industrial and financial success, which is itself very remarkable.

I regard it as a great honour and a source of deep personal satisfaction that I may be able to live in Switzerland and I leave tomorrow for the Ticino upon what seems to be a great adventure, although it will probably be a couple of years before my house is built and I can hope to welcome you there.

Although I am retiring from full-time political activity, it seems that I shall not be without some interest in international affairs. U Thant has asked me to go to New York on 25th September for some discussions and I shall not fail to keep the Political Department informed of their outcome in case it should be of any interest.

May I conclude by saying how much I have valued the excellent support which you have given me upon so many occasions as Secretary General. It would indeed be a great satisfaction if I felt that I had been able to be of any service in that capacity to you personally and to the Confederation.

Mr. Willy Spühler
Head of the Federal
Political Department
Bundeshaus
3000 - BERNE

Yours sincerely,
Peter Smithers
Peter Smithers

J.O.
1/3 / DF / D
every copy is
in Geneva
at New York
sent 19.9.69
A.