

Kopie geht an: Herrn Bundesrat W. Spühler
 Herrn Botschafter Long
 Herrn Botschafter Berne, 29th November 1967
 Weitnauer

Mr. Wyndham White
 Director-General to GATT
 Villa "Le Bocage"
 Route de Pregny 8
 1200 G e n e v a

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Dear Mr. Wyndham White,

The Federal Council has discussed at yesterday's meeting the question of the possibility of seconding Ambassador Long to the GATT and has decided to respond positively to the unanimous request of the Contracting Parties. As to the exact date when Mr. Long could assume his duties in Geneva, this will naturally have to depend on how quickly a successor can be found to Mr. Long in London. Furthermore, as you will certainly appreciate it, the responsibilities of Ambassador Long as our representative to the British Government are at this stage particularly important and exacting, so that some reasonable time must be allowed for his replacement. Every effort will be made to avoid undue delay and it would be my present guess that the transfer could take place in a few months, say sometime next spring. No doubt you will yourself contact Ambassador Long about the question of timing as well as other matters relevant to the appointment.

May I say once again how much we regret your decision to leave the organization which you have developed into the most effective instrument of multilateral negotiation. You have truly played a historical role and Switzerland is particularly grateful to you for your endeavours.

We are both honoured and awed that a Swiss has now been called upon to carry your work further. Ambassador Long will do his utmost and I am confident that, with his outstanding experience and record, he will succeed in keeping the momentum and the constructive spirit which you have created in GATT.

Believe me to be, dear Mr. Wyndham White,

Yours sincerely,

sig. Schaffner