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Ref.	p. B. 22.24 Am		
	p. B. 22.43 9100		

No. 105

The Embassy of the United States of America has the honor to refer to an incident during the night or the early morning hours of October 11, 1972, in which unknown persons defaced the garage doors and the facade on the side of the Chancery by painting political slogans on them, and set afire an official Embassy vehicle, CD BE 35.9. In the latter incident, a slow-burning fire gutted the interior of the vehicle by means as yet unknown means, and sugar was poured in the gasoline tank. A Swiss insurance company, Winterthur Unfall, has informed the Embassy that the vehicle must be considered a total loss. Costs for repainting of the Chancery were Sfrs. 215.00, which the Embassy has paid. The depreciated value of the Embassy vehicle at the time of its destruction, as estimated by Winterthur Unfall, was Sfrs. 4,000. Thus, the total damage incurred was Sfrs. 4,215.

The Embassy is aware from exchanges of Notes concerning similar incidents that the Federal Political Department in the past has

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declined to make restitution in such cases, ascribing its position to generally accepted principles of international law. Nevertheless, the Embassy would like to reiterate that it is the policy of the United States Government that host governments be requested to undertake and pay directly or through reimbursement for replacement of or repair to property damaged by acts of violence, including riots and demonstrations. The Bern police and fire and bomb personnel have cooperated splendidly in investigating these incidents. However, the fact that seven incidents have occurred since May 1970 at the Chancery in Bern and the Consulate General in Zurich, involving Sfrs. 11,165 in damage, would seem to indicate that adequate protection has not been afforded.

The Embassy would like to use this occasion to note that it has not as yet received responses to its Notes No. 2 of January 5, 1972, and No. 89 of August 22, 1972, requesting the Federal Political Department to make payment of Sfrs. 647.50 and Sfrs. 1,158.50, representing the costs of repair of damage to the building housing the Consulate General in Zurich on September 25, 1971, and to the Chancery in Bern on May 25, 1972. Accordingly, the Embassy requests that the Federal Political Department arrange for reimbursement

to the Embassy of Sfrs. 6,048.00 for these last three incidents, including the most recent one of October 11, 1972.

The Embassy appreciates the continued co-operation of the Federal Political Department, and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Federal Political Department the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Embassy of the United States of America,
Bern, October 24, 1972.





EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bern, Switzerland

RECENT ANTI-U.S. INCIDENTS AT EMBASSY BERN AND
CONSULATE GENERAL ZURICH INVOLVING DAMAGE.

BERN

May 2, 1970 (rock thrown through both glass front doors).

May 25, 1972 red paint on Chancery and Viet Cong flag painted on side of Chancery).

October 11, 1972 (painted slogan on Chancery, and Embassy vehicle destroyed by fire).

ZURICH

May 12, 1970 (red paint thrown on entrance door and front of building).

April 18, 1971 (paint sprayed on entrance door and front of building).

May 1, 1971 (paint sprayed and thrown on entrance door and front of building).

September 25, 1971 (paint sprayed on entrance door and front of building).

(Note: (1) Total cost for repair of above damage: Sfrs. 11,165.-
(2) Past damage to Embassy Bern by demonstrations:
1967: 4 incidents involving damage,
1968: 2 incidents involving damage.)