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OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN THE
YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

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مكتب الممثل المقيم لبرنامج التنمية
بالجمهورية العربية اليمنية ص.ب. ٥٥١ - صنعاء

CABLE: UNDEVPRO
FILE No. 19-0-7

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16 April 1970.

Dear Mr. Bundesrat,

You might be surprised to receive a letter from this country. But your predecessor, Mr. W. Spuhler, as well as Mr. Micheli and Mr. Thalmann are familiar with the reasons why I am writing to you.

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Please find attached a copy of an article on the Yemen which appeared in the Economist of 11 April 1970.

The article is an excellent description of the situation in this country which is struggling hard to maintain and keep its independence from foreign powers.

The article is very correct in stating that "the Yemeni motive in defying the Russians and of their Arab League brethren was to prove that their non-alignment was genuine. They expected the West to respond. It has not - and the West German Ambassador finds himself a lonely bird in Sana'a".

I should like to recall that the Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister and the Yemeni Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva visited with me in March 1969 Mr. Micheli in order to establish diplomatic relations with Switzerland.

Although Mr. Micheli promised to take up the matter, so far nothing has happened. I feel very sorry for this inactivity in the Swiss foreign policy which is indeed

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grossly contradict to the fashionable slogan of "Neutrality and Solidarity". The Yemen has suffered from foreign intervention of many kinds. Their struggle for independence and neutrality has certainly similarities with those experienced in the history of Switzerland.

With the present cool relations between Switzerland and the militant Arab countries, we should have all the more reasons to help this country which has a moderate government in any way. One of such steps would be to establish the diplomatic relations. This would of course not mean that the Swiss Government would have to open an Embassy or a Consulate-General in this country, but, for example, the Swiss Ambassador in Addis Ababa could be well put incharge.

We have now one Swiss (in addition to myself) in the service of the United Nations Development Programme in the Yemen Arab Republic and I earnestly hope to obtain also some action of technical assistance from Switzerland be it in the form of associate experts or by own small projects or by carrying out the so much needed aerial survey, for example.

In this regard I appreciated very much the offer of Ambassador E. Thalmann to grant Sfrs 125000 for a distribution action by the ICRC in the northern part of the country. But since the political situation has changed and peace has returned since we prepared this plan, an ICRC action is no longer justified.

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For the information of the authorities concerned I am attaching two copies of the Status of the UN and its Specialized Agencies' programmes in the Yemen Arab Republic and two copies of my report on bilateral activities. I myself shall be in Switzerland during the second week of June and I would appreciate very much having a meeting with you.

Yours sincerely,

Toni Hagen.

Toni Hagen
Special Representative