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*Le Ministre de Suisse à Washington, H. Sulzer,
au Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, W. Wilson*

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Washington, August 22, 1917

I have the honor to lay to-day in your hands the document by which the Swiss Federal Council accredits me as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Swiss Confederation to the high Government of the United States of America.

It fills me with pride to be permitted to convey to our great American sister republic and to her eminent President in these historic times the expression of the feelings of the Swiss Government and of the Swiss people; feelings of true sympathy and friendship rooted in the community of political and social ideals and ripened in the sun of a century's peaceful intercourse.

As in times of peace, Switzerland follows, whilst war is raging round her boundaries, the way prescribed to her by her history, her obligations and her national conscience: she unites within her borders peoples of various races which by their own will have joined together, and aspires to be the truthful guardian of the loftiest principles which may inspire men in the common pursuit of peaceful cooperation.

Switzerland has ardently dedicated herself to this task, in which she finds the moral justification of her national existence. As a small country she is fully aware that she cannot hope to fulfil her mission without the confidence and the support of the great powers of the world. She appreciates to the fullest extent the value of the traditional aid and friendship which her great sister republic has bestowed upon her and will, as she firmly believes, further bestow upon her.

My Government has set me the honorable and grateful task to contribute to the maintenance and growth of mutual understanding and to the strengthening of the intellectual and economical ties between the two nations.

I beg to assure you, Mr. President, that inspired by the proud thought of thereby greatly serving my country, I shall spare no efforts in the fulfilment of this noble task.

