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*Le Ministre de Suisse à Londres, P. Ruegger<sup>1</sup>,  
à l'Ambassade d'Union Soviétique à Londres*

Copie

London, October 13, 1944

## AIDE-MÉMOIRE

OUTLINING THE SWISS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS  
ON THE MATTER OF RELATIONS BETWEEN SWITZERLAND AND USSR

As regards the main-points, the views and intentions of the Swiss federal Council have been made public in the Swiss National Council on March 29th, 1944<sup>2</sup>, given by the Chief of the federal political Department. This detailed declaration made on behalf of the federal Council met with the consent of the Swiss Parliament it determines as well as the preceding and following parliamentary discussions the lines along which the will of Swiss people has been expressed in accordance with the ancient democratic traditions of Switzerland.

From this it follows that:

1. Switzerland has the sincere desire to entertain normal relations based on the rules of international law and customs with all powers. Switzerland of course regrets circumstances which may have interrupted this general and normal intercourse. The Swiss Government and people are desirous of reestablishing normal relations with the USSR.

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1. *Dès son arrivée à Londres, P. Ruegger entreprend des démarches afin de renouer les relations diplomatiques avec l'Union soviétique selon les instructions de M. Pilet-Golaz du 5 juillet (Cf. la lettre de P. Ruegger du 16 septembre 1944 et les rapports de C. Rezzonico du 12 juillet 1944 sur sa mission à Londres, E 2001 (D) 9/2).*

*Cf. le télégramme du 8 septembre 1944 de P. Ruegger au DPF sur son entretien avec l'Ambassadeur soviétique à Londres, Gusev (E 2800/1967/60/22).*

*Une première version de cet aide-mémoire a été soumise à des diplomates britanniques qui suggèrent des modifications. Le 6 octobre, le Département politique adresse à P. Ruegger le télégramme suivant (rédigé par P. Bonna): Dans intérêt négociation mais aussi pour raisons politique intérieure Chef Département souhaiterait que remise Ambassade URSS aide-mémoire confirmant entretiens précédents et marquant étape s'effectuât très prochainement (E 2001 (D) 9/2). Le 10 octobre, le télégramme suivant (également rédigé par P. Bonna) est expédié par le DPF: Bien que projet memorandum assaisonné pathos idéologique ne corresponde guère à notre attitude générale et à notre style Chef Département ne s'oppose pas à ce condiment si le jugez nécessaire et soumit projet au Conseil fédéral qui l'approuva avec deux réserves, savoir au préambule suppression des mots in reply et à la ligne suivante to Mr. Reinhard's proposal et au chiffre 2 remplacement des mots better comprehension par good comprehension. Vous priions procéder remise memorandum ainsi amendé. Aussitôt chose faite avisez-nous par télégramme (E 2001 (D) 9/2).*

2. *Sur le discours de Pilet-Golaz en réponse à la motion Reinhard, cf. E 2001 (D) 9/2 et E 2001 (E) 2/657.*

2. The Swiss federal Council feeling that they are acting according to the views and will of the Swiss people as expressed in their Parliament hold once direct relations are reestablished between the two powers it will be possible to place future relations between Switzerland and the USSR on a sound basis with a view to promoting understanding between the countries. They are of opinion that on this basis former and possibly still existing problems may be openly discussed and that an amicable and equitable solution can be reached.

3. Technical relations between Soviet Russia and Swiss administration respectively as regards postal, railway, telephonic, telegraphic and radio communications have never ceased between Soviet Russia and Switzerland except in so far as conditions of war have interfered with their working. Normal diplomatic relations would help to consolidate and to confirm in this field as well as in others favourable conditions which would eventually bring about a satisfactory state of affairs.

4. The return to normal relations has already been prepared by the trade agreement signed in Moscou on February 24th, 1941<sup>3</sup>, when war broke out between Germany and Soviet Russia, commercial exchanges had to be discontinued for the time being but only in view of the practical impossibility of effecting trade exchanges. The Swiss federal Council consider the agreement to be still valid but merely suspended until trade exchanges will be again practically possible.

5. Existing relations would undoubtedly be improved if Swiss administrative and consular agents continue to act officially or unofficially as the case may be in countries and territories occupied or to be occupied by Soviet Russia for the protection of Swiss interests as well as of foreign interests entrusted to Switzerland with the consent of the powers concerned. In the view of the Swiss federal Council this would greatly contribute to the happy normalisation of relations between the two powers.

6. The federal Council hope that on the above aims relations may develop favourably and rapidly and that diplomatic relations by mutual consent of two countries may be resumed at a not distant date after the reopening of communications and transport between Switzerland and the Allied powers. Diplomatic relations having been resumed on the basis of mutual recognition of existing legislation in both countries, Switzerland would also welcome the interest taken by Russia in the problems of reconstruction, of to-morrow problems which Switzerland being a landlocked country with extensive overseas trade relations also follows in accordance with the policy pursued by her.

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3. K I.1313 *et RO*, 1941, vol. 57, pp. 266ss.