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The White House
Washington

January 19, 1945.

My dear Mr. President:

The time has arrived to renegotiate certain aspects of our war trade agreement with your country. I regard this matter as of such importance that I have designated my assistant, Mr. Lauchlin Currie, as head of the American delegation. He will inform your government of our position.

We have respected the traditional neutrality of your country and have sympathized with the past difficulties of your position. We forbore pressing our demands when you were isolated by our enemy and were in no position to do other than carry on a large trade with him. Now, however, the fortunes of war have changed. We are now in a better position to meet your most urgent needs and defend your liberties if they are threatened. I know in these circumstances that you will be eager to deprive the Nazis of any further assistance. It would indeed be a trial to any freedom-loving Swiss to feel that he had in any way impeded the efforts of other freedom-loving countries to rid the world of a ruthless tyrant. I speak strongly as every day the war is prolonged costs the lives of some of my countrymen.

I hope also that you will lend every assistance to our efforts in the post-war period to track down and seize the property of our foe.

We are deeply grateful for the aid your Government has rendered us in connection with our men imprisoned in Germany, and in other ways. I trust that the present mission will be successful and that we may look forward to the early date when Switzerland will join with the victorious powers in building a new world organization for peace and prosperity.

Please accept the inauguration medal I am sending by Mr. Currie as a slight token of my high esteem.

Very sincerely yours,

sig. Franklin D. Roosevelt

His Excellency,
Eduard von Steiger,
President of the Swiss Confederation,
Berne, Switzerland.

