

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, INC.

THE HAROLD PRATT HOUSE 58 EAST 68TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 | TEL. (212) 734-0400 | CABLE: COUNFOREL, NEW YORK

The Thomas J. Watson Meetings
ZYG MUNT NAGORSKI, Director

October 25, 1977

H. E. Albert Weitnauer
c/o Office of the Permanent Observer of Switzerland
to the United Nations
757 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

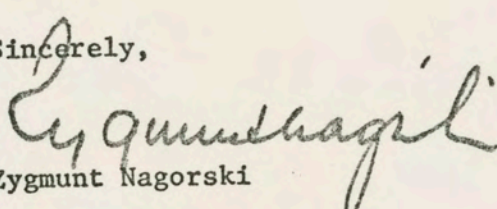
When you half jokingly suggested last night that I took a risk in inviting you to speak at the Council, you were of course correct. But in your case, the risk was much smaller than what we at the Council often take in inviting foreign ministers from a number of countries. It was smaller for two reasons. One is that this was the first time in my memory that we had an official Swiss voice at the Council. Therefore, natural political curiosity prevailed. The second is related to your own reputation as a man who is willing to speak frankly and to verbalize forcefully your country's position.

To say that we were not disappointed would be an understatement. My colleagues and I, who had the privilege of listening to you, were simply thrilled with the clarity and forcefulness of your presentation. You managed to articulate not only a successful policy of neutrality which your country has been following for so long, but you also managed to make it palatable to a group of Americans. Furthermore, your dilemma of being neutral and yet firmly belonging to the West came across clearly and loudly.

We are most grateful for your contribution. I do wish that you could be heard not only in New York City but in many other places across America. The policy of neutrality, often misunderstood, sometimes even maligned, couldn't have a better and more convincing spokesman.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,


Zygmunt Nagorski

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