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CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF

1227/33

Commandant de Corps J J Vischer
 Chief of General Staff
 Ministry of Defence
 3003 Berne
 Switzerland

30 April 1976

My dear Colleague,

Now that I have returned to my own country I hasten to express to you the most sincere thanks of Lady Carver and myself and my party for the extremely interesting and enjoyable programme which you arranged for us, and for the very warm welcome that we received wherever we went.

I was particularly grateful for the fact that you took me into your confidence in many fields and it was clear to me what an immense amount of trouble had been taken everywhere we went to prepare for my visit.

I was particularly glad of the opportunity to talk to both officers and soldiers of your regular cadre and of the Militia. As I said myself on more than one occasion during the visit, I was impressed with the cheerful and enthusiastic way in which the citizen of Switzerland, of whatever rank, accepts his military duty as a normal part of the obligations of a citizen. The soldiers of the Mountain Regiment and the recruits at the Grenadier School certainly demonstrated that you have very fine material in your young men.

The helicopter flights, of which those over the Alps were the most spectacular experience, enabled me to see so much of your beautiful country in a short time and I particularly admired the skill of my pilot.

I would be grateful if you could pass our appreciation and thanks on to all who helped to prepare and manage the visit. I have myself written letters of thanks to Corps Commandants Bolliger and Pittet and to Divisionnaires Wyler and Treichler.



I hope that my visit, as yours did, will help to strengthen the friendly ties which exist between the armed forces of our countries. Thank you also very much for your generous hospitality and for the magnificent watch which I hope will enable me to cross the start line on time.

With very best wishes to you both,

Yours sincerely,

Michael Cramer

FM



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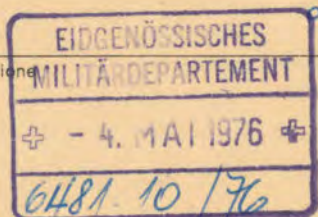
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