

LE CHEF
DU DÉPARTEMENT FÉDÉRAL
DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

Bern, June 19, 1990

p.B. 72.9.15.1.

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Mr. Secretary, Dear Colleague:

I much appreciated your presentation of the United States' views and positions on the changing European landscape as detailed in your letter dated May 17. I certainly agree that the rapid pace of events in Europe requires more than ever constant mutual information.

In view of the manifold ties existing with our neighbour, the Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland follows with keen interest the developments of the two German States towards a unified and democratic Germany. The Two-Plus-Four talks, including the invitation extended to Poland when border issues are discussed, seem to us particularly apt to accompany the unification process. We are thus looking forward to an early agreement among the parties primarily involved and we will consider favourably such an agreement once it has been forwarded to the 35 CSCE states.

With regard to the CSCE, I fully share President Bush's view that the agenda has to be broadened and deepened. The dramatic events of recent months underscore the importance of the Helsinki process. In order to strengthen security, to build economies on market principles and to improve human rights, in short, in order to consolidate what we have achieved, a CSCE summit comes most timely at the end of this year.

Obviously, the CSCE summit should deal not only with one, but with the three traditional CSCE areas. In the first basket, the summit should give some clear indications as to the direction in which future arms control and disarmament efforts have to go. After the conclusion of a substantial CFE agreement time will have come to change the negotiating format and to carefully prepare for negotiating security matters among all CSCE states. This would imply the following concrete steps:

His Excellency
Mr. James A. Baker III
The Secretary of State
The State Department

Washington D.C.



- 2 -

1. A statement at the CSCE summit, in which the desirability of a negotiating forum encompassing all CSCE participating states is expressed.
2. The elaboration of a mandate for such negotiations before 1992.
3. The adoption of the mandate by the CSCE follow-up Conference in Helsinki in 1992.
4. The continuation of the CSBM negotiations after the CSCE summit until a substantial document has been achieved.
5. A possible follow-up to the CFE I negotiations between the CSCE summit and the beginning of the Helsinki Conference in 1992.

In the second basket, the Conference on Economic Co-operation in Bonn clearly stated the market principles on which the European economies have to be based. These principles should be reaffirmed at the summit.

In the third basket, the recent dramatic events in Eastern Europe permit us to make substantial progress. The right of having free and secret elections must become part not only of the Human Dimension, but it must also be elevated to the level of principles. The United States, Mr. Secretary, deserve credit for having been the strongest advocate of this matter, and I fully join you in your long-standing efforts. I think the summit should emphasize this point.

In my view, there is an additional item that should be raised at the summit: the problem of minorities in Europe. We all have to contribute to the defusing of possible confrontations in this field. It is not too late to look for appropriate conflict-solving arrangements. Therefore I would like the summit to call for a special CSCE Meeting on Minorities. Switzerland offers to host such a meeting in the first half of 1991. It should primarily examine three areas:

- a) the possible contribution of federalism to the solution of minority questions,
- b) guidelines for the protection of minorities,
- c) implementation of such guidelines.

Finally, I would like to say a word about the institutionalization of the CSCE process. Switzerland has always appreciated the flexibility which has characterized the CSCE. It should be maintained. We do not need a new bureaucratic organization.

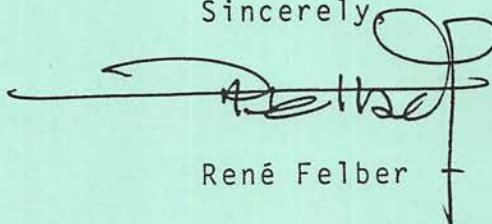
I can, however, easily imagine meetings of Foreign Ministers at regular intervals and the establishment of a verification agency as well as the creation of a center for the prevention of conflicts.

- 3 -

Such a center should dispose of a method for the peaceful settlement of disputes. Since the beginning of the CSCE process, Switzerland has engaged itself in favour of such a method which it considers a key element of any collective security system. It is a corollary to the principle of refraining from the threat or use of force. In the light of these favourable facts, Switzerland has recently intensified its efforts in view of the Valetta Meeting.

Mr. Secretary,
the dramatic changes in Europe call for an intensified co-operation. We have, indeed, reached a point where a CSCE summit meeting may play a crucial role. At such a juncture, high-level consultations between our countries are very desirable. I would like to reiterate an invitation to Deputy Secretary Lawrence Eagleburger extended to him by my Deputy, State Secretary Klaus Jacobi, on occasion of his visit in Washington last March. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Mr. Eagleburger here in Bern to further discuss these decisive questions for our common future.

Sincerely,



René Felber

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- KSZE-Dienst
- VVSBM-Delegation Wien
- Schweizerische Botschaft Washington

CK 26. Juni 90 10