

Confidential: Unlimited

In Regard to your note verbale No. 908

On October 13, 1992, Mr. Ogi, Vice President of Switzerland, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Miyazawa. The talk lasted for some 35 minutes. The meeting was attended by Mr. Bar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Mr. Mühlemann, Secretary-General of the Federal Department of Transportation, Communication and Energy, Mr. Aeschmann, Advisor to the Federal Councillor, Mr. Hyuodo, Director-General of the European and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Takeuchi, Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. Nishigahiro, Director of the European and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Mori, Interpreter from the European and Oceanian Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Following the talk, Mr. Nishigahiro gave briefing to the Press Club for the Prime Minister's Residence. The main topics of the talk is the following.

1. Opening remarks

(1) Prime Minister welcomed the visit of Vice President Ogi to Japan. Mr. Ogi mentioned that he had visited Japan for the first time on the occasion of the Winter Olympic Games in Sapporo as a head of the Swiss team when he was impressed by Japan's perfect preparation for the event. He said he fondly remembered that three Japanese won the gold, silver and bronze medals for jump skiing.

(2) Prime Minister acknowledged that Vice President had successfully won the approval by the national referendum about the construction of Alps tunnels, finally after the difficult period of negotiation regarding the restriction of the load capacities for trucks. He asked about the significance of the tunnel construction to the Switzerland. Mr. Ogi replied that Switzerland is located as a main passage area and had seriously devoted in the discussion about the restriction of the load capacities and the environmental issues. The referendum took place three weeks ago and 63.6% of the people voted to approve the construction.

2. Issues on the ratification of EEA and the entry into EC

(1) Responding to the Prime Minister's question about the national referendum to ratify EEA agreement, Mr. Ogi said that the referendum would take place on December 6 and EEA is a pure economic concern aiming at free movement of people, goods and services between EC and EFTA countries and is completely different matter from the entry into EC.

(2) The Swiss government has decided to open negotiation for the EC entry which is, the beginning of the talk, not the decision of the entry. The decision should be out after the negotiations. Both Swiss government and parliament are positive about the entry but the final decision should be given by the people, whose support has yet been known. Since Swiss has been maintaining a neutral diplomacy as her basic principle, people tend to hope for independence from the Burussel's centralized bureaucracy.



3. Ratification of Maastricht Treaty and the overall trend in Europe

(1) Prime Minister referred to the EC issue saying that the concern over the centralized Brussels caused a hot debate in the U.K. and the French voters's approval of the Treaty by a narrow margin and the Danish rejection have caused serious impact on the EC nations. He asked for Mr. Ogi's opinion, as people of neutral country, on the prospect of how to win approval of the Treaty by 12 countries and the future trend of EC.

(2) Mr. Ogi does not believe that the EC integration would be realized in a way as German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President François Mitterrand are expecting. The controversies in Denmark, France and the U.K. have reflected the seriousness of the issue. The Commission will have to demonstrate the rule of democratic administration and subsidiarity so that each national government can keep its own identity. These issues were taken up at the British Tory Party meeting and will also be discussed at the emergency summit meeting in Birmingham. The Commission president Jacques Delors has noticed the problem is serious and is calling for the importance of the rule of subsidiarity.

(3) Since the collapse of Berlin Wall in 1989 which resulted in the change of East-West structural relationship, Europe is experiencing new developments. With an absence of Communist regime and Warsaw Pact, Europe will have to seek for peace and unity. From the people of Ural to the Atlantic area, they should all enjoy freedom. Located in the center of Europe, Switzerland has been strengthening relationships with any nations while pursuing global patterns of behavior. From this point of view, Switzerland opposes to the centralization in Europe.

(4) Prime Minister asked if Europe's central bank, which will be located either in Brussels or Frankfurt, might take control of financial and economic policy which results in an abandonment of each nation's monetary individualism when Europe's monetary integration is achieved. Mr. Ogi said that such issue had not been taken up by Swiss people because an entry into EC had not been finalized. But it has been a hot issue among EC nations. Since the rejection of the Danish voters, this matter has been undergoing review and will also be discussed at the emergency summit in Birmingham this weekend.

(5) Since Europe has been besieged by several difficult problems such as a breakup of Czech and Slovakia and a civil dispute in Yugoslavia, it would be very hard to unite all countries' efforts in every matter. In this respect, Switzerland, a multinational country which has established systems over the past 150 years to deal with every problem collectively, can share this valuable experience to present as a model.

4. Neutrality policy

(1) In regard to the fact that Switzerland has joined IMF recently even she could have done it long time ago with clearing all the conditions to be a membership, Prime Minister asked if Switzerland's traditional neutrality has been undergoing transformation with responding to the changes of the international environment. Mr. Ogi replied that unlike the neutral policy pursued in Sweden or Austria which was created by outside forces, Switzerland's policy has been her own and traditional. Although

the meaning of neutrality has been reevaluated, her policy should continue to play an important role in the future. Sweden has recently decided to undertake reviewing work of neutral policy. Such move has not been seen in Switzerland, however, such an important decision should be made not by the government, but by the people.

(2) Prime Minister asked for explanation about the cultural diversities in Switzerland. There are four different languages spoken in Switzerland: German, French, Italian, and Romansh, and each created its own culture. For example, French speaking people believe that their cultural capital is in Paris, not in Bern. All these different cultural groups realize that any one can be a minority in terms of language, religion or political belief. These cultural diversities have strengthened the nation of Switzerland which achieved political stability and economic success with ranked the world 7th in terms of trading volume although it is such a small country. International openness is also important for Switzerland and this is why this visit has realized in a successful manner to exchange valuable opinions with Japanese people.

5. Bilateral relationship

(1) Prime Minister said that fortunately there are no special problems to concern between Japan and Switzerland. On the occasion of International June Festival in Zurich which will take up Japan as a main theme, he said he would welcome any requests. Mr. Ogi said that June Festival reflected Swiss people's increasing interest toward Japan. He came to Japan with hoping for better relationship between Japan and Switzerland. He would like to make effort in the field of transportation, telecommunication and energy which he is in charge and also other fields to promote bilateral communication and strengthen bilateral relationship. He would like to welcome Prime Minister in Switzerland in the future.

(2) Prime Minister commented that Swiss is one of Japanese people's favorite country and many people want to live in Switzerland. Bilateral trade has been well balanced and Japan imports excellent pharmaceutical products from Switzerland. He said that bilateral relationship between Japan and Switzerland is an ideal one. Mr. Ogi appreciated Prime Minister's comment with hoping that this meeting could serve as a better understanding and a further prosperity of the two nations.

This note has been sent to EC nations (excluding Luxembourg), EC Commission, Austria, Finland, Norway, and Sweden.



SCHWEIZERISCHE VERTRETUNG
REPRÉSENTATION SUISSE

in / à T O K Y O

GS EVED
12. Nov. 1992
Nr.

*Empfang bestätigt
24.11.92*

- DFTC/Secrétariat général
- DFAE/Division Politique II

Ihr Zeichen
Votre référence

Ihre Nachricht vom
Votre communication du

Unser Zeichen
Notre référence

Datum
Date

681.lsd Ogi-HA/TS 05.11.92

Gegenstand/Objet Visite de M. le Conseiller fédéral A. Ogi
au Japon 11.10 - 15.10. 1992:
Entretiens avec le Premier ministre Miyazawa

Lors d'un déjeuner avec M. W. Nishigahiro, Director, Second West Europe Division, MAE, ce dernier a eu l'amabilité de me faire tenir copie du compte rendu japonais de l'entretien cité en marge.

Je vous en transmets une traduction anglaise pour votre information.

L'Ambassadeur de Suisse
p.o.

Maurice Hartenbach

Maurice Hartenbach

Annexe: compte rendu de l'entretien Ogi-Miyazawa du 13.10.1992