

Pde C

MTG. W/MR. PIERRE AUBERT
OF SWITZERLAND

21 MAY - 7 JULY 1987

PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL (1 ITEM)

SC (1 item) pp

DEC 11 2012

UN ARCHIVES

SERIES	5-1022
BOX	33
FILE	14
ACC.	92/154

FRANCESCA POMETTA

Ambassadeur de Suisse

*will be held
today.*

*sg
yes, yes*

1.

Entretien d'environ une heure et en petit comité du.
Président de la Confédération, Monsieur le Conseiller
fédéral Pierre Aubert, Chef du Département fédéral
des affaires étrangères, et Monsieur Javier Pérez de
Cuéllar, Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des
Nations Unies, le jeudi 9 juillet 1987 à 17h00 à l'is-
sue de la cérémonie d'ouverture de la CNUCED.

2.

Echanges de vues informels sur les problèmes suivants :

- situation internationale (en particulier Afghanistan, Proche-Orient, Chypre, Iran-Irak),
- situation financière et réforme des Nations Unies,
- relation entre la Suisse et les Nations Unies (poli-
tique générale et rôle de la Suisse comme Etat hôte,
y compris besoins de locaux des Nations Unies).

3.

Le Président de la Confédération sera très probablement
accompagné de Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Franz Muheim,
Directeur des Organisations Internationales du Départe-
ment fédéral des affaires étrangères, et d'une délégation
restreinte.

AS/GP (on return)

*The SG agreed to a one hour meeting on
9 Jul at 5 pm. The subjects seem
appropriate. We can have more info
when the programme for the Jul visit
to Geneva is being put together in detail.*

*sg
15/6*

59
Confidential

Note to the Secretary-General

VISIT TO SWITZERLAND

Financing of UNIFIL

1. I understand from Mr. Dayal that you may wish to sound out President Aubert about a possible voluntary contribution from Switzerland to ease UNIFIL's severe financial problems. This would be an excellent idea. Any Swiss help could most conveniently take the form of a cash contribution to the UNIFIL Special Account. I attach a background note, which has been drafted in a form that you could leave with President Aubert if you so wished. The point to stress is that we are now able to pay to the troop contributors barely 50 per cent of what we owe them, which means in effect that their tax-payers are subsidizing a peace-keeping operation set up and maintained by unanimous vote of the Security Council.

2. As background, you may wish to be aware that earlier this year I sounded Swiss officials very informally on the possibility of Switzerland providing some of the armoured vehicles needed for UNIFIL's new Force Mobile Reserve. I understand that the idea was considered at a high level in Berne but the reply that eventually came was that Switzerland should not provide any equipment for military use but only armoured vehicles to be used as ambulances. I expressed gratitude for this offer but explained that unfortunately our requirement was different.


Marrack Goulding

MIG/ab
7 July 1987

c.c. Mr. V. Dayal

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Alvaro de Soto

8 de julio 1987

SG

Le recuerdo que la información que le proporcionó García del Solar sobre las conversaciones en las que Estados Unidos actúa de intermediario era de carácter estrictamente confidencial. Se supone que ni los suizos ni nadie deben saber que nosotros sabemos. Mi sugerencia sería, pues, que usted se limitara a "jalarles la lengua", sin darse por aludido, para ver qué saben y cuál es su evaluación.

Por lo demás, entiendo que los suizos no están desempeñando un papel protagónico en este esfuerzo de Estados Unidos, más allá de canalizar correspondencia. Desde la mala experiencia de las conversaciones abortadas de Berna de hace un par de años, los británicos desalientan el activismo helvético.

—

CONFIDENCIAL

Nota para el Secretario-General

ISLAS MALVINAS (FALKLANDS)

I. Zona de Protección Interina de Pesca

1. A pesar de la entrada en vigor el 1 de febrero de la Zona de Protección Interina de Pesca, no se han producido incidentes entre Argentina y el Reino Unido, debido en gran medida a la expresa determinación de ambos países por evitarlos.

2. Durante los pasados meses unas 250 embarcaciones matriculadas en diversos países, principalmente España, Japón, República de Corea, Taiwan y Polonia han llevado a cabo actividades pesqueras dentro de la Zona de Protección, todas ellas con licencias obtenidas del Gobierno de las Islas. Los barcos pesqueros registrados en Bulgaria y la Unión Soviética, países que al revés de Polonia, no utilizaron la ficción de crear compañías pesqueras independientes de los gobiernos, se limitaron a faenar en el sector argentino, fuera de la Zona de Protección.

3. Se calcula que la concesión de licencias de pesca ha representado un ingreso neto de £7 ~~al~~ 8 millones hasta la fecha, cifra que probablemente aumentará hasta cerca de £10 millones en lo que resta del año, lo cual supera el presupuesto anual de las islas.

II. Relaciones Anglo-argentinas

4. Desde fines del año pasado han tenido lugar contactos entre la Argentina y el Reino Unido por intermedio de los Estados Unidos. Dichos contactos fueron al parecer iniciados a instancias de Washington que temía que la entrada en vigor de la Zona de Pesca provocara incidentes armados entre la Argentina y el Reino Unido. Hasta la fecha se han producido dos intercambios de notas recíprocos entre Argentina y el Reino Unido.

5. Los contactos entre los dos países, que se limitan aparentemente a un intercambio de ideas sobre el régimen de pesquerías, han sobrevivido una delicada fase inicial, provocada en particular por recelos argentinos sobre la neutralidad de los Estados Unidos, dada la estrecha relación entre el Presidente Reagan y la Primer Ministro Thatcher, y agravados por el hecho de que aviones civiles estadounidenses utilizasen en marzo el nuevo aeropuerto de las Malvinas. Por otro lado, cabe recordar las diferencias existentes entre los gobiernos de Washington y Buenos Aires con respecto a Centroamérica y el papel activo de Argentina dentro de Contadora, así como la irritación provocada en Washington por el voto argentino en la Comisión de Derechos Humanos a favor de la postergación del voto sobre el proyecto de resolución patrocinado por los Estados Unidos sobre la situación de los derechos humanos en Cuba. En realidad el papel de Estados Unidos, como le puso en conocimiento el Embajador García del Solar, no ha sido de mediador sino de intermediario con el objeto de hallar una fórmula que permita disminuir la

tensión en las aguas del Atlántico Sur. Nada hace suponer que los Estados Unidos tengan interés en poner en riesgo sus lazos con el Reino Unido ofreciendo mediar sobre el fondo de la disputa.

6. A mediados de junio, el Presidente Alfonsín hizo públicas las gestiones que estaban llevando a cabo Estados Unidos. También indicó que Suiza insistía en promover el diálogo entre su país y el Reino Unido. Diplomáticos británicos en Naciones Unidas han indicado desconocer la existencia de cualquier iniciativa suiza, aunque afirmaron que el gobierno helvético había sugerido al Presidente Alfonsín durante su reciente visita a Berna la conveniencia de hacer algún gesto de buena voluntad hacia Londres. (A este respecto cabe señalar el telegrama de felicitación que envió el Presidente argentino a la Sra. Thatcher luego de su triunfo electoral, como también lo hiciera la Primer Ministro británica al asumir el mando el Presidente Alfonsín en diciembre de 1983.) También manifestaron que el gobierno británico preferiría eventualmente celebrar conversaciones bilaterales directas con Argentina sin la participación de terceros, aunque éstos pudieran jugar un papel en facilitarlas.

7. Las recientes declaraciones del Presidente Alfonsín parecen haber tomado por sorpresa a los mismos miembros de su gabinete. Ya en febrero de este año, al conocerse que existían contactos secretos con el Reino Unido, que no incluían discusiones sobre la cuestión de la soberanía, se suscitaron severas críticas al gobierno por parte de la oposición, así como en el seno del propio Partido Radical, obligando al Canciller Caputo a reiterar públicamente que la Argentina no entraría en negociaciones substantivas que excluyeran el tema de la soberanía.

8. Las posiciones de ambos gobiernos en lo concerniente al diálogo no han variado hasta la fecha. En sus recientes declaraciones el Presidente Alfonsín reiteró que Argentina insistía en que se incluyera la cuestión de la soberanía en cualquier discusión formal con el Reino Unido. Por otro lado, la Sra. Thatcher en el "Discurso del Trono", leído por la Reina en la apertura del nuevo Parlamento, reiteró la voluntad de su gobierno de "respetar las promesas al pueblo de las Islas Falkland," y al mismo tiempo buscar relaciones más normales con la Argentina. En la Cámara de los Comunes la Sra. Thatcher insistió en su negativa de incluir el tema de la soberanía en cualquier diálogo con la Argentina.

9. Es difícil imaginar un cambio en la postura de ambos gobiernos, al menos en un futuro cercano. En Argentina se celebran el 6 de septiembre elecciones para renovar la mitad de la Cámara de Diputados, donde hasta ahora el Partido Radical goza de una mayoría absoluta. La crisis que atravesó Argentina durante la Semana Santa ha servido para alimentar dudas sobre la estabilidad política del país y la durabilidad de su sistema democrático en amplios sectores de la opinión pública británica. Recientemente The Times, que anteriormente se había mostrado partidario de un diálogo anglo-argentino sin condiciones, manifestó que, a la luz del "motín de Pascua" no podía esperarse que el gobierno británico tratase del tema de la soberanía con Buenos Aires. Aunque en la actualidad parezca poco probable, no

no puede descartarse que en su tercer mandato la Sra. Thatcher decida eventualmente manifestar la misma flexibilidad en el tema de las Malvinas, que en su día mostró con la independencia de Zimbabwe y las cuestiones de Hong Kong e Irlanda del Norte.

10. Por otro lado los dos gobiernos han continuando adoptando un tono recíproco mesurado. Aunque el gobierno británico anunció en febrero el lanzamiento de un plan para impulsar la inmigración a las Islas en pequeña escala, de acuerdo con las recomendaciones del Informe Shackleton, también es cierto que anunció una substancial reducción de sus efectivos militares en las Malvinas. Por su parte el gobierno argentino evitó suscitar el tema de las Islas en la reunión del Buró de los No-Alineados de Georgetown dedicada a la discusión de temas latinoamericanos.

11. Sería útil en todo caso aprovechar su reunión con el Presidente Aubert para conocer la percepción del gobierno helvético sobre las perspectivas de la reanudación de un diálogo anglo-argentino y sobre cualquier iniciativa que pudiese contemplar con vistas a impulsarlo.

F.V.

Francesc Vendrell
7 de julio de 1987

R4854

RX-LN4 2158 GMT 06/15/87

ZCZC DAL1784 STR1977

SS DPI NYK

.NEWYORK (UNNY) INTERCEPT 2152 GMT 06/15/87

177642 UN UT

17767UNIC AR

UNIC BUENOS AIRES 84. 15 JUNE 1987. FOR SECGEN (DE SOTO) INFOR
PAQUET SEVIGNY, JONAH.

PRESS REPORTS TODAY TAHT:

AAA. PRESIDENT RAUL ALFONSIN RETURNED HOME ON ASTURDAY NIGHT
FROM SWITZERLAND AFTER ANNOUNCING THAT BERNE AND WASHINGTON WERE
ACTING AS UNOFFICIAL MEDIATORS IN THE CONFLICT BETWEEN BRITAIN
AND ARGENTINA OVER THE MALVINAS ISSUE.

*INDISCRECIONES
(DELIBERADAS?)
DE ALFONSIN*

SWITZERLAND WANTS TO INSIST ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A DIALOGUE
BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND BRITAIN AND THE US IS ALSO WORKING VERY HARD
ON THE MATTER, THE PRESIDENT TOLD NEWSMEN ABOARD THE AIRLINER
WHICH BROUGHT HIM BACK TO BUENOS AIRES.

ALFONSIN DID NOT GIVE ANY DETAILS ON THE STATE OF THE EFFORTS BY
THE TWO NATIONS TOWARDS PROMOTING TALKS BETWEEN LONDON AND BUENOS AIR
ES, MERELY ADDING THAT THERE WAS NOTHING DEFINITE SO FAR AND SAYING
HE WAS NEITHER OPTIMIST NOR PESSIMISTIC ON THE OUTCOME OF THE
MEDIATIONS.

INCOMING	
INFO COPY	
FILE NO.	DAYAL
ACTION	
TO _____	

HE SAID HOWEVER HE FELT THAT SWISS PRESIDENT PIERRE AUBERT WAS MORE OPTIMISTIC NOW THAN BEFORE, ALTHOUGH HE DIDNOT ELABORATE.

ALFONSIN REITERATED THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WAS ALWAYS WILLING TO HOLD TALKS WITH LONDON ON THE ISSUE BUT INSISTED THAT THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE SOUTH ATLANTIC ARCHIPELAGO BE INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA, A DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER HAS CONSISTENTLY TURNED DOWN.

IN BERNE ON FRIDAY ALFONSIN PUBLICLY CONGRATULATED THATCHER FOR HER VICTORY IN THURSDAY GENERAL ELECTIONS IN BRITAIN WHICH ENSURED HER OF A THIRD FOUR-YEAR TERM IN OFFICE, AND SAID HE BELIEVED THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT WAS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF MY HIGH OPINION OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE''.

BRITAIN BROKE OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA FOLLOWING THE INVASION OF THE ISLANDS BY ARGENTINE TROOPS IN APRIL 82 DURING THE FORMER MILITARY REGIME. AFTER ALFONSIN TOOK OFFICE IN DECEMBER 83 HIS DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO SOUND OUT LONDON ON A RENEWAL OF TIES CONSISTENTLY FAILED.

SWITZERLAND ARRANGED A MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS IN BERNE IN 1984, BUT THE TALKS WERE SHORT LIVED AFTER ARGENTINA INSISTED ON INCLUDING THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSU ON THE AGENDA AND BRITAIN REFUSED.

BRITAIN HAS ALSO CONSISTENTLY IGNORED SUCCESSIVE RESOLUTION BY THE UNATIONS PASSED BY OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS URGING BOTH SIDES TO INITIATE TALKS ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE CONFLICT.

BBB.

BUT TODAY PRESS REPORTS THAR ALFONSIN SHOCKED AIDS CREATING
A STIR EVEN AMONG HIS CLOSEST AIDES LATE SATURDAY NIGHT WHEN HE
ANNOUNCED TO JOURNALISTS TRAVELLING ABOARD THE PRESIDENTIAL PLANE
THAT SWITZERLAND AND THE UNITED STATES WERE ACTING AS UNOFFICIAL
MEDIATORS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND BRITAIN OVER THE MALVINAS ISLANDS.

ALFONSIN SAID THE UNITED STATES IS WORKING VERY STRONGLY TO GET
TALKS GOING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND ADMITTED WASHINGTON IS
PERMANENTLY BOTHERED BY THE DISPUTE.

THE UNITED STATES HAS IN THE FIRST PLACE A PROBLEM WHICH IS THE
RESPONSIBILITY TO DEFEND ITS CONTINENTAL ALLIANCE (WITH LATIN
AMERICA) AND ANOTHER PROBLEM WHICH IS DEFENDING ITS ATLANTIC
ALLIANCE (NATO), ALFONSIN SAID.

THE PRESIDENT NEVERTHELESS POINTED OUT THAT NO CONCRETE STEPS
HAVE BEEN TAKEN TOWARD THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES.

SOURCES SAID THAT CABINET MEMBERS TRAVELLING WITH ALFONSIN WERE
CAUGHT BY SURPRISE BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CONCLUDED THAT THE
INFORMATION WAS PROBABLY PROVIDED BY SWISS PRESIDENT PIERRE AUBERT
DURING A PRIVATE MEETING WITH ALFONSIN BEFORE THE LATTER'S DEPARTURE.

CCC. CLIPPINGS WILL BE POUCHED.

REGARDS. O'CON SOLORZANO

17767UNIC AR

=06152216

Relations entre la Suisse et les Nations Unies

Le refus du peuple suisse de voir son pays adhérer aux Nations Unies semble, en fait, ne pas avoir altéré les "excellentes relations" entre la Suisse et l'ONU. Le Secrétaire général a pris acte de la décision du "souverain" et s'est félicité de l'engagement continu de la Suisse en faveur de la coopération multilatérale. Pour sa part, le Conseil fédéral a fait savoir qu'il entendait maintenir la participation active de la Suisse aux travaux et programmes des Nations Unies.

La votation populaire sur l'adhésion de la Suisse à l'ONU, 16 mars 1986

Les électeurs par 75,7 pour cent des voix et la totalité des cantons ont rejeté l'adhésion. A l'issue de la votation, le Conseil fédéral a déclaré qu'il regrettait cette décision, mais respectait la volonté librement exprimée par le souverain. Le Conseiller fédéral Pierre Aubert et le Président du Conseil d'Etat genevois ont exprimé leur appréhension quant aux retombées éventuelles du refus sur l'avenir international de Genève.

Réaction des Nations Unies aux résultats de la votation

Dès le 17 mars 1986, le Secrétaire général a pris acte des résultats du référendum, ceux-ci représentant l'expression des vues du peuple suisse. Il a souligné qu'il appréciait hautement l'engagement continu de la Suisse en faveur de la coopération multilatérale et en particulier sa politique traditionnelle d'accueillir à Genève les Nations Unies.

A l'occasion de sa conférence de presse annuelle à Genève le 30 juin 1986, le Secrétaire général a souligné que la décision du peuple suisse n'avait rien affecté les "excellentes relations" qui existent entre les Nations Unies et le Gouvernement suisse. Il a déclaré que rien ne serait changé à la présence des Nations Unies en Suisse.

Le 1er juillet 1986, à l'issue de la rencontre avec le Conseiller fédéral aux Affaires étrangères, le Secrétaire général "a réaffirmé son appui afin de maintenir Genève comme un Siège des Nations Unies".

Renouvellement de l'engagement de la Suisse à participer aux travaux des Nations Unies

Le 22 septembre 1986, le Conseil fédéral de la Suisse a esquissé sa politique étrangère devant le Parlement. Dans l'ère du multilatéralisme, la clef de voûte de la coopération internationale est constituée par l'ONU. Elle reflète les imperfections du monde mais elle joue un rôle essentiel pour la stabilité et le développement des relations internationales. "Les Nations Unies demeurent donc pour la Suisse un pôle de réflexion et d'action de première importance, auquel il est indispensable pour l'avenir de notre pays que nous participions dans la mesure de nos moyens ... C'est pourquoi, depuis 1946, nous avons mené une politique d'étroite coopération avec l'ONU.

Le Conseil fédéral entend par conséquent maintenir la participation active de la Suisse aux travaux et programmes des Nations Unies qui lui sont ouverts et maintenir, voir augmenter nos contributions volontaires à des opérations de maintien de la paix, telles notre contribution à la Force des Nations Unies à Chypre. En outre, le Conseil fédéral estime nécessaire de continuer à soutenir, en collaboration avec les autorités genevoises, le rôle international de Genève en

poursuivant la politique d'accueil pratiquée de longue date à l'égard de l'ONU ainsi que de nombreuses organisations et conférences internationales."

Exemples de coopération entre le Gouvernement suisse
et les Nations Unies

La Suisse a favorisé l'installation à Genève de l'ONUG et d'institutions spécialisées. Elle soutient par des contributions financières substantielles de nombreux programmes des Nations Unies (PNUD, UNICEF) et certaines opérations de maintien de la paix.

Pendant la visite, en mai 1987, de M. Martenson à Berne, M. Aubert et ses proches collaborateurs ont renouvelé leur soutien aux Nations Unies et leur volonté d'accorder toute assistance au siège à Genève (compte-rendu ci-joint).

Swissair

Le Secrétaire général pourrait peut-être exprimer nos souhaits et solliciter auprès de Swissair l'attribution de tarifs préférentiels pour l'Organisation vu la crise financière actuel et l'importance du trajet New York-Genève. (voir note ci-joint de réunion entre M. Ahtisaari et les dirigeants de Swissair à Zurich).

MJS
9 juillet 1987

CONFIDENTIAL

Notes on a Meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Berne,
on Thursday, 21 May 1987

Ambassador Franz Muheim
Director, Department of
international organizations

Ambassador Mathias Krafft
Director, Department of
international law

Ambassador Ernst Andres
Chief of Swiss Mission
in Geneva

Mr. Jean-François Giovannini
Assistant Director, Department
for development co-operation
and humanitarian assistance

Mr. Herbert von Arx
Minister, Department of
special political questions

Mr. Jean-Daniel Vigny
Chief, Department of
Human Rights

Mr. Michael Coquoz
Alternate, UN and international
organizations Section

Mr. André Regli
International organizations
Department (précis-writer)

Mr. Jan Martenson

Mr. Mehmet Ulkümen

Mr. Michael Stopford

Ambassador Muheim extended a warm welcome to the Director-General on the assumption of his new responsibilities in Geneva. He emphasized, on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the entire Swiss Government, that Swiss support for the United Nations had not diminished in any way following the referendum results the previous year. The referendum had not demonstrated a withdrawal by Switzerland from participation in international life, merely the disinclination to participate fully in the political decisions of the General Assembly. Swiss contributions to specialized agencies had been maintained and would be further strengthened. A political declaration had been adopted by the Federal Council reiterating their commitment to the principles of international co-operation. Moreover, the Government was currently considering ways in which such commitment to the United Nations might be given more concrete content in the near future.

Mr. Martenson expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome he had received from the Federal and Geneva authorities since his arrival in Switzerland. He recalled that the Secretary-General had consistently expressed his appreciation

for Switzerland's many contributions to the United Nations and had affirmed that Geneva's place as an important centre for the Organization was not in question. In this connexion, he also wished to express his thanks for the support and co-operation extended by the Swiss Mission to the United Nations under the able guidance of Ambassador Andres.

Ambassador Muheim raised the question of the provision of office space to the United Nations by FIPOI: he emphasized that the Organization's needs would have to be conveyed at least five years in advance to allow time for the necessary planning and construction, as well as cantonal and parliamentary approval. He understood that FIPOI already had a good idea of the Organization's needs for 1991, following the departure from the Petit Saconnex building. Mr. Martenson expressed his thanks for the helpful approach taken by the Swiss authorities. Of the three alternatives available, New York had, in principle, approved the rental of offices in a new building to be made available by FIPOI. He undertook to give a more precise assessment of the needs of the various UN programmes by the end of the month.

Ambassador Andres referred to the set of guidelines covering relations between the host country and the international community which had recently been issued by the Mission. Standard directives would from now on exist in both Berne and Geneva. He acknowledged that there was some disquiet among sections of the diplomatic community on various guidelines, but expressed the hope that the international organizations would eventually accept them. Uncontrolled local recruitment by Missions and international organizations presented insurmountable problems for the domestic authorities. Mr. Martenson expressed his appreciation for the constructive approach taken by the authorities. At the same time he drew attention to the problems posed by the new restrictions on local recruitment. He expressed the hope that flexibility in the case of appropriately-qualified people would be shown and that further discussion would take place on the issue. Ambassador Andres agreed that flexibility would be shown and that hardship cases would always be treated sympathetically. Discussions continued at the level of working groups with the Missions' and organizations' representatives. As for the legal status of the guidelines, they constituted the Swiss interpretation of the practice of the Vienna Convention.

Mr. Martenson drew the attention of the Federal authorities to other specific points:

On the question of security, he stressed the need to reinforce the presence of the Geneva police in the vicinity of the Palais des Nations. This was especially important in view of the large number of high-level visitors expected during the current year. He indicated that the Ariana park would be re-opened to the public at week-ends, which would also necessitate increased co-operation with the local police authorities. Ambassador Muheim replied that the primary responsibility for security remained with the Canton of Geneva. However, he agreed that increased police surveillance would be useful. He also welcomed the decision to re-open the park to the public. Ambassador Andres undertook to take up the matter with Geneva State Councillor Ziegler.

On housing, Mr. Martenson referred to the difficulties faced by UN employees in finding adequate housing in Geneva. He also took up the issue of UN employees' ownership of houses, which they were obliged to sell after two years' absence from Geneva. Given not least the current redeployment plans under the financial crisis, this could create considerable hardship. He suggested that an "ordonnance" proposing an exception for employees of international organizations might be considered. Ambassador Muheim agreed that current regulations might cause considerable difficulty in the event of redeployment and asked Ambassador Krafft to look into the situation with a view to finding an acceptable solution.

On the International School, Mr. Martenson drew attention to the special needs of international organization parents, whose interests did not seem to have been fully taken into account in the changes recently proposed in the School's constitution. The rising fees, in particular, were causing great difficulties to the UN parents during the current financial crisis. Ambassador Muheim undertook to review the problems currently faced by the International School.

Turning to Human Rights, Ambassador Krafft referred to his Government's wish to play a more active rôle on the Human Rights Commission, even though they enjoyed observer status only. The Government also wished to ratify the Human Rights Covenants, although they had to take into account the possibility of opposition in Parliament and an eventual referendum. The Government was particularly supportive of the Torture Convention and had contributed to the Special Fund on that issue. He had noted the emphasis given to Human Rights by Mr. Martenson in his address of 4 March and would be interested to hear of his plans for strengthening Human Rights activities. His Government's own view was that a new priority might be given to implementation of Human Rights conventions at the national level.

Mr. Martenson reiterated the Secretary-General's strong personal commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. The Swiss Government's support for UN efforts in this sphere was much appreciated. As for his own intentions on assuming responsibility for Human Rights, he would further strengthen the existing work on implementation of international instruments together with special procedures and fact-finding missions, while also expanding the Centre's activities in some new directions. He intended to create a new Unit for External Relations, which would further develop relations with non-governmental organizations as well as the media, in order to generate a wide basis of popular support for the concept and the protection of human rights. At the same time, he would wish to strengthen the area of advisory services in order to assist governments in creating their own infrastructures and finding national means to meet their obligations under the various conventions. He emphasized the personal priority he would give to Human Rights and to running the work of the Centre. Ambassador Muheim stressed the importance his Government attached to human rights questions and assured Mr. Martenson of their assistance in this crucial sphere.

Mr. Martenson expressed his thanks for the support given by the Swiss authorities in the case of Mr. Bota, and referred to the employment of Mrs. Bota in the UN Library. Ambassador Muheim welcomed the assistance

given to Mrs. Bota. His Government attached considerable importance to this case. Confidentially, he indicated that the Swiss Government was refusing to accept an invitation for an official visit to Romania until Mr. Bota was released. They had also raised the matter in the CSCE process.

Turning to the forthcoming Conference on Disarmament and Development, Ambassador Muheim indicated that his Government was examining the draft final document. No decision had yet been reached on Swiss participation in the Conference. The Government would have to be consulted on the matter and it would be interesting to have Mr. Martenson's assessment of the prospects for the Conference.

Mr. Martenson pointed out that all the documentation for the Conference was ready, a panel of eminent personalities had produced a very useful paper and a draft final document - based on an assessment by the Chairman - had been forwarded to the Conference. The UN position was that both disarmament and development were parallel and vital processes and that lack of progress in one should not block progress in the other. The relationship between them was a sophisticated one: disarmament, development and security were inter-related, since lack of development constituted a threat to security. No dramatic breakthrough should be expected, but an historic process had been initiated since it was the first time the issue had been addressed at this level. Switzerland's participation would, of course, be particularly welcome.

Ambassadur Muheim expressed his appreciation and his agreement with Mr. Martenson's assessment. The Swiss Government attached particular importance to confidence-building measures, rather than seeing disarmament as a panacea. He hoped that it would eventually be possible to take a decision for participation in the Conference.

Michael J. Stopford
26 May 1987

- - - - -

Present: Mr. Bertrand Jaquiéry, Deputy President, Swissair
Mr. Kurt Koller, General Manager, IATA and Tariffs, Swissair
Mr. Jean-Pierre Vettovaglia, Deputy Permanent Representative
of Switzerland at the UN Geneva
Mr. Ahtisaari, Mr. Thornberry

Mr. Ahtisaari explained the financial situation of the UN and said that prospects were also not encouraging. The UN had been obliged to take drastic economy measures including as regards travel. Perhaps the most heavily travelled route was New York-Geneva with, traditionally, Swissair as the UN's main carrier. Thus the UN had been looking for means to economise on this route, even if it meant asking, or even requiring staff to make sacrifices when the Organisation had to route its traffic through other capitals. He had wanted to come in person to explain the UN's dilemma as it confronted necessary decisions. He wanted to emphasize that this was not a happy situation, as nobody had complained of Swissair service to the UN over the years. However, it was up to airlines, including Swissair, to consider what they could do in the situation.

Mr. Jaquiéry said that Swissair had been approached several times in regard to the UN with a view to finding ways to save the Organisation money. Swissair was the national carrier, subject to Swiss laws. Tariffs were approved by the Swiss Government, which expected Swissair to comply. This ruled out price-cutting, and also meant that other carriers serving Switzerland must also comply with tariff regulations. He referred to the possibility of getting a proposal before IATA for a general reduction for UN travel. Even though the UN were excellent Swissair customers, there were also many other organisations in Geneva. Where could the line be drawn? For instance, CERN was now seeking discounts. Admittedly, Swissair gave discounts for Swiss Government travel - but this was the norm. In the U.S., however, a different tariff situation applied. He would soon speak with their U.S. General Manager who would then be in touch with Mr. Sjögren from the UN. He appreciated that Mr. Ahtisaari would now have to move quickly. Swissair would look at the situation as it existed in the U.S.

cc: The Secretary-General
The Director-General, Geneva
Mr. Ahtisaari
Mr. Sjögren

Brief on Office Space in Geneva

Current Situation

One of the locations of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Petit-Saconnex Annex, will no longer be available to the Organization as from 1 January 1992.

At present there are some 450 offices located at Petit-Saconnex, housing both regular United Nations budget programmes and services funded from voluntary and other sources (e.g. UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNRISD). A nominal ground rent is paid to the Swiss authorities.

In addition, UNHCR is currently housed in two buildings and would wish to consolidate its Headquarters in one location, with a requirement of 500 offices.

Swiss Government Offer

The Swiss authorities, through the Fondation Immobilière pour les Organisations Internationales (FIPOI), have offered to construct a new building in the Rue Montbrillant to house both the offices displaced from Petit-Saconnex and the consolidated Headquarters of UNHCR. The payment of rent, at about half the cost of commercial rates, would be required.

United Nations Response

The Swiss authorities have been informed that, subject to confirmation by ACABQ, the Fifth Committee and the independent governing bodies of the agencies concerned, their offer is gratefully accepted. Final approval should therefore be given before the end of the year, during the forty-second session of the General Assembly.

Space needs of approximately 950 offices, together with the necessary support services, have been communicated to the Swiss authorities. It should be pointed out that the programmes eventually to be housed in the new building will not be entirely the same as those currently housed in Petit-Saconnex: because of the rental requirements, United Nations regular budget programmes will be located in the Palais des Nations while other services will be located in the new building. The net office space requirements, however, will remain the same.

Michael J. Stopford

6 July 1987