FROM: Bern
TO: Secretary of State

DATE: 216, March 14, 1947, 4:55 p.m.

Swiss press comment on President Truman's message to Congress for purpose urging assistance to Greece and Turkey has been
taken by Swiss press as an indication of change in its foreign policy.
Conjectures as to effect it may have regard to countries which are
still in difficulty. On other hand, massacre has made
impression on top officials of Swiss Foreign Office
who met yesterday morning to discuss its implications with
reference to Switzerland.

While address was considered as perhaps well-timed and
effective warning to Russians to curb their expansionist
attitude and recognize risks involved in attempting
control over Greek and Turkish situation, it was viewed
favorably by Swiss authorities. It was pointed out
that the situation in the Balkans was more fluid than
previously anticipated. President Truman's words had
been received favorably in Switzerland.

Opinion was expressed that in view of possibility similar
situation in case of countries being granted a larger degree
of independence, it was important that they achieve their
full independence. It was pointed out that Switzerland
might have to reconsider its existing commitments and
current negotiations. With regard to future Switzerland's
negotiations with some of its neighbors, in view of financial
and economic help being extended to

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was obliged
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was obliged to adhere to its traditional policy of neutrality, and could not properly change its attitude toward these satellites no matter how much her sympathies were in other camps.

Swiss Foreign Office officials see dangerous navigation ahead in troubled international waters which Mr. Truman's address is likely to have agitated still more, but they feel that its statement US position would in end have salutary effect and might clear atmosphere.

HARRISON

SMD:WLB

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By: [Signature]