

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE—DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

TELEGRAPH BRANCH

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E. O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
Dept. of State letter, Aug. 9, 1973
By NLT-44, NARS Date 6-30-75

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Rec'd March 14, 1947
4:55 p.m.

W.S.L.

FROM: Bern

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 216, March 14, 1 p.m.

Swiss press comment on President Truman's message Congress for purpose coming assistance Greece and Turkey has been limited so far to objective discussion salient points address. Conjectures as to effect it may have regard reactions which can be expected from those at which it was aimed are still lacking. On other hand, message has made profound impression on top officials Swiss Foreign Office who met yesterday morning to discuss its implications with reference Switzerland.

While address was considered as perhaps well timed and effective warning to Russians to curb their intransigent attitude and reconsider risks involved in attempting expand their influence, concern was voiced over effect message upon Switzerland's traditional foreign policy. It was pointed out whereas heretofore global political situation had been fluid, President Truman's words had formulated new departure in American foreign policy which may prove instrumental in crystallizing western bloc with which Switzerland might have to reckon, particularly with respect its existing international commitments and current negotiations. With regard latter Switzerland's negotiations with some of Russian satellites who want financial and economic help were referred to.

Opinion was expressed that in view possibility similar help from US for such countries being granted contingent upon greater measure political independence becoming manifest in them, while in others, such as Greece and Turkey, assistance was to be given help them achieve their full independence, US could therefore be expected from upon any financial and economic support being received from Switzerland so long as recipients revolved in Russian orbit. As some these countries might remain under Russian hegemony for some time, position Switzerland in circumstances would become increasingly difficult as it

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

Swiss Foreign Office officials see dangerous navigation ahead in troubled international waters which Mr. Truman's address is likely 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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