

**Switzerland's application to join the United Nations including a declaration
of neutrality. The original is the French.**



THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL

to
His Excellency
Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Mr. Secretary-General,

We have the honour to submit the request of the Swiss Confederation for admission to the United Nations. At the vote on 3 March 2002, the people and the cantons of Switzerland authorised the Federal Council to make this request. We ask you to submit it to the Security Council and to the General Assembly.

Pursuant to the Federal Constitution, the duty of the Swiss Confederation is to protect the liberty and the rights of the people, to ensure the independence and the security of the country, and to promote a just and peaceful international order. Federal Parliament and Federal Council are responsible for taking the necessary measures to safeguard the neutrality of the country. Switzerland is a neutral State whose status is enshrined in international law. The United Nations recognize that the neutrality of a Member State does not affect the fulfilment of its obligations under the Charter and contributes to the achievement of the purposes of the United Nations.

As a member of the United Nations, Switzerland will remain neutral.

On the basis of the above, we have the honour to declare on behalf of the Swiss Confederation that the Swiss Confederation accepts the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter and is willing to carry them out.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Berne, 20 June 2002

On behalf of the Swiss Federal Council:

The President of the Swiss Confederation

The Chancellor of the Swiss Confederation