I. The Role of Natural Resources in Fueling Armed Conflict

Switzerland believes that in many underdeveloped countries there is a circle where conflict causes poverty and poverty causes conflict. Natural resources in underdeveloped countries are increasingly a cause for civil war and persistent instability. The United Nations defines its principal mission in Article 1 of its Charter as being “To maintain international peace and security”. Switzerland’s foreign policy is committed to the same goal. In addressing these conflicts Switzerland has pursued a comprehensive solution including economic, social, and political development in underdeveloped regions dependent upon natural resources. A joint program between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the State Secretariat of Economic Affairs is working in the Mekong Region with the objectives in the 2002-2006 timeframe including: private sector development; integration into the world economy; and natural resource management. Switzerland also provides financial support to the United Nations in such areas as preventative diplomacy, the control of small arms. In the past, Switzerland sent delegations to negotiate solutions to conflicts in the Western Sahara and Georgia, acting as personal representatives of the UN Secretary General. Switzerland currently ranks twelfth as a donor country for United Nations development activities across the board.

Since the biggest development problems, which cause internal conflicts, tend to be global. Switzerland believes it is up to the international community to seek solutions which are correspondingly global in scope. It would be naïve today to view the United Nation’s efforts to help bridge the gap between rich and poor, North and South, as nothing more than an effort to assist the underprivileged. United Nations programs in these areas are very much in the interest of the security of all nations. Therefore Switzerland views economic, social, and political advancement of all countries through international and multilateral means essential to the security of Switzerland.

The universal and multidisciplinary nature of the United Nations system makes it eminently suited to dealing with many tasks ranging from promotion of peace, economic development, human rights, preventing and resolving conflicts, and many others to numerous to mention. Switzerland will continue to work with the United Nations, relevant IGO’s and NGO’s to promote economic, political, and social development in the underdeveloped countries that are dependent upon natural resources and susceptible to internal conflict over those natural resources.

II. Measures to Prevent Terrorist Acquisition of Nuclear Weapons

Switzerland believes that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are of crucial importance to international security. For as long as there is disparity in the nuclear world order and a continuing danger of further proliferation, whether horizontal or vertical, the international community must spare no effort to find a solution. A cornerstone of Switzerland’s commitment to international security is it’s disarmament and non-
proliferation policy. In 1966, Switzerland became a full member of the Geneva Disarmament Conference. Switzerland takes part in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which works toward preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and also contributes actively to confidence building and security measures. Additionally, Switzerland operates a restrictive policy on arms exports and cooperates with the United Nations in restricting access to nuclear weapons and materials.

Next to the threat posed by nuclear proliferation is the problem of terrorist groups acquiring nuclear weapons or materials. In addressing these threats to international security, Switzerland will continue to play an active role in negotiations for a general convention on international terrorism and will continue working towards solutions that respect international law. Switzerland will continue to cooperate with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate. Switzerland would also like to express its satisfaction with Libya’s recent disarmament. Switzerland calls on Iran to respect the totality of the resolutions adopted on 18th of September by the Board of Governors of the IAEA. Furthermore, Switzerland calls on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to abandon any military nuclear program. In this respect Switzerland supports all efforts to find a diplomatic solution for the nuclear questions in the Korean peninsula. Switzerland will continue to urge all countries who have not done so, to ratify without delay the Treaty on Nuclear Non-proliferation and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The Swiss delegation will continue to support efforts for disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly in the nuclear field.

Terrorism in conjunction with nuclear proliferation is one of Switzerland’s greatest concerns today. Switzerland will work actively with the international community to eradicate this threat. There are several instruments which Switzerland is called on to use in coordination with the international community. For this reason collaboration between countries within the United Nations is essential. Switzerland believes the best strategy for fighting terrorism is the tripartite strategy defined by the United Nations. It comprises measures: to dissuade disaffected groups from embracing terrorism; to deny groups or individuals the opportunities to commit acts of terrorism; and, to sustain broad cooperation between members of the international community. In regards to the threat posed by nuclear proliferation, Switzerland supports starting negotiations without delay at the Conference on Disarmament on a ban of the production of fissile materials for weapons purposes. Switzerland would like to see that all members of the Conference on Disarmament agree on the program of work at the beginning of 2005, which would allow substantive work to start on this issue.
I. The Interpretation of the Basic Law:

For some observers, the announced interpretation was seen as a significant step by Beijing to deflate Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China growing pro-democracy movement following a 500,000 strong demonstration on July 1, 2003. The interpretation of the Basic Law which was issued in July 1st, 1997 exercises the right of People in to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China (HKSAR) choose their political leaders, which means that electoral reforms can only be initiated by Beijing's hand-picked Chief Executive, and bars Hong Kong's legislature from taking any action without his approval.

Switzerland has maintained its stable and genial relationship with the People’s Republic of China for over fifty years since 1944. Not only do Switzerland and the People’s Republic of China have a close trading partnership, but Switzerland also trades with the Hong Kong. The Swiss Government had ratified the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights; therefore, the Swiss Government feels that it is imperative to ensure and protect the human rights and democracy of Hong Kong, especially after the interpretation of the Basic Law “One Country, Two Systems”. According to the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights Article I, “all peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.” Switzerland believes The Joint Declaration approved by both People’s Republic of China and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on December 19, 1984 provides that the basic policies of the People's Republic of China regarding Hong Kong will be stipulated in a Basic Law of the Hong Kong adopted by China's National People's Congress (NPC). Switzerland respects the interpretation of the Basic law by the People’s Republic of China which governs Hong Kong’s relation with China since 1997, due to the documented Sino-British contract; however, Switzerland reminds the People’s Republic of China not to neglect the importance of human rights towards its special region. The Swiss Government would also reaffirm its neutrality on each country’s politics with China, including Republic of China (Taiwan), and Hong Kong.

The Swiss Government sincerely encourages People’s Republic of China to sign the International covenant on Civil and Political Rights to affirm and ensure the basic human rights that the people deserve in both People’s Republic of China and Hong Kong.

II. The Question of Palestine: Reviving the Road Map

While Israel undoubtedly has the right to fight terrorism, the disproportionate use of armed force only worsens the vicious circle of violence. The construction of the “security separation” wall gravely jeopardizes the “two-State vision”. It had been constructed beyond the “Green Line” encroaches on the territories occupied in 1967, and paves the way for illegal confiscations. This obstacle to the peace process has to be removed.
Switzerland has often expressed its deep concern about the evolution of the situation in the Middle East, recalling the respective and specific obligation of the parties under international humanitarian law. The first phase of the Road Map involves the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian zones reoccupied during the current uprising and a freeze on settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza. While the Palestinian officials are required to crack down on militant groups that have carried out attacks against Israelis, Israel wants to see a "complete dismantling of the infrastructure of terror" by Abbas' government. Switzerland supports Palestine’s president Mahmud Abbas’s ambition for peace and his accomplishments thus. The Swiss Government fully supports the action taken by the United Nation General Assembly (on July 20, 2004)- demanding that Israel abide by the International Court of Justice's ruling and tear down the separation wall; however, Tel Aviv defiantly pledged to pursue the construction. Switzerland stays its neutrality on Palestine joining the United Nation; nevertheless, the one-sided approach feelings in the fundamental principles from Israel also need to be taken as a consideration.

Switzerland’s representative said the spiral of violence over the past few months had made it urgent to give fresh impetus to a process of negotiation, and to send a clear signal of hope to all the peoples concerned. The Palestinian Authority must restore the security and credibility that it needed if it were to remain an indispensable partner for peace. The reform of its institutions and the organization of free elections would renew the foundation of its legitimacy. He called on the Palestinians to do everything within their power to stop the attacks on civilians and urged them to find a leadership that was determined to fight terrorism.