

## **Quotes about Switzerland by Vladimir Petrovsky, taken from his speeches 1993-2002**

*I could not conclude my remarks without paying special tribute to Switzerland, with which the United Nations has maintained a close and enduring friendship since its founding in 1945. We look forward to the day when Switzerland will join as a full member. As host to numerous organizations within the UN system, the authorities of the Swiss Federal Government, the Canton and City of Geneva offer tremendous moral, political and material support for our activities. This relationship has deepened and strengthened over time, yet we should never take it for granted. We must, and do, nurture it constantly. We are proud that the second largest headquarters of the United Nations is based in Geneva, and that this ceremony takes place today in the Palais des Nations, home of the original League of Nations, and the birthplace of first disarmament conference in 1975.*

(Statement on the occasion of signing of the MoU between the UNOG and GCSP, 12 March 1998)

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*Switzerland, as a long-standing stable, multi-cultural, democratic society is an exemplary model of the practical embodiment of the culture of peace. We at the United Nations highly appreciate the fact that Switzerland, while not a full Member State of the UN, provides substantial support to UN programmes directed to the promotion of peace, development and democracy. Switzerland is in fact the UN's fifth per capita contributor to these programmes and through its contributions vividly demonstrates that we jointly share the same objectives in our rapidly changing world.*

(Statement, 13 August 1998)

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*Sometimes when I talk to people outside Switzerland it is difficult to explain why this country, the name of which is so closely associated with the history of internationalism and which is so heavily involved with the UN, is not among its members. We in the United Nations look forward to the day - hopefully sooner rather than later - when the Swiss flag will take its rightful place alongside those of the other 185 Member States.*

(Address to Swiss Parliamentarians "The importance of Geneva to the United Nations", 20 August 1998)

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*Unfortunately, due to the absence of Switzerland in the United Nations, the possibility of raising its voice and contributing its intellectual and historic experience as a full Member State in the proceedings of our organization until now has been precluded. But in view of the recent developments we strongly hope that the Swiss people will support the full membership in the UN.*

(Address to the President of Switzerland Adolf Ogi, 22 March 2000)

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*Lastly, a word or two about Switzerland: Switzerland has a history and reputation for playing a much-valued role in the field of international diplomacy. Switzerland is an active member of many regional organizations, including the Council of Europe and OSCE, where it was effective as chairman in office in 1996. The Swiss are very involved in the Balkans, as members of the OSCE missions there, and in Georgia too, where the joint OSCE-UN office is currently headed by a Swiss. In addition, Switzerland is part of NATO's Partnership for Peace initiative, something that GCSP is itself involved in. Switzerland's reputation as a 'neutral' country has frequently been seen as one of the country's key assets. I remain hopeful, nonetheless, that at some point in the not-too-distant future, Switzerland will be able to offer the world its well-honed diplomatic and negotiating skills as a member of the UN family.*

(Remarks to the Swiss diplomats' course in international and Swiss security issues, 30 June 2000)

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*The future of Geneva International is closely connected with Switzerland which is not only the host country but also a close partner of our Organization. Switzerland provides a good example for the members of the international community.*

*One of the most important assets of Switzerland from the international perspective is its political system which is based on tolerance. Swiss democracy, one of the oldest in the world, helped this country to maintain its political stability and to propagate high moral values all over the globe.*

*Indeed, for the last 700 years of its history, Switzerland has been a well-functioning model of a democratic, multi-cultural society which is open for change. It has consistently acted in a responsible fashion, not only at the domestic level, but vis-a-vis the community of nations as well. Moreover, the people of Switzerland have accepted the legitimacy of the UN role in world affairs. Switzerland has implemented the UN principles of supporting international peace and security and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, has helped to settle international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.*

*As a host country for a number of UN entities, Switzerland and Geneva in particular have developed a very close partnership. Taking into account the complete "compatibility" of Switzerland and the UN and the considerable benefits of their cooperation to both sides, there is a hope that the Swiss people will make their choice in favor of the UN membership and will get the opportunity to have their voice heard in the United Nations as well as to be elected in the major bodies of the Organization. (Address at the Swiss Forum on International Affairs, 29 September 2000)*