
Translated from French

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

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The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to note verbale No. LA/COD/4 of 31 December 2008, has the honour to transmit herewith the report of Switzerland on the consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives.

United Nations Secretariat

New York

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretary-General the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 17 May 2010

[Seal of Permanent Mission]

Report of Switzerland on the consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

Switzerland has the privilege of acting as the host country to 26 international organizations, including eight organizations that are part of the United Nations system. One hundred sixty-three foreign States are represented within these organizations, and the city of Geneva alone is home to over 235 missions, representations and delegations.

Incidents

Switzerland takes very seriously its duty to protect and provide security for missions and international organizations. The overall situation in Switzerland can be considered safe. The rare incidents that have occurred in the past two years have been

limited in scope and have mainly been acts of vandalism. The following two

incidents are examples:

- On 25 March 2008, graffiti was painted on the building of the Permanent Mission of China to the World Trade Organization. The Mission was provided with special security measures for a period of time. The matter was investigated and the Permanent Mission of China was informed of the findings.

- On 3 December 2008, the Nuclear, Radiological, Biological and Chemical Service of the Special Investigation Agency was alerted by the Mission of the United States of America owing to suspected anthrax in the diplomatic pouch. The powder was collected and analysed by University Hospitals Geneva and the results were negative. No complaint having been filed, no further action was taken in the case.

Surveillance and protection system

The relevant host country authorities pay close attention to the security needs of diplomatic missions and representatives, and those of international organizations. They take appropriate security measures when circumstances dictate. The Federal Security Service is responsible for performing risk analyses and determining the measures to be taken. The cantonal police then implement the measures recommended by the Federal Security Service.

As host city to 23 international organizations and over 235 missions, representations and delegations, Geneva has an international security police force that is assigned specifically to surveillance of diplomatic sites. At police headquarters, the diplomatic unit, which can be contacted around the clock, responds to security-related requests from permanent missions and international organizations.

Furthermore, the Geneva police have considerable experience in dealing with the many demonstrations that take place on the margins of international meetings and

conferences. When required, they strengthen the police presence at the diplomatic venues involved and, in the event of a disturbance of the peace at a diplomatic mission, they take action. They also use new technologies to enhance security at certain diplomatic sites by installing video surveillance cameras.

Lastly, Switzerland fully finances enhanced external protection at the premises of international organizations located in its territory, mainly through the implementation of architectonic measures (such as security barriers and anti-vehicle bollards), to ensure that those international organizations are able to meet the headquarters minimum operating security standards (H-MOSS).