

“Addressing the Challenges of the 21st Century: Swiss Foreign Policy in a Fragmented World”

A Keynote Address by



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HEAD OF THE SWISS FEDERAL
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SEPTEMBER 25, 2008



THE MINDA DE GUNZBURG CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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As a host to the largest number of international organizations, Switzerland has played a key role over the last century in the development of an interdependent international society. Yet, in line with its political tradition, Switzerland has remained keen to maintain its own perspective and influence on international affairs. While Switzerland's international engagement has prompted bold initiatives in the fields of human rights and humanitarian law among others, its traditional neutrality has allowed the conduct of significant efforts in terms of quiet diplomacy and “bons offices,” particularly in the Middle East. Key challenges now arise with the globalization of the international society and the enlargement of Europe: what type of global diplomacy does Switzerland envisage in the 21st century? Is there still a space for its neutral engagement in international affairs? What are the key objectives of Swiss diplomacy in the current international environment?



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2008 / 6:00 - 7:30PM

AT THE MINDA DE GUNZBURG CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES, 27 KIRKLAND STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Please RSVP to Emil Wyss: Emil@swissnexboston.org

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