

The President of the United States of America
Mr. George W. Bush
Washington D.C.

2 April 2001

Dear Mr. President

I have taken note with concern of your recently expressed intention to reconsider the approach of the United States of America in tackling the threat posed by the accelerating climate change, and in particular of your plan to abandon the support of the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change.

As has been clearly shown by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its recently published Third Assessment Report, climate change poses a real risk for the well being of our planet. Mitigation efforts are needed and the time at our disposal to effect real changes is limited.

Switzerland believes, that the common efforts of the international community within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol are the appropriate way to address this challenge at the global level.

To that end, we have, over the last decade, closely worked together with many countries, notably the United States of America. The conclusion of the UN Framework Convention on climate Control and the Kyoto Protocol reflect the broad international consensus to find common and equitable solutions. While acknowledging the fact that these legal instruments are only a first, albeit significant step to cope with the threat of global warming, they do take into account the multifaceted interests of the international community, including economic interests and the potential of technological developments to reduce the emission of green house gases. We also believe that these new technologies offer opportunities for our economies, not only to contribute to the mitigation of the climate threat but also render them more efficient and competitive.

To grasp these opportunities, joint efforts will be necessary to be undertaken in the international negotiations. To this end, the successful conclusion of the Kyoto process will provide an important step forward. The challenges remaining are manifold in order to ascertain a sustainable future for the world today and for generations to come. To meet these challenges, our

common international effort needs to continue. In this regard, I do hope that you will reconsider your position and that the United States of America will continue its cooperation within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol, to which my country remains fully committed.

with kind regards

Moritz Leuenberger