



Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland

## Proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Editors of Diplomatic Documents

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## Word of Welcome

Dear fellow editors of diplomatic documents, Dear colleagues, The Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland, a research centre of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, are honoured to welcome you to the 12th International Conference of Editors of Diplomatic Documents. I am particularly pleased that we are able to meet here in Geneva, at a place of such importance for the fields of diplomacy and international cooperation. I would therefore like to thank our partner, the United Nations Office at Geneva, for generously accepting to be our host during the next few days. I am also grateful to the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) for their financial support.

Nothing can better illustrate the vitality of our network than the outstanding number of delegations present at this conference. With representatives from 30 countries spread over

5 continents, we are setting a new record of attendance – and this in times of financial

crisis and drastic budget cuts. In the following days, we will give an overview of the status and progressions of our respective projects since the last conference. I am hoping that the workshops on Thursday will give the opportunity to exchange our experiences in different fields in a fruitful and collaborative way. At the symposium Diplomacy and Global Governance, we will be able to present some of our scholarly results to a broader audience and discuss them together with experts from various universities. Last but not least, I look forward to our cultural activities and the informal conversations that will arise in the next few days. Such interactions will undoubtedly strengthen our network, as well as further establish the scholarly understanding of our profession.

I wish you a pleasant stay at the 12th International Conference of Editors of Diplomatic Documents in the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Sacha Zala,  
Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland



*Discussions during the Conference*

## Summary

From 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013, 27 delegations from 5 continents came together for the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Editors of Diplomatic Documents, which took place at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva. The research group of the Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland (DDS) was responsible for organizing the event with the collaboration of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) and the support of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) as well as the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

The following report will give an overview on the scientific activities of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Editors of Diplomatic Documents.

## Top-flight Talks

The conference opened with an inaugural speech by the Director-General of the UNOG, Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. Peter Maurer, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) then spoke on the role of global governance. Other important items on the agenda were the reports given by delegates on their projects' newest developments, as well as the workshops in which current questions relating to editing – such as the issue of the many languages of diplomatic documents or the role of social media – were discussed.

## Digital Collaboration DDS-FRUS

The workshop entitled «Going Online and Connecting Diplomatic Documents – Possibilities of Digital Collaborations» gave the opportunity to present the new collaborative project between the DDS and the Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS). Within the context of this collaboration, the FRUS are making use of a Web service developed by the DDS, Metagrid (e.g. <http://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/people/root-elihu>).

## The Birth of an International Organization

The high point of the conference was the founding of the «International Committee of Editors of Diplomatic Documents». The Dutch delegate Marc Dierikx was elected founding President of this new organization, and Sacha Zala, the Director of the DDS, was named Secretary-General. Other Board Members come from Belgium, Germany, Ireland and the USA.

## Public Symposium

The Conference ended with a public symposium on «Diplomacy and Global Governance». Over 150 participants were present at both panels, in which representatives from editing projects as well as academics presented papers on diplomacy and global governance in relation to international organizations.

The next conference, which will take place in 2015, will be organized by the Office of the Historian of the U.S.-Department of State and will take place in Washington D.C..

In 2017 the Documents on British Policy Overseas will host the conference in London. In 2019 the Fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 will be commemorated with a conference in Germany.



*Conference impressions*





## Remarks by Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva

Mr. Zala  
Excellencies  
Dear Colleagues  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to welcome you to the Palais des Nations for the Twelfth International Conference of Editors of Diplomatic Documents. I am pleased that this Conference is organized by the Library of the United Nations Office of Geneva together with the Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland – an excellent partnership in knowledge-sharing and institutional memory. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation for their great support.

The fact that representatives from thirty countries and five continents are here today not only shows the strength of your network, but also the inherent value of diplomatic documents to the international community. While it is clear that these documents are valuable historically, they also hold important lessons for future generations.

This value is well understood by the United Nations in Geneva. The UNOG Library, with its rich collections and archival funds provides a solid foundation for in-depth and comprehensive research in all areas of United Nations work.

The Library also plays a unique role in helping the world remember, and learn from, the efforts of the United Nations and the League of Nations. In this regard, careful and select conservation of key documentation is central to the institutional memory of the Organization.

However, we also recognize that conservation alone is not enough. We must also adapt to a fast-paced, technology-driven world, where expectations are high regarding the access to and speed with which information is provided.

The Library here has made great strides in this area with a number of projects to digitize documents underway and with the recent completion of all of the official documents of the League of Nations to digital format.

This new world also brings challenges for those working with diplomatic documents. Once written in an environment which assured confidentiality, diplomatic documents of today are no longer guaranteed the same restricted access. Technological developments and the ease with which information may be rapidly and widely shared impact the very nature of the way these documents are drafted. Does social media have a role when it comes to diplomatic documents? How can its impact be harnessed and used to the benefit of readers, scholars, and other stakeholders?

Dear Colleagues: I hope that in the coming days you will have many fruitful exchanges on these and other questions raised for those working with diplomatic documents.

Your workshops on digital collaboration and multilingualism are also particularly relevant. I am sure a number of best practices will be shared and will lead to enhanced collaboration and the formation of new partnerships.

In addition, the symposium on Friday ‘Diplomacy and Global Governance’ will provide an excellent opportunity for you to share your work with a broader audience and with the international community in Geneva.

I wish you the best for a stimulating and productive conference!



## Project Progressions and Editorial Practices 2011–2013

As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, we received 23 replies to the questionnaire from Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

### General Trends

The trends which began to show at the last conferences also continued during the last two years. The average production is still about two or three volumes per two-year period (with a print run of 250–1500) with no remarkable changes regarding the selection and presentation of documents. However, compared with the last two conferences there are fewer differences in the number of published volumes. Only the published FRUS volumes noticeably exceed the average production. In some cases budgetary constraints have slowed down the production process.

### Digital Turn

The question of digital forms of publishing remains important. While the overall number of projects using possibilities offered by the web has only slightly grown (2011: 13, 2013: 14), the portfolio has been diversified.

Aside from the presentation of documents on the web, the production of e-books is becoming increasingly important. Since the last conference, seven projects (France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Romania, Switzerland, USA) expanded their activities in this field, and two projects introduced print on demand (Netherlands, Switzerland). Some projects (Ireland, Switzerland, USA) increased their social media activities on Twitter and Facebook, and two projects (Mexico and the Netherlands) presented some of their activities by posting

videos on Youtube. Eight projects plan to expand their online activities in the nearer future. New digital solutions were introduced even in the production of new volumes. The Irish and US projects use specific project management software (MS Project or Basecamp), the Swiss project relies on its own database Dodis and the Japanese project shares its bibliography via a shared software.

### Problems and Improvements

When we asked the projects about problems encountered in the process of web publishing, various issues were mentioned. These problems can be divided into two categories. While the first category deals with actual difficulties, such as the lack of web space, copyright issues or search functionalities, the second category shows typical early adopter problems including out-dated software or intricate issues linked to software migration.

In light of the problems with which the projects were being faced, the need for improvement was repeatedly expressed. As they now not only publish traditional volumes, but also maintain and develop online projects as well as monitor their newest developments, the projects have seen their workloads increase considerably. Additionally, there is a general need to improve the budgetary and staff situation.

### Declassification and Freedom of Information

The management of declassification requests seems to occupy an increasing number of projects. In Israel, more declassification staff is needed due to shortened declassification processes and the FRUS are working on a declassification database to enhance the management of the complex and multi-tiered interagency declassification process, which threatens to induce a considerable amount of delay, as this process is beyond their control.

In Switzerland, the law requires that the Government publish a list of files to which an extended retention rule applies. This ensures that researchers have access to complete archival catalogues. In reference to the Federal Act on Archiving, the research centre of the Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland has decided to publish in the appendix of each volume a list of the files to which access requests were declined by the responsible authority: see [dodis.ch/dds/ArchA](http://dodis.ch/dds/ArchA).

### Target Audience and Promotion

Most of the projects produce their volumes for scholarly readers and students and in some cases for journalists and diplomats, too. Experiences with open access<sup>8</sup> online publications have shown that the general public uses the opportunity to access free accessible information to learn more about the diplomatic history of their country. Most of the volumes are available via bookstores or the publishing houses, but also through the projects or archives themselves. Marketing is not only done by the publishing houses, it is now increasingly undertaken by the projects themselves on their websites and via mailing lists, as, for example, H-Diplo. Other projects, among them Ireland, Latvia, Montenegro or Switzerland, issue press releases and try to attract the interest of journalists and the general audience by selecting major topics or interesting documents.

### New Website

As part of the preparations for the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Editors of Diplomatic Documents, the team of the Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland launched the website [www.diplomatic-documents.org](http://www.diplomatic-documents.org) to foster the visibility of the participating projects. The website collects information on previous conferences and delegates as well as information on scholarly editions and contact persons. The most important aspect is the «News» section, where information about the release of new volumes of editions of diplomatic documents can be posted. Since it officially went online, 18 new volumes were announced on this website, which amounts to more than one new volume per month. Continuing on this path, the website will become an important information resource for scholars of diplomatic history and foreign relations throughout the World.

*Sacha Zala*  
*Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland*

### Participants

Australia	Dr. Matthew Jordan
Austria	Doz. Dr. Wolfgang Müller
Belgium	Prof. Dr. Jean-Luc de Paepe
Canada	Dr. Greg Donaghy
People's Republic of China	Guicheng Lu Li Wang Mitao Wang
France	Dr. Isabelle Richefort Prof. Dr. Maurice Vaïsse
Germany	Dr. Ilse Dorothee Pautsch
Greece	Dr. Georgios Polydorakis
Indonesia	Franziskus Widiyarso
Ireland	Dr. Michael Kennedy Dr. Conor Mulvagh
Israel	Louise Fischer
Italy	Prof. Dr. Francesco Lefebvre D'Ovidio
Japan	Kazuhiko Tomizuka
Latvia	Dr. Valdis Rusins
Lithuania	Ambassador Rimantas Morkvenas
Luxembourg	Dr. Susana Muñoz
Netherlands	Dr. Marc Dierikx
Poland	Małgorzata Mroczkowska Piotr Długolecki
Portugal	Dr. Margarida Lages
Romania	Dr. Rudolf M. Dinu
Russian Federation	Ambassador Alexander Kuznetsov
Slovenia	Vladimira Rancov
Switzerland	Dr. Sacha Zala Prof. Dr. Hans Ulrich Jost Dr. François Wisard Dr. Marc Perrenoud Ursina Bentele Thomas Bürgisser Vincent Juillerat Franziska Ruchti Maurizio Rossi Christiane Sibille Yves Steiner
UK	Prof. Dr. Patrick Salmon Dr. Richard Smith
UNOG	Blandine Blukacz-Louisfert
Uruguay	Alvaro Corbacho Casas
USA	Dr. Stephen P. Randolph Dr. David H. Herschler Dr. Adam Howard Dr. Joseph C. Wicentowski



## Diplomacy and Global Governance – The ICRC's experiences

Keynote Speech by Dr. Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

In his speech, Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, focused on both the historical mandate and the present function of the ICRC, as a provider of governance on an international scale.

Maurer started by reminding the audience that the ICRC is rooted in short-term urgent matters, while governance in general has a rather long-term perspective. He proceeded in explaining that the founding fathers of the ICRC were nevertheless conscious that the short term delivery of humanitarian aid was part of a much broader world view, and as such, was conceptualized as a stepping stone towards world peace. Maurer further stated that according to them, even if the original Swiss private institution became an organization contributing to global governance, it should be abolished once world peace was achieved. In this way, humanitarianism played an important role as an element of peacebuilding and in the building of an international system.

In a second part, Maurer focused on the innovative aspects of the ICRC. Through its foundation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, an institution, a legal framework and diplomacy were all brought together in one unique enterprise. Even if challenges regarding the issue of armed conflict changed in the course of its history, the ICRC has, according to Maurer, remained focused on dealing with these issues and kept the same perspective. It continuously responds to the ever-changing issue of warfare. For the last 150 years, the ICRC has been an actor in dealing with the ramifications of armed conflict, warfare, armed violence of various other kinds and their impact on society in its whole. In view of bringing some order to a profoundly un-orderly world of international relations, it focused on the following three aspects: legal frameworks, assistance to mitigate impact of armed conflict as well as diplomacy and engagement with key actors.

As a third point, Maurer remarked that the history of ICRC particularly brings to light the fact that through its engagement with recurring patterns of conflict, it has tried to integrate short term reactions in long term policies. Examples of this can be seen through its engagement in Somalia and Afghanistan.

In his concluding remarks, Peter Maurer underlined the importance of the concept of governance with regards to new forms of diplomatic history. Moving away from a too narrow national perspective to a broader view encompassing global issues opens up new perspectives on actors and activities, legal frameworks, institution building and financial mechanisms. These can be seen as contributions to an overall search for an international community and for more stable connections throughout the world.

*Christiane Sibille  
Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland*



## Diplomatic Documents and Social Media

Workshop chaired by Dr. Michael Kennedy and Dr. Conor Mulvagh

The introductory presentation by the representatives of the «Documents on Irish Foreign Policy (DIFP)» focused on Twitter, while other social media platforms were later briefly addressed during the general discussion.

In a first step, a general introduction to Twitter and to how it works was given. By setting up a social media profile, it is important to have a clear picture of how one wants to present the project (e.g. which avatars to use, what image one wants to convey, etc.) as the social media profile works as a brand ambassador. This also includes the question of what is acceptable to tweet and what is not. One should be mindful of contemporary political issues when composing tweets on historical subjects. While some projects have written guidelines, others rely on common sense. Although it is not possible to control one's followers, it is, however, advisable to carefully manage who one follows. Another important issue was who does the tweeting. It was generally agreed upon, that the person responsible for social media should know the project well and preferably be of senior rank. This, however, led to the question of how to build social media into the regular workflow of the project and its main objective of publishing the volumes. Not all social media platforms take up the same amount of time – Twitter being the least time-consuming one. The DIFP are able to spend no more than one hour a week by using Tweet Deck to prepare the tweets in advance and set a publishing date. Several projects also (re) use already published material for their tweets.



The second part of the presentation was dedicated to the question «why to tweet?» and who is the target audience. All the projects which use social media are able to reach and engage with a wider audience than they would without it. Moreover, it is both quick and costless. The main reasons for tweeting are to promote new (online) volumes, to show the ongoing research during the periods in which a new volume is prepared, to promote events and thank the organisers and to generally engage with the academic community, journalists, embassies or the interested public in general. Interestingly, not all projects reach the same target groups, even when using the same social media platform. The use of hashtags and retweets was emphasised in order to reach more people than just one's followers. Some of the more widely used hashtags by several projects are the #OTD (on this day) or the #docoftheday, which both allow the use of already published

material. #docoftheday, furthermore, is a great tool for linking projects that publish diplomatic documents on Twitter, since this hashtag is mostly used by them.

Most successful on all social media platforms were posts or tweets that included pictures, told quirky stories and most importantly, posts or tweets relating to historical or commemorative events (e.g. the anniversary of John F. Kennedy's visit to Ireland for the DIFP or the anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg for the «Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS)»). The issues surrounding the copyright of pictures were taken up in the plenary discussion whereby the freedom of research was strongly emphasised. All projects have to deal with copyright issues. Concern was also expressed about the high prices for photo and film material. It became clear during the discussion that matters regarding copyright need to be addressed before publication and that each case has to be treated individually.

During the workshop discussion it became clear that not all projects use the same social media platforms and moreover that they are used with different purposes. While the Swiss project Dodis and the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) use both Twitter and Facebook (the FCO even use Facebook as their homepage), the FRUS and the DIFP are only active on Twitter. Other platforms, such as Tumblr and Flickr, are widely used for publishing pictures. In this context, the problem of unofficial mirror sites on Facebook and the possibility to have one's Twitter-account verified were also discussed. A further piece of advice was to link the social media account to the project's homepage, if possible.

Another question raised during the discussion was whether approval by higher authorities was needed. There exists a big difference regarding social media oversight between projects set within their foreign ministry and those belonging to academia. The Australian, British, Greek and US projects, which are all part of their respective foreign ministries, all need higher approval for setting up the accounts and some also need their posts or tweets to be signed off on. The Swiss and Irish projects, on the other hand, do not need higher approval from their respective academies of science. What was, however, agreed upon was that it is advisable to have some kind of peer review (by higher authorities or colleagues within the project) before releasing tweets or posts.

Another question discussed was how to respond to tweets directed at the project. As a general rule it is better not to respond. If a follower, especially a journalist, wants more information, they always have the possibility to get in touch with the project directly. On the other hand, requests by journalists are always a great opportunity for publicity.

In general, all the projects which already use social media were positive about it and were able to reach a different, younger, market over the last years thanks to it and thereby broaden public interest in what they do. In the end, however, each project has to find its own social media strategy, based on the system the project has to work with, its target audience and how much time and resources are available for social media.

Franziska Ruchti  
*Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland*



## The many Languages of Diplomatic Documents

Workshop chaired by Dr. Marc Dierikx

Chairman Marc Dierikx (Netherlands) opened the discussion with the consideration that an increasingly important issue in the field of diplomatic documents is making documents available in other languages. This brings new challenges to the profession of editors while at the same time offering a wonderful opportunity to reach out to various projects.

Alexander Kuznetsov (Russian Federation) replied, that a multilingual approach is a built-in element of the Russian project of publication of diplomatic documents for two main reasons. Firstly, a historical reason: Until the end of the 19th century, the whole Russian diplomatic correspondence was in French. Only in 1887 under Alexander III, the use of French for internal correspondence was prohibited. As a result, 90% of diplomatic documents dating back to the period of the Russian Empire are in French. As diplomatic documents from that period started to be published in the USSR, the question arose as to how they should be published. It was finally decided to do so in French and to include a Russian translation. The 17 volumes published between the 1950s and the 1970s are in both French and Russian. Knowledge of French is thus a requirement when hiring young historians. Secondly, a traditional reason: Russia has a long experience of joint publications of collected documents on bilateral relations. In the past half century, 45 volumes have been edited in collaboration with 30 countries. All of these were edited in two languages, Russian and the language of the partner country. The Chinese collection is an example of this. Currently, Russia is working on a joint publication with Iceland. A major difficulty is to find not only translators, but true experts of diplomatic documents. Diplomatic language requires precise and professional translation.

Rudolf Dinu (Romania) stated that Romania is faced with the same reality as Russia as far as documents from the 19<sup>th</sup> century are concerned. Until World War I, when correspondence in French was forbidden, there existed no regulation on the languages of diplomatic documents. In that period, most documents were in French (80–90 %), but some were also in German and Romanian. Two issues arise in connection with the editing of diplomatic documents. First, one needs to be prepared to work with documents in French and German, consequently with people who are used to working in these languages, not only historians but also language specialists. All current six editors have good knowledge of French. Secondly, with relation to the accessibility of documents of the second and third series which are mostly in Romanian and Russian, an introduction is published in English while the list of documents is in Romanian and English. In addition, short abstracts of documents are published in English, as an intermediary solution. For volumes amounting to 500 or even 1000 pages, it is impossible to publish full translations. Projects of joint publications with other countries are ongoing, as was already the case in the past with Russia.

Louise Fischer (Israel) pointed out that the Romanian project is using a similar solution to the Israeli one. The first

editors of Israeli documents strongly opposed translating documents from Hebrew into English. As diplomatic documents are very special acts, it was decided that only summaries should be in English. This raises the question of the costs and quality of translation. In Israel, translations are very expensive and commercial translations have to be checked before publication. On the other hand, summaries in English make it possible for readers who do not speak Hebrew to understand what documents are about. Part of the aim of the first editors of documents on the foreign policy of Israel was to tell the history of the Middle-East conflict. Until then,



the history of Israel was mainly written in the United States by authors who did not know Hebrew. It thus only told a partial history, based solely on material made available in English.

The publications on Israel's foreign policy consist of two series. The first series is in print. The second one is available online together with additional special publications. Regarding the first series and due to the former British mandate over the region, most documents were originally written in English. The first volumes were therefore mainly in English. The few documents in Hebrew were summarized in English. For the following volumes, editors decided to maintain the same solution: an introduction, a list of documents and summaries in English. They also have joint publications on bilateral diplomatic relations. As to the joint publication with Russia, it was published in Russian and English rather than Hebrew in order to make it more available to the English-speaking readership. There is a dilemma between publishing in English to be part of a global community and publishing in Hebrew for the own nationals. The second joint publication was made with Poland and was published in Hebrew.

One open question remains: seeing that editors in Israel do not know who reads the English translations, it remains unclear whether the efforts of translation are actually worthwhile. Resorting to social media to identify the audience might be of help. On the other hand, would automatic translation be a useful means of translating diplomatic documents? This tool provides advantages, such as information on the date of the document, its author and its general content, but also disadvantages, such as incorrect translations. As the Israeli project mainly targets its country's own citizens, investing too much money and time on translation is not a priority.

Piotr Długolecki (Poland) exposed the strategy of the Polish Diplomatic Documents. There, only one volume was translated into English due to high costs of translation

and it is not planned to translate the next volume. The Polish experience in the matter of translation relies on the publication of one volume dedicated to the outbreak of World War II. Difficulties in this respect included finding appropriate translations into English reflecting the old-style Polish of that time. In addition, some documents contained extracts in French or in other languages. These parts were not translated into English. Problems also arose when trying to translate the types of documents into English. Moreover, borders having largely changed after World War II, further complications were encountered in relation to geographical names as well. The publication of names in German is useful for foreign readers but problematic for Polish readers. Translating names of units within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as titles and functions is also problematic. Although necessary, it is difficult to achieve unity and to be consequent in dealing with these questions.

François Wisard (Switzerland) mentioned three points with respect to the publication of diplomatic documents in Switzerland: Editorial practice, the issue of names and bilateral projects.

**Editorial practice:** Documents are published in three languages: German, French and Italian. No translation in other languages is provided. In the volumes, documents are summarized in the language in which the document was written.

**Names:** The database makes it possible to use different names in different languages for the same entity.

**Bilateral projects:** In addition to the systematic publication of volumes in chronological order through the research group of the Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland, an experience of joint publication through the two Foreign Ministries was had in 1994, focusing on bilateral relations with Russia. The resulting volume is published in French and German with documents in Russian translated into French and another volume is published in Russian with documents in other languages translated into Russian.

Jean-Luc de Paepe (Belgium) underlined the importance of the critical apparatus completing documents and which should be beyond reproach. Such an apparatus should contain the following five elements: a register, a summary, a list of all persons mentioned in the documents, critical notes by the editor and an index containing different versions of names of places, persons, etc.

Marc Dierikx (Netherlands) concluded that technologies not only enable to read documents online, but also to access the text to draw conclusions, for instance through automatic search. Additionally, multilingual documents not only raise problems of understanding, they are also more complicated to edit.

*Vincent Juillerat*  
*Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland*

## Going Online and Connecting Diplomatic Documents – Possibilities of Digital Collaborations

Workshop chaired by Dr. Joseph Wicentowski

This workshop dealt with the possibilities of digital collaborations. While nearly thirty nations were represented at the conference, most of them are doing their work independently and in relative isolation from each other. According to the workshop's main argument, however, there would be many benefits in increasing collaboration both for scholars and for readers, as the final product would ultimately be of better quality.

A pioneering example of collaboration in the field of diplomatic documents is the project «Transnationale Diplomatie CH-USA». The project benefits from the financial support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and is carried out in close collaboration with the department's «Kompetenzteam Web». For this project, the Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland and the editors of the Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS) are working together to match persons in Dodis (DDS) with the same persons in the Database of Principal Officers and Chiefs of Mission (FRUS). Results are stored in Metagrid, a Web service created by Dodis, facilitating the discovery of high quality online resources about key entities, such as people, places and organizations.

In the first part of his presentation Joseph Wicentowski (FRUS) presented possible approaches to collaboration as well as their pros and cons. For instance, bilateral projects can be set up between two countries in order to publish joint volumes on specific issues or periods. The results are unique and very compelling, but on the other hand this model requires a major investment in resources, which makes such projects rare and unrepeated. Conferences are another excellent way of collaborating, and although they also require a huge investment in staff, time and resources, they bring together historians and others who are engaged in publishing diplomatic documents. Both of these traditional approaches to collaboration should be continued. But recent developments, including the Internet, are collapsing borders and creating new modes of collaboration alongside the traditional ones. Regional and thematic databases, such as the European Integration project, are an emerging means of collaboration in the fields of regional or thematic research. Nevertheless, this approach is also resource-intensive and the technical requirements for participating are relatively high.

In a second part, Wicentowski focused on activities within the network of international editors of diplomatic documents. The Diplodocs Mailing list, which was created after the last meeting in Jerusalem, is one of them. It requires very few resources to participate and allows any member to communicate effectively with the entire group during the long two-year period between conferences. Another interesting collaboration resource is the diplomatic-documents.org website, which was created by the Dodis staff with regard to the 2013 conference and to collect information relating to the network's various projects and store it in one single place.



Wicentowski concluded from this, that none of the aforementioned models of collaboration allowed a truly multilateral collaboration, enabling each participant to exchange data with every other participant in a sustainable and efficient way. He then discussed the advantages of Metagrid, a project of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences created by Dodis and powered by Dodis and the Historical Dictionary of Switzerland. Metagrid is a Web service on the Internet that stores all the existing links (or «URLs») for web pages about the same entity. Partners embed the Metagrid widget in their pages – an easy process that requires virtually no programming skills – and the links from the Web service appear on their website. The project is currently in its pilot phase, but the Web service is already fully functional and stable. An example of Metagrid in action can be seen on the FRUS-website (<http://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/people/root-elihu>), the Dodis-website (<http://www.dodis.ch/P33682>) and on the LONSEA-website (<http://www.lonsea.de/pub/person/145>)

Thanks to the links provided by the Metagrid widget, the reader gets instant access to a wealth of additional information about a given person. By embedding the widget, the Office of the Historian has expanded the usefulness of its webpage. Moreover, it has been able to do so while still focusing on its core expertise, by simply pointing the readers to other resources containing additional useful information. And as more partners join Metagrid and contribute to it, the usefulness of the Web service grows exponentially. The design and architecture of the system is very elegant and imposes very little burden on the participants.

In his concluding remarks, Wicentowski emphasized that contributing to Metagrid would also be very easy. A partner only needs to have a website with biographical information about key people, and this information should have a unique

ID and a corresponding persistent URL. The partner should create a list with the names and the IDs of each person, contribute the list to Metagrid and add the widget to his website.

The matching work so far has been done mainly by humans, whereas the system supports this work in many ways. In the future, Dodis plans to develop several tools – such as a browser plugin – that should facilitate contributing and maintaining the data. Although it is initially easier to contribute resources about people, the system already supports different kinds of resources about organizations, places and taxonomies. Every partner can control what he shares with the Web service, and can choose which partner's links appear on his implementation of the widget. And every partner stays in possession of his data.

In the following discussion, members of the plenum expressed their interest in this innovative tool and asked to know more about its technical features in view of a possible collaboration. In addition, the question of new forms of digital narratives based on the results of Metagrid was addressed.

More information on Metagrid can be found on <http://www.metagrid.ch>. Sacha Zala (Dodis) ensured that Metagrid is open to all projects of editions of diplomatic documents which fulfil the technical requirements. Enquiries for participation at metagrid can be addressed to Dodis.

*Maurizio Rossi*  
*Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland*



## Foundation of the International Committee of Editors of Diplomatic Documents

Members of the network of editors of diplomatic documents often cooperate in a personal capacity as scholars exploring their collective fields.

Accordingly, the opportunity arises to bring these connections together and further them as a freely associated group of individuals with a common interest in the editing of contemporary diplomatic documents.

Members of the group would thus have the opportunity to engage in a wider discussion and investigate common concerns, concepts, problems and methodologies over a diverse range of historical and historiographical areas.

Further structuring these collective discussions would lead to the possibility of an affiliation to the International Committee of Historical Sciences (ICHS/CISH) as a commission of academic experts. This affiliation would open the possibility to participate every five years in the World Historians' Conference and to be awarded a panel.

As a result of these reflections, the delegates to the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Editors of Diplomatic Documents voted unanimously in favour of the foundation of a new international organization, the International Committee of Editors of Diplomatic Documents and accepted the following charter.



*Dr. Jean-Luc de Paepe (Belgium), Member of the Bureau*



*Dr. Ilse Dorothee Pautsch (Germany), Member of the Bureau*



*Dr. Marc Dierikx (Netherlands), President*



*Dr. Michael Kennedy (Ireland), Member of the Bureau*



*Dr. Sacha Zala (Switzerland), Secretary General*



*Dr. Stephen Randolph (USA), Member of the Bureau*

## International Symposium «Diplomacy and Global Governance»

How have international standards been defined and applied in the last two centuries, even in the absence of a global, overarching authority? How did international and national interests interact in the process of negotiating those standards? What role did both governmental and non-governmental actors play? How did states handle these globally defined rules?

These were the main questions asked in the international symposium «Diplomacy and Global Governance» held on October 4, 2013 in the Palais des Nations, home of the United Nations Office in Geneva. Marking the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Editors of Diplomatic Documents, this public symposium welcomed a large assistance, with over 150 participants present at both panels. Sacha Zala, Director of the Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland, who organized the International Conference in collaboration with the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), welcomed the audience and presented the main questions behind the symposium. Benedikt Hauser, historian and head of Education Strategy and Cooperation, SERI, presented some thoughts on the importance of editing diplomatic documents, emphasizing their importance, both for historians and for the public, for a factual approach and better understanding of the past.



The papers of the first panel analyzed «The Development of Global Governance» in the *longue durée*, so to speak, a point highlighted by panel chairwoman Blandine Blukacz-Louisfert (UNOG Library and Archives) in her introduction, who indicated that the wall paintings of the room hosting the symposium, representing the construction works of the Palais des Nations, dated from the period of the League of Nations.

In the first presentation of the symposium, «Of Concerts, Transnational Movements, and International Bureaus: Origins and Trajectories of International Governance in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century» Matthias Schulz (University of Geneva) traced back the origins of international governance to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Asserting that governance was then international, not «global» as it mainly concerned Europe, and rarely «transnational», as governments played the main or even the only role, Schulz distinguished several forms of governance in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but focused on two of them: the Concert of Europe and the Public International Unions. The cooperation of European great powers in the Concert of Europe prefigured forms of



international governance of security issues, such as the League of Nations or the United Nations. Schulz argued that the Concert successfully limited conflicts in Europe during much of the century, in some cases even against the will of a great power, unlike its more modern and institutionalized counterparts. While the Concert was concerned with war and security, the Public International Unions were a form of governance of technical and economic questions, such as railways, the telegraph or the mail. Schulz showed their growing importance in this first age of globalization, and argued that internationalism and imperialism thus both fostered the extension of the international market.

Under the title «The League of Nations or How to Hide the Effects of Global Governance», Madeleine Herren (University of Basel) emphasized the importance of the archives of the



League of Nations for documenting the history of global governance, and asked how «global» this governance actually was. She demonstrated the eurocentric nature of the rules of the administration of the League through the example of the «home leaves» to which the staff was entitled: defining a country as «home» was a difficult task for many in the interwar years, and only West Europeans got one home leave every year, the staff from other parts of the world only every two or three years. The liaison offices of the League in Asia were another case demonstrating this bias. While their role was supposed to be limited to informing the local population on health issues, the surviving documents of the Indian Office show the tensions with the General Secretariat of the League in Geneva, as the liaison office sent numerous newspaper clippings documenting local criticisms concerning European actions in India. During the Second World War, the role of the Indian Office changed once again, as it sent war intelligence hidden as apparently technical reports.





In the third presentation of the first panel, Sacha Zala (Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland), examined «Switzerland Facing Global Governance». During the interwar period, Switzerland had become an important center for international organizations, as the government had successfully competed to obtain the seat of several Public International Unions. Gaining prestige and political power from this form of internationalism, Switzerland favored the unions and the international conference over competing systems such as the League of Nations, which tried to integrate the unions, and the developing Fascist internationalism of Germany and Italy. In particular, Zala showed a statistical analysis of the participation of Switzerland in international conferences, the result of a research project led with Madeleine Herren. These conferences, regarding questions such as science, communication and traffic, nature, agriculture or labour policy, may be disregarded by some diplomatic historians, since they do not belong to the sphere of high politics. Actually, Zala argued, they demonstrate that a very large number of themes were considered a part of foreign policy: the government declined only 16% of the invitations to conferences, sending and paying experts of all kinds, including in many cases delegates from the civil society.

The discussion following the panel underlined the great differences between the situations described in the presentation and current times. One question especially reminded the audience that the day of the symposium was a day of national mourning in Italy, after the death of over 300 immigrants in the wreck of a boat in the Mediterranean Sea near Lampedusa, and emphasized that there was no international governance of migrations in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

An underlying theme of the first panel, the importance of examining closely the interests at play in international organizations, rather than seeing them as cosmopolitan arenas, was also present in the afternoon panel on «Global Governance and the United Nations System». The first speaker, Sandrine Kott (University of Geneva), in a talk entitled «L'OIT: Expertises nationales et normes sociales internationales» focused on the International Labour Organization (ILO) as a case for studying the dialectical relations between the national and international levels. While the standards developed in the ILO may appear as really transnational, Kott emphasized how much the position of the experts in their own national contexts mattered, for instance in the case of Andreas Grieser, occupying both important positions in the international committees on social insurance and



in the German Department of Labor. In a second step, she showed that the new expertise created in the international organizations needed networks to be «exported back» into the national contexts. While preexisting networks, such as the Catholic church, were very important, the organizations also tended to create their own networks, sectoral international associations, and to rely on personal relationships and contacts.



Maurice Vaïsse (Documents diplomatiques français), under the title «La France et la gouvernance globale: le rôle du représentant français au Conseil de sécurité (1970–1972)», studied the case of Jacques Kosciusko-Morizet, French ambassador and delegate to the Security Council, showing through a dense narrative how traditional diplomatic methods and national interests also matter in what might appear as the best example of «global governance», the United Nations. At the beginning of the 1970s, France had a rather good image, owing to the settlement of the decolonization disputes, but was criticized for its small contribution to multilateral help and feared losing its permanent seat in the Security Council. Vaïsse argued that Kosciusko-Morizet was instrumental in improving the situation, detailing his action through several examples, such as his initiative for a meeting with the USSR, Great Britain and the USA concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, or the little known French support for the election of the Austrian Kurt Waldheim as Secretary-General, because he was both French-speaking and francophile («francophone et francophile»).

The last speaker of the symposium, Adam Howard (Foreign Relations of the United States) focused on «Diplomacy and Discord: The United States, the United Nations, and the Arab-Israeli Dispute, 1947-1976». Howard covered in a broad





overview the years 1948 to 1977, illustrating the changing views of the United States toward the role of the United Nations in the Arab-Israeli conflicts. In 1947–1948, the UN played a major role through the Special Committee on Palestine, which proposed the partition of the territories and creation of separate states. In 1956, during the Suez Crisis, the UN also played an important role, even sending the first UN military force, an intervention that was welcomed by the US, as they needed stability in the region to guarantee the flow of oil needed for the Marshall plan. This would change after the Six-Day War in 1967 and the capture of large territories by Israel, and the United States would never thereafter give the same importance to the United Nations for settling the Arab-Israeli dispute. Howard also highlighted the changing attitude of several other key players in this conflict, for instance USSR's early support of the state of Israel.



Hans Ulrich Jost (Diplomatic Documents of Switzerland), chairman of the second panel, concluded the symposium by some thoughts on the concept of «global governance», emphasizing the many challenges that its use presents and the many limits posed to the effectiveness of international standards in the absence of a real «global government».

*Nicolas Chachereau  
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*Symposium Impressions*

**Symposium «Diplomacy and Global Governance»  
– Welcome Speech by Dr. Benedikt Hauser, Head  
Education Strategy and Cooperation, State  
Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation**

Mr Zala,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for inviting me to speak at today's conference. It is an honour for me to be facing such a prominent group of archivists, editors and historians from all over the world. It is also wonderful that you have taken the time to travel to Switzerland for this event. On behalf of SERI, which I represent, I thank you.

Allow me to begin my brief speech with a few personal recollections from the time when I was a member of the research group of the Independent Commission of Experts Switzerland – Second World War (ICE). It was around 18 years ago and I was working with my highly esteemed colleague, Marc Perrenoud, who is also here today. Among other things, the ICE was given the task of determining how various types of assets managed to reach Switzerland during the time of the National Socialist movement. We had commissioned a young historian to conduct a study and I was asked to review the first draft of the historian's report. According to that report, diplomatic relations between the USA and its allies and Switzerland had played a key role. While reading through the list of sources used for this study, I noticed that the publication *Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS)* had not been included in the bibliography. When I asked the historian about this, he gave me a slightly irritating reply: those documents were published ages ago. You don't really expect me to also trawl through them, do you? I cannot recall the answer that I gave to this historian. However, it was along the lines of: Yes, that is exactly what I expect you to do. And there are three reasons why you must do it:

1. Editions of diplomatic documents provide empirical evidence. First of all, they provide researchers with fundamental information. Secondly, they bear testimony to how the state authorities perceived events at that time. These documents are therefore an integral part of the historical heritage of the given country. Inevitably, they are also the starting point when approaching questions that may not have been of interest (and hence not asked) at the time edited sources were published.
2. Editions of diplomatic documents are also essential because they enable us to delve into historical events more efficiently, especially more recent ones. Nowadays, the lack of sources is not really a problem, the abundance of sources is a great deal of time and energy can be saved by merely applying specific criteria enabling selection of the right kinds of documents.
3. Editions of diplomatic documents are also mandatory reading because they set standards. Here I am thinking of the proper selection of sources. Series such as the one you are working on are meant to reflect best practices in the selection of sources from archives in the specific context. Sources should be listed, cross-referenced and edited to a high standard of quality. The importance of



such publications, e.g. Swiss diplomatic documents, as reference works for the historiography of our country cannot be understated.

That said, nothing would be more incorrect than to consider editions of diplomatic documents solely in terms of their importance for research. They are important for other reasons as well. More than ever, government authorities and companies must come to terms with the fact that their own histories may come back to haunt them. In the past, cases were elucidated through the expertise of federal archivists or secretaries of administrative councils, who often held the same position for years and were quite familiar with their archives. Nowadays, given the massive amount of documents as well as more frequent and rapid changes in personnel, other approaches are needed to examine accusations or claims arising from past incidents. This is not to say that editions of diplomatic documents will allow us to find workable solutions to the problems raised here. However, they continuously encourage a professional approach to official documents and provide us with the information needed to locate records and assess their relevance. They also serve as a reminder of the fact that what the public deems to be «breaking news» was actually already published a long time ago. This will certainly not eliminate the risks arising from historical events: there will always be such risks. Instead, the idea is to be aware of them and to possess both the know-how and experience needed to competently approach and deal with them.

However, editions of diplomatic documents are also important in the context of the commemoration of historical events. This year already the media are covering the start of World War I, and if we limit ourselves to the forthcoming year 2014, there will be other events being remembered such as the Geneva Convention, the opening of the Panama Canal, the first meeting of the Kennedy Round, the Pope's first visit to the holy land, the appointment of Leonid Brezhnev as General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), the Tiananmen

Square Massacre and the fall of the Berlin Wall and, as of Switzerland, the introduction of postal codes fifty years ago. I won't ask here why so much importance is being given nowadays to recalling past events. I shall limit myself to the observation that unfortunately, the practice of remembrance is also intended to serve nationalistic, partisan, ideological and purely commercial interests. It is within this context as well that editions of diplomatic documents are becoming increasingly important. While such records cannot prevent abuses, they can help to dispel myths – albeit often only a long time afterwards – and also enable discussions to remain rooted in facts.

Finally, editions of diplomatic documents also set the pace for a better understanding of one's own history. Not too long ago, both the state and the private sector found that they no longer held exclusive sovereignty over the interpretation of their own history. They had to learn to accept this circumstance and the resulting consequences. In light of this, the editing of sources solely on the basis of scientific soundness – and not merely for glorification, embellishment or trivialisation of one's own past – is becoming increasingly important in a way that is relevant to society as a whole. This requires critical scrutiny of one's own history, which – to use the words of the great German historian, Heinrich August Winkler, is «an inherent part of western culture» and hence a constitutive part of democratic societies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you can see: the work you are called upon to perform as editors of diplomatic documents is challenging in so many respects. It is not my intention to give unsolicited advice on how to go about your work. This cannot and should not be the role of the Federal Administration, which I represent. Allow me nevertheless to say that this conference and the themes covered are pioneering in my opinion.

I shall now mention four areas that I feel reinforce the central role of your activities. I intentionally mention these areas without any attempt to create a system or achieve completeness:

### **Multiple perspectives**

It is common knowledge nowadays that foreign policy is not shaped merely by foreign ministries. This has actually never been the case. I mention this fact only because it has wide-reaching ramifications that should be taken into account when writing history. Here, I would like to quote US historian Anne L. Foster who stated:

«It is time to put aside debates, ultimately foolish, about the primacy of culture or politics or economics, and to play close attention to the interwoven of those».

Undoubtedly, one of the most challenging tasks of historiographers is to not only provide an editorial review of a list of sources covering economic, cultural, scientific and foreign policy diplomacy but rather to present and analyse the various interactions between them. I am convinced that it is here that the editing of diplomatic documents offers many promising perspectives that will make your work all the more appealing.

### **International focus**

I shall share with you a second – and I promise – last recollection from my time at the former Independent Commission of Experts Switzerland – Second World War (ICE). In addition to the knowledge gained from the ICE's work, it was observed that the lack of international networking among Swiss historical researchers was one of the main reasons for the gaps in knowledge and research in this area. In the future, research into the history of international relations will no longer rely solely on sources from just one country in an attempt to satisfactorily answer questions. The pursuit and consolidation of international cooperation will therefore become more important in your field. There is no escaping this fact. In a small country such as Switzerland, if historians once again focus exclusively on national events (i.e. a re-helvetisation of Swiss history), our horizons will certainly become more narrow and the resulting sterile self-references would have fatal scientific and social policy consequences.

### **Marketing**

Like any other publication, editions of diplomatic documents must be marketed. This is true even for such world-renowned newspapers as the New York Times: being good is not enough, however, one also needs to know how to market oneself. Here I do not mean resorting to sensationalism. In a recent US TV show on Al Capone, for instance, the historian leading the broadcast placed himself behind a machine gun, had a few volleys fired and explained to the audience what it felt to be in this position. This is, of course, absurd. Nevertheless, rather than leaving things up to chance, the editing of diplomatic documents may deliberately be used also as a means of disseminating new knowledge not among historians only. In other words, both the scientific community and the general public need to become involved in an interactive and long-term communication process. The possibility of retrieving documents in digital form opens up many promising new avenues.

### **Money**

We have to say it: the editing of diplomatic documents requires a level of professionalism that comes with a certain cost. At the same time, public funding for research will be more moderate in the future, at least in Switzerland: the roughly 4.5% annual growth in research funding that we have seen over the past ten years is unlikely to continue. All the more reason to proactively address the question of how to deal with this practical constraint, particularly in light of new demands and requirements being placed on education and research policy from a wide range of different scientific fields.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Your conference has been organised as an event of international discussions among researchers, and rightly so. The Federal Administration merely limits itself to making such an exchange possible. I shall therefore quickly step back and leave the floor to you. The time available to you is limited. Thank you for your attention.





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