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Following statement being released to press today at approximately 5:30 p.m. Washington time.

QUOTE The United States Government today announced that the quadripartite conference between France, United Kingdom and the United States, and Switzerland, relating to the Swiss-Allied Accord of May, 1946 was cancelled because of the last minute imposition by the Swiss Government of a condition unrelated to the Accord which the United States Government could not accept. The conference was to have convened in Bern on June 22 at the invitation of the Swiss Government for the purpose of resolving certain long outstanding problems relating to the Accord which provides for the disposition of German enemy property in Switzerland.

The condition, which the Swiss Government advanced for the first time after the Allied delegations already had assembled in Bern, was that the Swiss Government would not carry out any agreements which might be reached with respect to outstanding problems

under the Accord unless prior and final settlement were reached on the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding between Switzerland and the United States. This Understanding relates to the

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disposition of German enemy assets in the United States in which Swiss nationals claim interests, and was the product of prolonged and intensive discussions with the Swiss ending in July, 1949. Since the Swiss Government would not proceed with the Quadripartite Conference except on its condition, the U.S. delegation had no alternative but to withdraw reluctantly from the conference. The U.S. made no commitment to renegotiate the bilateral Understanding at a later date, and no such renegotiation is now in progress. UNQUOTE.

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(J. Acheson)

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