1. From left: Zhu De, Commander-in-Chief of the People's Liberation Army, Swiss Minister Clemente Rezzonico and Nie Rongzhen, Head of PLA General Staff Headquarters and Mayor of Beijing. **2.** Mr. Zhou Enlai, Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, and Mr. Clemente Rezzonico, Minister, presumably in 1950. Switzerland first opened a legation, which became an Embassy in 1957. **3.** National Day Celebrations 1955: From left: Chairman Mao Zedong and entourage waving at crowds in Beijing. **4.** Picture of a private jurney of Fernand Bernoulli, Swiss Ambassador to China from 1954-1958. Shown in the photo is his wife and their translator.

1. 左起：中国人民解放军总司令朱德、瑞士部长 Clemente Rezzonico 和中国人民解放军总参谋部部长兼北京市市长聂荣臻。**2.** 1950 年，中华人民共和国总理兼外交部长周恩来和瑞士部长 Clemente Rezzonico 合影。瑞士率先在中国成立了公使馆，后在 1957 年正式成为驻华大使馆。**3.** 1955 年国庆节大典，毛泽东主席及其随从在天安门上向人群挥手。**4.** 瑞士驻华大使（1954-1958）Fernand Bernoulli 的私人图片。图中为他的妻子和他们当时的翻译。
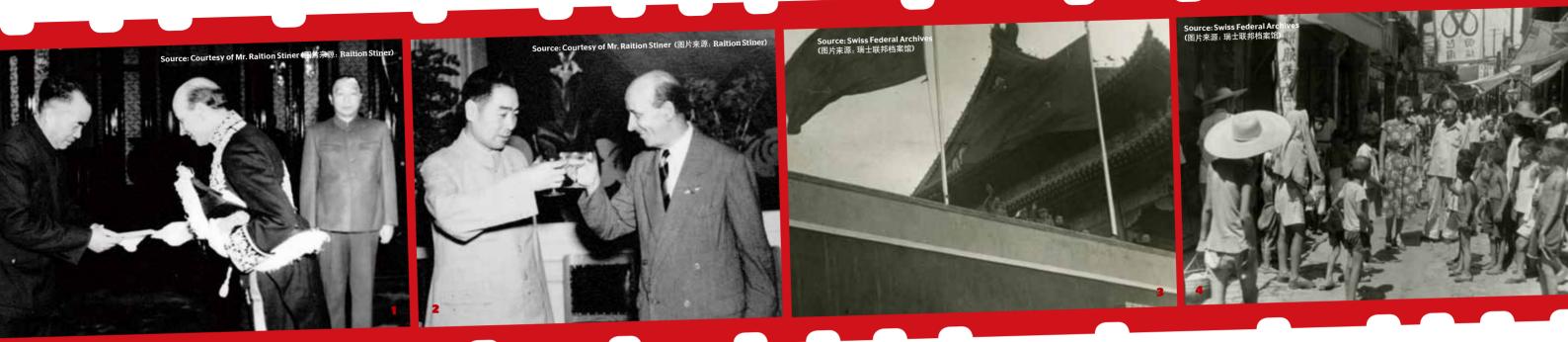
From Switzerland's early recognition of the PRC to the conclusion of a free trade agreement. A quick recall on history.

A Relationship Rich in Milestones

中瑞关系发展回顾:
从瑞士最早承认新中国到达成自由贸易协定

The signing of the FTA is only the latest of a series of milestones in the history of bilateral relations between China and Switzerland – both politically and economically. Switzerland was amongst the first countries to accept the newly found PRC and to accept China's status as a market economy. The Bridge takes a look back at some of the highlights of 64 years of diplomatic links, with a special focus on a crucial 100 days following the foundation of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Written by_ **swissinfo.ch**

On January 14th, 1950, the Swedish government sent a telegram to Zhou Enlai, China's premier and foreign minister, recognising the new state of China. Just three days later, Switzerland joined Sweden in announcing that it too recognised the newly founded PRC. Talks on diplomatic links began immediately, and on September 14th of the same year, China and Switzerland officially established a diplomatic relationship, exchanged envoys, and opened embassies in each other's capitals.

In January 1956 and April 1957, the two countries upgraded their diplomatic relations and exchanged ambassadors. Though China had been quickly recognised by the Soviet Union and the socialist states of Eastern Europe and the Balkans, Switzerland was among the first group of non-socialist European countries to establish diplomatic ties with the PRC.

US led trade ban against China

The founding of the PRC was a serious setback for the USA's international strategy of suppression of the communist bloc. The USA therefore used NATO to politically isolate China, and attempted to minimise its international influence. The USA demanded that its allies grant the PRC no more recognition than

Switzerland was among the first group of non-socialist European countries to establish diplomatic ties with the PRC

the US government did. And it blocked China's attempts to take a place in the United Nations.

Economically, the USA led a trade ban against China, and through the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (CoCom) applied complete trade sanctions to China before the PRC was even 30 days old. Because of American coercion, a startling 45 countries announced trade bans with China.

The USA continued to give military support to Chiang Kai-shek and interdicted the Taiwan Strait. It supported the South Korean government and opposition forces within South Vietnam, and encircled Beijing by signing treaties with Southeast Asian countries, Japan and Australia, and setting up 800 military bases around China, including the bases in Japan.

Shrugging off US pressure

The latest declassified records from the Chinese Foreign Ministry reveal that as early as June 1949, the USA had sent a telegram to the Swiss government warning specifically that "it would be highly inappropriate for you to recognise a communist government in Asia too soon." However, Switzerland held out against the sustained pressure from Washington, maintained its traditional policy of neutrality and autonomy in international affairs, and joined the group of nations which broke the American political blockade on China. Less than one hundred days after the founding of the PRC, Switzerland shrugged off American political pressure and recognised the young state.

The President of Switzerland Markus Feldmann (right) and Federal Councillor Max Petitpierre (left) after receipt of the letter of credence of the Chinese Ambassador to Switzerland, Feng Hsuan. Undated picture taken in Berne.

Source: Private assets of Federal Councillor Markus Feldmann (1897-1958)
（图片来源：联邦委员Markus Feldmann (1897-1958)的私人物品）

Swift talks on diplomatic relations

On January 17th, 1950, Max Petitpierre, chair of the Swiss Federal Council and foreign minister, sent a telegram to Chairman Mao stating, "Switzerland has decided to legally recognise the new China, and is prepared to establish diplomatic relations with your country." On February 6th, Petitpierre again cabled Zhou Enlai, saying that Switzerland had appointed Sven Stiner, the Swiss consul general in Hong Kong, a temporary charge d'affaires in China. On February 10th, Vice Foreign Minister Li Kenong cabled a response to Petitpierre, indicating that the Chinese government was ready to accept Stiner as the Swiss representative in discussions on establishing formal diplomatic ties, but that Switzerland must first end its diplomatic relationship with the Kuomintang (KMT).

Now that the two states had made clear their positions on establishing diplomatic relations, the Swiss were able to accelerate the process. Between May 26th and September 13th, 1950, Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Hanfu and the Swiss charge d'affaires held four rounds of talks on establishing diplomatic relations. The talks focused on two areas of the Swiss position: How would the Swiss handle existing KMT organisations in Switzerland? And how would the Swiss deal with assets in Switzerland belonging to the state of China but controlled by the KMT?

Very quickly, Switzerland developed responses to these questions. First, on the question of KMT organisations, Switzerland had in fact already broken off all relations with KMT organisations when it recognised the People's Republic of China. These organisations would automatically lose their legal status and recognition as representatives of a national government. On the issue of Chinese assets in Switzerland, given that Switzerland recognised the PRC as the only lawful government of China, all Chinese assets in Switzerland would now become the legal property of the Central People's Government of the PRC.

These responses satisfied the Chinese government, so on September 14th, the two countries issued a statement saying that they had established diplomatic relations. The first Swiss envoy to China was Clemente Rezzonico; China's envoy to Switzerland was Feng Xuan.

Switzerland was also host to China's first engagement with the international community, at the Geneva Conference in 1954. Once China began its reforms in the late 1970s, the Swiss watchmaker Rado etched its name into China's history books by becoming the first foreign company to advertise in China. Schindler, a Swiss elevator and escalator company, was the first foreign company signing an industrial joint venture with China. And the first European insurance company licensed to operate in China was also Swiss. Switzerland was also one of the first group of countries to recognise China's market economy status. The conclusion of a free trade agreement with China in 2013, as the second European country after Iceland, marks the latest highlight of a relationship that is rich in milestones.

自由贸易协定的签署是中瑞两国双边关系——包括政治关系和经济关系——发展历史上众多里程碑中的一个。瑞士是最早承认新中国和中国市场经济地位的国家之一。《桥》回顾中瑞 64 年外交联系中的亮点，着重描述 1949 年新中国成立后的关键 100 天。

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19 50 年 1 月 14 日瑞典政府致电中国国务院总理兼外长周恩来表示承认新中国，仅隔三天，瑞士也宣布承认中华人民共和国。此后，中瑞展开建交谈判并于同年 9 月 14 日两国建立正式外交关系，互派公使并在对方首都设立使馆。

1956 年 1 月和 1957 年 4 月，中瑞将双边外交关系由原来的公使级升格为大使级，并互派大使。除了前苏联和东欧及巴尔干半岛的社会主义国家外，瑞士也是最早与中国建交的欧洲国家之一。

美国带头对华实施贸易禁运

新中国成立让美国当时实施遏制社会主义阵营的国际战略遭受严重挫折。因此，政治上，美通过北大西洋公约组织孤立新中国并试图削弱其国际影响力。外交方面，美要求其盟国承认新中国必须与其保持完全一致。此外，还阻挠中国重返联合国。

经济上，美国带头宣布对华实施贸易禁运并联合 15 个西方盟国通过巴黎统筹委员会向建国不足 30 天的新中国发起全面贸易制裁。在美国逼迫拉拢下竟然多达 45 个国家对华实施贸易禁运。

军事上，美国除了继续援助蒋介石封锁台湾海峡外，还扶持当时的南韩政府以及南越内部反对势力，同时通过与东南亚国家、日本、澳大利亚等签订条约建立起针对北京的军事包围圈；其中在日本这样的军事基地就多达 800 余个。

顶着压力承认新中国

据中国外交部最新解密的档案显示，早在 1949 年 6 月美国就发出"贵国过早承认亚洲的一个共产党政权将很不适宜"的专电特别警告瑞士政府，但瑞方却多次顶住来自华盛顿的强大政治压力，秉承传统中立政策与国际事务中的自主立场，毅然加入突破美国铸就的对华封锁圈行列，并在新中国成立不足百天之际就顶着巨大压力承认 PRC。

中瑞建交谈判很顺畅

1950 年 1 月 17 日瑞士联邦政府主席兼外长马克斯·珀蒂皮埃尔（Max Petitpierre）专电毛泽东主席，"瑞士决定在法律上承认新中国并准备与贵国建交"。2 月 6 日，珀蒂皮埃尔又电告周恩来，瑞士已任命其驻香港（HK）领事泽文·施视纳（中文名）为驻华临时代办（Charge D'affaires）。2 月 10 日，李克农副外长电复珀蒂皮埃尔，在瑞士断绝与国民党关系之后准备接受泽文·施视纳为两国建交谈判的瑞方代表。

基于中瑞两国政府在建交谈判问题上展示的各自明确立场，瑞士加快了与新中国建交步伐。从 1950 年 5 月 26 日至 9 月 13 日，章汉夫副外长同瑞方代表就建交问题举行过四

轮会谈并特别关注瑞方就以下两点立场：

一、瑞方如何处置国民党留瑞机构问题；

二、瑞方如何处置国民党留存瑞士且属于中国国家资产问题。

瑞方很快就上述两个问题作出回复：

一、关于国民党政府留瑞机构问题。自瑞士承认 PRC 之日起，即在法律与事实上均已与 KMT 滞瑞机构断绝所有关系；这些机构也因此而自动丧失其地位与承认。

二、关于 KMT 滞留瑞士且属中国国家财产问题。瑞方表示，依据瑞士承认 PRC 为中国唯一合法政府之原则，KMT 滞留瑞士且属中国国家的财产理应由 PRC 中央人民政府合法继承。

基于中方对瑞方立场表示满意，故于当年 9 月 14 日两国同时发表建交公报。瑞士首任驻华公使为佐立；新中国首任驻瑞士公使为冯铉。

瑞士是最早与中国建交的欧洲非社会主义国家之一。

瑞士不仅是最早与华建交的西方国家之一，而且新中国初登世界舞台也始于 1954 年的瑞士日内瓦会议。中国实行改革开放后，瑞士雷达表集团（Rado Watch GA）争先成为在华市场打出第一家广告的外商而被记入难忘的史册；来自瑞士的"迅达电梯"（Schindler）是中国批准在华建立的首家中外合资企业；作为欧洲第一家获准在华开业的保险公司也来自瑞士。此外，瑞士还是第一批承认中国完全市场经济地位的国家之一。继冰岛之后，瑞士于 2013 年成为第二个与中国达成自由贸易协定的欧洲国家，是两国多年外交关系发展的崭新的里程碑。