



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Veleposlaništvo Švice

## ROUND TABLE

followed by a reception

### **Roots of a friendship** **25 Years of Diplomatic Relations Slovenia - Switzerland**

Tuesday, 31 January 2017 at 17:30  
Trg republike 3, Ljubljana, Conference Hall (Ground floor)

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17.30	Welcome and introductory address: Dr. Pierre-Yves FUX, Ambassador of Switzerland to the Republic of Slovenia
17.40	Round table, moderated by: Mag. Bojan GROBOVŠEK, former Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to Switzerland, President of the Slovenian Association for International Relations
17.45	Keynote address: " <b>1992: Looking back up the path</b> " <b>Dr. Dimitrij RUPEL, former Minister of Foreign Affairs</b>
18.00	Short presentations: <b>"A General and an Archbishop with Swiss citizenship"</b> - Jernej VRTOVEC, about Archbishop Alojzij Šuštar - Prof. Dr. Anton BEBLER, about General and Deputy Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia Aleš Bebler
18.20 – 18.45	Panel discussion, followed by questions of the public
18.45 – 19.45	Reception: Drinks and Swiss delicacies

Embassy of Switzerland to Slovenia  
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## SOME BILETERAL MILESTONES

- **15 January 1992** Recognition of the independence by Switzerland
- **31 January 1992** Diplomatic relations
- **19 March 1993** Opening of the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Bern (The Ambassador of Switzerland in Vienna is accredited to Slovenia)
- **23 October 2001** Opening of the Embassy of Switzerland in Ljubljana
- **1992–2010** 20 bilateral agreements signed
- **20 December 2007** Signature of the framework on the Swiss Contribution to Slovenia (part of the contribution to new EU member states)

## SOME WORKS OF INTEREST

- Bebler, Aleš, 1981: *Čez dm in strn: spomini*. Trst: Založništvo tržaškega tiska.
- Bebler, Anton, 2015: Alexius Baebler, famous internationally but not as a Swiss. *La Lettre de Penthes* 26/2015. 22–23.
- Bebler, Anton, 2004: *Knjiga o Primožu - Alešu Beblerju*. Ljubljana: Cankarjeva založba.
- Čačinovič, Rudi, 1985: *Poslanstva in poslaništva: od Rakičana do Madrida in nazaj*. Maribor: Obzorja.
- Grobovšek, Bojan, 2014: *Zakaj Slovenija ni Švica*. Tomišelj: Alpemedia.
- Jamnik, Anton in Božo Rustja, 2016: *Naš nadškof Šuštar*. Koper: Ognjišče.
- Rožanc, Mira in Anton Štrukelj, 1995: *Dr. Alojzij Šuštar, ljubljanski nadškof in metropolit*. Ljubljana: Marijina kongregacija slovenskih bogoslovcev in duhovnikov.
- Rupel, Dimitrij, 2013: *Negotovo življenje 176. članice OZN*. Ljubljana: Nova obzorja.
- Rupel, Dimitrij, 2011: *Slovenija na svetovnem prizorišču*. Ljubljana: Slovenska matica.
- Rupnik, Anton, 1987: *Švicarska čarobna formula CH*. Ljubljana: Borec.
- Vrtovec, Jernej, 2016: *Vloga nadškofa Šuštarja pri osamosvojitvi Slovenije*. Celje: Celjska Mohorjeva družba.

For more information about the relations between Switzerland and Slovenia you are welcome to consult the Embassy's webpage (<https://www.eda.admin.ch/ljubljana>) or subscribe to the Embassy's newsletter (<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/slovenia/de/home/aktuell/newsletter.html>).

DER BUNDESPRÄSIDENT  
DER SCHWEIZERISCHEN EIDGENOSSENSCHAFT

Ljubljana, 31. 1. 1992

Sehr geehrter Herr Minister

Ich beeche mich, Ihnen im Namen des Bundesrates der Schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft folgendes mitzuteilen:

Zwischen der Schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft und der Republik Slowenien werden diplomatische und konsularische Beziehungen aufgenommen. Diese Beziehungen richten sich nach den allgemeinen Regeln des Völkerrechts, wie sie im Wiener Uebereinkommen vom 18. April 1961 über diplomatische Beziehungen sowie im Wiener Uebereinkommen vom 24. April 1963 über konsularische Beziehungen kodifiziert worden sind.

Weitere Einzelheiten werden in gesonderten Vereinbarungen geregelt.

Ich schlage vor, dass dieser Brief zusammen mit Ihrem Antwortbrief eine Vereinbarung zwischen unseren beiden Regierungen bilden, die mit dem Datum Ihrer geschätzten Antwort in Kraft tritt.

Genehmigen Sie, sehr geehrter Herr Minister, die Versicherung meiner ausgezeichneten Hochachtung.

Namens und im Auftrage des  
Bundespräsidenten der Schweizerischen  
Eidgenossenschaft und Vorsteher des  
Eidgenössischen Departementes für  
auswärtige Angelegenheiten:

Jenö C.A. Staehelin

Seine Exzellenz  
Herrn Dimitrij Rupel  
Minister für auswärtige Angelegenheiten  
der Republik Slowenien

Ljubljana

4176



Republika Slovenija  
Ministrstvo za zunanje zadeve

Št.: 921-25-2096

Ljubljana, 31. januar 1992

Vaša Visokost,

V čast mi je potrditi prejem vašega pisma z dne 31. januarja 1992 o vzpostavitvi diplomatskih odnosov med našima država, katero se glasi:

"Med Švicarsko konfederacijo in Republiko Slovenijo se vzpostavlajo diplomatski in konzularni odnosi. Ti odnosi se bodo ravnali po splošnih načelih mednarodnega prava, kot so opredeljena v Dunajski konvenciji o diplomatskih odnosih z dne 18. aprila 1961 in v Dunajski konvenciji o konzularnih odnosih z dne 24. aprila 1963.

Ostale podrobnosti bodo dogovorjene posebej.

Predlagam, da to pismo skupaj z vašim odgovorom tvori sporazum med obema vladama, ki postane veljaven z dnem prejema odgovora."

Z besedilom vašega pisma, ki s tem odgovorom tvori sporazum o navezavi diplomatskih odnosov, se popolnoma strinjam.

Dovolite mi, Visokost, da vam zagotovim izraze svojega največjega spoštovanja.

Dr. Dimitrij Rupel  
Minister za zunanje zadeve

Njegova Visokost  
g. Jenö C.A. Staehelin  
posebni odposlanec  
zveznega predsednika  
Švicarske konfederacije

4176

# Archbishop Alojzij Šuštar



**Former President of the Swiss Confederation Kurt Furgler and his friend Archbishop Alojzij Šuštar**



ARCHIEPISCOPUS  
ET METROPOLITA  
LABACENSIS

YU-61001 LJUBLJANA  
P.P. 121-III

Herrn  
Dr. Kurt Furgler  
a. Bundesrat  
Dufourstr. 34  
CH-9000 St. Gallen

Lieber Kurt,

die Situation hat sich ausserordentlich stark verschärft,  
militärische Besetzung der Republik Sloweniens ist im Gange,  
die Gefahr eines blutigen Bürgerkrieges ist äusserst akut.  
Unser Angebot zum Dialog wurde mit Gewaltanwendung beantwortet.  
Bitte dringend um Hilfe!

Ljubljana, 27. Juni 1991

Alois Šuštar  
Erzbischof

Dr. KURT FURGIER  
A. BUNDESRAT

St.Gallen, 28. Juni 1991

REPUBL. CENTER ZA OBVEŠČANJE	
St. telegrana	11007
Spr. dat:	
dan	28 JUN 1991 ura 1410
Oddan:	
dan	ura
Podpis:	Mitter

TELEFAX

Mgr. Alois Sustar  
Erzbischof  
Ljubljana

Lieber Alois

In Fortsetzung unseres telefonischen Gesprächs teile ich Dir mit, dass ich Herrn Bundespräsident Flavio Cotti ersucht habe, durch die Schweizerische Regierung alles zu unternehmen, damit die Gewaltanwendung in Slowenien ein Ende finde. Auch habe ich ihm die Kopie Deines Fax zugestellt.

In Brüssel, und anschliessend in Luxemburg, habe ich die persönliche Sekretärin und später Herrn Lami, Chef de cabinet von Präsident Jacques Delors, über die Lage informiert. Die Mitteilung geht unverzüglich an Präsident Delors, der sich in der Sitzung befindet. Ich erwarte seinen Rückruf.

Auch mit Dr. Wolf, Liechtenstein, habe ich gesprochen. FL will Bemühungen mit Österreich und der Schweiz koordinieren.

Idée de manœuvre: Stop der Gewaltanwendung erste Priorität. Gleichzeitig Verhandlungsaufnahme mit Belgrad durch zu bestimmende Personen mit dem Ziel, Wege zur definitiven Befriedung in Jugoslawien zu finden.

Du kannst auf mich zählen.

*Kurt Mitter*

PS : Sonnen erhält ich  
telefonische Antwort Delors via Lami!

29. schreibt freierdelegation (3 Auswärtsminister)  
nach Jugoslawien um Kontakt aufzunehmen mit  
allen Befreiungsbewegungen.  
Kiel Grätz!

*Kurt Mitter*

# Alexius Baebler, famous internationally but not as a Swiss



**Alexius Franziskus Baebler** (1907-1981) was born in Idria, now in Slovenia, as the son of a chemistry professor and businessman. His grandfather Baltasar Baebler (1855-1930), born in Matt, Glarus, joined the wave of Swiss emigration at the age of 19, found his first job in Laibach/Ljubljana, settled and married in what was then Austro-Hungary.

By  
**Dr Anton Bebler**  
University  
of Ljubljana



Alexius' grandparents (sitting) and father (on the left) in Idria

Alexius completed his studies at the Sorbonne in Paris with a doctorate in international law. When in 1936 civil war broke out in Spain, he volunteered to defend the Spanish Republic, fought in several battles and was commissioned as a Spanish captain.

In 1941 Alexius was among those courageous Slovenians who decided to resist the fascist aggressors who had until then been victorious and became the first chief of staff of the Slovenian resistance organization. At the end of the war he was promoted to the rank of Yugoslav Major General and on May 5, 1945 became a member of the first Slovenian government.

From 1945 till 1957 he served several times as Assistant, Deputy or Acting Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia. During the Cold War, he was well-known internationally under a somewhat different name, Aleš Bebler, a brilliant diplomat. In 1949 he was appointed to serve as the first Yugoslav Permanent Representative at the Organisation of the United Nations in New York and became the first Slovenian to sit on the Security Council. *To this day, Alexius Baebler remains the only Swiss citizen to have served on and chaired the UN Security Council.*

In 1956-1957 he was the Yugoslav Ambassador to France. In 1958 he was elected to the Yugoslav Federal Assembly and until 1961 chaired its Foreign Affairs Committee. In 1962-1963 he went on to serve as Yugoslav Ambassador to Indonesia and in 1963 was elected a Justice of the newly established Federal Constitutional Court of Yugoslavia. In 1965 the government of

India appointed him to the three-member UN Arbitration Tribunal which settled a contentious part of the Indian-Pakistani border. His last official position was as a member for life of the consultative Council of Federation. In the last years of his life Alexius devoted most of his energy to the cause of fighting pollution and protecting pristine nature.

During all this time, neither the public in Yugoslavia nor the foreign officials he dealt with were aware that he also held Swiss citizenship. Although a Slovene patriot and a Yugoslav National Hero, Alexius never forgot his Swiss roots.

Alexius received the highest decorations of Yugoslavia, was honoured by France with a *Grande Croix* of the *Legion d'Honneur* and was given awards, decorations and medals by India, Ethiopia, the Holy See, Poland and Bulgaria. Alexius died in Ljubljana of a heart attack at the age of 74. There are today three statues erected in his honour in public places of three Slovenian municipalities, while several squares, streets and one public school were named after him.



**At the United Nations office in New York**

**With US President Lyndon Johnson in the White House**

