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Holy See Communiqué

This morning, on the occasion of the solemn swearing-in of the Pontifical Swiss Guard, which also commemorates the sacrifice of the 147 Swiss soldiers who fell in defence of Clement VII during the "Sack of Rome", a Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the Apostolic Palace of the Vatican between the Secretariat of State and the "Foundation for the Renovation of the Barracks of the Pontifical Swiss Guard of the Vatican".

The act was signed by His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of His Holiness, and by Mr. Jean-Pierre Roth and Mr. Stephan Kuhn, respectively president and vice president of the aforementioned Foundation. His Excellency Mr. Denis Knobel, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to the Holy See, was also present.

Although it is a non-legally binding instrument, the Protocol attests to the common will of the Parties to work, in compliance with Vatican and international law, to ensure better and environmentally friendly housing conditions for the Guards, their families and those who assist them in various ways. The works will commence at the conclusion of the 2025 Jubilee, provided that the financing of the final project is assured and the necessary authorizations are granted.