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MESSAGE FROM THE SWISS AMBASSADOR

In a few days, it will be 678 years since the men from Uri, Schwyz and Nidwald came together to sign the Charter of the Confederation, which still exists today. They thus laid the foundation stone of the building of our country, without having the slightest presentiment about the solid, manifold and superb building resulting therefrom. It is, therefore, most fitting, if on the First of August, the Swiss all over the world reflect for a few moments on this action and that in celebration the bonfires glow and the bells toll.

In New Zealand, too, half a world apart from home, we celebrate this birthday. I know that all of you, young and old, are united with our homeland, and for this I thank you. It gives me much joy that I am able to participate, if not with all groups, at least to be amongst you at four different celebrations, and so commemorate this special day with a great number of our compatriots.

With my very best wishes to you all,

MAX CORTI,
Swiss Ambassador.