

Laugh a little...

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The attitude is similar towards the Common Market. The Common Market has a philosophy which is contrary to the Swiss principles of foreign policy as they now stand. Switzerland considers that the time is not yet ripe for a united and supranational Europe. She is not prepared to join a community which works both imperfectly and heedless of immediate Swiss interests.

In all this one senses the guarded attitude of the small country afraid to be down-trodden by bigger and more influential partners in a collective organisation. It is true that small countries put more at stake than big powers when they join such an organisation. The latter still manage to remain independent and keep matters in their own hands, thanks to their sheer importance.

Probably the most valid reasons for a continuation of integral neutrality are the fruits which it has brought both to the world and Switzerland. Thanks to her staunch neutrality, Switzerland has been entrusted with an important role in the job of maintaining peace. She represents the interests of countless states and harbours innumerable peace conferences and international welfare institutions. She has gained stability and the financial confidence of other countries as a highly appreciated by-product. Switzerland can arguably play a more effective role in the fight for world peace by sticking to her special and unique neutrality. According to international law, the general behaviour of the neutral state is governed by the rule: "That it shall avoid any action which might undermine the confidence of other states in its will to remain neutral should war break out, and shall, on the other hand, do everything in its power to strengthen that confidence". Switzerland has strictly abided to this rule and other countries know it. Should this confidence in her neutrality be shaken, then it is her whole position in the world which is at stake and it explains why the heads of Swiss foreign policy have always been loathe to tamper with neutrality in any way.

Still, the world is evolving towards a situation where every nation will be a member of a large **family**. No member of a family can remain inactive in a strife which may destroy it; if family life is something worth struggling for, then the would-be members must actively strive to create it. This is why, with the world changing, the question of a renewed interpretation of neutrality will seriously come to a head. (P.M.B.)

Laugh a little . . .

A Scotsman went into a shop and asked if they sold spurs. The shopkeeper said yes and reached for a pair. Says the Scot: "I only want one spur please".

Answers the shopkeeper: "But they are always sold in pairs".

"But one is sufficient for me", says the Scot, "if I prod the horse on one side the other side will automatically run too".

—Nebelspalter.