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MORAL RE-ARMAMENT — AN IDEOLOGY ADEQUATE FOR THE ATOM AGE

“Moral Re-Armament — an ideology adequate for the atom age superior to Communism.” This was the theme of a farewell address by Brigadier von Erlach, Commander of the Eleventh Mountain Brigade, to his 900 officers in Berne recently at their last ceremonial roll-call before the regrouping of the brigade under the new Swiss Army organization.

Brigadier von Erlach spoke of the ideological war and underlined the task of Switzerland to give the world an example of a morally-rearmed democracy under God's leadership.

He quoted General Guisan, wartime Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Army who, in the foreword to the Moral Re-Armament manifesto, “Ideology and Co-existence”, said, “On the ideological place neutrality can be dangerous, for refusal to fight for what is right plays the enemy's game.”

“The history of the last 44 years,” continued the Brigadier, has taught us the clearest of lessons that an army without an ideology is already beaten before the actual battle with weapons has begun. A nation without an ideology is taken over before ever the first enemy soldier crosses the border, and a man without an ideology today will be a man without a country tomorrow.

“These are the absolute realities of the atom-war age and the age of ideologies. For a long time we have tried to ignore it, but we must look these facts in the face and decide to accept the consequences even at the cost of our lives.

“The late Professor Max Huber, former president of the International Court of Justice at The Hague and also of the International Committee of the Red Cross, impressed on us that it is not only our Christian but our constitutional duty to make Moral Re-Armament the basis of our political and social life.

“Switzerland,” added Brigadier von Erlach, “must decide between Moral Re-Armament and Communism. Moral Re-Armament is the greatest revolution of our age and time whereby the Cross of Christ will transform the world. The Cross is the centre of our flag. If it becomes the centre of our life, Switzerland will be a country morally rearmed.”

Before the officers and guests sang the national anthem, and the flag and colours were carried out, Brigadier von Erlach gave a last challenge: “The new world is only created through new men and new nations. It may cost us a lot personally. I have decided to pay the full price whatever may happen.”

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STRIKE-FREE 1961 IN SWITZERLAND

Not one strike, not even a one-day strike, was recorded in Switzerland in 1961.

Switzerland has long benefited from “industrial peace” agreements between workers and employers, but this is the first time the strike sheet has been completely clean since official records began in 1927.

The previous best year was 1957, when 71 workers in three firms struck for a total of 740 hours. The worst year was 1946, when 15,173 workers in 443 firms struck for a total of 184,483 hours.

There were 2,663 industrial disputes in Britain in 1961. As a result 3,021,000 working days were lost.

D.T.

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