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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain**

*Advisory Council:* R. J. KELLER (Chairman), GOTTFRIED KELLER (Vice-Chairman), DR. E. M. BIRCHER, O. F. BOEHRINGER, J. EUSEBIO, A. KUNZ, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

EDITED BY MRS. MARIANN MEIER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN

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## FIRST OF AUGUST — SWISS NATIONAL DAY



GASTLOSEN near  
Gstaad.  
(By courtesy S.N.T.O.)

In the preface to his book, "The Federal Government of Switzerland", George A. Coddington Jr. of Colorado University said, "If one were to choose a single word to describe the general impression that one receives upon entering Switzerland, that word would have to be 'tranquillity'." We Swiss abroad could well support this — we have all experienced the feeling of peace when, like a ship, we reach a safe harbour after a stormy passage at sea. And yet the tranquillity is deceptive. We soon realize that the economic boom which has developed since the war and which has created material security has not brought true tranquillity. One meets a feeling of unrest and dissatisfaction and one cannot help remembering Goethe's words that nothing is more difficult to bear than a series of good days. In many quarters serious attempts are being made to stem the dangers inherent in too much affluence. It is necessary to reassess our standards of values. I deliberately say "our", for we Swiss abroad are included. We may not have been affected in the same way, and from afar we have the advantage of seeing more clearly both the good and the bad in our beloved country.

But as Swiss we are tied to our compatriots at home by bonds of solidarity — the solidarity about which so much is said and written.

What is solidarity? The dictionary tells us that it means holding together; it signifies mutual dependence; it also stands for community of interests, feelings and action. For us Swiss it is expressed in our motto, "One for all — all for one". But how many of our deeds correspond to this? Are they not more often motivated by how much we can gain for ourselves without considering our neighbour? It is a fair assumption that most of us are honestly trying to live a good life without consciously hurting, harming or hindering our fellow-creatures. Many of our actions, however, cause pain and friction because we don't stop and think beforehand. But where we really fall short in our duties is by what we omit to do. And that is where our behaviour has a bearing on solidarity.

In his message to us Swiss living away from home the President of the Confederation affirms that our country counts on us to represent Swiss ideals wherever we are. Do we? In many ways, no doubt — but do we do

enough? Let us pause for a minute and examine our obligations. Many more are the tangible proofs of patriotism we could give right here within the Colony. I need only mention our Churches and Welfare Organisations. Soon we shall be called upon to play our part in the creation of a cultural and social Swiss Centre in London. Through supporting the work in the Swiss communities in Great Britain we can prove that we know the meaning of collaboration.

And what better medium have we to demonstrate our good will than the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad? Only a very small percentage of our compatriots living in Great Britain have joined it. Those who have so far stood aloof feel there is no need to join as one is hardly likely to suffer loss of livelihood through political upheaval

in this country. Where is the sense of solidarity towards our compatriots in other countries less fortunate than ourselves? How is this attitude compatible with the Swiss motto, "One for all — all for one"?

But none of us, whether a member or not, has reason to be complacent. For every one of us there is scope for further effort. Humbly we must realize on this our National Day that God has not only given us the beautiful homeland which we love but also the responsibility as human beings and patriots. May God guide us that our deeds and behaviour will be governed by the sense of unselfish devotion and loyalty without which no man (or people) can fulfil his obligations in the place where God has put him.

## MESSAGE TO THE SWISS ABROAD

By the President of the Swiss Confederation

**Botschaft des Bundespräsidenten**

**an die Schweizer im Ausland zum 1. August 1963**

Liebe Landsleute,

Der 1. August gibt uns dieses Jahr ganz besonders Anlass, uns auf die Grundlagen unseres Staatswesens zu besinnen und über seine Stellung in der Welt nachzudenken, die oft unzeitgemäss erscheinen mag. Wir müssen uns noch mehr als in der Vergangenheit anstrengen, das von den Vorfahren Ererbte zu bewahren und gleichzeitig mit den Veränderungen der heutigen Zeit Schritt zu halten. Die Bewahrung und Weitergabe all dessen, was unsere Eigenart ausmacht und uns erst die Schweiz zu unserer Heimat werden lässt, ist unsere wichtigste Aufgabe. Sie darf uns indessen nicht hindern, mit der Umwelt solidarisch zu sein und mit ihr zusammenzuwirken.

Die Schweiz ist ein Kleinstaat, der seine Existenz nur durch die unerschütterliche Hochhaltung und Verteidigung von Recht und Freiheit rechtfertigen und behaupten kann. Unsere Heimat muss dabei nicht nur auf die Inlandschweizer, sondern in ganz besonderem Ausmass auch auf die Auslandschweizer zählen können. Ihr, liebe Landsleute im Ausland, seid aufgerufen, durch Eure Einstellung und Eure Arbeit dort, wo Ihr Euch aufhaltet, die Schweiz und ihre Ideale zu vertreten. Die Schwierigkeiten, denen Ihr tagtäglich begegnet, sind zahlreich. Dadurch, dass Ihr sie mit Mut und Tatkraft überwindet, beweist Ihr Euer Schweizertum. Die Heimat ist stolz auf Euch und dankt Euch für Eure Treue.

An diesem Gedenktag übermittle ich Euch im Namen des Bundesrates und des ganzen Schweizervolkes den Gruss der fernen Heimat und wünsche Euch und Euren Familien Glück und Erfolg.

WILLY SPÜHLER,  
*Bundespräsident.*

Federal Councillor Willy Spuehler refers to the principles of Switzerland's structure and of her place in the world. The Swiss have to make even greater efforts than in the past to preserve what they have inherited, and at the same time adapt themselves to modern changes. To uphold all that is good in the make-up of the homeland is a most important task. But it must not hinder the Swiss from showing solidarity and co-operation with the world around them.

Switzerland is a small country which can only exist by relentlessly defending right and freedom. In this she

**Message du Président de la Confédération**

**aux Suisses à l'étranger à l'occasion du 1er août 1963**

Mes chers compatriotes,

Le 1er août nous offre tout spécialement cette année l'occasion de méditer sur les bases de la raison d'être de notre pays et de réfléchir à sa position dans le monde, bien que cette dernière puisse très souvent paraître inactuelle. Nous devons nous efforcer encore plus que par le passé de sauvegarder l'héritage de nos ancêtres et en même temps de maintenir le pas avec les modifications de l'heure présente. Notre tâche la plus importante est la préservation et transmission de tout ce qui constitue notre particularité et fait de la Suisse notre patrie. Elle ne doit toutefois pas nous empêcher d'être solidaire avec notre entourage et de collaborer avec lui.

La Suisse est un petit Etat qui peut justifier et soutenir son existence seulement par le maintien et la défense des principes inébranlables de justice et de liberté. Notre patrie doit donc compter non seulement sur les Suisses de l'intérieur mais aussi dans une mesure toute particulière sur ceux de l'étranger. Vous, chers compatriotes de l'étranger, êtes appelés à représenter la Suisse et son idéal là où vous vous trouvez par votre attitude et votre travail. Les difficultés que vous affrontez journellement sont nombreuses. Que vous soyez à même de les surmonter avec courage et persévérance prouve votre appartenance à ce qui est suisse. La patrie est fière de vous et vous remercie de votre fidélité.

En ce jour de commémoration, je vous apporte, au nom du Conseil fédéral et du peuple suisse tout entier, le salut de la patrie lointaine et vous adresse mes vœux de bonheur et de succès pour vous et les vôtres.

*Le Président de la Confédération:*  
WILLY SPÜHLER.

must be able to rely not only on the Swiss at home but in particular also on the Swiss abroad. President Spuehler appeals to us to represent Switzerland and her ideals by our attitude and our work wherever we may be. He says that it is by overcoming our many difficulties with courage and determination that we prove our Swiss hallmark. Our homeland, he continues, is proud of us and thanks us for our loyalty.

He concludes by transmitting in the name of the Federal Council and the whole country greetings and best wishes for happiness and success to us and our families.