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## TRADITIONAL COSTUMES OF THE 26 CANTONS OF SWITZERLAND

For those of you interested in Swiss national costumes, here is the first set of 16 photos of cute little dolls beautifully dressed in their respective costumes. The second set of photos will be printed in the next issue.

The four cultural regions of German,

French, Italian and Romansch speaking Switzerland enjoy a richly varied tradition in folklore costumes. Today in all parts of the country there are more than 500 different costumes worn on holidays, Sundays and even weekdays: a living testimony to a beautiful, colour-

ful tradition. The preservation of costumes, folk dances, folk songs and local traditions is the major emphasis of the National Federation of Swiss Costumes and its 30.000 members.



### MONEY FROM PLATES

In New Zealand we have personalised number plates on which the government makes a bit of extra money, and if you are so inclined, you can also sell your plate at regular auctions for a sizeable profit if you are lucky.

In Solothurn, the local government has gone a step further. It itself offers certain easy to remember number plates for auction and collects the proceeds

from these sales, an unconventional move to try to reduce its deficit.

But unlike New Zealand where a personalised plate only costs some NZ\$300, the canton of Solothurn has set a minimum price of 10,000 SFR for a one digit number plate whilst the minimum bid for a 4 digit plate would still be 2,500 SFR. At these prices, you will run the risk that your car might get stolen for the value of its number plate rather than for the car itself.

### DIALING PROBLEMS

The opening up of competition in the telecommunication field is creating unusual problems for the PTT.

One effect is that the information number 111 may have to be replaced by a seven digit number since the present long standing arrangement gives the PTT an unfair advantage over its competitors who must use regular 7 digit numbers.