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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Swiss Government has announced details of the federal budget for 1958, which provides for an expenditure of 2,267 million francs (£184 m.) and a revenue of 2,715 million francs, thus leaving an estimated surplus of 448 million francs. Defence expenditure is estimated at 897 million francs, 190 million francs more than in the previous year.

Expenditure on armaments, 143 million francs higher than the 1957 figure, will be increased by the purchase of military equipment, training aircraft, and helicopters. It is possible that the higher pay for the Army recently voted by Parliament, the purchase of new fighters and bombers, and the cost of some land bought in the Bernese Jura for use as a training ground for armoured cars may increase the estimates by a further 200 million francs.

Customs receipts for the month of September 1957 totalled 75 million francs, of which the Confederation received the amount of 53.2 million francs or 1.1 million frs. less than in September 1956. For the first nine months of the current year the receipts amounted to 524.0 million francs or 38.7 million frs. more than during the same period in 1956.

The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Ludwig Schnurenberger, at present Director of the Aarau Postal District, to the Basle Postal District, in the same capacity.

Monsieur Hermoz Gharib, the newly appointed Ambassador of Iran, has presented his credentials to Dr. H. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

The Federal Council has raised the Swiss Legation in Indonesia to the status of an Embassy, and the Minister, Monsieur Sonderegger to the rank of Ambassador.

### Cantonal

The electric power station at the "Sarner Aa" (Ct. Obwalden) was recently inaugurated; its cost amounted to 6.3 million francs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. sc.tech. Werner Karrer, chief engineer of the "Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon", has been elected Director of the "Zentral-Schweizerischen Technikum" Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

Watches of great value were stolen from the show-window of a jewellers' establishment at the Spitalgasse in Berne. [A.T.S.]

A training plane of the "Rettungsflugwacht" crashed on the "Oberen Stein" glacier; three of the passengers were injured, and a fourth, Mr. Guenther Erzinger (28), teacher of gymnastics at the "Humanistischen Gymnasiums" Basle, was killed. [A.T.S.]

Madame Maria Wuethrich-Blaser of Bowil (Ct. Berne) has celebrated her 102nd birthday. [A.T.S.]

Burglars entered the premises of the "Roulements à Bulles, S.A." in Bulles, and after breaking two safes open escaped by car with a sum of 27,500.—francs. [A.T.S.]

Dr. med. and jur. E. Schifferli of Fribourg has been nominated an honorary Professor of the University of Madrid. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Jur M. Bernstein has been elected a judge at the Appeal Court Basle. [A.T.S.]

## Xmas Greetings

Following former years' practice we propose to publish again in our December issue a collective greeting.

The high costs of Xmas cards, should induce many of our subscribers to make use of this facility to extend to their friends the compliments of the season.

Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Friday, November 22nd, 1957, together with remittance for 10/-.