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SWISS NATIONAL DAY 1st AUGUST 1968

Botschaft des Bundespräsidenten an die Auslandschweizer anlässlich des Bundesfeiertages 1968

Liebe Mitbürgerinnen und Mitbürger im Ausland,

Die diesjährige Bundesfeier gibt uns einmal mehr Gelegenheit, über die besondere Bedeutung des 1. August nachzudenken. Sie lädt uns ein, die Grundsätze der direkten Demokratie und des Föderalismus, die den Weg der Schweiz durch Jahrhunderte bestimmt haben, mit der Gegenwart und einer ungewissen Zukunft zu konfrontieren.

Der Bundesrat hat in einem Bericht an die Eidgenössischen Räte dargelegt, wie er diese Grundsätze in der Legislaturperiode 1968/71 anzuwenden beabsichtigt. Es ist dies das erste Mal in unserer Geschichte, dass die Regierung die Richtlinien der Politik, die sie während einer relativ langen Periode befolgen wird, vorzeichnet und veröffentlicht.

Das Verfahren, das damit eingeschlagen wird, ist zwar neu; allein, in ihren Grundsätzen und Zielen bleibt die schweizerische Politik die gleiche. Der Bericht schildert deren Anpassung an die wechselnden Bedingungen einer in ungestümer Bewegung sich befindenden Welt und Zivilisation; ferner legt er Prioritäten für jene zahlreichen Aufgaben fest, welche die Schweiz zu erfüllen hat, um ihre Unabhängigkeit zu erhalten, die Freiheit und die Rechte ihrer Mitbürger zu schützen und das allgemeine Wohlergehen zu fördern.

Diese Aufgaben stellten sich unserem Lande seit seinem Bestehen. Sie sind, wie schon in der Vergangenheit, schwierig, und es scheint, dass sie morgen noch komplexer sein werden. Sie erfordern namentlich eine enge Zusammenarbeit all jener Menschen, die sich in der Sorge um des gemeinsame Wohl vereinen. Des weiteren verlangen diese Aufgaben einen offenen Geist, der fähig ist, die Auswirkungen des wissenschaftlichen und technischen Fortschrittes sowie der ständig voranschreitenden, gegenseitigen Durchdringung der Wirtschaftsräume, Kulturen und sozialen Entwicklungen zu verstehen.

Liebe Mitbürgerinnen und Mitbürger, es besteht kein Zweifel, dass Sie, als Schweizer im Ausland, an der Erfüllung dieser Aufgaben mithelfen können durch die Rolle, die Sie in Ihrem Aufenthaltslande spielen und dank den Beziehungen, die Sie mit Ihrem Mutterlande aufrechterhalten. In einer Zeit der internationalen Verflechtung und Zusammenarbeit stellen Ihre Erfahrungen, Ihre Meinungsäußerungen und Ihre Ratschläge einen unersetzbaren Beitrag dar.

Im Namen des Bundesrates danke ich Ihnen für die Treue, die sie unserem Lande unaufhörlich bezeugen, und freue mich, Ihnen und Ihren Angehörigen meine aufrichtigen Glückwünsche übermitteln zu dürfen.

WILLY SPÜHLER,
Bundespräsident.

Message du Président de la Confédération aux Suisses de l'étranger à l'occasion du 1er août 1968

Chers compatriotes de l'étranger,

La célébration de notre fête nationale nous donne une fois de plus l'occasion de méditer sur le sens tout particulier de cette date pour notre pays. Cet anniversaire nous

invite à mettre à l'épreuve du présent et d'un avenir inconnu les principes de démocratie directe et de fédéralisme qui ont jusqu'ici tracé la voie séculaire de la Suisse.

Ces principes, le Conseil fédéral a exposé dans un rapport aux Chambres comment il entendait les appliquer au cours de la législature 1968/1971. C'est la première fois dans notre histoire que le gouvernement trace les grandes lignes de la politique qu'il suivra pendant une période relativement longue.

Si la procédure est nouvelle, les principes sont permanents et la politique suisse reste constante. C'est donc son adaptation aux conditions changeantes d'un monde et d'une civilisation en mouvement rapide qui est exposée, de même que l'ordre de priorité à donner aux multiples tâches que nous devons remplir pour maintenir l'indépendance de la patrie, protéger la liberté et les droits des confédérés et accroître la prospérité générale.

Ces tâches ont été celles de notre pays tout au long de son histoire. Elles étaient difficiles autrefois, elles le restent aujourd'hui et il semble qu'elles le seront plus encore demain. Elles exigent en premier lieu une étroite collaboration de tous les milieux, unis dans le souci du bien commun; en outre, elles réclament un esprit ouvert, capable de comprendre les répercussions du progrès des sciences et des techniques ainsi que de l'interpénétration toujours plus marquée des économies, des cultures et des développements sociaux.

Vous voyez par là que les Suisses de l'étranger peuvent contribuer à l'accomplissement de ces tâches par le rôle qu'ils jouent dans leur pays de résidence et grâce aux contacts qu'ils conservent avec la mère patrie. A l'époque de l'interpénétration et de la collaboration internationale, leurs expériences, leur voix, et leurs suggestions constituent un apport irremplaçable.

Au nom du Conseil fédéral, je vous remercie de la fidélité que vous ne cessez de témoigner à notre patrie et je suis heureux de pouvoir vous adresser mes vœux les plus sincères pour vous et les vôtres.

WILLY SPÜHLER,
Président de la Confédération.

Messaggio del Presidente della Confederazione agli Svizzeri all'estero in occasione del primo agosto 1968

Cari compatrioti all'estero,

La celebrazione della festa nazionale ci è una volta di più l'occasione per meditare il significato particolare che questa data ha per il nostro paese. L'anniversario ci invita a verificare se i principi della democrazia diretta e del federalismo che hanno sin qui tracciato la via secolare della Svezzeria siano validi anche per il presente e per l'avvenire ancora incerto.

Il Consiglio federale ha esposto in un rapporto alle Camere federali come intende applicare questi principi nel corso della legislatura 1968/1971: per la prima volta nella storia svizzera il governo stabilisce le linee della politica che seguirà durante un periodo relativamente lungo.

Se la procedura è nuova, i principi sono duraturi e la politica svizzera permane costante. Nel rapporto è esposto piuttosto il suo adattamento alle mutevoli condizioni di un mondo e di una civiltà in continua evoluzione e nello stesso tempo l'ordine di priorità da assegnare ai

molteplici compiti che dobbiamo assolvere per salvaguardare l'indipendenza della patria, proteggere la libertà e i diritti dei confederati e accrescerne la prosperità generale.

Questi compiti sono sempre stati propri al nostro paese lungo tutto il corso della storia. Erano ardui nel passato, lo sono tuttora e sembra che lo saranno ancor più domani. Essi esigono in primo luogo una stretta collaborazione di tutti gli ambienti uniti da un unico impulso, quello della ricerca del bene comune; essi richiedono inoltre uno spirito aperto, atto a rendersi conto delle ripercussioni del progresso scientifico e tecnico e altresì della compenetrazione sempre più evidente delle economie, delle culture e degli sviluppi sociali.

Gli Svizzeri all'estero possono contribuire ad assolvere questi compiti grazie alla posizione che essi occupano nel paese di loro residenza e ai contatti che hanno conservato con la madre patria. Nell'epoca della compenetrazione e della collaborazione internazionale la loro esperienza, i loro desideri e i loro suggerimenti costituiscono un apporto insostituibile.

A nome del Consiglio federale Vi ringrazio della fedeltà che non cessate di testimoniare alla patria: sono felice di poterVi rivolgere gli auguri più sinceri per Voi e per le Vostre famiglie.

WILLY SPÜHLER,
Presidente della Confederazione.

Extract from the Federal Pact of 1291

In the Name of God, Amen.

It is honourable usage serving the common good that leagues and contracts which further peace and quiet, shall be confirmed by letter and seal.

Therefore, it shall be made manifest to everyone that, in view of the dangers (the evil) of the times, the men of the Land of Uri and the Valley Communes of Schwyz, as well as the men of Unterwalden, the Lower Valley, have promised allegiance to one another in order to protect themselves and their possessions and to defend their rights, to assist one another with succour, counsel and furtherance, with body and estate, with all vigour and full dedication, within the valleys and outside, against all and individuals who would use force against them or any one of them, who would cause offence or would act maliciously against body or estate.

And each Valley Commune has pledged the other, to assist it in an emergency against wilful attack and to revenge the injustice thus inflicted, even at their own cost and peril.

And they have solemnly vowed this with their hands raised in oath and without mental reservation, and thus they have renewed with this instrument the ancient League by Oath of the Confederates from the three valleys.

Nevertheless, every inhabitant who is liable for service to a master, shall be subservient according to his station and serve him as is befitting.

But we have also vowed by common decision and with one accord decreed that we recognise in our valleys no Judge nor even receive him, to whom the office has been given for money or money's worth or who is not our compatriot or a resident of the valleys.

Should strife break out amongst the Confederates, then the most experienced among them shall meet and settle the dispute justly. And whichever part scorns the arbitration, shall be opposed by the other Confederates.

Everyone has to obey the Judge of his Valley, or else he has himself to name a Judge in the Valley to whom he is legally bound. If, however, one opposes his judgment and consequently harm accrues to a Confederate, all the allies are held to compel the recalcitrant to make amends.

Should, however, war or discord have arisen among the individual Confederates, and one part of the combatants refuses to recognise the federal judgment or to make amends, it is the duty of the remaining allies to protect the other part. These decisions written and decreed for the common good, shall, God willing, last eternally. And as a record, this Federal Instrument has been drawn up at the request of the above-mentioned Valley Communes and been properly provided with the seals of the three mentioned Communes and Valleys.

Delivered in the year of our Lord 1291, at the beginning of the month of August.

SWISS FOLKLORE

The Unspunnen Festival of 1968

Not far from Interlaken, at the hamlet of Unspunnen, the first herdsmen's festival took place on 7th August 1805. A newly mown meadow, bounded on three sides by gentle slopes, constituted "a natural amphitheatre, in which around 10,000 people, without crowding one another", could watch the whole performance while remaining seated. The success of this event, which was also attended by the Zurich poet Martin Usteri, was so great that it was repeated three years later. Over 560 guests at that time found accommodation at Interlaken and in its vicinity, all arrangements being made by the painter Franz Niklaus König, a man who might be well regarded as the worthy predecessor of present-day managers of travel associations. It was König, too, who preserved for us a record of the occasion in his sketches and paintings. In 1905 awards amounting to 40 silver *Taler* went to the victors in the games, to wrestlers and shot-putters, marksmen, alphorn performers, crack flag tossers, singers both men and women. To this day, the same 184-pound granite stone it still in use in the games of Unspunnen as was used by the shot-putters of 1805. In the guest list of the second herdsmen's festival of 1808, we find the name of the brilliant Madame de Stäel, as well as the painter Madame Vigée-Lebrun, to whom we owe a charming picture of the Second Unspunnen Festival. The photos on the front page were taken at the last Unspunnen Festival.

In commemoration of these herdsmen's festivals, Interlaken is again organising, in the late summer of 1968, an Unspunnen Festival. It will be opened by a festival play by Hans Rudolf Hubler, with music by Robert Blum, which will have its première on the evening of 29th August at the Tell Festival Theatre at Interlaken. (Other performances on 30th and 31st August, as well as on 1st, 2nd, 6th, 7th, and 8th of September). On the last Sunday of August, there will be a folk dance festival assembling around 1,500 people wearing traditional folk costumes. The following Sunday (1st September) will be devoted to the Alpine competitions, divine services, a great parade (3,000 participants) and a festival production at Unspunnen. Once again, an Unspunnen *Taler* will commemorate, for participants and visitors alike, a folk festival which, as long ago, takes place on a meadow dominated by the Jungfrau, the wooded ridges above the Lutschine and also the ruins of a medieval castle.

[S.N.T.O.]