

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Band: - (1975)
Heft: 1703

Rubrik: Official coummunications

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Official Communications

1st January 1975

Address by Mr Pierre Graber, President of the Confederation

Dear Fellow-Citizens;

In bringing you the traditional greetings of the Federal Council, may I suggest that together we ask ourselves some questions about what is awaiting us in 1975.

The year that has just ended will be remembered as the one in which our most profound assumptions were called in question. Many illusions have been dispelled, many habits of life disturbed and even seemingly established certainties have been shaken. Many Swiss, on peering into the future, can hardly escape a feeling of anxiety. But what is the use of seeing things as they really are if we remain passive spectators? That is why the self-examination to which I am inviting you must result in the will to face up to things.

Let us not deceive ourselves: what is being put to the test today is our very sense of social responsibility; the equilibrium of our economy

and of our finances; the ability of our institutions to master the situation; in short, our image in the world.

A year ago, in similar circumstances, my predecessor reminds us that «twenty years of economic boom have scarcely developed our community spirit». Alas, how right he was! Throughout the prosperous period of expansion that we have just experienced the unequal distribution of profit in fact gave rise to competition too often marked by private interest or lack of thought for the future. But today it is sacrifices that we are going to have to share. Everyone – and I want to stress this – will have to play his part. To get out while the going is good, to rely on others, to cling to outdated corporate privileges, is not only to display blind selfishness, it is to aim a blow at the public well-being and, indeed, at the interests of all. Every time social justice is impaired it is the

democratic ideal itself that is attacked, for liberty without justice is, of course, an empty word. It is no bad thing, I believe, to remember this on the threshold of a year in which many fateful decisions will have to be made.

In economic matters we are faced, above all, with a choice of priorities. In this connexion some people see the struggle against inflation as conflicting with the maintenance of full employment. This is a false dilemma. For if we do not succeed in stifling inflationary forces, or at the very least in containing them within tolerable limits, we expose to certain danger our whole economy and thereby the stability of employment. It is the countries with galloping inflation that in the long run show the highest unemployment rates. In other words, inflation, very far from favouring full employment durably, on the contrary jeopardizes it sooner or later. That is why efforts to maintain a high degree of employment cannot mean relaxing in the fight against inflation. Besides all this, there is the human dimension: profoundly demoralizing, unjust and brutal in itself, this same inflation threatens to ruin, if we are not careful, the whole edifice of our social welfare. For all these reasons the struggle against inflation must remain the overriding priority. But this, of course, presupposes that all concerned realize that their own interest require them to moderate their demands, since the sacrifices must be in proportion to everyone's means.

It is not only our economic and social equilibrium that is at stake, but also – and I cannot emphasize this too strongly – the normal functioning of our institutions of direct democracy. This practice, of which we have always been so

The federal authorities in 1975:

President of the National Council:
President of the Council of States:
President of the Confederation:
Vice-President of the Federal Council:
Chancellor of the Confederation:
President of the Federal Court:
President of the Federal Insurance Court:

Simon Kohler
Heinrich Oechsli
Pierre Graber
Rudolf Gnägi
Karl Huber
Pierre Cavin
Theodor Bratschi

Composition of the Federal Council and allocation of departments:

Political Department:
Department of the Interior:
Department of Justice and Police:
Military Department:
Department of Finance and Customs:
Department of Public Economy:
Department of Transport, Communications and Energy:

Pierre Graber
Hans Hürlimann
Kurt Furgler
Rudolf Gnägi
Georges-André Chevallaz
Ernst Brugger
Willi Ritschard

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proud, is based on the sense of responsibility and civic maturity of us all, as well as on the spirit of federal solidarity. You proved this on 20th October last, even if the 8th December came to cast a certain shadow on the picture. If tomorrow, by misfortune, our popular consultations should degenerate into settlements of accounts and become the battlefield of selfish conflicts, this would soon mean the end of a system which has given our political life its unique character.

Assuredly, our image in the world would suffer. That would also happen if we did not play our part in efforts for solidarity at world level. Indeed, no one would accept that our internal difficulties might excuse us from such efforts: the effort of understanding, first of all, and then of participation in the major undertaking of our time, which consists in giving support to – that is to say, guiding towards development – between one and two thousand million people deprived of the things we have in abundance. First of all, it is of course a matter of our bounden duty of human solidarity, but it is not that only, it is also a question of promoting universal prosperity which, in the end, is essential to our own. It means, finally, working for world peace. Neither of these

is reconcilable with enormous differences in living standards. Like progress, prosperity and peace are indivisible. We assess their chances and their risks without illusions, but also without defeatism or resignation. The essential thing is that, true to our permanent neutrality, we should remain prepared to assume our international responsibilities in the spirit of open-mindedness and impartiality in spite of all the upheavals and all the vicissitudes.

Dear fellow-citizens, justice in the social sphere, reciprocal moderation in the economic sphere, responsibility in the political sphere, clear-sighted generosity in the external sphere – it is these I have in mind in wishing each and every one of you a very happy New Year.

Important notice to Swiss nationals residing abroad affiliated with the Voluntary Old-Age / Survivors' and Disability Insurance Scheme (AHV/IV in German and AVS/AI in French)

The Swiss Compensation Office, CH 1211 Geneva 14, herewith informs Swiss nationals enrolled in the Voluntary AVS/AI Insurance Scheme that, due to particular

circumstances, there will be some delay before Swiss diplomatic and consular missions will be in a position to indicate the amount of contributions due for 1975.

Swiss Broadcasting Corporation

(European and Overseas Services)

Do you know that the SBC's European and Overseas Services have daily broadcasts in seven languages (English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic)?

Do you know that there is a programme guide for each language giving you the exact information on the transmissions for your reception area?

Do you know that the programme guides are available free of charge simply by sending back the reply coupon below?

Fill in this reply coupon and send it to the
Swiss Broadcasting Corporation
(European and Overseas Services)
Giacomettistrasse 1
CH-3000 Berne 15
(phone number: 031 44 66 44)

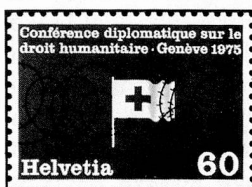
Special Stamps I/1975, Day of issue 13.2.1975



100 years of the International Meter Convention



Woman's Year



Diplomatic Conference on Humanitarian International Law in Geneva



Aviation and space travel in the Museum of Transport and Communications in Lucerne

Please send me your programme guide in

(indicate the language preferred!)

Name: _____

Chr. name: _____

Age: _____

Complete address: _____

Street: _____

Village: _____

Country: _____

Special communications: _____

Official Communications

Swiss Holiday Pass

The magic formula for trouble-free holidays
Free travel by rail, boat and postal motorcoach
No fixed itineraries

What is the Swiss Holiday Pass?

It's your own personal travel document enabling you to travel freely round Switzerland, using whichever form of transport you prefer – rail, boat or postal coach. In addition, many mountain railways and aerial cableways offer you reductions of up to 50 per cent.



What is the cost of the Swiss Holiday Pass?

	2nd Class (in Swiss francs)	1st Class (in Swiss francs)
For 8 days	100.–	140.–
For 15 days	140.–	195.–
For 1 month	195.–	275.–

Children between six and sixteen years of age pay half these rates.

Who is entitled to a Swiss Holiday Pass?

Anybody domiciled outside Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. All kinds of people find it invaluable – holidaymakers, businessmen, railway enthusiasts, amateur photographers, lovers of art and history, ramblers and even motorists wanting to give their car a rest.

Where do you get the Swiss Holiday Pass?

Outside Switzerland at branches of the Swiss National Tourist Office and at all major travel agencies supplying railway tickets.

Swiss National Tourist Office
Swiss Center
1, New Coventry Street
London W1V 3HG
☎ 01-734 1921

Swiss National Tourist Office
The Swiss Center
608 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10020
☎ 212/757-5944

Swiss National Tourist Office
Commerce Court West
P.O.B. 215
Toronto/Ontario M5L 1E8
☎ 416/868-0584

In many non-European countries, Swissair offices sell vouchers for the Swiss Holiday Pass. In addition, visitors from countries lacking a Holiday Pass issuing centre may obtain this pass at the following railway information offices in Switzerland:

Zürich Airport, Genève Airport, Zürich HB, Genève-Cornavin, Basel SBB, Bern, Lausanne, Luzern, Montreux.

The Holiday Pass does not require a photograph, but merely bears your passport or identity card number.

And now... bon voyage and happy days with your Swiss Holiday Pass!

Swiss Railways, Boat and Postal Coach Services



Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



A picture of the Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad



Assembly of the Swiss Abroad 1975: 29th to 31st August in Basle

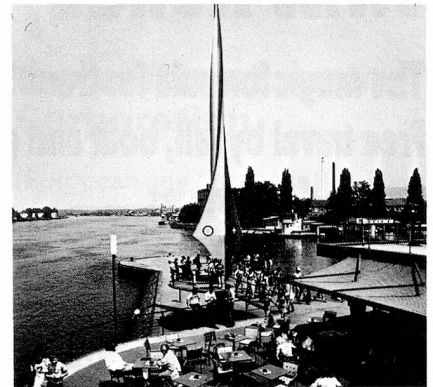
This year it is the turn of Basle. The Swiss abroad will meet in this town from 29th to 31st August.

Theme of the Plenary Session: «The Swiss abroad as bearer of Swiss culture».

We hope that you will reserve the date for your holidays in Switzerland and are looking forward already now to welcoming you in Basle.

Meeting of Swiss Abroad at the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle

This year's gathering takes place on 18th April in Basle. In 1974, approximately 200 Swiss from many countries, even Australia, took part in this traditional function.



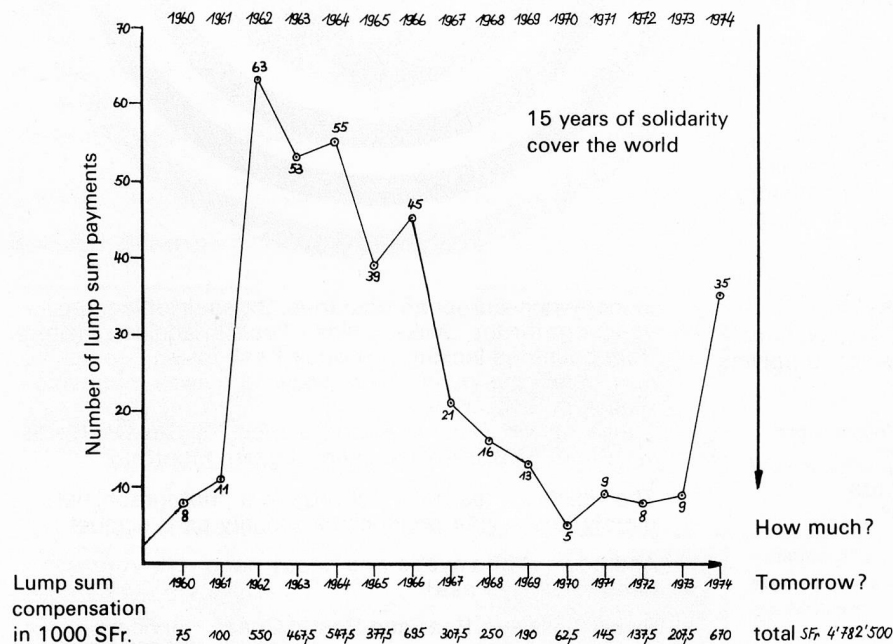
The monument of the three frontiers. ONST

We hope that this year, too, we may welcome you in Basle in large numbers. The latest date for applying has been fixed for 1st April 1975, and may we ask you to send the coupon below to the following address:

Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26
CH 3000 Berne 16

Tickets for admission will be handed to you free of charge at the main entrance of the Industries Fair. The cost of lunch is borne by the participants.

Lump sum



All information from Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad, Gutenbergstrasse 6. CH-3011 Berne

Name: _____

Christian name: _____

Address: _____

Number of admission tickets required: _____

Number of persons taking part in the special lunch: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____