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Switzerland from Day to Day

11th October

In connection with the Middle-East conflict, the Federal Council declared that Switzerland, true to her humanitarian tradition, would do everything in her power to promote the activities of the International Red Cross Committee.

For the first time in Switzerland, two heart specialists in Lausanne fitted a heart pace-maker to a woman patient, which works on a battery producing nuclear energy rather than on an electric battery.

12th October

Italy decided to stop oil exports to non-members of the Common Market, especially Switzerland.

15th October

Federal Councillor Brugger presented the draft of a Bill about housing promotion. The proposed legislation would allow a reduction of 20, 30 or 40% of individual rents.

16th October

In order to increase the agricultural yield in mountainous regions, proposals were sent to the cantonal authorities. According to the draft law, there would be an increase in subsidies of between 20 and 25%.

The Medical Association of Schaffhausen decided to forgo an increase in the scale of charges in order to make a concrete contribution in the fight against the ever increasing cost of living.

18th October

The Federal Council decided to take in up to 200 Chilean refugees, regardless of whether they were Chilean nationals or not.

20th October

In Rome, the decisive match in Group 6 qualifying for the World Cup final, ended in a victory 2:1 for the Italians.

22nd October

Miss Agnes Wyss has been appointed station mistress of Kanderstag, the first woman in Switzerland in such a post.

23rd October

The training school for future seamen was opened in Basle. It will allow for a more secure intake of sailors in the *Rheinschiffahrt* (navigation of the Rhine).

Mr. Kurt Schmid, the 53 year-old Manager of Swissair in South America, was kidnapped at his office in Buenos Aires.

24th October

45,000 litres of oil escaped from a tank and flowed into the Allondon. It has been estimated that 80% of small plants and animals have been destroyed.

The Social Democratic Party decided to launch an Initiative for wealth tax.

25th October

The European Master Hairdressing Championships, organised by the Swiss Master Hairdressers' Association, took place in Lausanne (three days).

The kindergarten of Nestlé's in Lausanne, originally planned as a model, is to be enlarged to fill the need of present social conditions.

The 21st Exhibition of Domestic Science opened in Geneva.

26th October

The Zurich Medical Association stated its position in the fight against air pollution. It emphasised the urgent need to reduce the exhaust fumes so detrimental to health.

Franz Weber, untiring defender of the environment, spoke against a motorway connecting the lower parts of Lausanne to Ouchy.

A Constitutional Initiative was presented advocating "total" segregation between Church and State.

27th/28th October

The Albert Schweitzer Gold Medal was awarded to the Swiss nurse Rahel Steingruber. Mrs. Steingruber has been working for 20 years at Matto-Grosso, Brazil.

The National Film Museum, founded 30 years ago in Basle, celebrated its 25th anniversary of its transfer to Lausanne.

31st October

On the occasion of the opening ceremony of the Evangelical Reformed Church Synod in the Canton of Vaud, two women ministers were ordained for the first time in Vaud.

5th November

Approximately 40,000 people went to Avenches to say farewell to the Swiss Cavalry. Its abolition had been decided by the Federal Military Department and Parliament.

7th November

Zurich qualified for the Cup of the Cup Champions against Malmö, 1:0 in the first match, 0:0 in the second. Basle qualified for the Europa Cup of the Champion Clubs.

8th November

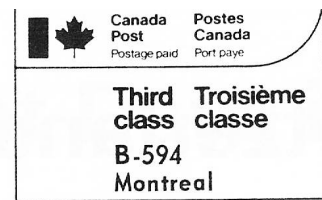
A sarcophagus from Merovingian times was discovered in the foundation of a seventh-century church at Courtételle.

13th November

The Board of the Olympic Committee decided to entrust the Swiss Company "Chronométrage SA" with the official time-keeping at the Olympic Games in Montreal in 1976.

14th November

After the Federal Council had appealed to the population to save fuel oil, it introduced a speed limit of 100 km/h on all motorways as from 17th November.



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15th November

The following films by the Condor Company, Zurich, were awarded prizes and special mention at foreign film festivals: "Luft zum Leben" ("Air for Living"), "Ski for You", "Schweizer Coner CA-11", as well as the propaganda film which Condor have offered to UNICEF.

19th November

In the preliminary round for the football World Cup 1974, Switzerland was beaten by Turkey at Izmir. Thus Switzerland has lost the second place in the final classification.

20th November

The Federal Council decided to increase the old and new pensions under the AHV/IV by 25% as from 1st January, 1974. On the other hand, the Federal Council declared that the Confederation could not carry the cost of a 13th-month payment.

Swissair announced that the Manager of Swissair South America, Mr. Kurt Schmid, who had been kidnapped in Buenos Aires on 23rd October, had been released. The amount of ransom money paid was not disclosed.

30th November

Unexpectedly strong snowfall prevented road, rail and air traffic from functioning normally in many parts of the country.

3rd December

The following four federal decrees were accepted by the Swiss electorate: Price control, wages and profits, limitation of credits, stabilisation of building, and limitation of tax write-offs. The new Constitutional Article regarding protection of animals was also accepted.

6th December

Three new Federal Councillors were elected, Messrs. Willi Ritschard, Hans Huerlimann and Georges-André Chevallaz.

10th December

Mr. Leo Schuermann – nicknamed "Mr. Price" – resigned his office as controller of wages, prices and profits.

It was announced that the Technical College of Winterthur would celebrate its centenary in the autumn of 1974. Celebration festivities would take place from 8th to 10th December. The organising committee hopes to welcome a large number of former students.

16th December

After the first round in football, the clubs were placed as follows: 1) Zurich with 22 points, 2) Neuchâtel, 18 points, 3) Lausanne, 17 points, 4) Servette, 16 points, 5) Grasshoppers, 15 points, 6) Winterthur, 14 points.

26th December

Fritz Chervet beat the Italian Atzori in Zurich, by a knock-out in the seventh round. This victory again made him European fly-weight champion. There were 10,500 spectators.

28th December

Ice-Hockey: Switzerland beat Norway 5:4 in Oslo.

2nd January

In the second ski jumping competition of the *Vierschanzentournee*, Walter Steiner beat the East-German Aschenbach, and Walter Schmid finished fourth.

The Swiss gymnasts' group won the second competition of their American tour:

7th January

Roland Colombin – now nicknamed "Super Bomb" – gained victory for Switzerland in the Garmisch descent, the first of the season. Bernhard Russi was in seventh place.

In the Ladies' Giant Slalom at Pfronten, the Swiss, Lise-Marie Morerod, reached the excellent second place behind the Canadian Kathy Kreiner.

8th January

It was announced that an average fare increase of 12.9% would be introduced on Swiss Federal Railways, on private licensed railways and private railways.

9th January

A young Swiss, Marianne Jaeger, 18, achieved a surprising fourth in the special slalom race of Gets.

The latest positioning in the Swiss ice-hockey championships is as follows: National League A: Berne, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Servette Geneva, Sierre. League B: Villars, Bienne, Lugano, Fribourg.

10th January

The Federal Council announced that oil supplies were satisfactory, and that no further measures to save fuel would be ordered for the time being.