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Official Communications

The Swiss National Anthem

The Federal Council has finally designated the original version of the «Swiss Psalm» by Zwyssig/Widmer as the official national anthem for the Army and for Swiss diplomatic circles abroad.

This decision brings to an end many years of efforts to achieve a state-recognized national anthem. As the Federal Council has no legal basis for imposing a national anthem on the cantons, it can only declare the «Swiss Psalm» obligatory for the Army and the diplomatic missions. However, it has sent a letter to the cantons recommending them to adopt the anthem too.

The «Swiss Psalm» was first declared the official national anthem, on a trial basis, in

1961 to replace the song «Rufst Du mein Vaterland» («O monts indépendants»), which had been used for that purpose. The change was made mainly because it had the same tune as other national anthems.

In 1975 the Federal Council ended the provisional nature of the new anthem. But as the German text of the «Swiss Psalm» seemed to present problems, it instructed the Department of the Interior to examine the possibility of a revised version.

The result was that none of the numerous texts proposed offered the same advantages as the original German version of the «Swiss Psalm», a song familiar to all sections of the population and all regions of the country,

dignified and solemn, conforming to the idea of a national anthem held by the majority of our compatriots.

In view of the 20-year tradition and the widespread approval of the population, the Federal Council felt the time had come to take a final decision. In doing so, it is also acting upon a recommendation from the Union of Swiss Choirs («Union suisse des chorales»/«Schweizerische Chorvereinigung»), the umbrella association of our country's amateur choirs.

*Federal Department of the Interior
Press and Information Service*

Swiss Psalm

Radiant in the morning sky,
Lord, I see that Thou art nigh,
Thou, O most illustrious,
Glorious.
When the Alps glow in their splendour,
Pray, ye Swiss, your hearts surrender.
For we sense and understand
God in our Fatherland,
God, the Lord, in our Fatherland.

In the sunset Thou art nigh,
And beyond the starry sky,
Thou, O loving Father
Art our God.
Through night's vasty halls resplendent,
Conqu'ring fear, o'er dark transcendent,
That we sense and understand
God in our Fatherland,
God, the Lord, in our Fatherland.

Though the mists enshroud the peaks,
Ceaselessly my spirit seeks
Thee above, Almighty God,
Heav'nly King.
Pierce the gloom in which we cower
With Thy sunshine's glorious power,
Then we sense and understand
God in our Fatherland,
God, the Lord, in our Fatherland.

Through the wild and stormy night
Thou dost shield us with Thy might,
Thou, O God all powerful,
Saviour.
Humbly in our God confiding,
Conscious of His love abiding,
For we sense and understand
God in our Fatherland,
Got, the Lord, in our Fatherland.

Andante

The musical score consists of three staves of music in 3/4 time, key signature of B-flat major. The lyrics are as follows:

Staff 1 (German):

Trittst im Mor - gen - rot da - her, seh' ich dich im
Sur nos monts, quand le so - leil an - nonce un bril -
Quan - do bion - da au - ro - ra il mai - tin cin -

Staff 2 (French):

Strah - len - meer, dich, du Hoch - er - ha - be - ner,
lant ré - veil, et pré - dit d'un plus beau jour
do - ra, l'al - ma mia t'a - do - ra

Staff 3 (English):

Herr - li - cher ! Wenn der Al - pen Firn sich rö - - - tet, be - tet frei - e
le re - tour, les beau - tés de la pa - tri - - e par - lent à l'âme
Re del Ciel. Quan - do l'al - pe già ros - - - gia a pre - ga - re al.

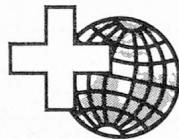
Refrain:

Schucei - zer be - tet ! Eu - re from - me See - le ahnt, eu - re from - me
at - ten - dri - e; au ciel mon - tent plus joy - eux, au ciel mon - tent
lor i'at - teg - gia, in fa - vor del pa - trio suol, in fa - vor del

Final section:

See - le ahnt, Gott im keh - ren Va - ter - land, Gott, den Herrn im hehren Va - - ter - land !
plus joy - eux les ac - cents d'un cœur pi - eux, les ac - cents é - mus d'un cœur pi - eux.
pa - trio suol, Cit - ta - di - no Id - dio lo vuol, Ci - ta - di - no Dio, si Di - o lo vuol.





Increase of AHV/IV of the 1/1/1982

The Federal Council has decided to adjust the old age insurance/invalid insurance pensions to the development in Swiss wages and prices. The increase will be between 12,2 and 13,1 percent. Some recipients, who can claim only partial pensions because of an incomplete period of payment, will receive a smaller increase or none at all. According to the 9th revision of the regulations (introducing a new and finer scale in the partial pension system), they are actually receiving amounts which are too high. If the adjustment results in a lower amount than one has been receiving so far, the pension will remain unchanged (so-called level of possession guarantee). Together with the pensions, the Federal Council has increased other amounts and scales in the AHV/IV system. For example:

- The upper limit of the sinking contribution scale for self-employed to sFr. 29 800.– (previously 26 400.–).
- The minimum contribution for self-employed and non-earners to sFr. 235.– a year starting in 1982 (previously 200.–).

(Excerpt from a press release and ZAK).

Appeal

to notify Swiss property in Morocco

On 5th February 1981, the Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the Kingdom of Morocco concerning settlement of the financial consequences resulting from the transfer to the Moroccan State of agricultural goods or goods for agricultural usage belonging to Swiss citizens came into force.

According to the Agreement, Morocco paid the Confederation a lump sum amounting to 2 000 000.– Swiss francs in compensation for Swiss property, rights and interests in Morocco affected by the transfer to the Moroccan State of ownership of agricultural property or property for agricultural usage. The Federal Council has appointed the Commission for foreign indemnity to apportion the lump sum without prejudice to the right of appeal. Swiss parties concerned (natural or juridical persons) who believe they can claim in accordance with the above Agreement, must notify their claims to the

Commission for foreign indemnity
c/o Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Eigerstrasse 60
CH-3003 Berne

Notification of claims must reach the Commission not later than 31st January 1982. This date is final and the Commission will not be able to consider any notification made later.

Interested parties who were notified of the signing of the Indemnity Agreement with Morocco by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in a letter of 3rd October 1978, are considered as having notified their claims and are not required to renew them. It is in the interest of the parties concerned to provide the Commission as soon as possible with all the necessary informations regarding their case, in particular, name, civic rights, company name, lot number, extract from the register of real estate.

The text of the Swiss-Moroccan Agreement can be ordered from the «Eidgenössische Drucksachen und Materialzentrale», 3003 Berne, or consulted at Swiss diplomatic and consular representations.

Federal Ballots 1982

7th March 6th June
26th September 28th November

Take a load off Your Mind – Find a Solidarity Fund Sponsor

Are you one of those Swiss abroad who have regretfully had to give up the idea of joining the Solidarity Fund because there are insuperable difficulties in the way of transferring their contributions to Switzerland from their country of residence?

Is this problem really insoluble? – No!

The Solidarity Fund Statutes (Art. 4, para. 2) provide an original way out: through a **sponsor in Switzerland**. In other words, you can suggest to a relative or friend in Switzerland that he joins the Fund as your sponsor. By doing so he will incur no risks: his contributions will remain a secure savings deposit for him on conditions of his own choosing, and you, as his nominee, will be entitled to lump-sum compensation if you should lose your livelihood as a result of political events.

Do not hesitate – people in Switzerland are fully informed. After a recent press conference in Berne many Swiss newspapers, the radio and television drew the attention of the public to the Solidarity Fund and specifically mentioned the subject of sponsorship.

Contact your relatives or friends in Switzerland. Send us their addresses so that we can let them have our information material.

N. B. Sponsorship is not limited to people living in Switzerland. Swiss abroad often act as sponsors for their children.

*Solidarity Fund of the Swiss abroad,
Gutenbergstrasse 6,
CH-3011 Berne*