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Our Editor of the Local News for Great Britain



We have the great pleasure to present to you our editor of local news for Great Britain. Mrs. Elisabeth Hall-Zeller has obliged us by accepting to fulfill this function. Starting with the issue 2/82 (June 1982) you will have 5 pages at your disposal for news about Swiss activities in your region. We wish the new editor all the best in her new position and hope for a close collaboration between you and her.

*Organization of the Swiss Abroad
Executive Commission for Information*

Our editor's address:

Mrs. Elisabeth Hall-Zeller
8, Benen-Stock Road
Stanwell Moor
GB-STAINES TW19 6AW

Deadlines for your contributions and illustrations

Number	Month of issue	Deadline for contributions
2/82	June	23.04.82
3/82	September	17.08.82
4/82	December	11.10.82

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 sec-

tions 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*