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Further, Switzerland was founded as a free man's land and for the preservation of local self-government, as a reaction to the decaying universality of the European Continent, and the adoption of foreign codes of law. From the beginning of her existence, her efforts were directed against the growing regional despotisms on the European Continent, and later against the adoption of the system of the Roman law. The Swiss people by endless sacrifice of blood and life were successful, in contrast to almost all other continental groups of people, in escaping the process of elimination as free, self-governing men. The free and democratic country of Switzerland in its present day diversity of races and languages remains, in the eyes of the world, a practical example for the re-establishment of European universality.

As regards the future of Switzerland there is only one deduction we can make, when again and again we peruse the pages of her history. The preservation of the democratic way of life was the guiding thought when Switzerland came into existence; the preservation of the democratic way of life is the reason for her existence today. The existence of a Switzerland on another political basis is unthinkable. And indeed no country can boast of a more direct form of democratic government, and at the same time of a more just and efficient political administration. Social justice, for instance, in the modern sense, had an early start in Switzerland and has slowly and surely been progressing. The apparent result today is the reigning of an enviable social peace within her boundaries.

It remains for me to add a few words regarding the obligations of the Swiss people towards the world at large. As a result of the century-old principle of neutrality observed by Switzerland in her foreign relations, Swiss foreign policy can best be defined with the words of America's famous Abraham Lincoln: "With malice towards none, with charity for all". It was a great privilege for Switzerland, that the greatest international humanitarian organisation - the International Red Cross - was founded on her soil by her own citizens. Carrying on the great work of the International Red Cross in this present world crisis, is the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva, which today still is exclusively composed of Swiss citizens, effectively assisted by the voluntary work of thousands of Swiss people and scores of Swiss towns, and last but not least, by millions of Swiss francs voluntarily contributed by the Swiss people. The Swiss government and people consider the financial needs of the International Red Cross as one of obligation in this war.

In addition the Swiss government itself, for the benefit of humanity, and thanks to the universally recognised neutrality of Switzerland, has become an important diplomatic link in this war, between 25 warring nations. The satisfactory fulfilment of this gigantic, difficult and delicate diplomatic task is only made possible for the Swiss Government by its adherence to strict impartiality, loyalty and honesty towards all nations alike.

All these combined efforts, indeed, are the crowning of the endeavours of present-day Switzerland in the fulfilment of her moral obligations towards the world at large."

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#### SWISS PEOPLE IN COUNTRIES AT WAR:

A report from the Swiss Foreign Office contains the following remarks regarding Swiss people in countries at war:

"The prolongation of this war and its spreading over a larger and larger sphere and the effects of economic and war measures put into force by the powers, are the causes for the increased strain with which the Swiss Diplomatic and Consular Corps are faced, but they are able to fulfil their task in the most difficult circumstances. The Swiss Colonies have fortunately had only a few death casualties to register up to now. In 1941 the Swiss Colony in Great Britain had to mourn five dead and three wounded through aerial bombardments, exactly the same number of casualties as in 1940. Only a very few casualties were reported from other countries.

The thriving Swiss Colonies in Yugoslavia, Greece, East Asia and many other countries have been hard hit economically. Measures have been taken to safe-

guard the interests of our countrymen as far as possible. The Swiss Colony in Greece, which suffered severely, has received all possible help from the official representatives of our country, who have softened the plight of our countrymen and their families through representations made to foreign and domestic authorities and by arranging their transport for leaving Greece.

The requests received by the Swiss Foreign Office for assistance to obtain visas for travelling from, to or through foreign countries have been very numerous. It has proved to be more and more difficult to obtain such visas for persons who had to travel from Switzerland on account of military precautionary measures taken in every country. Visas can only be obtained for trips which are in the interest of the country's economic situation and are no longer obtainable for ordinary travelling. Nearly all requests received from countrymen who had fled from occupied France - very often separated from their families - wanting to return to their former residence, were mostly refused. Direct postal communications between occupied France and Switzerland were suspended during the whole year."

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1st AUGUST CELEBRATIONS, AUCKLAND.

Over 60 members and friends celebrated the Swiss National Day in Auckland at the Overseas League Rooms. We had the privilege and pleasure of the attendance of our esteemed Consul and Mrs. Schmid. The whole Auckland Colony desires to express the appreciation of the special effort made by Dr. Schmid to be in Auckland for the occasion. We also want to thank him for his fine address, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

The atmosphere during the evening was one of utmost goodwill and patriotic feeling. Everyone was pleased to again meet old and new friends, and although some members were prevented to attend due to illness or lack of transport facilities, the gathering was a very representative one. Just as last year, so again this year, has the Auckland community proved to be loyal to their Homeland. The unshakable allegiance to Switzerland can never be denied by a true Swiss.

The programme was greatly enjoyed by everyone, and of particular interest were the Lantern slides, depicting Swiss scenery and customs. The Committee wishes to thank all those who so kindly contributed items towards the programme, and also wishes to express appreciation for the ladies serving such a fine supper.

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1st AUGUST CELEBRATIONS IN WELLINGTON.

The invitations for the 1st of August celebration in Wellington had to be sent out on a very short notice due to the difficulties of obtaining a suitable locality, and it was therefore a pleasure to see that 30 members and friends turned up. We may say that it was a very successful evening, although we missed the presence of our Consul and Mrs. Schmid, whose company was enjoyed by our Auckland friends.

The rooms of the Lyceum Club were gaily decorated with lampions and coat-of-arms representing all the Swiss cantons.

The President of the Swiss Benevolent Society opened the evening with a short address. Soon a cheerful atmosphere was established, singing our Swiss songs and dancing continued up to 12.30 when our gay party was so suddenly interrupted by the second earthquake experienced in Wellington within a month. Everybody, of course, felt very uneasy, and soon our gathering was broken up as everybody wanted to leave which was not surprising, as a six storey brick building in the middle of the town was certainly not a safe place during an earthquake.

We wish to thank here all those who made the arrangements and helped to make our celebration of the 65th Anniversary of our Homeland a success.

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