

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 10 (1944-1945)
Heft: 3

Artikel: Our foreign Minister, Federal Councillor Pilet-Golaz, resigns
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942747>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 18.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

OUR FOREIGN MINISTER, FEDERAL COUNCILLOR PILET-GOLAZ, RESIGNS.

On November 10th, before noon, after the regular meeting of the Federal Council, the resignation of our Foreign Minister, Federal Councillor Pilet-Golaz was announced in the following official communique: 'In its session of November 10th the Federal Council has accepted the letter of resignation of Federal Councillor Pilet-Golaz, head of the Federal Political Department in which our Foreign Minister informed the President of the National Council, Mr. Paul Gysler and the Parliament of his retreat as member of the Federal Council. Mr. Pilet-Golaz has taken his decision already before the session of the Federal Council of November 7th, but has held back the announcement of his withdrawal not to influence the discussions regarding Switzerland's relations with Soviet Russia. With greatest regret the Federal Council takes notice of this resignation and also of Mr. Pilet-Golaz's statement that the decision is definite. Today already the Federal Council wishes to express its unrestricted gratefulness for the great and conscientious work Mr. Pilet-Golaz has done for our country in his function as head of the Federal Political Department. In his letter of resignation to the Federal Council, Mr. Pilet-Golaz declares that it has always been his opinion that the Foreign Minister has to clear the way for another man in the present wartime as the new situation calls for a fresh and unused force.'

Mr. Pilet-Golaz has been a member of the Federal Council since 1929, Swiss Foreign Minister since 1940 and President of the Swiss Confederation in the years of 1934 and 1940.'

Comments by Mr. Max Reber, Swiss Radio commentator: "It is sometimes believed in the foreign press that the resignation of Federal Councillor Pilet-Golaz has been the consequence of a certain pressure exercised from abroad. This is not exact. The last few years clearly show that the Swiss people are not willing to give way to any pressure, wherever it may come from. Furthermore, as we have often had the opportunity of telling you, it is not customary in Switzerland that a Federal Councillor should resign because of a failure in his policy. Our democracy demands complete submission to the people's will, even from our highest magistrates. Thus, the refusal of his proposals by the people is to be looked upon as nothing but an invitation by the majority of the people to continue his work and to achieve even better results.

The case is different when a political failure is accompanied by a want of confidence from the part of the majority of the people in the person holding an office, i.e. when the opinion is generally held that the same man, if he remains on the same post will not be able to bring about a successful improvement of the situation. As in all other democracies, in Switzerland, a statesman who is not backed up by the confidence of the majority of his fellow citizens cannot, so to speak, outlive failures of his policy in the long run, regardless of whether they concern home or foreign affairs. In both cases the people's confidence is distinctly a question of internal policy. An actual failure merely precipitates an impending decision.

These fundamental facts must be taken into account if one tries to understand the real reasons for the resignation of Federal Councillor Pilet-Golaz. He has not resigned because his efforts to normalize our relations with Soviet Russia - efforts he made with the full approval of our people - were not crowned by success. He resigned because he felt that he was alone, that the people were doubting his capacity to bring his task to a successful conclusion. This want of confidence had already been aroused by the personal characteristics of Federal Councillor Pilet-Golaz many years ago. He was an outsider."

.

SWISS EFFORTS TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOVIET RUSSIA FAIL.

Saturday, November 4th, late in the day, the Moscow Radio announced that the Soviet government has refused the Swiss government's proposal that diplomatic relations be re-established between Switzerland and the USSR. The Swiss Federal Council has given consideration to this matter in its Tuesday's