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**MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION
TO THE SWISS ABROAD ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 1ST OF AUGUST 1970**

Dear compatriots,

It gives me great pleasure to address some words to you, dear compatriots living abroad, on the day we commemorate the founding of the Swiss Confederation.

The Federal Pact of 1291 originated in the treachery of those times and was inspired by the idea that the Confederates had to unite and offer each other assistance. The present world situation cannot be compared with the conditions that existed 679 years ago. Nevertheless, the fundamental ideas of the Federal Pact — the leading principles on which the organisation of Switzerland is based — have by no means lessened in their importance. The increasing interdependence of nations, races and continents creates, also for Switzerland, problems of formerly unknown dimensions. The accelerated development in the scientific, technical and economic fields gives us fascinating problems which solution is not at all easy. The economic boom allows Switzerland to promote and consolidate her prosperity. To master the problems of the future, increased and joint efforts are required of all citizens, of all men and women, who are concerned about the common welfare. Let me mention for instance the movement towards the unification of Europe, our responsibility towards developing countries, the vital task of preservation of a wholesome environment, the preservation of natural beauty and wild life (as you know, 1970 is the European year of preservation of natural beauty), efficient local, regional and national planning, the development of education at all levels, the fight against inflation, the improvement of social insurance and understanding between the younger and the older generations. Our position in the world depends on our readiness to co-operate with a view to accomplishing international tasks; it also depends on the successful mastering of our national problems. You are directly concerned with this position of Switzerland. You have made an essential contribution to the reputation of Switzerland by your successful work and by your helpfulness. Switzerland owes you gratitude for it.

On our National Day, I convey to you the greetings of the Federal Council and of the Swiss people together with our heartiest congratulations. At the same time I thank you for the faith you have kept in your homeland, hoping that we can count on your solidarity also in future, just as we feel closely united with you across countries and seas.

Hans Peter Tschudi,
President of the Confederation.