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SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc.)

President's Report

Another year has passed and I submit my Presidential Report as follows. Once again I wish to thank the Editing Committee for their co-operation and time given in the publishing of the *Helvetia*, also to the Riflemaster for his organisation and work concerning the Society Competitions. Finally, to my Committee, who throughout the year have given me their support and worked to their fullest extent to make another successful year for the Society.

The past year has seen the passing of quite a number of Society members from different Clubs throughout New Zealand. Two in particular I would like to mention. Firstly, Mrs Risi, wife of Walter Risi, a past President of the Society. Mrs Risi did a great deal of work for the Society and always made people welcome to her home. Mr Hans Oetli was the former Riflemaster for the Society, and until his death a member of the Editing Committee. In both these capacities he will be sorely missed. To all members and families who have lost a dear one we extend the Society's deepest sympathy. I would ask all those present as a mark of respect for a moment's silence.

Society Funds:

Financially the Society is in a sound position, with the majority of funds being invested with the same investors as formerly. In the past year once again the Society has not been called upon to give any financial aid to any member.

Publication of the Helvetia:

At last year's Annual General Meeting it was decided to accept the offer of the Swiss Government in principle regarding the publication of the *Helvetia*. In future eight issues of the *Helvetia* will be provided by the Society and distributed to Society members only, and four issues will be provided by the Swiss Government via the Swiss Embassy, and these will be distributed free of charge to all Swiss citizens residing in New Zealand.

Change of Rules:

A copy of the set of rules as submitted by Mr Moser of the Christchurch Club were sent to each Club for their comments and recommendations. The various findings from these reports I propose to open for discussion later in the meeting.

Departure of the Ambassador:

In November 1974 our Ambassador, Mr Max Corti, and Mrs Corti, after an extended term of office in New Zealand departed for Switzerland. This was Mr Corti's official retirement from the Diplomatic

Service. We extend to Mr Corti our thanks for the interest he took in the activities of the Society and wish him and Mrs Corti our best wishes for their retirement.

Arrival of New Charge d'Affaires:

The vacancy at the Embassy has been filled by the arrival of our new Charge d'Affaires, Mr F. Adams. We welcome Mr and Mrs Adams and their two children to New Zealand and trust that they will enjoy their stay here in New Zealand.

This concludes my Presidential Report for 1975.

A. K. BINDER, President.

Swiss Machinery Exports Break All Records

In 1974 Switzerland exported 12.6 billion francs' worth of electrical and mechanical machines, appliances, instruments and vehicles. This result represented a new record; compared with 1973, in fact, exports of these products increased by about 14 per cent, i.e. about 1.6 billion francs. In this figure however is included the very big increase in overall prices. Consequently, in actual value, i.e. at constant prices, the increase in the machinery industry's exports in 1974 amounted to about 5 per cent, i.e. half the real rate of growth recorded in 1973. Exports of the machinery and appliances industry (including those of vehicle and instrument manufacturers) accounted for more than 35 per cent of Switzerland's total exports. (SODT)



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