

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1951)
Heft: 1151

Artikel: Departure of Mr. Frederic Rothenbuehler
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687417>

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: 31.07.2025

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

than the value received from Switzerland. From the total area under Axis control, including the European neutrals like Sweden, which could be reached only by crossing Axis-held territory, the value of the deliveries aggregated Fr.7,100 million and deliveries by the Axis Fr. 5,300 million. Imports from Allied countries during World War II totalled in value Fr.2,000 million, exports to Allied countries Fr.1,700 million. Taking into consideration the high charges for freight and insurance carried by imports from Allied countries it is seen that the quantities of goods exchanged were about equal in value.

Since December 15th, 1950, the exchange of commodities with the countries of Eastern Europe is conducted on a similar basis. By agreements with Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Jugoslavia, reached since World War II ended, part of the proceeds of exports to Switzerland must be surrendered to indemnify Swiss nationals who held investments in industries these countries have nationalised. This reduces Switzerland's deliveries in kind.

Taking all these circumstances into account it is evident that the aggregate amount of strategic materials forming part of all manufactured products delivered to countries of Eastern Europe would be of little practical significance in the rearmament programmes of the Eastern bloc.

Tentative proposals have been made to Switzerland to curtail trade with Eastern Europe in exchange for identical treatment to that accorded Atlantic Pact countries. This proposal Switzerland is unwilling to accept. Official trade statistics show that in 1947, 1948 and 1949 export to the countries of Eastern Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, Jugoslavia and the U.S.S.R.) averaged 8½ per cent. of Switzerland's total export. That is too great to lose, especially as until November 1 many countries, including Britain, discriminated against Switzerland as a hard-currency country. If Switzerland refused to sell machinery and capital goods to Eastern Europe she would no longer be able to sell these countries watches, silks, shoes, embroidery and other consumer goods of no military value.

If the allocation of raw materials were to be made on a strictly war-economic basis it is feared in Swit-

zerland that the liberalisation of trade already achieved would suffer a severe setback. Each country would tend to operate in its own exclusive interests. The trend towards autarchy would revive. Trade would tend to return to barter in various firms.

DEPARTURE OF MR. FREDERIC ROTHENBUEHLER.

As is customary in the diplomatic service all over the world, new people come and old acquaintances go. This time, it is Mr. Frédéric Rothenbuehler's turn to leave the Swiss Legation in London.

Mr. Rothenbuehler came to this country in March, 1946, as 2nd Secretary. He worked first in the legal department and then, for a short while, in the economic division of the Legation. After Mr. de Graffenried's departure in February, 1950, Mr. Rothenbuehler, having meanwhile been promoted to 1st Secretary, carried out the functions of First Counsellor and Chargé d'Affaires. It is in this capacity that he displayed his brilliant qualities. From August to October, 1950, he acted as Chargé d'Affaires a.i., and the way in which he handled matters was highly appreciated by everybody in contact with him — in particular also by His Majesty's Foreign Office. He was in all circumstances a devoted assistant to his Chief, the Swiss Minister, and a loyal servant of Swiss interests. He had many friends in the Swiss Colony, and regularly attended the various functions of the Swiss Societies. He is now transferred to Berne, where he will be given a responsible post in the Commercial Division of the Swiss Ministry of Economic Affairs and will have to assist Mr. Schaffner in economic negotiations with foreign countries.

Mr. Rothenbuehler's place as First Counsellor will be taken by Dr. Erwin Bernath, Counsellor of Legation. Mr. Bernath spent the war years in Japan, and, after being transferred to Berne when the war was over, he worked in the Federal Political Department. We wish him and Mrs. Bernath a pleasant and happy stay in Great Britain.

TRANSPORTATION...

TO AND FROM SWITZERLAND

For details of groupage services and all other current facilities apply to:

WORLD TRANSPORT AGENCY LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1913

1, MARTIN LANE, CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

Telephone: MANsion House 3434.

Telegrams: WORTRANCY.

and at

BASLE, SWITZERLAND

Viaduktstrasse, 8.

also at

MANCHESTER

LIVERPOOL

HULL

BRADFORD

BIRMINGHAM