

**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:** - (1954)

**Heft:** 1220

  

**Artikel:** The Swiss national anthem

**Autor:** Wyss, J.R.

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-686353>

### **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:** 29.03.2026

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

millions de francs. Le parc comprend 24 machines et le personnel compte presque 2,000 personnes.

Le nouveau "Requiem" d'Henri Sutermeister vient d'être joué avec grand succès à Rome, sous la direction d'Herbert de Karajan. Après une tournée en France et en Espagne, l'orchestre de chambre de Zurich est retenu encore pour dix concerts en France.

Un juriste lausannois, M. Jacques Bourquin, a été appelé aux Etats-Unis à faire une conférence sur la liberté de l'information et la protection de l'Etat, dans le cadre des festivités marquant le deuxième centenaire de la fondation de la célèbre université Columbia.

### SWISS NEUTRALITY.

A notable statement of policy has been made by M. Max Petitpierre, the Swiss Foreign Secretary. Recently there has been much grumbling in Switzerland about Swiss "commitments" in the two neutral commissions in Korea. The sharp criticism of Switzerland by the Soviet satellites because the Swiss delegation in Panmunjom stood out for basic human rights and resisted the use of violence against prisoners made the public wonder whether Switzerland was not unwittingly making itself the protagonist of the West. M. Petitpierre endeavoured to drive home that "neutrality" does not imply a purely passive attitude "had to be adopted towards the groundless recognised and respected," he said, "neutrality has to be supported by deeds which justify it. Neutrality

has its obligations." He said that an "energetic attitude" had to be adopted towards the groundless accusation levelled against the Indian, Swedish, and Swiss representatives on the Neutral Nations Commission because their views did not coincide with those of the Chinese and North Korean command. This is a sound and constructive attitude. The combination of neutrality, which the Swiss believe to be a prerequisite for the political existence of their country, with active attempts to be useful to peace in the real sense of the word is bound to have a beneficial influence in the world. Neutrality need not presuppose constant soundings at the precise location of the central point between extremes and strict navigation along the dotted line. The alternative is an active approach which, by the nature of Switzerland's genuine and traditional neutrality, would help it to mediate, if and when called upon, and thus serve peace and international stability. The Swiss Government's activity in Korea has been an outstanding example of this approach and one for which it deserves thanks.

(Manchester Guardian) 25.11.53.

### THE SWISS NATIONAL ANTHEM. RUFST DU MEIN VATERLAND.

(by J. R. Wyss.)

Fatherland, at your call,  
We offer you our all,  
Our heart, our life.  
Hail to Helvetia's name;  
Your sons are still the same  
As those who built your fame,  
Joyful in strife.

Where the great Alpine shield  
Can no protection yield,  
God will sustain.  
Rocklike, we shall not fail,  
In danger never pale,  
Meet death without a wail  
And smile in pain.

You shaped our destiny  
And made us strong and free  
O native soil.  
Steadfast in times of need,  
Perils we shall not heed,  
And for a noble deed  
Gladly we'll toil.

Free and for ever free!  
This shall our watchword be,  
Our heartfelt prayer.  
Free are they who can die,  
And who with purpose high  
To every task apply  
A courage rare.

But when God sends us peace  
And battle tumults cease,  
O what delight.  
Banish the deadly steel,  
Let's build with joy and zeal,  
Having the homeland's weal  
Ever in sight.

(Translated by J.J.F.S.)  
Jan. 1954.

**For your  
Travel Requirements**

**ALL TRAVEL SERVICES**

WEST-END :

BURLINGTON ARCADE,  
PICCADILLY,  
LONDON, W.1.

Telephone : MAYFAIR 0111  
MANAGER : F. O. SOMMER

CITY :

ALLTRANSPORT BUILDING,  
LITTLE TRINITY LANE,  
LONDON, E.C.4.

Telephone : CENTRAL 5200  
MANAGER : RALPH LAWRENCE

A SERVICE OF THE ALLTRANSPORT ORGANISATION