

Press Review

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Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): **- (1958)**

Heft 1327

PDF erstellt am: **01.05.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-692796>

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PRESS REVIEW.

By G. PADEL.

The "Swiss Metallurgical Workers' and Watchmakers' Journal", which is the official organ of the largest Swiss Trade Union, occupies itself, in a leading article, with the question of the cessation of nuclear tests. Under the heading "A Frank Opinion" the newspaper describes, first of all, the growing fears of the scientists regarding the increasing pollution of the world through radio-activity, and the serious warnings given, in this respect, to the Great Powers by research workers, scholars and eminent representatives of the spiritual life. The Journal then goes on to speak of the declaration made by the Soviet Union, according to which it is ready to stop nuclear tests if the other Great Powers are willing to follow this example.

This is what the Trade Union Journal writes, textually: "The greatest propaganda successes achieved are always those in which it proves possible to use an ardent desire that springs from the innermost nature of man, as, for instance, the idea of peace, in the service of political aims. Here we find two completely different worlds at work. One is the idealistic claim of the unconditional moral attitude, which, without any consideration of political consequences, offers to put a stop to the threat of atomic death; the other is the world of calculated propaganda which, unhesitatingly, sets the outbreak of feelings into the struggle for political power. . ."

In the opinion of the "Swiss Metallurgical Workers' and Watchmakers' Journal", for the Soviet Union, this declaration of its readiness to renounce from atomic tests is primarily a matter of political power, as it has done this, firstly, with the intention of appearing in the opinion of the nations as a leader in the fight for atomic disarmament and, secondly, because it is interested in the reduction of nuclear weapons, as, through this, the military equilibrium would be shifted in a decisive manner in favour of the Eastern bloc.

Proceeding from these considerations, the leading Swiss Trade Union Journal comments on the mass movements taking place against experiments with atomic bombs and nuclear armament, and writes as follows:

"We trade unionists have always demanded a general, uniform and controlled disarmament in respect of all, even the conventional, arms, and only in such disarmament have we seen a guarantee for lasting world peace. We must stick to this, even when pacifist fanaticism, in its strange blindness, delivers itself up to the Soviet suggestions, and for the sake of the idea of peace is ready in case of emergency to make itself unconditionally defenceless and to surrender itself to a martyr's fate."

The temptation to achieve nuclear disarmament, in one great surge, through one's own example and thus to eliminate the danger of a nuclear war, is very great indeed. Only those, however, can succumb to it who ignore the events of the most recent past and close their eyes to the characteristic traits of dictatorship. A general world movement in favour of disarmament would be only too welcome, but it must be kept free from the extravagances of a pacifism which is ignorant of the world, and must remain aloof from the Russian

methods of propaganda. The prevention of a nuclear war is far too serious a matter to be misused for political propaganda tricks.

In conclusion, the "Swiss Metallurgical Workers' and Watchmakers' Journal" writes as follows: "Let us allow Mr. Khrushchev to make his startling proposals, but let us also demand from him that he should proffer a hand towards bringing about disarmament along the way which alone can guarantee security, peace and freedom to all the nations."

It will then be seen what is real and what is merely sham. Dictatorships are only careful to restrain their aggression and their desire for power when they find themselves faced by an opponent who does not allow himself to be led astray into any weaknesses, and who is not disposed to give up his best weapons prematurely.

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