

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: - (1968)

Heft: 1558

Rubrik: Anglo-Swiss News

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: 04.02.2026

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

to the Confederation. Expenditure at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), run by the *Bund* since 1854, had gone up tremendously. Total expenditure for building and administration had risen from 46m. francs in 1960 to 167.7m. francs in the budget for 1968. Current expenditure had gone up from 20m. in 1960 to 63m. this year. The Institute for Reactor Research cost 27m., and that for Nuclear Research 12m. francs p.a. A further 17m. francs would be spent on the EPUL as from 1969. Total expenditure on vocational training (by the Confederation) amounted to 312m. francs in 1968 — an increase of 202% since 1963 when the total had been 103m. At that time, the Confederation did not give any subsidy to cantonal universities.

The largest amount of financial help within scholastic and vocational training expenditure fell on universities and other academic institutes. The next-highest group was vocational training, especially trade, commerce and agriculture. The absolute total here had practically doubled from 37 to 80m., although the share of this group had fallen from 36% in 1963 to 26% in the budget of 1968.

Next to the 312m. spent on universities and technical colleges, the 10m. francs by which the Confederation subsidised the primary and secondary schools, looked modest. But the biggest share spent on the ETH was justified, seeing that its activities not only served Switzerland, but also students from other lands, which, said Federal Councillor Celio, contributed much to the goodwill abroad, just as the efforts by the Swiss abroad did.

Next the speaker mentioned the Swiss schools abroad, most of them created on private initiative, some over 100 years old. He thanked all those who devoted themselves to these schools, a valuable element of solidarity amongst the Swiss abroad. The efforts which the Confederation was making in the interest of the young Swiss abroad was also considerable, and he mentioned the valuable work of the "Ausbildungswerk für junge Auslandschweizer" carried by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, "Pro Juventute" and "Schweizerhilfe". This service helps young Swiss living abroad (10 to 25) with advice and loans and scholarships, either for study or vocational training. The question arose whether one could not widen the circle of these young Swiss who could thus profit and whose ties with their homeland could be strengthened in the process. (*Anyone interested should apply for information to the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3,000 Berne. ED.*)

Monsieur Celio then praised the theme of this year's Assembly and expressed pleasure that the young people were given a chance to have their say. For it was they above all who had to come to terms with this epoch which would one day go down in history as the era of great scientific progress and of numerous inventions. A period of progress, but of great problems, too, not only at universities but also in industry. This brought great social and human problems, almost insoluble. U.S.A. spent 20 milliard of francs every year on research. Biology, nuclear physics and space research were the main branches. But research had taken on great importance also in social sciences, if only to balance humanity with technology. Science used to be the field of individual scholars, today it was the concern of highly specialised groups with vast means at their disposal, a fact which made it difficult for small countries to keep up, for they had no industrial colossi, and because the organisation of the big ones had great attractions for young people.

For Switzerland it was the problem where to participate, where to refrain and where to take part only at international level. Improved co-operation between industry and State was desirable. Universities were the place where the efforts of State, industry and science could meet. We were only at the beginning, and the young (and sometimes the older ones) in their impatience had to remember that one could not only demand, one also had to pay and take the consequences which were not negligible for such a small country.

Thus, Swiss at home and abroad had to make great efforts. Both had to prove themselves in everyday life and keep their faith in the small State. More than ever, the Swiss abroad were united with those at home, not only at the congress in Schaffhausen, but throughout the year.

The Federal Councillor finished his address in Italian stating the value of the human factor above all. It was, he said, the moral values which in the end mattered and helped to bring about the wellbeing of society and world peace.

(Condensed and translated by the Editor.)

ANGLO-SWISS NEWS ITEMS

The Federal Council has empowered the Swiss National Bank to take part in further assistance to the Pound with 100 million dollars. According to the Federal Decree of 1963, the Confederation guarantees cover.

The Overseas Section of the British Society of Chemical Industry held a congress in Basle at the end of September. Prof. Hans Dahn welcomed about a hundred representatives from eight countries.

Lady Baden Powell, widow of the founder of the scout movement, opened the Fifth European Scout Conference at the Agricultural Technical College at Zollikofen near Berne.

The Swiss Society of Psychosomatic Medicine elected Dr. Michael Balint, London, as Corresponding Member, when they met for their "7.Silser Studienwoche".

The new Director of United Press International in Switzerland is Mr. F. Cyrus in succession to Mrs. Pierre A. Graenicher who has been transferred to London.

As from 18th October, Switzerland took up the giro transfer facilities with Great Britain and Northern Ireland, at the same time closing down the ordinary transfer service. Holders of postal cheque accounts in Switzerland can now transfer money to giro account holders in G.B.

The British Commonwealth Minister Lord Shepherd paid a visit to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva.

The Chief of Department for Hydrography of the Federal Office of *Wasserwirtschaft*, dipl. Ing. E. Walser, Berne, has been invited to give lectures on hydrography in Switzerland by London University, the Scottish Group of Hydrologists of the Institute of Civil Engineering in Edinburgh and the Strathclyde University of Glasgow.

The makers of "Vyella" intend to enlarge their works' capacity and to equip at least two new weaving factories with over 800 Sulzer weaving machines. Vyella International will spend some £25 million in the next three years on expansion.

One of the youngest Professors in Switzerland is an Englishman who has been appointed director of Zurich's Botanical Gardens and Professor of Botany at Zurich University. Prof. Christopher Cook studied at Cambridge and lectured at Liverpool University. He answered an advert in a paper and got the job.

(A.T.S. and "Weekly Tribune" Geneva.)