

Official communications

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Official Communications

THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES IN 1974:

President of the National Council:	Anton Muheim
President of the Council of States:	Kurt Bächtold
President of the Confederation:	Ernst Brugger
Vice-President of the Federal Council:	Pierre Graber
Chancellor of the Confederation:	Karl Huber
President of the Federal Court:	Hans Tschopp
President of the Federal Insurance Court:	Theodor Bratschi

COMPOSITION OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL AND ALLOCATION OF DEPARTMENTS:

Political Department:	Pierre Graber
Department of the Interior:	Hans Hürlimann
Department of Justice and Police:	Kurt Furgler
Military Department:	Rudolf Gnägi
Department of Finance and Customs:	Georges-André Chevallaz
Department of Public Economy:	Ernst Brugger
Department of Transport, Communications and Energy:	Willi Ritschard

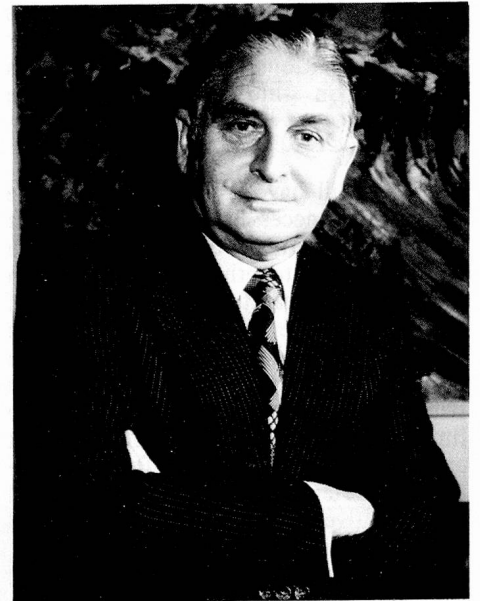
New Year Address -1974 given by Ernst Brugger, President of the Confederation

Dear Fellow-Citizens:

It is traditional for the newly elected President of the Confederation to convey to the Swiss people on the 1st of January the Federal Council's best wishes for the year just beginning. It gives me great pleasure to do this on behalf of all my colleagues: those who are leaving the Federal Council, those who are remaining and also the newcomers who – eager for action – will be taking up their duties during the month of January.

I believe that in 1974 we shall all need a little luck, good resolutions and confidence. The past year has brought changes, and even upheavals, which indicate that we have reached a turning-point. We have experienced unparalleled economic development: in 25 years our gross national product has trebled, our exports have quintupled and our average real income has more than doubled. I know that many of my fellow-citizens do not think very highly of this development. But to all those who seek to disparage the value of economic achievement I should like to say one thing: if we wish to avoid social tensions, we must do everything in our power to maintain a productive economy. Indeed, without a solid economic basis it will be impossible for us to absorb the enormous costs of the new AVS and of the so-called "second pillar"; we shall no longer be able to bear the considerable expenditure involved in increased protection of the environment, in country planning, in the extension of public education, in sickness, insurance and in transport. All these burdens rest on our own shoulders and we shall have to earn the money to pay for them before we can spend it.

All this will not be easy, for our economic machinery is creaking more and more. First of all there is the international monetary crisis, which has not yet been mastered. Next, there is inflation, which is partly forced on us by external factors and partly produced at home. The price rises benefit some and harm others. They are thus bound to create new inflationary pressures, making it ever more difficult to break the vicious circle. There are no miracle cures to stop this headlong movement. However, the measures which the Swiss people agreed to extend on 2nd December last will at least enable us to put the brakes on. To give up the struggle against price rises would have serious consequences; to develop a mentality which accepted inflation would be even worse. In fact, it would mean that we were prepared to live at the expense of our economic future, and for this, sooner or later, we should have to pay the price. And now we have the additional problem of petrol supplies. Although the position is still somewhat obscure, it would be as well to be prepared for a world-wide diminution in energy supplies. Even if it is not absolutely out of the question that the situation may become a little more settled, the age of superabundance and waste is finally over. As much from the point of view of quantity as of price, we are confronted with obstacles which will not be easily surmounted. The events of the last few months have shown us how much we depend on other countries. This applies not only to petrol but to other raw materials, and especially to certain foodstuffs which have become scarce and expensive and which make our supply



position more difficult. In this connection, I must emphasize how sensible it was to maintain a productive agriculture, even in an era of industrial expansion. Although they constitute only seven per cent of the population, our farmers are able to grow on our soil nearly half of what we eat.

All the shortages and restrictions I have just mentioned show us where the limits actually are of the growth we have heard so much about recently. In addition to the restraints imposed on us from outside, in our own country, too, we are getting nearer and nearer to the limits of the possible. Think, for example, of the problems of land and the environment. In future we shall no longer be able to do anything we like simply

because it is possible and profitable. We shall have to give up many things which would have increased our standard of living because the price will be too high. Incidentally, we shall also have to do this in the interests of the individual human-being, whose psychological stamina has its limits too, and for whom today's hectic tempo is not wholly good.

Since I am speaking of the individual, may I point out that every diminution in economic growth makes great demands on him. For every change and every act of self-denial causes anxiety, affects our living and working habits, and requires discernment and a spirit of solidarity. And are we capable of facing up to this? Are not too many of us selfish, materialistic, indifferent and irresponsible? Indeed, twenty years of economic boom have not developed our community spirit! We are past masters in the art of defending the interests of individuals or groups. We protest and struggle fiercely against everything that does not suit our own purposes and sometimes we even act against our own reason and judgment. Instead of discussing things frankly, instead of listening to other people's arguments and seeking realistic solutions for the good of the whole country, we often adopt obstinate standpoints and defend inflexible positions. Naturally, this attitude does not help us to master difficult situations and to find generous solutions in the interests of the community.

We still have a lot to learn. Above all, it will be necessary to rediscover what unites us. In other words: we shall have to move closer together. It is with this in mind that I salute the hundreds of thousands of men and women for whom the future of our country and its people is a subject of prime importance. I pay tribute to all those who, in spite of the limited scope of their own actions, do not expect a miracle to come from outside but are determined to make a personal and positive contribution. I salute all those who are endeavouring to be decent, objective, open-minded and tolerant. Therein lies the constantly renewed strength of our people, a strength which gives us the courage to seek, with fresh confidence, the solution to our difficult tasks. It is in this spirit, dear fellow-citizens, that after telling you about some of my anxieties I sincerely wish you a happy new year. I also offer my good wishes to the foreigners among us, and I send a very special greeting to our compatriots all over the world. I remember particularly the sick and infirm, and all those others who, for various reasons, are in need of comfort. My sincere gratitude goes, too, to all who are caring devotedly for the sick and the inadequate.

The Federal Council wishes you all, dear fellow-citizens, a happy 1974!

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN SWITZERLAND

The high standard of intellectual life in Switzerland and the value attached by its people to education is perhaps best illustrated by the fact that a population of something more than 6 million supports no less than seven universities, two institutes of technology, a university-level school of economics and social sciences and a number of other institutions at similar level. Education, like other sectors of public life, is decentralized, since Switzerland is a confederation of 25 culturally, denominationally and linguistically distinct member states or cantons. Each canton is autonomous in all education matters from compulsory schooling (usually lasting eight or nine years) to secondary and university training. The cantons thus bear considerable responsibility as well as the associated obligations, principally consisting in the heavy financial burdens involved in a modern educational system.

However, this burden has now been somewhat alleviated by a law which came into force on 1st January, 1969. During a prior transitional period, from 1966 to 1968, the Confederation had already contributed 200 million francs to developing cantonal universities, and the new Act increases federal contributions to 1.5 million francs for the 1969-1974 period. But in spite of this increased federal aid, the eight university cantons expended some 380 million francs on universities in 1970, although the total population of those cantons was only a bare four million. In the same year, federal support for the cantonal universities was about 70 million francs, some 230 million francs going to the two Federal Institutes of Technology, the only educational establishments of university rank directly maintained by the Confederation.

These figures are indicative of the great interest taken by the Swiss nation in its universities. Each university is financially and administratively dependent on its cantonal Education Department, but academically speaking there is complete research and teaching liberty. The Swiss universities pursue a generous policy towards foreign students and in fact some 10,000 foreign students from more than 70 different countries were among the total of 45,000 registered in 1971. No other country in the world has so high a percentage of foreign students.

The 10 Swiss university-level establishments

In German-speaking Switzerland:

Basle, Berne and Zurich Universities, the Zurich Federal Institute of Technology and the St. Gall College of Economics and Social Science;

In French-speaking Switzerland:

Lausanne, Geneva, Neuchâtel and Fribourg Universities (Fribourg is bilingual, German and French) and the Lausanne Federal Institute of Technology.

There are no university-level institutions in the *Italian-speaking part of Switzerland*.

While each university has its own character, all have a similar structure. They are divided into faculties: theology; law and social sciences; arts; natural sciences, and medicine. Fribourg and Neuchâtel Universities have no actual medical faculty but their science faculties train future doctors to intermediate science standard (the so-called 1st propaedeutic examination), while Fribourg University also trains for the intermediate anatomy/physiology (2nd propaedeutic) examination.

The two Institutes of Technology



Inside the premises of the new economics and commerce school of St. Gall.

train engineers, architects, chemists and physicists, while the Zurich FIT also has courses in pharmacy, agriculture, forestry, mathematics and the natural sciences. The St. Gall College of Economics and Social Science prepares its students for management positions in industry, commerce and administration and as teachers of business subjects.

The Swiss university-level institutions provide specialised education to follow the more generally oriented secondary school curricula, and thus resemble the universities of other European countries. In the German-speaking universities in particular, students are largely free in their choice of lectures, except in the medical and technical sciences. The other faculties do have a syllabus, but this is indicative rather than compulsory.

This article is an extract from the brochure "Universities in Switzerland" published in 1973 by the Swiss National Tourist Office in collaboration with the Central Office of the Swiss Universities.

The continuation of this article (enrollment conditions, duration and cost of studies, scholarships etc.) will appear in the next issue of our review.

Useful addresses:

Office National Suisse du Tourisme
Talackerstrasse 42
CH-8023 Zürich (tel. 01/23 57 13)

Office Central Universitaire Suisse
Gloriastrasse 59
CH-8044 Zürich (tel. 01/47 02 32)

RELIGIOUS BROADCASTS

for the Swiss in Europe, North Africa and the Near East

Every Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, the Swiss short-wave service broadcasts Catholic, Protestant and Free Church services in French, German and Italian alternately on 3985, 6165 and 9535 kHz.

On Easter Sunday (14th April, 1974), for example:

- 10 to 10.42 a.m.: Roman Catholic service, in French
- 10.48 to 11.09 a.m.: Roman Catholic service, in German
- 11.09 to 11.30 a.m.: Protestant service, in French
- 11.45 a.m. to 12 noon: Roman Catholic service, in Italian

Further details of these religious broadcasts, and a schedule of all Swiss radio programmes for foreign countries, can be obtained direct from the Service suisse des Ondes courtes
Giacomettistrasse 1
CH-3006 Berne 16

Military Service Exemption Tax

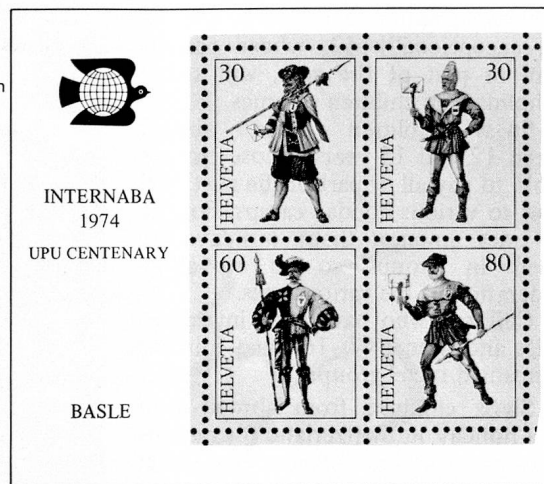
On 14th December, 1973 both houses of the Swiss parliament approved the Federal Act concerning the Military Service Exemption Tax levied on Swiss

abroad, who will henceforth be subject to the tax for three years, instead of eight years in the case of those liable for service in the "Auszug" (20-32 years of age) or five years in the case of those liable for service in the "Landwehr" (33 years of age onwards). The Act is subject to the optional referendum until 28th March, 1974, after which date the Federal

Council will put it into force if no referendum has been requested. This measure will release from the tax those Swiss who are permanently settled abroad; the unified three-year system will mean that at least 7,000 Swiss abroad will henceforth be exempt. The decrease in revenue is estimated at about 1.5 million Swiss francs.

Switzerland Block of stamps

INTERNABA
International Philatelic Exhibition
Basle 1974
Design
Imprimerie Courvoisier SA
La Chaux-de-Fonds
Nominal value 2 Fr.
Selling value 3 Fr.
Day of issue 29.1.1974



Switzerland Special Stamps 1/1974

Day of issue: 29.1.74



50 years of
Swiss Youth Hostels

Celestino Piatti,
Basle



Swiss Workers' Athletics
and Sports Association
SATUS 1874 - 1974

Hermann Schelbert, Olten



World Shooting
Championships
Thun 1974

Heinz Bürgin, Basle