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NOSTALGIA AND A PRAYER

MESSAGE FOR THE FIRST OF AUGUST

When celebrating my birthday, I express my joy of being alive, the way I am, different from others. It is done in the company of friends and relatives who share this joy and accept my being different — at least on my birthday. It has always been a great experience.

Celebrating the birthday of my country on the first of August I do the same, enjoy the fact of being Swiss and share this joy with anybody who has reason to join in and is prepared to do so. I am not just an anonymous “world-citizen” like everybody else.

I belong to a community of a special country with a special character, formed by a special history, a history which, perhaps, has somehow been distorted and glorified by over-enthusiastic teachers and patriotic history books.

Nevertheless, this history is part of me, my way of life and thinking. And it is a human history with ups and downs, with good and evil.

IN THE NAME OF GOD — AMEN. These are the first words of the document which marks the birth of Switzerland. It is a confession of Faith — Oh, I know, in the name of God our ancestors have built churches and hospitals, have made war and killed each other.

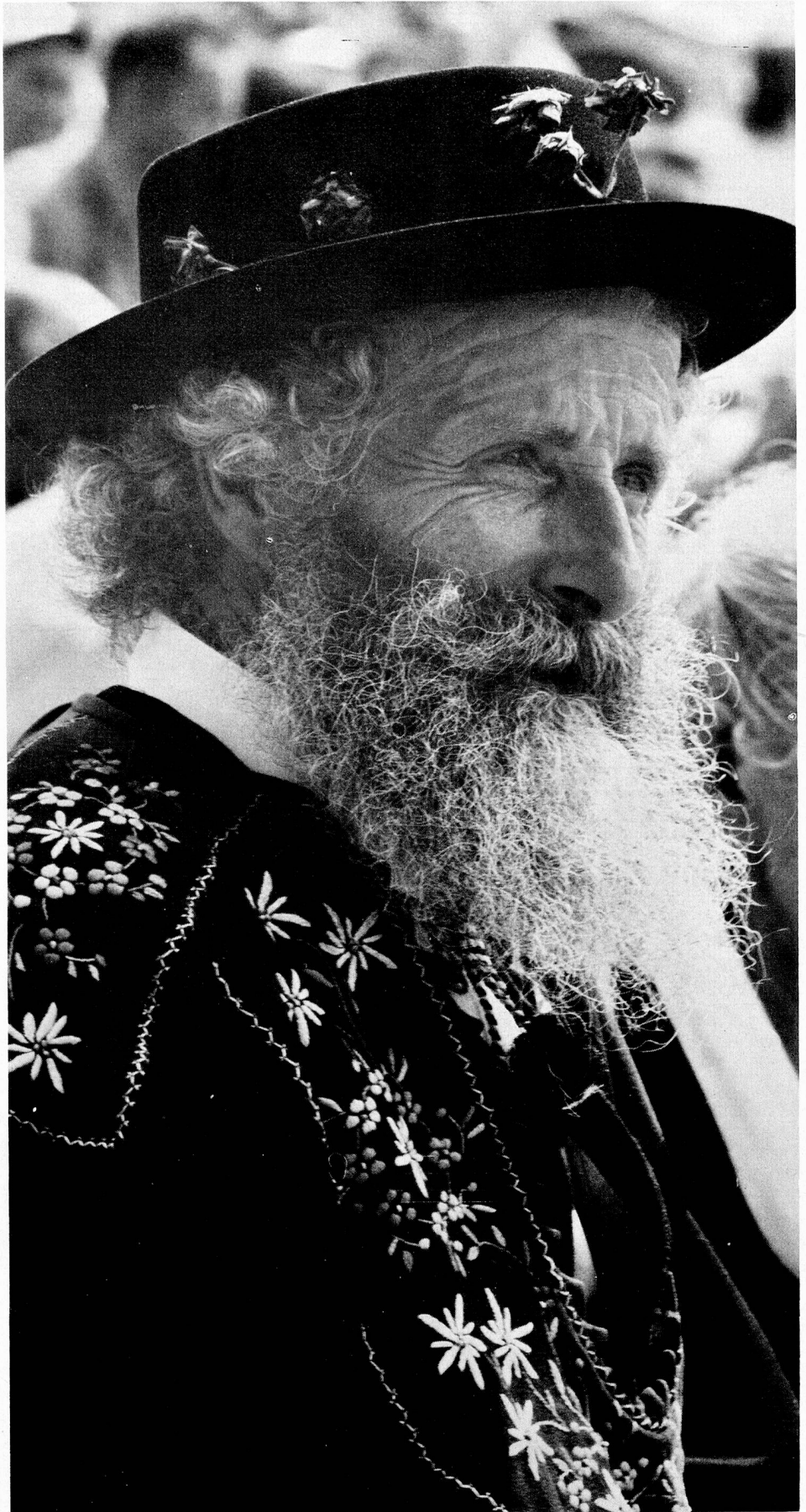
But in spite of that, God has never let them down because he is strong and can create good out of evil. Only one example; some 100 years ago there was in Switzerland a similar situation as we have today in Ireland.

The explosives were not so powerful and easy to handle as today, but the hatred and mistrust of Catholics and Protestants, of Conservatives and Liberals was hardly less deep and discriminating, all in the name of God.

He must have felt pity, but he taught us the hard way. We had to find out ourselves that this won't work, we had to come to terms with each other, find a common ground and slowly began to like and trust each other, just to find out that it was not faith in God and in Christ which separated us, but narrowness of mind.

Yes, God has revealed himself even in the history of our country, not because we were so marvellous, but because we are human.

And when we look at the problems of today, for Switzerland and the rest of the world, let us have a smile for all the doomsday-preachers, pessimists and fanatics. We have all the reasons to work with hope and faith in a God who has intelligence and power enough to create good out of evil — in a hard way for us — but all the same: IN THE NAME OF GOD — AMEN.



Such a “beautiful” face needs no comment.

R FOR OUR NATIONAL DAY



1 AUGUST CELEBRATION 1975

Incorporating "Fête Suisse"

Short Official Celebration:

18.30 — 19.30 (doors open at 18.00)

Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street,
Shaftesbury Avenue, London W.C.2

Programme

Prayer

Piano Recital

Address by

H.E. The Swiss Ambassador

Dr. Albert Weitnauer

Admission free

Discothèque

(with Licensed Bar and Refreshments)

20.00 — midnight

Camden Town Hall,
Euston Road, London N.W.1

Admission by ticket only, on
sale at 30p at
the Swiss Mercantile College
and
the Swiss Youth Club

