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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT FOR 1st AUGUST

Dear compatriots abroad!

To all of you, who on this Swiss National Day 1976 are thinking of your homeland, I extend in the name of the Federal Government our most cordial greetings and best wishes. Wherever you may be, our nation feels affectionately linked with all its citizens living abroad. You do belong among us, and we want you to share in this year's 1st August celebrations marking the foundation of the Swiss Confederation.

Many are the tasks facing our country today. They range from financial and economic burdens, which have arisen during the recent period of recession, through problems of internal and external security to the very position of Switzerland within its human and natural environment.

In all spheres of activity, whether as a nation or as individuals, we are passing through a period of profound transformation. The world in which we live is not only changing, it changes at an incredible pace.

This makes it increasingly difficult for a small, democratically run nation like Switzerland to keep up with developments.

The serious financial problems which today confront the communities of our country on every level, compel us to take stringent measures.

Priorities must be established, utmost emphasis and greatest consideration must be given to the most urgent matters. But that alone is not enough. The Federal Government, the Cantons and the Communes, must concentrate on the tasks entrusted to them by the Constitution and the law, renouncing those activities which are not absolutely essential. In fulfilling our tasks we must also strive for more modesty, more economy. The years of prosperity have spoiled us in many ways — now we all must learn again to be content with less.

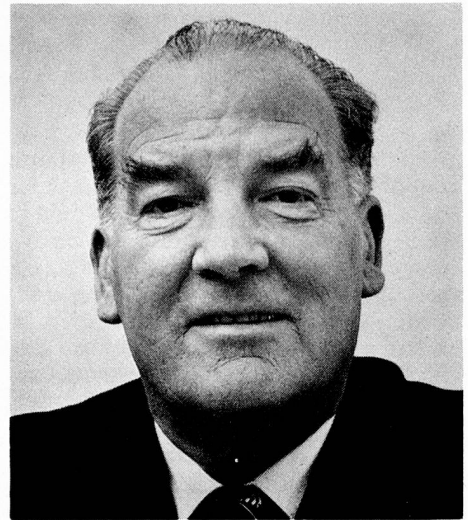
Our country, too, has not been spared the problems of economic recession. Even though, fortunately, Switzerland has not suffered any real crisis and there are signs of improvement, some branches of our industry and trade have experienced a marked decline in their volume of production and employment. For both economic and human reasons, priority must be given to the creation and maintenance of job opportunities, or at least to protection of the unemployed. Here, too, a solution is possible only if all Swiss contribute their share and demonstrate their solidarity with those who are economically weak.

The international situation compels us to pay full attention to our national security. But security as we understand it, covers a wide field. The army is indeed an important instrument of our national self-assertion, though not the only one. We strive not to slacken in our military efforts but to maintain an armed force which will be taken seriously by all nations.

Our foreign relations also form part of our policy of security, above all our relations with those who need our assistance.

Finally, our policy of security also involves keeping our own house in order. We must use wisely the ever diminishing space available to us. We must master the problems of protecting our land, waters and air from pollution, safeguard our environment threatened by civilisation. And above all, we must find ways of living together, within state and society; ways which are acceptable to the majority of our people. And last but not least we must ensure that our Swiss state remains governable.

So you see, dear compatriots, we have a multitude of problems demanding our full strength and attention. In many respects we have made a good start, but there are still a lot of difficulties to be overcome. We are trying to keep our



*Federal President Rudolf Gnägi. Photo by courtesy of The Swiss Embassy.*

Swiss homeland as "livable" as possible, so that if at any time you return you will be able to do so with pleasure.

On behalf of the Swiss people and the Swiss government I thank you for your loyalty to Switzerland and the good services you are constantly rendering your homeland. Ever mindful of the bonds that unite us, dear compatriots, I convey to you our greetings and sincerest good wishes.

Your President.

## SWISS BANK APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Richard E. Amstad, at present Manager at the Berne Office, and Mr. Henri Jauslin, at present Deputy Manager, London, have both been appointed Managers at the London Office of the Swiss Bank Corporation with effect from the 1st July.

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