

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: - (1981)
Heft: 1777

Rubrik: Letter from Switzerland

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: 15.02.2026

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

A pessimistic view from the National Council

THE military commission of the Swiss National Council has requested the Federal Military Department to examine whether repetition courses should not, in future, also be held during the Christmas and New Year's recess.

In view of the climate of confrontation between East and West and of the continuously increasing preponderance of the Eastern bloc in the military field Switzerland should, in the eyes of the commission, be better than hitherto secured against a surprise attack. Moreover, measures should now be studied how the mobilisation of the army could be carried through more rapidly than now.

The question naturally arises what induced the members of the said commission to adopt such a pessimistic, not to say alarmist, view of the international situation. As far as can be established, a number of factors may have contributed to a sombre picture emerging.

First and foremost it was no doubt the brutal Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 which showed clearly what the constant Soviet professions of peaceful intentions and co-existence are worth.

In addition it is no secret that the Soviets have built up a military machine of conventional and nuclear potential, including one of the largest fleets of warships and giant submarines, missiles, rockets, warplanes, tanks and other weaponry which has long since passed the level of what can conceivably be considered as necessary for defence.

If one were to look for gloomy prophets amongst the interna-

tional prominence, one could point to recent utterances of Henry Kissinger, or the Federal German Foreign Minister Genscher, as well as the new American Deputy Minister of Defence, Carlucci – not to speak of the Chinese politicians who take an outbreak of an East-West conflict within the next few years for granted. And now Berne seems to view the situation in a similar light.

However, if one examines the problem whether the Soviets have built up such a huge military machine in order to attack – or rather in order to be able to politically blackmail the West into surrendering important positions – the latter possibility seems to be the more probable.

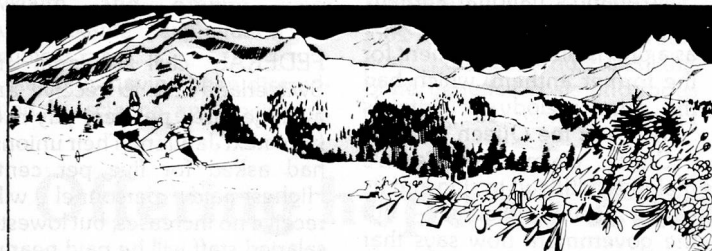
For one thing, as long as Soviet relations with China are

what they are now, it is most unlikely that the Soviets would risk an aggression against Western Europe for fear of a possible second front in their back.

Moreover it seems most likely that in case of a war the Soviet's East-European Empire would rise like one man against their suppressors: Poland, the Baltic States, Hungary, Romania are not, by nature, communist states.

If one looks for reasons why a direct Soviet attack against the West is unlikely, they are very easy to find. Besides, to be ready to defend the country is right and necessary – but to contribute to the creation of an atmosphere of pessimism and gloom seems unwise, to say the least.

Gottfried Keller



Your chalet or apartment in Switzerland at Alpe des Chaux.

Imagine: a mountainside retreat hidden among a thousand acres of unspoiled and protected countryside, yet situated only ten minutes from Villars.

The sun of the southern slopes of the Alps, forests, green pastures, peace and an architecture which completely blends into the surroundings.

Over a hundred kilometers of slopes for unlimited skiing, close to two golf courses.

A management which takes care of all your worries, the possibility of obtaining a loan at the privileged rate of 5¼ per cent, a steady income, an investment for the future.

For more information on this Swiss resort of outstanding quality, send the coupon below to:

Alpe des Chaux S.A., CH-1882 Gryon p/Villars, Switzerland.

Name: _____

Occupation: _____ Tel. N°: _____

Address: _____

S02

Swiss property scene



MAYENS-DE-RIDDES, Valais

(altitude: 1500m)

For sale only from the developer

STUDIOS

2½, 3½

5 rooms duplex

In a resort noted for its peace and beauty

RESIDENCE SI LES AROLLES

Postbox 42, 1908 RIDDES, Switzerland

Tel: (027) 86 1886