

Swiss postal, telegraph and telephone services [concluded]

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most, the Swiss collaborate in various collective assistance schemes organised by United Nations. In addition, private business does much to invest capital in those countries, and the Government helps to supply them with consumer goods and equipment by guaranteeing export risks, providing long-term credits, and giving the recipients facilities for consolidating their debts. Furthermore, Switzerland is carrying out a number of technical co-operation programmes: for example, numerous Swiss experts and volunteers, comparable to the members of the American Peace Corps, are at present working in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The developing countries, in their turn, send many apprentices, technicians and students to Switzerland.

* * *

If fate has been extremely kind to Switzerland up to now, she also has many problems to solve. But she is not the only one, and her problems are certainly less painful and profound than those of numerous other countries. With its immense technical progress and its radical political reorganisation, the whole world seems to have entered a phase in which the former values must be totally rethought. This is a magnificent task for a generation which is curious and full of imagination and initiative. Every Swiss is called upon to contribute to it. It concerns the Swiss outside her frontiers as much as those at home, especially this year when a new Article in the Federal Constitution is going to bind the Swiss abroad more closely to the life of their homeland. The First of August should remind the Swiss in Great Britain of it and make them aware both of their duties as citizens responsible for the wellbeing of their community, and of the splendid privilege of being members of a sovereign people.

Thanks are due, too, to Great Britain which, in such a generous and friendly fashion, affords hospitality to Swiss nationals and enables them to develop to the full their personal faculties and enterprises. Long may they prosper, both Britain and Switzerland!

MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS IN LUCERNE

No other musical event in Switzerland has won such an international reputation and attracts so many lovers of music as does the "International Music Festival" in Lucerne which this year will take place between 13th August and 8th September. The Swiss Festival Orchestra will play in four symphony concerts under Paul Klecki, Bernard Haitink, Claudio Abbado and André Cluytens. The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra under Max Rudolf will be heard in Lucerne for the first time in the fifth concert, while four further concerts are given to the Vienna Philharmonic directed by Herbert von Karajan, George Szell, Lorin Maazel and Georg Solti. Soloists of world renown will participate in these concerts. The general programme reaches a further climax on 30th August with a chorus concert which will combine the voices of the Belgian radio and the Zurich Chamber Chorus. The Chamber music programme comprises concerts by the Festival Strings Lucerne and the English Chamber Orchestra; an evening will be devoted to "musica nova", there will be two serenades at the famous Lion of Lucerne. Piano and organ recitals as well as a song recital and a presentation of young musicians round up the programme. The Municipal Theatre contributes to the festival by six performances of Jean Anouilh's "Majestés" (in German).

[S.N.T.O.]

SWISS POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES

(Concluded.)

Mail delivery in 1965

Last year showed a further increase in the handling of mail: 1.34 billion letters, 26.3 million registered letters and 439.7 million items without addresses (printed matter, publicity material, etc.). In addition, 875.3 million newspapers were sent to subscribers. This meant that 8.6 million items had to be collected, sorted, transported and delivered per working day.

Parcels numbered over 119 million inside Switzerland and 5.5 million sent abroad, an average of twenty-two parcels per head of population.

It is interesting to note that 260,000 individuals, officials and authorities enjoyed postage-free privileges. This does not include military authorities and soldiers who, whilst on service, send and receive letters and parcels free of charge.

PTT Accounts 1965

On 18th March, the Federal Council sent the PTT accounts for 1965 to Parliament. The profit has again decreased as compared with the previous year. It is down to 19m. francs, ordinary and extraordinary accounts combined. The budget had predicted a profit of 40.7 million francs.

Revision of postal charges

On 1st April, a number of increases came into force, though a full revision is only possible by act of legislation which is at present under consideration. The increases concern a re-adjustment of what is permissible as "samples", express and forwarding fees, the renting of *Postfächer* and a stricter rule as to printed matter.

Federal Councillor Gnaegi gave a press conference at which the proposed total revision was explained. It is obvious that practically all charges will have to be increased, except those of the postal coach passenger service, which will have to remain in line with railway fares.

Other facts and figures

A group of English experts were in Switzerland last year to study Swiss PTT methods, and their recommendations in a report of 150 pages included re-organisation of the dispatch and delivery services. They estimated a possible saving of 55m. francs and of 1,500 staff. The latter averaged 43,430 during 1965, a reduction of 2.3% over the previous year.

Two mobile automatic telephone exchanges have been ordered ("52er-System" Hasler & Albiwerk Siemens) to be used as emergency and supplementary stations.

In 1950, the PTT owned 401 buildings. This figure has gone up to 1,121, and 27m. francs is the sum asked for from Parliament for new buildings.

The Executive Council of the World Postal Union held a meeting in Berne, attended by twenty-seven countries. It was decided to keep headquarters in Berne.

At the PTT Museum in Berne, a special exhibition "Sondermarken Europa 1956-1966" is being held until 4th September. The number of subscribers to the *Wertzeichenverkaufsstelle PTT* has doubled in two years to over 50,000.

(Apart from the address given to the N.S.H. in London by PTT Secretary-General, all news received by courtesy of A.T.S. and O.S.E.C.)