

# Switzerland's participation in post-war reconstruction in Europe

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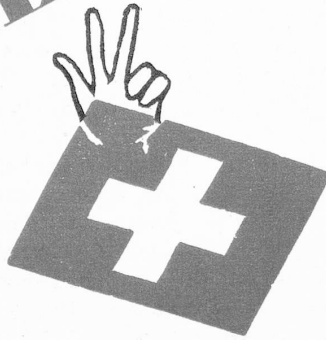
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## SWITZERLAND'S PARTICIPATION IN POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION IN EUROPE.

The war which rages outside the Swiss borders, with its immeasurable suffering, privation and destruction, sets Switzerland two important tasks: Charitable first-aid to war-victims and economic participation in the reconstruction of devastated lands.

The first task, which is also the most urgent one, is to make available as soon as possible to the grievously afflicted peoples of Europe, food, medical supplies, clothing, temporary shelter, etc. If the Swiss people are spared the ravages of war, they will do their utmost, true to their humanitarian traditions, to help quickly and generously. A special committee under the chairmanship of the former Federal Councillor Dr. Wetter, with headquarters in Berne, has been set up to prepare and carry out this plan.

The second task which is completely different and independent from the first one, is the economic and financial participation of Switzerland in the reconstruction of the devastated European countries, and the re-equipment of factories, etc. Switzerland is also keen to share in this work, which is of a commercial nature in contrast to the above mentioned humanitarian activities. The "Swiss Committee for Economic Participation in the Post-War Reconstruction of Europe" which was founded in the autumn of 1943, has made preliminary investigations regarding the extent to which Swiss industry and trade, with the assistance of the Swiss Government, would be able to contribute to the solution of this task. The Committee proposes to co-ordinate and further the various private efforts in this direction. For this purpose it is planned to establish a central office to act as connecting link between Swiss producers, enterprises and technicians, and the different foreign countries. This central office will work on a non-profitmaking basis. The participation of Switzerland in post-war reconstruction will at the same time further her own exports and so keep Swiss economic life going and prevent unemployment in the post-war period. The Committee, whose activities have the approval of the Swiss Federal authorities, includes among its members well known personalities from the realm of industry and trade, technics and finance, as well as from different Federal Ministries. Its headquarters are in Baden, Switzerland.

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## THE 1944 RUSSO-SWISS AFFAIR.

In connection with the Russo-Swiss affair that is stirring up so much dust all reports published so far have been telling us part of the story only; even that part has not always been accurate. There were several incidents that can be briefly stated as follows: