

# This year's message of the President of the Confederation to the Swiss people

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Objektyp: **Preface**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **14 (1949)**

Heft 2

PDF erstellt am: **13.09.2024**

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# HELVETIA

MONTHLY  
PUBLICATION  
OF THE



SWISS BENEVOLENT  
SOCIETY IN  
NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY.

WELLINGTON N.Z.  
FEBRUARY 1949.

Volume 2  
14th year.

XX

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PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION  
to the  
SWISS PEOPLE.

XX

On New Year's Day, the President of the Confederation, Ernst Nobs, made a broadcast to the Swiss people, in which he said:

"The Year is the measurement of our life and on New Year's Eve, we like to review past events and plan for the future. At this moment I wish to ask Swiss citizens, of all tendencies, groups and regions, what common bond unites you and gives your community the capacity to overcome the difficulties of the period and the problems of our age? Do you have this confidence in united efforts or do you prefer divisional action, comprising those numerous elements which are an enemy to the community. I am sure you all agree, the outstanding features of our country, are its democratic institutions, its manifold and rich culture an economic aim of general welfare for the people, and, last but not least, freedom and sovereignty. All these achievements we esteem as lasting and of high value. Acquired during centuries, they represent the uniting factors of our people. We obtained these treasures not to lose them, but to keep and increase them by the contribution of each generation and to prevent them from crumbling. These are our common aims and only in united effort, will we succeed."

The President further said:

"Foreigners who visit our country periodically and also Swiss returning from abroad, praise the Swiss people and their country. We are not carried away by these compliments as we know our faults and defects... we like criticism. Although we were not altogether spared, it has been our good luck to avoid the ravages of two World Wars which has helped considerably towards our success in the present period.

Our people do not wish to alter their traditional line of foreign policy. Neutrality remains our principle, our protection and our safeguard. But we know that words alone will not achieve this..... we are prepared and determined to defend these principles, if necessary, to the utmost limit. This dogged determination has been the reason for our success, in that it has instilled in all our citizens a sense of individual responsibility, which has helped considerably in the past, when making and standing by our decisions. In common purpose and united in our fate, we will go forward with the sole intention of retaining our independence and our freedom."