

Swiss contributions to U.N. actions

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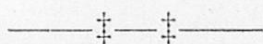
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most men dreaded it. Perhaps we do fear responsibility, the co-responsibility which distinguishes us as higher species of God's creation. The more we ask and expect of the modern Welfare State, the more we limit our personal freedom. If we want to remain free we must not push all responsibility on the powers that be out of sheer laziness. Our countrymen at home have shown trust and confidence when they accepted the new Constitutional Article for the Swiss Abroad. Accepting the rights accorded to us, we should also be ready to do our bit. It is so easy to sit back and pretend lack of time and abilities. We may not have been endowed with riches or the gift of the gab, with energy to shift obstacles and vision to evolve new plans and ideas. But there is not one of us who has not been given tackle or talk, tithes or time to be used in full co-responsibility. 1968 gives us a new chance.

—The Swiss Observer



SWISS CONTRIBUTIONS TO U.N. ACTIONS

Korea

In 1953, the Federal Council decided that Switzerland would co-operate in the neutral Supervisory Commission and in the Commission for the repatriation of prisoners of war. She is still a member of the Armistice Commission together with Sweden, Poland and Czechoslovakia. Between 1955 and 1958, medical help amounting to 1.5m. francs was granted.

Suez

During the Suez conflict in 1956, Switzerland arranged troop transports into the area at the request of U.N. Secretary-General (charter agreement between Swissair and U.N.). Later she took over the cost of these flights (1.6m. francs).

Congo

Switzerland's contribution during the Congo conflict consisted of transport facilities (Swissair and Balair carried out flights from Europe to and inside the Congo). Mostly food was transported, including milk powder donated by Switzerland, and the cost of 1.8m. francs was carried by the Confederation.

For other assistance in the Congo (experts, etc.), Switzerland spent 4.1m. francs. The Confederation carries the cost of the Kitambo Hospital staffed by Swiss personnel under Swiss medical direction (1.3m. francs annually).

UN Loan

In 1962, U.N.O. was in financial difficulties due to operations in the Near East and the Congo and because of the failure to pay up membership fees by some of the member States. Switzerland contributed a loan of 1.9m. dollars in order to help over the financial crisis.

Vietnam

The Secretary General of U.N. requested Switzerland in October 1963 to put at the disposal of the U.N. Observers in South Vietnam telegraphic communications, services of couriers and safes of the Swiss Consulate General in Saigon, as well as the office of the Swiss Observer in New York.

Cyprus

Since 1964, Switzerland has contributed towards the cost of U.N. peace-keeping troops in Cyprus. The amount until recently totalled 895,000 dollars, to which may be added the 200,000 dollars (Fr.870,000.—) granted in October. U Thant expressed his thanks to the Federal Council and the Swiss people in a message.

Near East

In August, U Thant asked Switzerland to appoint a Swiss to be sent as the Secretary-General's personal representative to Jerusalem on a fact-finding mission. The Federal Council chose Ambassador Ernesto Thalmann, Swiss Observer with U.N. in New York.

The Federal Council agreed to the Secretary-General's request for a medical representative as supervisor of the armistice in Israel, and appointed Colonel F. Zuest, doctor at Frauenfeld, to the mission.

UNCTAD Council

Ambassador P. Jolles has been chosen President of U.N.'s Council for Trade and Development, of which 55 countries are members. According to Switzerland's policy, she did not put up any candidate for the office, but agreed to the unanimous wish of member States to have one of her nationals in this high office.

These examples show that a neutral Small State has an important part to play in international affairs, and they, and many others, demonstrate Switzerland's traditional willingness to co-operate in keeping the peace. Such actions, missions and appointments play their part in Switzerland's **presence** in the world.



Laugh a little . . .

Two lady friends are chatting. One makes the catty remark: "Your husband is really quite nice, but I think it is terrible the way he puts his feet upon the table".

Says the other friend: "It is just this I find so marvellous. You have no idea how much money tumbles out of his pocket when he does it!"

—Nebelspalter