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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Budget for 1947, in spite of stringent economies and putting the axe on expenditure, shows a deficit of 100 million francs. (The deficit was at one time estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 400 million francs.)

The major part of this debit balance consists of expenses for military purposes and various subventions. The military budget alone takes 3.2 per cent of the country's revenue.

Since the termination of the war Switzerland has granted credits to foreign countries to the amount of 775 million francs.

\* \* \*

Federal Customs receipts during the year 1946 have reached a grand total of 271.4 million francs, or 186.9 million francs more than in 1945. Not included in these figures are the custom receipts from tobacco, which are given as 66.2 million francs. (1945: 18.2 million francs.)

\* \* \*

Colonel Hermann Flückiger, Swiss Minister in Moscow, has paid his first visit to Monsieur Molotov, Russia's Foreign Minister.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Minister in Rome, Monsieur de Weck, was received by the Pope at the Vatican.

\* \* \*

A Rumanian Trade Delegation has arrived in Berne, in order to conclude a new trade agreement between the two countries, Dr. Max Tröndle, Delegate for Commercial Treaties, will lead the Swiss Delegation.

\* \* \*

The Chilian Minister in Berne, Monsieur Carlos, Morla Lynch, has informed the Federal Council of his approaching departure. It is reported, that his recall has no connection with the gold smuggling affair of the former commercial Attaché at the Chilian Legation.

### Cantonal

An explosion which occurred at the Luminat works in Zurich-Affoltern caused the death of one workman, another was badly burned and had to be taken to hospital.

\* \* \*

Miss Margaret Bondfield, head of the Ministry of Labour in the 1929-1931 Labour Administration, has given a series of lectures on "British women in public life" at the Kongress Haus in Zurich.

\* \* \*

An additional credit of ten million francs has been voted by the town Council of Zurich, to combat the scarcity of housing accommodation, this brings the total of credits earmarked for this purpose since 1942 to 33 million francs.

\* \* \*

Accidents caused through reckless driving have reached alarming dimensions. In Zurich, a three year old girl was killed and a twelve year old girl seriously injured by a motorist, who, as stated, drove with undue care.

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