

"Switzerland strengthens her defences"

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Delegates so that they can all reside together. Very important decisions will have to be taken at that Conference which will be attended by over 80 nations, at the rate of six Delegates per nation. The British Government has invited them to a dinner, presided over by the Prime Minister, which will be only one of the important functions which have been organised.

This very great Jamboree is bound to have a tremendous influence and the Conference will be, in fact, the only world gathering where 83 free nations of all races and religions are able to get together on an equal footing with no other purpose but to pledge themselves to their utmost to establish Friendship among Scouts of all nations, thus preparing the way for more tolerance and greater confidence.

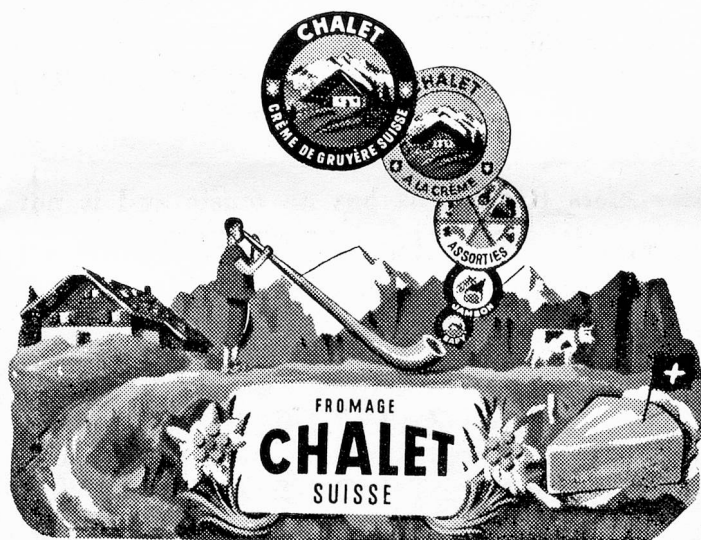
Unfortunately, the Russians and some of their satellites will not be present because Scouting has rightly and very firmly refused to recognise Scouts who are not free and independent of Government control. B-P laid down, very wisely, that Scouting must be absolutely independent of any State control as the whole movement is based on the free and willing acceptance of the leadership of those elected by its members, leaders who have taken the Scouts oath and undertaken to live accordingly. We know, of course, that there are still thousands of Scouts in satellite countries at present and regular contact is maintained with them, but it cannot be forgotten that it was strongly through Scouting that the Resistance Movement in the last war was formed, and the participation of the Scouts in the fight for freedom is probably one of the most heroic pages of the movement. Little has been said about it because this was just one of those jobs which had to be done, but the ideal inspired by Baden-Powell has carried the flame for freedom all through the world and it is still well alight in this Jubilee year.

An so from all parts of the earth, at the opening of the Geophysical Year, young people will come to pay homage to their Founder and renew their promise, "To Serve".

Sincerely yours,

Alfred Renou.

Commissaire-Délégué du Scoutisme Suisse.



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THE "DUBOIS AFFAIR".

We herewith reproduce a letter from the Swiss Ambassador to the Editor of the "Sunday Times" (with the latter's note) which appeared in the issue of July 14th, 1957.

The Dubois Affair.

From The Swiss Ambassador.

Sir,—I refer to the article by Stephen Coulter headed "The Dubois Affair".

In that article the author alleges that M. Dubois passed confidential information obtained by him to the representatives of a foreign Power and suggests that this was done with the consent of his departmental chief, Dr. Markus Feldmann, Minister of Justice, and M. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister. He continues by asserting that the Swiss Government approved of espionage by its own officials for the benefit of a foreign country and violated its own Neutrality Statute.

I am instructed to state that neither Dr. Feldmann nor M. Petitpierre had any knowledge of M. Dubois's alleged conveyance of such information. The statement in the article that the Swiss Government approved of espionage by its own officials for the benefit of a foreign country is quite untrue.

A. DAENIKER.

London, W.1.

[We are happy to publish this statement by the Swiss Ambassador, which we and our correspondent fully accept, and regret any reflection which might seem to have been implied on his Government or individual Ministers. — EDITOR.]

"SWITZERLAND STRENGTHENS HER DEFENCES."

In our issue of 28th June 1957 we reproduce an article which appeared in "The Times" on May 29th under the above heading.

We are informed from a competent source that this article contains a number of inexact and mistaken statements.

Our informant, a member of the Swiss General Staff, writes: "No responsible Swiss army authority would consider that it was possible that we could defend ourselves for a year in the redoubt".

"No hospitals are installed in glaciers."

"The leaders of our army are against the view that we could lead a war with guerilla detachments."

"The artillery is to-day fully motorised, but has no anti-tank guns."

"Switzerland possesses no heavy bomber planes."

"The Swiss army has not twenty Divisions."

"The recruit schools do not last seven to nine months."

"The highest rank in the army is not that of a Colonel."

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