

Switzerland awaits outcome of Brussels talks

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1963)**

Heft 1425

PDF erstellt am: **26.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-688115>

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The "Times" stated on 22nd January: "President de Gaulle's speech and the subsequent attempt by the French delegation in Brussels to break off the negotiations with Britain surprised even those Swiss who had not lost their distrust of the French leader's attitude towards extending the Common Market since he torpedoed the free trade zone negotiations in 1958.

"When EFTA was created in 1959, the Swiss supported Mr. Maudling's view that a new collective approach of the Seven should not be made without having secured French political readiness to come to terms in advance. Though Mr. Macmillan's decision to start negotiations was well understood in Switzerland, the general opinion at that time was that the new approach was premature, because the above-mentioned condition was not yet fulfilled.

"The readiness of Britain to accept the Treaty of Rome, its willingness to join in the common agricultural policy after a certain period of transition, its many concessions as concerns its former relations with the Commonwealth, and the fact that the negotiations had already lasted a year and a half and were, on the technical level, near a successful end had, however, strengthened hopes that the political opposition of France had been mitigated and that the French too, under pressure from their five partners, would finally have to agree. The manner in which President de Gaulle has now acted is deeply resented in Switzerland."

Now the negotiations between EEC and Great Britain have broken down. Whatever the economic and political consequences for the British Government and Nation, disappointment is keen in Europe, in EEC as well as in EFTA countries. In Switzerland, the view is that it is not up to the Swiss to pass any censure. Switzerland undertook her bilateral approach to EEC in common with other EFTA countries. It is therefore natural that her policy will to a large extent depend on what her EFTA partners decide. The Federal Council is calm and quietly awaits the next EFTA Ministerial Meeting which starts in Geneva on 17th February. As the parliamentary correspondent of the "Basler Nachrichten" rightly reported on the day after the break-down "Berne has already said all that is necessary".

It has been stated that the Common Market Machine remains, but that the spirit has been knocked out of it. Indeed, for the moment, France's EEC partners don't seem to be willing to rally round President de Gaulle. All that has happened will provide EFTA with an opportunity of proving its strength and good will in the creation of an integrated and united Europe. Through recent developments, Switzerland may have been given a respite to put her own house in order so as to be better prepared to play her part in ultimate European unity.

SWITZERLAND AWAITS OUTCOME OF BRUSSELS TALKS

Political Influence on Economic Affairs

Ask in Zurich about Switzerland's economic prospects in 1963, and one is apt to be met with a counter-query: "Is Great Britain going to join the European Common Market, or not?" The Swiss are hanging on the answer. They get between 25 and 30 per cent of their national income from export trade, and about 40 per cent of that trade is done with Common Market countries. Thus, to stay outside E.E.C., in the face of a progressive raising of tariffs against non-members, could prove hazardous. The Swiss were ready to take the risk if Britain were to become the kernel and bulwark of a rival trade block. But if Britain goes into the Common Market, Swiss businessmen feel they will have to work out a *modus vivendi* with it, too — though the prospect greatly exercises some of them, in view of the impact on national sovereignty and traditional neutrality.

German Pessimism

It is not only in Switzerland that such political considerations vitally influence economic affairs. It is the same all over Western Europe. In France, the one single development most influencing the attitude of businessmen towards 1963 has been the strengthening of the hand of President de Gaulle and the Pompidou Government. Had the outcome of the November elections gone against de Gaulle, the business community no doubt at this stage would have been filled with doubt and apprehension. Now it is reassured, not the least by the knowledge that the Fourth Plan, the informal programme representing a compromise between what business would like to do and what the Government considers in the national interest will go forward with its target for expansion throughout its economy.

Some of the pessimism one encounters in west Germany at this time undoubtedly reflects the toils that the Adenauer Administration has found itself in as a result of the *Der Spiegel* affair, and doubts about the future of Dr. Adenauer himself. Nor can international politics be ignored. It goes without saying that the outcome of the Cuba crisis has been interpreted bullishly by business, though in west Germany the satisfaction is tinged by new anxieties over the fate of Berlin. Generally speaking, the setting back of the Soviet Union politically has increased confidence that President Kennedy will be equally determined in his economic decisions, especially those aimed at expanding international trade and getting the United States economy on the move.

Dominant Factor

Businessmen on the Continent continue to express concern on this latter subject, saying that their activities cannot be immune to trends in the United States. But it is clear that this is no longer as important in their thinking and planning as it used to be. Some industrialists say that the dangers of recession in the United States continue to be stressed out of habit, and almost out of politeness, to a greater extent than is justified by the facts. More important in the long run could be a powerfully mounted export drive by the United States, especially to third markets.

Otherwise, the tide is seen to be running against the United States, with increased investment by American firms in western Europe an important factor in sustaining economic activity there. But if "rich" Europe can now afford to be less worried about what happens in the United

London Group

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OPEN MEETING

Monsieur W. ROCH,

First Secretary at the Swiss Embassy
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and show coloured slides.

States, the main reason is because of the expansion of trade within its own confines.

This is the dominant economic factor, and the main source of confidence at the present time. By the beginning of 1963, the European Common Market has been judged a success, and from now on the tendency will be to capitalize on the advantages and minimize the problems. Time has resolved many of the doubts which arose when the experiment was launched. Some examples are cited. For instance, the prediction that the Italian steel industry would fall victim to the much more powerful industries of Germany, France and Belgium after the Coal and Steel Community went into operation; in practice, over the past 10 years the industry of Italy has enjoyed the greatest relative growth.

Another assumption, following the signing of the Treaty of Rome, was that west Germany would dominate the Six, and its exports swamp the rest. The statistics show that in the first three years, Italian industrial exports to west Germany rose by 125 per cent, but imports from Germany by only 41 per cent. Exports by the Benelux area rose three times as fast as imports, again in relation to west Germany.

The Common Market has led to an overall expansion of trade among member countries to an extent unforeseen by businessmen. French steelmakers have made headway in south Germany, Italian appliance manufacturers have scored a smashing success in France, Belgian furniture manufacturers have found outlets all over Europe, and the German chemical industry has enjoyed an export boom. But the internal growth has not been only in terms of trade. No figures are readily available in support, but the expansion of mutual investment is believed to have been even greater.

Increasing Scale

German firms invested very little in France in the old days. Now they are doing so on an increasing scale, and vice-versa. Out of 236 new enterprises set up in Belgium by foreign firms in 1961, 26 were French, 22 German, 45 Dutch, 18 Swiss, the aggregate well surpassing the United States total of 77. This was in spite of the progressive reduction of tariffs between member countries. This co-ordination and strengthening of the structure is a source of confidence practically unique in the modern business world.

(By courtesy, "The Times" 11th January 1963.)

SNOW ROVER — A BRITISH-SWISS DEVELOPMENT

Exhibited at the recent Public Works Exhibition at Olympia was a new addition to the already versatile Land-Rover: A Land-Rover *Snow Blower*.

The machine is the result of a close British-Swiss co-operation between the Rover Co. Ltd., Solihull, and the Swiss Rolba Company, who are a world-wide organisation specialising in snow-clearing equipment and whose snow-clearing machines are already used in considerable numbers in the U.K.

As a special feature, the machine is equipped with hydrostatic transmission, which does away with gear changing during ploughing.

This new machine will have universal appeal, especially in countries with sporadic snow falls, owing to the fact that the machine is a dual purpose machine, and that the vehicle portion can be used for other purposes during the snow free time. Attaching and detaching of the snow blower attachment only takes a few minutes.

BERNESE OBERLAND NEWS LETTER

Adelboden

Renovation and modernisation all along the line is reported from this favourite resort. This applies to hotels — with rather more beds available than hitherto — inns, restaurants and cafés. A new ski-lift from the "Boden" to the "Fleckli" has been opened and the passenger capacity of the Boden-Kuonisbergli ski-lift will be increased from 400 to 600 per hour. Adelboden already has a completely up-to-date artificial ice rink and now its sports facilities will be better than ever before. Visitors who love "l'après-ski" as much as "le ski" itself will be glad to hear that their tastes will be well catered for at Adelboden's bars, "dangings" and restaurants.

Beatenberg

"The snow may not always be reliable at Beatenberg, but you can count on sunshine from dawn to dusk." This description by a visitor is not exaggerated. However, it omits one important fact: a chair-lift runs direct from the village to the Niederhorn (Hausberg), where good skiing can be had from December to Easter. And in mid-winter you can ski at Beatenberg itself, with its skating rink, ski-lift and ski-jumping ramp. After all, the place is 3,937 feet up and must therefore have some snow to offer! A dozen medium category hotels, a number of children's holiday homes and numerous holiday chalets complete the amenities of this sunshine resort.

Brünig-Hasliberg

Four charming little villages strung along a sunny mountain-side: Hohfluh (3,445 feet), Wasserwendi (4,101 feet), Goldern (3,609 feet) and Reuti (3,510 feet). Access: trains from Interlaken or Lucerne to Brünig (S.B.B. Station) connecting with postal motor-coach service. Motor road open all the year. Unterfluh nursery ski-lift. Hasliberg-Käserstatt "Gondelbahn" (enclosed chair-lift). Käserstatt-Hohbühl ski-lift. Ideal ski-country with wide choice of downhill runs.

Grindelwald

Grindelwald is celebrating its seventy-fifth birthday as a winter sports centre. And it has plenty to be proud of! Take uphill transportation: apart from the well-known Wengernalp-Jungfrau Railway and Grindelwald-First Chairlift, there are no less than six ski-lifts and a ski-funi. Two new ski-lifts in the First area are a welcome addition to the already excellent facilities. Keen types can therefore keep themselves busy while the indoor sportsman will feel his blood tingle — or rather his mouth water! — at the thought of the Grindelwald *Quinzaine Culinare*, during which hotel guests may dine out at any hotel in the resort and enjoy its speciality without paying a supplement.

Gstaad

The very name conjures up visions of princes, princesses, film stars and oil magnates. In fact, of course, this crowned and uncrowned royalty is greatly outnumbered by the more "average" holidaymakers out to enjoy themselves. Second-class hotels and other less expensive forms of holiday accommodation are just as much in evidence as luxury and first-class establishments and exclusive chalets (chalets, incidentally, can also be rented). A local season ticket already covers twenty-five cableways, etc., and ski-lifts in the region, and now Gstaad is building four