

Expo 1964 : Swiss National Day Celebration

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1964)**

Heft 1461

PDF erstellt am: **15.08.2024**

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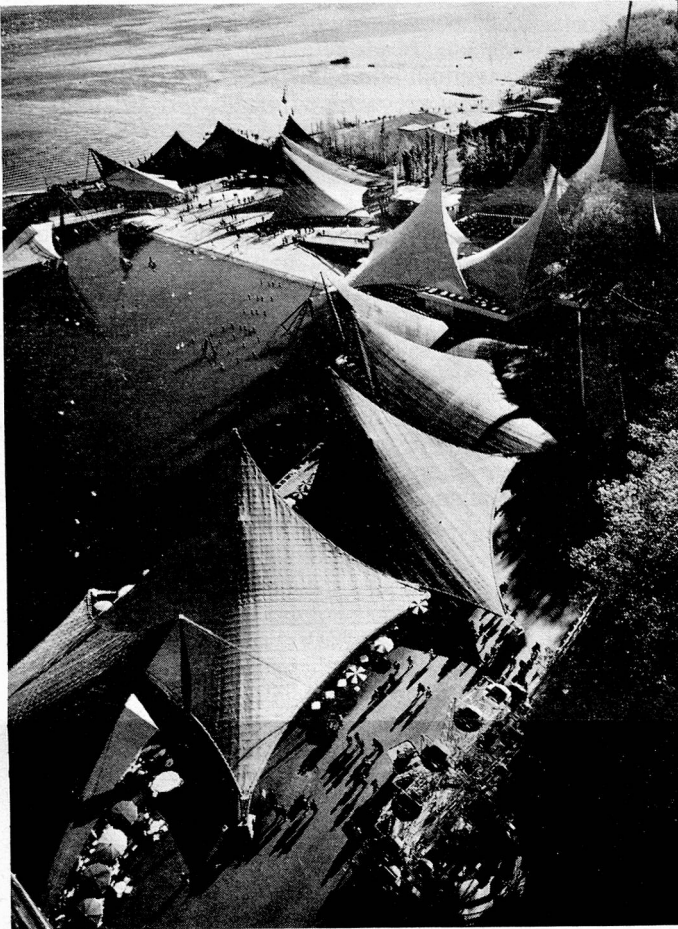
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EXPO 1964



SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

For once the Swiss flag fluttered from the top of the tower at the National Exhibition on 1st August, with the EXPO flag a good bit lower down. Couples in national costumes of the Valais sold the First of August badges, and a special folkloristic programme was transmitted on radio and T.V. from the Casino. 90,906 visitors were admitted to the EXPO on that day.

It was an unique and striking event, tradition in this Swiss show with all its projection into the future, its bold and futuristic architecture. The EXPO 1964 is a form of stocktaking, and it compels thinking and reflecting. Federal Councillor Chaudet referred to the "Path of Switzerland" which is portrayed in the Exhibition — not the path of glory and achievement of the past, but that of the personal and communal attitude of the Swiss in the future. In his official address, the Federal Councillor also spoke of the National Day Celebrations in 1914 and 1939, the two years in which the last national exhibitions were held. There was danger then, but, though there is peace now, there is also uncertainty. He mentioned solidarity and neutrality, the duties and obligations they meant, and he appealed for unity to tackle the tasks which the present brought. Federal Councillor Chaudet also commented on the self-discipline which was demanded by the economic affluence. "No task overtaxes our strength if this remains united."

The President of the Confederation, Federal Councillor von Moos gave an official address over the Swiss radio and television network, in which he pondered on the contents and significance of the Federal Charter of 1291.

There was a simple celebration on the Rütli, and celebrations were held in towns and villages all over the country. Federal Councillor Bonvin attended the ceremony in Neuchâtel, and at Tramelan Ambassador Micheli, Secretary-General of the Federal Political Department, gave the chief address at a large gathering due to the national "Concours Hippique".

The First of August Celebration in Basle was exceptionally simple, as this year's "St. Jakobsfeier" will be held on a more elaborate scale than usual.

In Fribourg, Federal Judge Jean Castella addressed a crowd of several thousand, amongst them the former Federal Councillor Bourgknecht. The celebration at Sion took place in particularly picturesque surroundings with the illuminated castles of Valère and Tourbillon as a background. At Martigny, the fusion of the two Communes Bourg and Ville gave the patriotic rally a special character.

Zurich held its usual celebration with a large procession and a ceremony at the Bürkliplatz "Stadthausanlage". In Zurich and in many other towns individual ceremonies were organised in the various districts and suburbs, often with bonfires. These were a special feature in the country, especially from hilltops and mountainsides.

In Berne it has become a tradition to ask the young citizens recently come of age, male and female, to take part in the celebrations; seven hundred were present in the procession and afterwards on the Cathedral Square.

About one hundred messages of good wishes from Heads of States from all parts of the world were received by the President of the Confederation and the Head of the Political Department. An American boy scout was received by Federal Councillor Tschudi. He handed over the text of the proclamation signed by forty-six State Governors of U.S.A. At a suggestion by the American Society for Friendship with Switzerland, this message of goodwill was sent to the Swiss people on their National Day.

(compiled from news received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.

BIG EXPANSION AT ZURICH AIRPORT

The size of the airport terminal at Zurich will be nearly trebled to cover 210,000 cubic metres on completion of the building programme that is to run until the end of 1968. The cost of the scheme is expected to be more than £4 million.

Work was started at the end of last year as soon as the plans were approved by the Federal authorities and by the middle of May the bottleneck at the transit and waiting rooms had been eliminated by the construction of a temporary but stylish transit hall with seating accommodation for another 150 people, who are offered a long list of facilities, including places of worship and showers.

Incoming and outgoing passengers will be kept separate by using different floors and the final concept envisages "finger docks" — covered passages to aircraft positions — as extensions of the base dock.

There are also complementary schemes for a four-lane motorway to connect the airport direct with the city of Zurich and an extension of parking space at the airport from 2,000 to 3,500 cars.