

# Comment

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time—and not just for the time that it takes to learn the job.

Unfortunately, such men are practically impossible to find in Switzerland. They can only come from Africa. It is only when Swiss co-operation in Africa will be supported by highly qualified and responsible Africans that all the hoped for results will be achieved. (PMB)

## COMMENT

### THE JESUITS TO BE ALLOWED BACK

The Swiss people will be called, probably still in 1972, to abrogate the 51st and 52nd Articles of the Federal Constitution, which respectively ban the Jesuit Order in Switzerland and forbid the founding of new convents and religious orders in the country.

Rigourously applied at the beginning, these laws have been relaxed over the years and there are at present 164 Swiss Jesuits, including 121 priests, 80 of whom are active in Switzerland. For example, the Editors of the Scout magazine "Kompass" and of the review "Orientierung" are Jesuits.

The message of the Federal Council proposing these constitutional changes recalls how the Articles were instituted. The banning of the Jesuit Order came as a result of the Sonderbund war in 1848, which was unleashed by a dissension between a minority of conservative Catholic cantons, in which the Jesuits had a predominant influence, and the remainder of the Confederates, who were inspired by 19th century ideas of progress and lay government.

The Jesuits were accused of excessive obedience to the temporal authority of the Pope and of hostility to individual freedom. When the Constitution was revised in 1874, at a time when the "Kulturkampf" was at its peak, the 52nd Article, banning the establishment of new orders, was also included. Historians agree that the promoters of these provisions were not anti-Jesuit as such. It was not a question of pitting laymen against Catholics, but rather the new principles of "progress" against opposition to change and religious reaction. That is, religious freedom was never put in question.

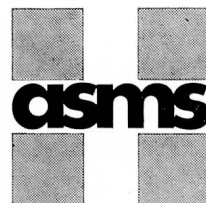
The Message of the Federal Council was published after 18 years of slow progress in which former President Ludwig von Moos and Professor Werner Kaegi, of Zurich, played predominant roles. There is little doubt that it will be accepted by Parliament and by the overwhelming majority of the Swiss people. These articles belong to an altogether different chapter of history and the Jesuit Order, or any new religious order, cannot possibly pose a threat to Switzerland's internal cohesion today. (PMB)

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