

S E C R E T

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
MILAN DETACHMENT, ZONE 3
APO 512, U.S. ARMY

Ref. No. 499-1.

10 January 1947.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE.-

SUBJECT: Strengthening of the Swiss Army.
RE : New Border Fortifications.

1. Pursuant to instructions from the Supervising Agent, CIC, Zone 3, Milan Detachment, for an investigation of the fortification of the Swiss Frontier, the following information was obtained. Request of Supervising Agent was based on the original request of AC of SO2, BAAC.

2. From confidential OS informants it has been reported that towards the end of Sept. 46 an important meeting took place at Friburg (Switzerland). The meeting included all cantonal military chiefs with a view in studying new plans concerning a possible mobilization of the Swiss Army.

At the same time several military chiefs, together with exponents of the Swiss General Staff, discussed the potentiality of the Swiss Army, new plans of fortifications in some areas and further, the directives to be forwarded to the intelligence organizations for the protection of military secrets. Same confidential source reports that all political and military intelligence services were in the past reinforced through enlistments of new personnel carried out among tradesmen and representatives of Swiss concerns abroad.

The Swiss General Staff is at the present actively working on the preparation of strategic and logistic plans in view of the next war which, according to the General Staff's opinion, appears to be imminent. With the pretext of checking contraband, the borders are repeatedly reinforced by military units.

3. Following the allocation of new sums to meet military expenditures and while the GS tries not to impress the public through the press, it is known with certainty that serious provisions are being studied for future mobilization and the construction of new fortifications, of which the press has taken notice in the past and states among other things!

" Speaking of critics and comments regarding General GUIBAN and repercussions in the press, it is said that as far as military matters are concerned one has to go ahead with the utmost care. It is of no advantage whatsoever to expose the laundry in the open, thus giving a chance to foreigners to view that part of the laundry which is dirty. It is not wise to gossip too much about what constitutes our military

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organization, even if there are errors to be denounced, deficiencies and defects to be criticized, in order to deny any knowledge to foreigners delicate information, dangerous to our military status and to the organization of our national defense. This exhortation, however, does not mean that one has to maintain absolute and utmost silence about what might constitute a subject open to criticism and discussion without endangering the interests of the national defense. For example, it is known that the military expenses foreseen in the 1947 budget will amount to a sum of 435,5 million francs, only 25 per cent less than those incurred in 1946, and approved in 1945, at a time when the international situation was not yet clear and the country had to keep itself well-armed. The "Journal de Geneve" states that, the entire military expenses foreseen for the year 1947 are twice as much as those incurred in 1938, a year which was to be considered a prelude to the war. All in all the 1947 military expenses will still absorb almost half the amount of the total income of the federation."(taxes etc

Another article says: "The balance foreseen by the military department of the federation during the year 1947 is subdivided into three principal parts:

1. Regular account which includes all permanent and temporary expenses incurred by the military administration in peace time and those directly concerning the training and equipping of the Army.
2. The development of national defense (expenses for construction plants, purchases of terrain, etc.).
3. Active service; expenses for the civil personnel employed during active service and expenses for material used by the fortifying units."

In comparison to the pre-war period, the military expenditures have notably increased. In confronting the balance foreseen for 1947 with that of one pre-war year, one must take notice of the fact that we are presently going through a transitory period and that some extraordinary expenses are inevitable. The tasks of our Army have strongly augmented (armament, fortifications, arsenals, material of all kinds, more active soldiers, increased maintenance and replacement expenses, etc) and one seeks nevertheless to promote economy everywhere where there is a chance.

Agents Comments.

The Swiss General Staff, as it is known, is usually well informed. It is worried by the idea of a third world conflict and is seeking support and armor to safeguard thereon the neutrality of the country and at the present it is taking provisions in all directions to be ready for any possible emergency. Although the confidential source states that some new

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infantry Division is taking shape, equipped with a new model of infantry rifle and that continuous secret meetings by the General Staff and the various cantonal military chiefs are taking place in view of strengthening the frontiers, so far it does not appear that big fortification works and bunkers have been initiated as yet.

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