

# An achievement of democracy, union and peace

## The Swiss National Day: Iranians participate, Ambassador Ardeshir Zahedi is honoured



*On the way to the parade, the spectators sometimes approach the carriage which carries Mr. Zahedi and shake his hand Bottom left: People watching the parade ceremony from the balcony or in the street side walk*

*H.E. Zahedi - H.E. Amb. Antonio Ricoca  
Freire- Mr. Pierre-Philippe Dorier*



*Mr. Mrs. Marie-Antoinette & Pierre-Philippe Dorier- H.E. Amb. Antonio Ricoca Freire(Amb. Portugal)- H.E. Ardeshir Zahedi*

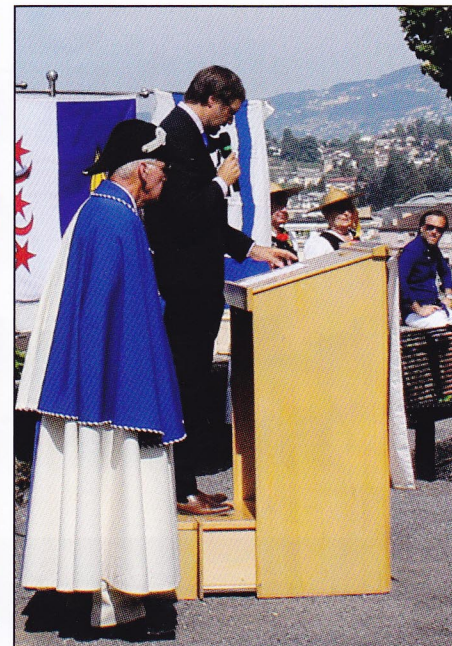
August the First is not only the day of celebration of the creation of the Swiss Federation, it is also a recognised landmark in the history of peace, cooperation and coexistence, a unity of wisdom for strength and achievement. It goes back to some 830 years ago when in 1291 the three cantons of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden formed an alliance. That was the date the Federal Charter (Bundesbrief) was signed. The Oath of the Old Swiss Confederacy has made another landmark in 1307 and the Bond of Unity in 1315 A.D.

It was however 600 years later, in 1891 that this date, August the First, was officially established as the Swiss National





*Left to right : Mr. Roger Pache(Huissier) Mr. Caleb Walther (Conseiller Municipal H.E. Ardeshir Zahedi*



*Mr. Roger Pache(Huissier)*



*The Band*



*Montreux officials at the ceremony*

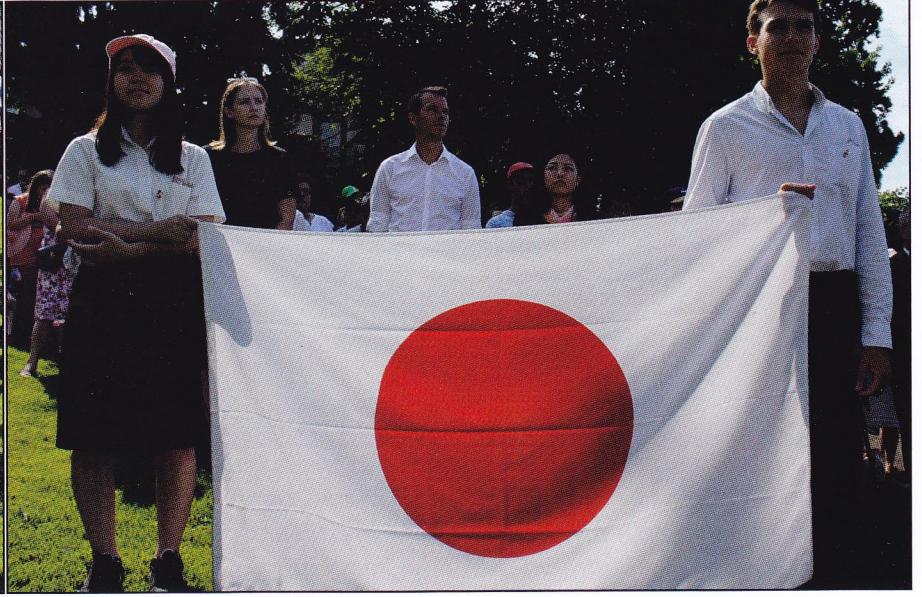
Day: Schweizer Bundesfeier for the German part, Fête Nationale Suisse for the French speakers and Festa Nazionale Svizzera for the Italian section. This event is celebrated at the national level and in each canton and district of Switzerland, with firework displays, concerts, public speeches or presentations. In 1994 the day was declared a National holiday.

Almost all the Swiss and hundreds of thousands of visitors participate in the celebrations. They come from all ages and walks of life, but children and the military have a special place. The festivities are everywhere, in every community, on the mountain tops, in plains and around the romantic Riviera. But the ceremonies in the larger or more touristic towns like Zurich, Basel, Geneva, Bern, Lugano and Lausanne, the Rhine Falls near Schaffhausen, the Ruetli Meadows alongside Lake Lucerne and Cantons like Vaud and towns as Montreux have greater pomp and





*Chinese deligation*



*Japanese deligation*



*Counter clockwise from right: Mrs.Dorier, H.E. Zahedi H.E. Amb. Antonio Ricoca Freire Mr. Pierre-Philippe Dorier, One of the spectators shakes H.E.Zahedi's hand*



*A group of paralysis watching parade )with their nurses*

colour.

Communities close to the French shore of Lake Geneva (Lac Lemman), around or facing Evian and Thonon, are also reputed for the magnificent fireworks that on clear nights can be seen from the other side of the lake. The terraces of the major hotels, like Montreux Palace, Majestic and Helvetie in Montreux are much solicited for having a nice view and enjoying the spectacle. They say it is in rivalry with the French coastal communities and their display of the fireworks of July 14th, a couple of weeks earlier and in celebration of the French National Day— a sort of what the British call KEEP-ING UP WITH THE JONSES.

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Some communities start the celebration on July 31st. Such is the case of the Rhine Falls with the famous “Fire on the Rocks” fireworks and light effects. Another special place is the Rütli Meadow known as the birth place of the Swiss Confederation, the location where Switzerland’s historic agreement was made. Zurich Bundesfeier on 1 August provides a special opportunity for visitors to become familiar with colourful Swiss customs, it is followed by a public





*From Left to Right: Mr. Shirzah- H.E. Ardeshir Zahedi- Mr. Yves Ravenel ( Vice-President Grand Conseil)- H.E. Amb. Antonio Ricoca Freire ( Ambassador Portugal)- Mr. Yanick Hess ( President Conseil Communal Montreux)- Mr. Div. Yves Lang*



*H.E. Zahedi at town squar*



*From Left to Right: H.E. Ardeshir Zahedi- Mr. Yves Ravenel ( Vice-Président Grand Conseil)-H.E. Amb. Antonio Ricoca Freire (Ambassador Portugal)-Mr. Yanick Hess (President du Grand Conseil Communal de Montreux)-Mr. Div. Yves Lang-Mr. O.Sfeller-Mr. Piemantesi-Mr. Ro-chat-Mme. Pellet -Mme. Christine Chevalley( Syndic Veytaux)*



*A group of Iranians take a picture with H.E.Amb.Zahedi at town square*

folk festival held at the pavilion in the town house.

Geneva is known for its social and family activities in the Bas-tions Park, with a diversified pro-gramme of games, sports activi-ties, workshops and local food trucks, later in the day followed by paper lantern parade, fireworks, performances, dance shows.

The Basel ceremonies are marked by the open-air concert on the Kulturfloss (floating stage). Bern celebrates Swiss National Day in community style. It starts with a morning brunch on the Münster-platz and is followed by concerts, official ceremonies, a children's lantern procession and fireworks over Gurten Park.

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The National Day festivities in the beautiful and touristic town of Montreux, the ceremonies, pa-rades, decorations and particularly the fireworks on the romantic Lac Lemman (Geneva LAKE) are now world famous and attract many tourists from the neighbouring countries and communities.

Amongst the particularities is the presence of guests from other na-tionalities. Greatly appreciated is the loyal presence of Ambassador





*Left to Right: Mr. Caleb Walther- H.E. Ardeshir Zahedi- Mr. Roger Pache*



*Left to right: Mr. Roger Pache(Huissier)- Mr. Caleb Walther (Conseiler Municipal)- H.E. Ardeshir Zahedi*



*From left:H.E. Amb.Antonio Ricoca Freire (Ambassa dor Portugal) H.E. Amb.Zahedi, Prof. Dr.Parviz Amouzegar*



*Top: Some of Iranians talk to H.E. amb..Zahedi at the end of ceremony.H.E.Amb.Antonio Ricoca Freire. (Amb. Portugal) seen at the left*



*H.E. Amb.Zahedi talks to some distinguished guests at the end of ceremonyH.E. Amb.Antonio Ricoca Freire (Ambassador Portugal) seen at the left of Mr.Zahedi*

Ardeshir Zahedi riding in the special ceremonial carriage as the guest of honour and an Honary citizen of the town. This year he was accompanied by the Ambassador of Portugal, His Excellency Antonio Ricoca Freire and Mr. Mrs. Marie- Antoinette & Pierre-Philippe Dorier who represented the Council of the Canton of Vaud on behalf of Mr and Mrs Wehrli who were on official visit in South Africa and Seychelles.

It has now become a tradition for the Municipality







On the following pages you can watch the pictures of Iranians attending in party regarding Swiss National Day at Majestic Hotel on August 1st 2018 hosted by H.E.Amb.Ardeshir Zahedi

of Montreux to invite Ambassador Zahedi and his Iranian friends to participate in this celebration that commemorates one of the greatest human achievements in the field of democracy, unity, peace and cooperation. The Swiss established a system that has become the envy of the world. Many Iranian leaders from the two Pahlavis to the two Zahedis and Pirnias who were so devoted to modernisation of Iran and all those who wished to lead the country towards an open society had always dreamed of creating a similar system, but Iran needed centuries of a resembling political experience, communal maturity and education to reach this level. Throughout decades, Ambassador Zahedi's personal presence and attachment to national traditions has much contributed to greater understanding between the two people. This has, enhanced the image of the Iranian

community in Switzerland. Many Iranians and friends of Ambassador Zahedi who had come from different countries were impressed by the people's participation and admired the realization of the goals of the Union for true government of people by the people for the people.

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Another tradition in Montreux is that each year delegations of young generation from one or two countries are invited and the culture and history of those countries is in special honour. This year it was the time of the Republic of China and Japan; several young girls and boys from these two great nations participated in the parade and attracted the eyes of beholders by their discipline and colourful local dresses. The two delegations had come from the town of Xicheng in China and the town of Chiba in Japan.

On this occasion, public and pri-

vate buildings were decorated with national, cantonal, and community flags, and the bakers produced special bread rolls with a small Swiss flag on top. Children were much present and the focal centre of attention.

In respect of the traditions of the host country and as a token of friendship of the two noble nations, every year Ambassador Zahedi has the entrance of Villa les Roses, his residence, decorated with flags of Switzerland and Iran flying side by side for three days before and the three days following the Swiss national day.

The Montreux ceremonies start at 10.30 in front of the central station and at the statue of the Unknown Soldier and end in the town's marketplace, a large open area in the heart of the town by the side of a huge covered market.

From the start of the ceremony to the arrival of the parade at the





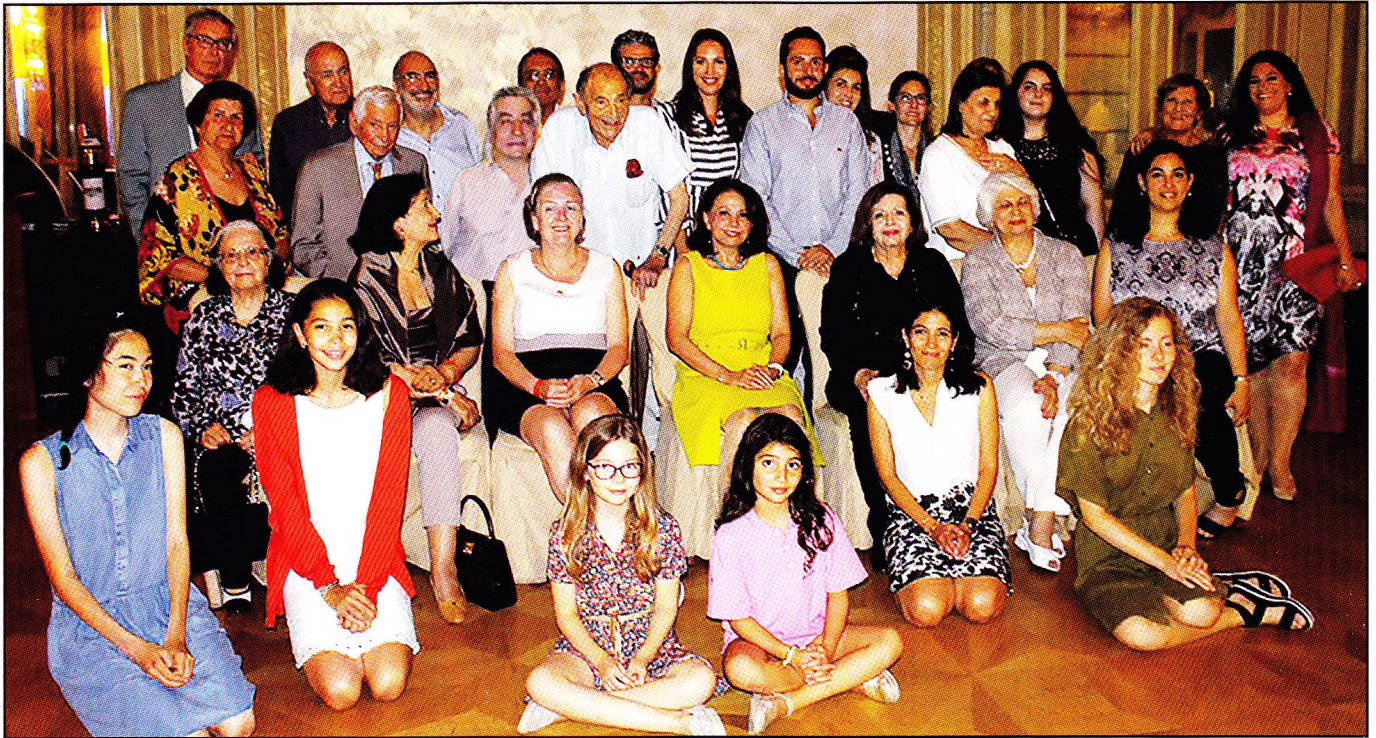
market square hundreds of citizens and tourists gather in the place and are warmly welcomed and served with drinks and snacks by Swiss ladies and gentlemen in uniforms and colourful dresses.

When the parade starts, the Mouseketeers march in front of the Swiss Guard carrying the national flag; they are followed by the flags of Vaud and the Civil Guard of the Riviera. The flag of Municipality of Montreux is carried by the Riviera Police. Then it was the turn of the drummers of Montreux who proceeded the delegations from China and Japan, the special guests for 2018 ceremonies.

The musical corps of Montreux-Clarens marched in front of the authorities of Montreux and Veytaux and the invited personalities. Finally there was the special carriage of honour carrying

*H.E. Ardeshir Zahedi and Mrs. Karim*





***A Group of Iranians at Swiss National Day's Party hosted by H.E. Ardeshir Zahedi at Majestic Hotel August 1st 2018***

Ambassador Zahedi as the guest of honour. He is a particularly popular personality in the whole region. Many Iranians who had come to watch the ceremony were excited to see a distinguished compatriot so honoured by the people of Switzerland.

Upon arrival of the Parade, the official ceremony starts with an address from the deputy Mayor and Vice President of the Grand Council of Canton of Vaud. She welcomed the Ambassadors, members of the Council, and the personalities present and referred to the history of Swiss democracy as a centuries-old and deeply rooted tradition and regarded the First of August as a constant reminder of the values for which "we all stand for one and one for all".

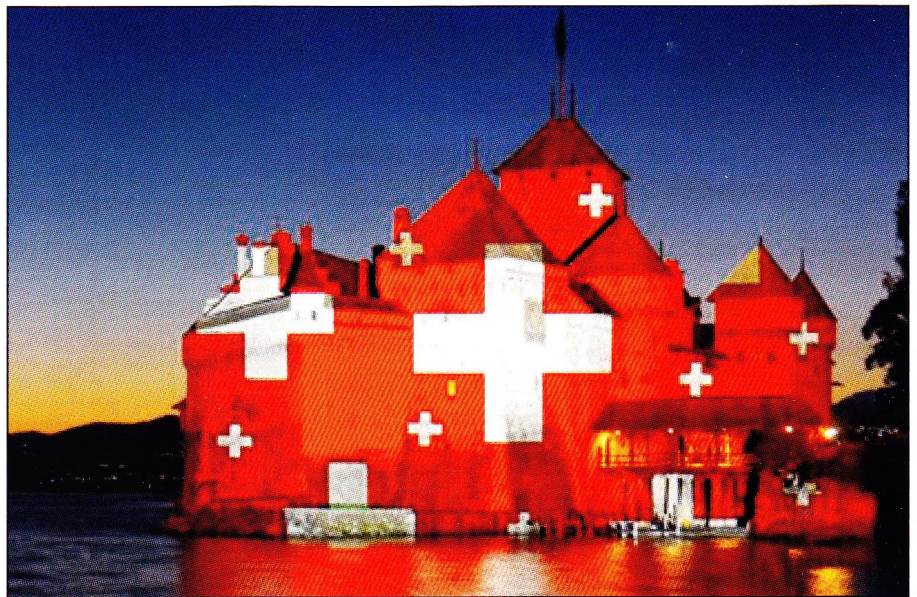
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Ambassador Zahedi had invited

several Iranian and Swiss personalities and friends to a dinner at Majestic Hotel, Montreux to enjoy the fireworks on the scenic terrace overlooking the lake.

The ceremonies ended by a spectac-

ular late-night firework on the lake, this cradle of romantic movements. It was a beautiful marriage of water and fire, the essential and holy elements of life, symbols of the history of Switzerland, of unity, solidarity and communication.



***Castle Chillon in Montreux, near Ambassador Zahedi's residence, illuminated by the famous light artist Gerry Hofstetter on the August 1***