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## MESSAGE FROM THE SWISS AMBASSADOR

Once again, we shall be celebrating our National Day, commemorating the first Federation Pact of August 1st, 1291.

But this is also a moment to recall the long evolution of our country, to take stock of the position today, and to look ahead. August First is thus a day of thanks, as well as an inspiration for the future. It is also a day of solidarity for all the Swiss abroad.

On my recent Home Leave, I found great interest in the life, activities and endeavours of our communities in this part of the world. The continuous efforts of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, in particular through your monthly publication "Helvetia," are well known and appreciated. Only recently, you have been called upon to express views and proposals on various subjects of common interest. Plans are also under consideration for an Exhibition at home devoted to the Swiss abroad: on our communities all over the world, their history, their life, their achievements and today's presence. Here too, a task is awaiting us in order to be duly represented in such a display. At the same time, suggestions in the field of cultural and general contacts will always be welcome to our Embassy in Wellington, in the light of the many links and bonds of friendship with our New Zealand friends and between the two countries.

My wife and I are planning a further visit to New Zealand towards the end of this year. We already have had the opportunity of meeting many compatriots and their friends, in Wellington, Hamilton, Auckland and Christchurch, and hope to have new opportunities on our next trip.

I wish to extend to you all, wherever you are, warmest greetings and best wishes for your celebrations. May this coming August First be a happy and memorable day, in the same spirit as always!

E. de Graffenried, Swiss Ambassador.

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## NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY

**SWISS CITIZENS! — URGENT PUBLIC NOTICE**  
regarding compensation claims in respect of damages  
caused by nationalisation measures in Cuba —

Swiss Citizens and Citizens of the Principality of Liechtenstein whose financial interests, legal rights and other interests in Cuba were affected by measures of nationalisation, confiscation and other restrictive measures by the Cuban Government during the period January 1st, 1959 until March 1st, 1967 and claiming a compensation, are kindly invited to contact **without delay** the Embassy of Switzerland, G.P.O. Box 386, Wellington, for further details.