

Communication from the Swiss minister

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1946)**

Heft 1048

PDF erstellt am: **22.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-689206>

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE SWISS MINISTER.

We have received the following communiqué from Monsieur P. Ruegger, the Swiss Minister :

“ Le Conseil Fédéral s'est occupé à nouveau de la lutte contre la famine menaçant des millions d'individus. Tenant compte du sentiment général de notre population, il a estimé que l'assistance suisse à l'enfance sous-alimentée devait être intensifiée et a libéré à cet effet 10600 tonnes de produits alimentaires représentant une valeur nutritive de 33 milliards de calories. Sur ces produits ainsi libérés, le Conseil Fédéral a prélevé et a donné au Don Suisse une quantité de vivres suffisante pour soustraire pendant six semaines un million d'enfants aux effets de la sous-alimentation. Le chiffre d'un million correspond au nombre d'enfants de la population suisse. Le reste des produits libérés pourra être acquis contre paiement par le Don Suisse, la Croix-Rouge suisse et par d'autres œuvres suisses pour être distribué à l'étranger, là où règne la détresse. Les titres de rationnement ne sont pas demandés pour ces produits. Le Conseil Fédéral ne doute pas que les collectes envisagées, comme par exemple de vivres du genre des colis standard et de coupons de repas, permettront d'élever le nombre des enfants secourus. Les produits libérés par le Conseil Fédéral ne comprennent ni le pain, ni les céréales, vu la contribution que la Suisse a déjà fournie à Londres au cours de la Conférence des Ministres de l'Alimentation et de l'Agriculture. A cette occasion, le Conseil Fédéral a fait une offre ferme d'attendre le premier août, époque de la nouvelle récolte, pour prendre livraison des contingents de céréales panifiables devant normalement revenir à la Confédération.”

PROMOTIONS IN THE SWISS DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE.

We have great pleasure in informing our readers of some of the recent promotions in the Swiss Diplomatic and Consular Service, concerning the personnel of the Swiss Legation and Consulates in Great Britain.

M. E. de Graffenried promoted to Conseiller de Légation.

M. E. Barbey promoted to Secrétaire de Légation, 1^{ère} classe.

M. V. Umbricht promoted to Secrétaire de Légation, 2^{ème} classe.

M. A. Rappard appointed Attaché.

M. C. Caillat appointed Attaché.

M. R. Mordasini promoted to Vice-Consul, 1^{ère} classe.

M. F. Magnin promoted to Secrétaire, 1^{ère} classe.

Monsieur J. de Rham, who was until recently at the Swiss Legation in London, has been promoted to Counsellor of Legation, and will shortly take up a new post as Consul General in Hamburg.

M. E. A. Pernet, Vice-Consul, has been transferred from the Swiss Consulate in Manchester to the Swiss Consulate in New York.

Mr. J. Huber, formerly Chancellor of the Swiss Legation, Special Division, has been put in charge of the Swiss Consulate in Manchester.

M. Faivre, acting Consul in Liverpool, has been promoted to First Secretary of Chancellery.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to the above mentioned gentlemen.

OPENING OF THE SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY COLLEGE.

The Swiss Flag was hoisted over “ Swiss House ” in Fitzroy Square, W.1, on Wednesday, May 1st, 1946, on the occasion of the re-opening of the College of the Swiss Mercantile Society.

This event so ardently looked forward to, for many a long day, is a further mile-stone in the history, so full of recommendable achievements, of this Society.

In the unavoidable absence of Monsieur P. Ruegger, the Swiss Minister, who was detained at Geneva on League of Nations business, Monsieur A. Escher, Chargé d'Affaires, and Monsieur E. de Graffenried, Counsellor of Legation, honoured the College by their presence.

From the Committee and Council, the following members attended the opening ceremony: Messrs. Jenne, Pfaendler, Grob, Streit, Schneider, Krucker, Deutsch, Burren, Chappuis, Meier, Beckmann, Heilingner and Andrea.

The Swiss Press was represented by Messrs. Keller and Stauffer.

Mr. J. Boos, President of the Swiss Mercantile Society, addressed the company, which included about fifty students, as follows:

“ On behalf of the Council and Committee of the S.M.S. I bid you a hearty welcome on this memorable occasion, the re-opening of our Day College.

“ Ever since November 1939, when we had to close our Day College, we, of the Swiss Mercantile Society, have been thinking, scheming and labouring for the day when we could again re-open the School and give our young compatriots, eager to learn and to perfect their English, a chance to come to our College, and above all, to be in London, to mix with the English folk and thus gain experience so much needed, particularly by our young commercial men.

“ Much has happened at ‘ Swiss House ’ since we had to close the School; in the first instance it was used for the registration of the Swiss soldiers being mobilised, then as a centre for repatriation, and lastly as a home for Swiss ‘ bombed out,’ only to be bombed and damaged itself; and for the last five years, ‘ Swiss House ’ has been the centre of Swiss social and patriotic activities.

“ The expense of maintaining ‘ Swiss House ’ during the war, even only the part we now hold, has been heavy and was only possible through the generous help of our donors and friends here and abroad including subsidies from our home country, but the expense was, I feel, fully justified, because it would be impossible to find to-day accommodation as we now have, even at double the rent we now pay, anywhere central and at a reasonable figure.

“ It is not an ideal building but it is the best we can have under the present difficult circumstances.

“ We regret the absence of the Swiss Minister, but I heartily welcome in his place Dr. Escher, Chargé d'Affaires, and Monsieur E. de Graffenried, Counsellor of Legation.

“ To you I offer the Swiss Mercantile Society's grateful thanks for what you have done to assist us during the war and during the last twelve months to enable us to re-open the College. Without your