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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Switzerland's Independence Day (1st of August) was celebrated throughout Switzerland, with great enthusiasm.

Dr. Ph. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, spoke on the Radio to the Swiss people.

Federal-Councillor Dr. Stampfli, during a patriotic address in Olten, congratulated the Swiss electors on their acceptance of the Old Age and Survivors Insurance.

* * *

Madame Eva Perón, wife of the President of the Republic of Argentina arrived in Geneva on the 4th of August. She was greeted on her arrival by a representative of the Federal Council, and high officials of the canton of Geneva.

After a short stay, she travelled by special train to the Federal capital where she was received by Federal-Councillor and Madame Petitpierre, Switzerland's Foreign Minister.

On the conclusion of a drive through the town, Madame Perón was the guest of the President of the Swiss Confederation and the Federal Council, at an official Banquet given at the "von Wattenwyl Haus" during which speeches depicting the friendly relations between the two countries were given.

The next day the visitors travelled by special train to Lucerne, where an official reception was held at the town hall, followed by an excursion to the Tell's chapel. On their return to Berne, Madame Perón offered a Banquet to the Federal authorities at the Hotel Bellevue Palace.

The visit concluded with a visit to La Chaux-de-Fonds, where she inspected a watch manufacturing establishment. Unfortunately the visit was marred by some unpleasant incidents such as the throwing of tomatoes and stones. The Swiss Government has expressed regrets to Madame Perón for the breach of hospitality committed.

* * *

Restrictions on the export of Swiss watches to all countries in the dollar block, are abolished as from

July 1st, 1947. This decision is the outcome of long negotiations between the National Bank, the Swiss Federal Council and key organizations in the Swiss watch industry.

* * *

According to a decree of the Federal Council of July 25th, all Norwegian Credit Balances in Switzerland are "unfrozen."

* * *

The American Minister, Leland Harrison, who has represented his country since 1937 in Berne, is shortly relinquishing his post to return to the States Department in Washington.

His successor is John Vincent, who was in the Consular Service from 1924-1934. In 1939, he was appointed General Consul in Geneva, and the following year was transferred to Nanking. Four years later he took up an appointment at the States Department in Washington. He was at one time Counsellor of Legation in Tschungking.

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