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APPEAL for a Fund for Avalanche Victims in Switzerland

Dear Compatriots,

Switzerland is in mourning — a great disaster, unprecedented in our history, has befallen our beloved country.

Exceptionally heavy snowfalls at the beginning of this year, have caused avalanches of tremendous force, which have taken a heavy toll of life and property. Many valleys in the cantons of Grisons, Valais, Uri and Glarus to-day are places of devastation.

As far as can be ascertained the loss of life, including men, women and children, is estimated to reach the figure of nearly one hundred souls. Forests, bridges, barns, houses, whole villages are buried under several feet of rocks and stones and ice and snow. Many families are destitute, they were unable to save even the smallest personal belongings. Their homes, their cattle, their very means of existence have vanished over night. The damage caused will reach millions of francs.

As soon as the magnitude of the disaster became known, offers to help in money, kind and labour came from every corner of our country. The President of the Swiss Confederation made an appeal to our people and the Federal Government with a first contribution of 100,000 francs started the avalanche fund of the Swiss Red Cross. All at home are contributing generously and quickly.

From our British friends as well as from our countrymen in Great Britain generous offers of help — from the contents of a child's money box to substantial cheques, from a few articles of clothing to offers of adoption — have already reached the Swiss Minister in London.

An emergency meeting of Presidents of Swiss Societies in London and the Provinces has therefore unanimously decided to launch an appeal to the Swiss Colony in Great Britain in order to bring the Avalanche Fund of the Swiss Red Cross to your particular notice. This appeal has the full approval of the Swiss Minister, M. Henry de Torrenté. An Account has been opened at the Swiss Bank Corporation, 99, Gresham Street, London, E.C.2, to which all payments should be made and the Bank of England have kindly agreed that all sums so collected may be transferred to the account of the Swiss Red Cross in Berne.

The Swiss Colony in Great Britain has always shown a generous heart and an open purse whenever a deserving cause has been in need of help. We appeal therefore to you to send a donation to this fund so that we may help to ease some of the distress of our stricken compatriots. We feel sure that the appeal will be received with understanding and with sympathy and that its result will prove, that we truly live up to our national motto:

“UN POUR TOUS, TOUS POUR UN.”

on behalf of the Presidents Assembly,
With patriotic greetings
Yours sincerely,

R. DUPRAZ.

London, 1st February, 1951.

(Cheques are to be made payable to the Swiss Bank Corporation and crossed “Avalanche Fund”. The Bank will acknowledge the receipt of each contribution. A letter of appreciation will reach the donor from the Legation.)

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