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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal The President of the Swiss Confederation has sent the following telegram to H.M. Queen Elizabeth:

“ Profondément émus par la nouvelle si subite du douloureux évènement qui atteint la Famille Royale et la nation britannique dans ses plus chères affections, le Conseil Fédéral et le peuple suisse s'associent avec respect au deuil du grand pays ami. Alors que celui-ci perd un souverain vénéré et qui supporta si vaillamment de dures épreuves, je prie Votre Majesté d'agréer les vives condoléances du Gouvernement, des Autorités fédérales et du peuple suisse ainsi que l'expression personnelle de ma plus déferente sympathie.

sig. *Charles Kobelt.*”

Monsieur M. Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, accompanied by Minister Zehnder, and Counsellor of Legation Maurice, called on the British Minister in Berne to express, on behalf of the Federal Council and the Swiss people, his condolence on the death of King George VI.

Monsieur Pierre Micheli, Counsellor of Legation, has been appointed Chief of the Department for International Organisations at the Federal Political Department (Foreign Office) in Berne with the title of Minister, in succession to Monsieur Zutter, who has been nominated Minister in Spain.

Minister Micheli was born in 1905 at Geneva. He studied law at the Universities of Geneva, Oxford and Berlin. From 1930-1933 he occupied the post of Secretary to the Danzig Commission, and afterwards entered the Diplomatic Service (1933). He successively held posts at the Swiss Legations in Paris, the Hague and Rio de Janeiro. In 1941, Monsieur Micheli was sent

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to Batavia in the capacity of Consul, and a year later went to Tokio with the rank of first Secretary of Legation; four years later (1945) he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation and diplomatic representative to Japan. He returned to Berne in 1946, where he occupied an important post at the Swiss Foreign Office.

The Federal Council has appointed M. Fritz Hegg, Counsellor of Legation, Chief of the section for administrative affairs at the Federal Political Department in Berne, in succession to Monsieur Rossat, who has been sent to Turkey at Swiss Minister.

Monsieur Hegg was born in 1903 in Berne, and studied political science. He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1936, and was successively sent to Montreal and Toronto. From 1936-1941 he was in charge of the Consulate General in Oslo. In 1941, Monsieur Hegg returned to Berne, and two years later, went to the Swiss Legation in Stockholm, first as Secretary of Legation and then as Counsellor.

In 1946, he was appointed Chargé d'Affaires in Helsinki. He returned to Berne in 1948, where he occupied an important post at the Foreign Office.

Customs receipts during December 1951, amounted to 45.2 million francs or 4.1 million francs less than in the same month in 1950.

Total customs receipts in 1951 are given as 607.6 million francs against 587.3 million francs, an increase of 20.3 million francs over the figures of the previous year.