

Appeal for help to those in distress through the recent gales and floods

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Appeal for help to those in distress through the recent Gales and Floods

The Lord Mayor of London, when opening his "Flood and Tempest Distress Fund", wrote "I doubt if in the past century so much devastation and misery has ever fallen on our country in 48 hours in peace-time as that which has taken place during the past week-end".

We who have been spared are deeply shocked by the reports of destruction, loss of human lives and hardships suffered by the inhabitants of the stricken areas amongst whom there are several Swiss families. As the accounts of heroism, of sacrifice, and of tragedy, have multiplied, surely every one of us has resolved to help to the utmost of his ability.

To show our solidarity in a practical way the Presidents of the Swiss Societies in Great Britain have decided to address this appeal for funds to the members of the Colony. The Editor and the Publishers of the Swiss Observer have readily co-operated and the proposal has the full approval and support of the Swiss Minister.

In the words of the Lord Mayor, "this is not an ordinary appeal". Let us, therefore, give all that we can give and all that those so cruelly hit deserve. Donations should be sent to the Swiss Legation, 18, Montagu Place, London, W.1. in an envelope marked "Flood Distress Fund". An acknowledgement will be sent as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Presidents of the Swiss Societies in Great Britain:

W. Meier, Chairman for 1953.

As soon as the magnitude of the flood disaster was known in Berne, the President of the Confederation sent to Her Majesty The Queen the following message:

"Sa Majesté la Reine Elizabeth II Londres
Alors que le Royaume-Uni subit par suite des récentes tempêtes de tragiques dévastations, le peuple et les autorités suisses s'associent avec une vive sympathie à la souffrance de tous ceux qui en sont victimes. Ils sont profondément peiné des pertes douloureuses qui affectent tant de familles britanniques dans la vie et les biens des leurs. Je prie Votre Majesté de recevoir mes condoléances émués et celles du Conseil fédéral".

(Phillipe Etter).

At the same time, the Head of the Political Department conveyed his sympathy to Her Majesty's Minister in Berne. On behalf of the Swiss Red Cross, the Political Department instructed the Legation in London to establish as soon as possible what help in kind was most needed. The Swiss Minister immediately paid a visit to the Foreign Office and to the President of the Special Committee set up by the Home Secretary to convey the offer of the Swiss Red Cross. Direct contact was also established between the Legation, the British Red Cross and the Women Voluntary Services.

In Switzerland, the Red Cross have launched an appeal for funds. The Federal Council contributed Sw. Fr. 100,000. Furthermore, the "Chain of Solidarity", sponsored by Radio Lausanne, has collected about Sw. Fr. 2,000,000 in 24 hours.

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SWISS PIANIST

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Nouvelle Société Helvétique (LONDON GROUP)

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