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but a factual statement when Federal Councillor Petitpierre declared that neutrality has to be supplemented by solidarity and that these are the twin principles guiding Swiss foreign policy in the post war period.

IV. This survey of the present position of Neutrals would however not be complete if I did not mention recent developments which tend to impart to them some new political functions and so give a new significance to neutrality. Seen from this latest point of view it will not be enough that a neutral state engages in humanitarian activities in order to compensate somehow the advantages of being spared the horrors of war. More and more it is recognised that specific tasks exist which can only be carried out by a truly neutral Nation who enjoys the unrestricted confidence of both sides and acts with impartiality and objectivity. The mandates conferred on some neutrals by the armistice conventions in Korea and Indo-China would seem to be a beginning only for a new trend aiming somehow at the integration of neutrality in modern world politics.

I remember the times around fifty years ago when neutrals led a life apart from world politics; the times when statesmen rarely crossed the frontiers of their country, when foreign Ministers refused to spend most of their time in foreign travel and left the task of settling international disputes to their diplomatic representatives. Although neutral soil was preferred for international conferences, these were mostly of a technical or humanitarian and not of a political character. During this period of comparative peace neutral governments were not called upon

to collaborate in political missions and the Swiss people in particular would have felt shy to be involved in matters concerning disputes between world powers.

How the times have changed since the first world war. Our people are pleased that Geneva is considered an ideal place for gatherings of a political nature and I feel sure that our national prestige has grown through the support which our authorities have given by providing facilities and even organising such conferences on our soil.

To illustrate the attitude of our government towards international missions, let me draw your attention to the message of the Federal Council of April 26th, 1955, on the participation of Swiss delegates in Korea. The Federal Council point out that neutrality does not oblige us to follow a policy of abstention and indifference towards international events and does not prevent us from participating in the endeavours for the settlement of conflicts between states or the establishment of a system of enduring world peace. They remind us that before now Switzerland or its individual citizens had been asked to undertake missions of an international character. Our country considered such requests as a recognition of its neutrality and they were accepted in order to demonstrate our readiness to contribute however modestly towards the peaceful settlement of problems which, without concerning us directly, disturbed international relations or might possibly lead to an outbreak of hostilities. These services undoubtedly helped to enhance the position of Switzerland and facilitated the understanding of our permanent neutrality. The Federal Council recalls further the many occasions where members of our Executive or of our Supreme Court had to act as or to appoint arbiters in a settlement of disputes between foreign states; it recalls also more than 40 mandates accepted during the World War II for the protection of foreign interests.

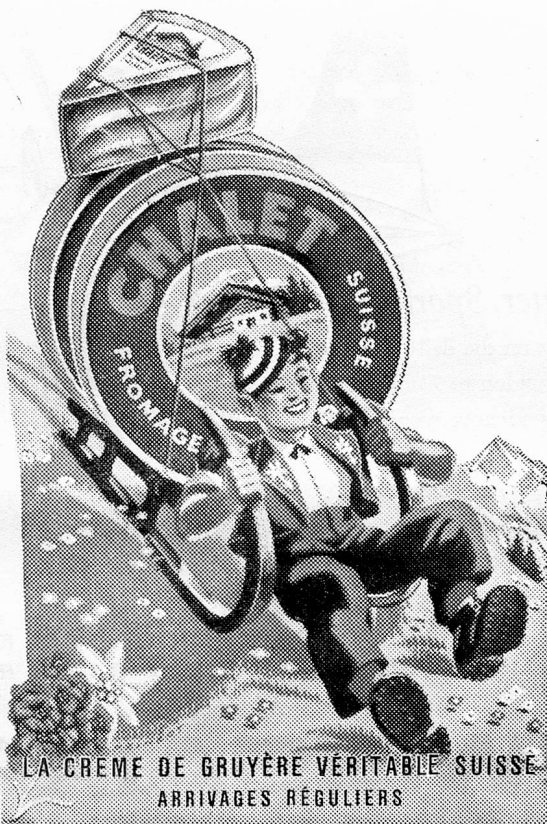
However, when the Federal Council was asked to participate in the execution of the Korean armistice treaty, it was confronted with a novel situation. Except in the Gran Chaco conflict, no neutral government had ever been summoned to a similar task, nor had Swiss military detachments ever been sent abroad in order to carry out such a mission. How was this mandate compatible with our traditional neutrality, what risks would it imply? Would it morally be in the interest of our country, would it be conducive to the establishment of real peace?

(Conclusion in next issue.)

COACH SERVICE FROM GENEVA AIRPORT TO FRENCH SAVOY.

Coach services from Geneva Airport (Cointrin) to the wintersports centres of the French Savoy will again operate at weekends from December 16, 1955, to March 11, 1956. On Fridays, Saturday and Sundays they will connect with the Swissair flight leaving London at 10.20 a.m. arriving in Geneva at 1.30 p.m. Another coach will leave Geneva Airport late in the afternoon.

The return fare from Geneva to St. Gervais and Megève will be £2.6s. and to Les Houches, Chamonix £2.10s. Coach reservations must be made at the same time as air reservations. Combined air/coach tickets will be issued.



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