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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Federal-Councillor Dr. Markus Feldmann, head of the Department of Justice and Police, spoke in the National Council about the Dubois-Ulrich affair. (Mr. René Dubois, Swiss Attorney-General, committed suicide last March, and Police Inspector Max Ulrich was arrested.) They were alleged to have been involved in the tapping of Egyptian Embassy telephone lines and passing the information obtained to the French Embassy in Berne.

In his statement Dr. Feldmann said the International position of Switzerland had not suffered in the past six months and her neutral status "is untouched everywhere in the world today". He said that telephone lines to foreign embassies and legations in Switzerland *are* tapped and some "interesting discoveries" have been made for the protection of the country.

Of Dubois, Mr. Feldmann said: "the main proof of his culpability may be seen in his suicide". He had considerably over-stepped the legal limits on the exchange of information and gravely violated his official obligations in handing over confidential documents to people outside his office.

The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Charles Monnet to the post of Honorary Swiss Consul in Lille.

Consul Monnet was born in 1893 at Lausanne, and is a citizen of Vevey, he has been for many years the representative of the Lille branch of CIBA, A.G. Basle.

Mr. E. Gubler, Vice-Consul and chief of the Consular section at the Swiss Legation in Bucharest, has been appointed Swiss Consul in Tananarive, in succession to Mr. E. Hofer.

Mr. Gubler entered the service of the Federal Political department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1941, and formerly occupied posts at Brussels, Antwerp and Bucharest.

The Ethiopian Minister, Monsieur Blatein-Gueta Ephrem Tewelde-Mehden, has presented his credentials to Dr. H. Streuli, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Dr. Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

The Swiss Federal Railways\* carried in August 1957 80 million passengers, or 400,000 more than in August 1956. Receipts: 34.4 million francs (August 1956: 33.5 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.28 million tons or 20,000 tons less than during the same period in August 1956. Receipts: 43.7 million francs (August 1956: 42.7 million francs).

### Cantonal

Mr. Alfred Fehlmann (48), of Menziken and Lucerne, has been appointed "Stadtbaumeister" of Lucerne in succession to Mr. Max Tuerler, who is vacating his post. Mr. Fehlmann, who is an architect by profession, has studied at the Universities of Zurich and Berlin. [A.T.S.]

A sports car\* containing three young men travelled with excessive speed through the village of Alpnach in the direction of Lucerne. Near the "Kleine Schieri" the driver apparently lost control of the car, which skidded and collided with a cyclist, who was instantly killed. The car then overturned causing serious injuries to two of the occupants. The driver of the sports car has been arrested. [A.T.S.]

The lady secretary\* (61) of a firm at the Kartaustrasse Zurich cashed an amount of 30,000.—francs at a Bank in the centre of the town, which

## Xmas Greetings

Following former years' practice we propose to publish again in our December issue a collective greeting.

The high costs of Xmas cards, should induce many of our subscribers to make use of this facility to extend to their friends the compliments of the season.

Those of our readers and friends wishing to be included should forward name and address to our office not later than Friday, November 22nd, 1957, together with remittance for 10/-.