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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

London Group

The Annual General Meeting of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique took place at the Swiss Hostel for Girls in Hampstead, N.W.3, on 20th April. The usual items were dealt with, of which the Annual Report deserves special mention. It gives an excellent picture of the activities of the society: during 1966/67 the year of the Society's Golden Jubilee, the following events had taken place: Annual General Meeting and Dinner in April; Informal Dinner with Dr. August E. Hohler, Director of "Forum" 66, Swiss TV Zurich, and Editor of "Tagesanzeiger" (April); Open Meeting with Dr. Paul Stauffer, Cultural Attaché, on "SWITZERLAND'S TESTING WAR YEARS" (May); Folkloristic Performance: "SWISS SONGS AND DANCES" by "Echo Romand" of Berne (George Hall) (July); GOLDEN JUBILEE Dinner with Dr. Gerhart Schuerch, President of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, with piano recital by Mr. Albert Ferber (September); SWISS ARCHITECTURAL FILM (October); Open meeting, Desmond and Marjorie Parish on "FROM ZERMATT TO THE GLACIERS" with slides (October); Open Meeting, Monsieur Béat de Fischer on "DIE PSYCHOLOGIE EINES SCHWEIZERISCHEN DIPLOMATEN" (November); SOIREE FAMILIALE (December); Informal Dinner with Mr. Hermann Boeschstein, on "PRESENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND EVENTS IN SWITZERLAND" (January 1967); ANNUAL FILM SHOW (January); Open Meeting, Dr. Peter Gessler, Director of Studies, Boldern, Zurich, on "DIE SCHWEIZ — EIN EINWANDERUNGSLAND" (February); Open Meeting, Oberstdivisionär K. Brunner, on "SWISS NEUTRALITY AND DEFENCE" (March); Informal Dinner, Prof. Jacob Steiner (Münster), on "SCHWEIZERISCHE LITERATUR DER GEGENWART" (March); Informal Dinner, Ambassador E. Stadelhofer, on CUBA (April).

From the report, it could also be seen that the London Group of the N.S.H. had lost 15 members, amongst them the Swiss Ambassador Monsieur de Fischer, the former Hon. Secretary, Monsieur Bringolf, and Miss R. Preiswerk, Warden of the Hostel. Admissions during the year numbered 11. On presenting the report, the President, Dr. H. W. Egli, appealed for a special effort to enlist more members either as full members (all Swiss over 21) or as junior members (above 16) or as associate members (former Swiss). The annual subscription was left at 25/-, and the Council was elected by the meeting. (President: Dr. H. W. Egli, Vice-President: Mr. R. Baumann, Hon. Treasurer: Mr. L. S. R. Asch, and Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. R. Dissler, have since been confirmed in office by the Council).

The meeting accepted a report by the delegate for Great Britain South to the Commission of the Swiss Abroad (Mrs. Mariann Meier), and the President made an appeal for subscriptions to the "Echo": He pointed out that this monthly periodical in three of our national languages was an excellent complement to the "Swiss Observer" which was mainly in English. ("Echo" published by the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne, at 15/- for either the French or German

edition, and 21/- for the bi-lingual publication, payable in sterling).

At the Dinner following the Annual Meeting, the Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Olivier Long, addressed the members. He expressed pleasure at having been made Honorary President of such an important society which had the interest of Switzerland so much at heart.

It has become a tradition that all ladies attending the N.S.H. Annual Dinner are given a present by an anonymous donor. This year, attractive scarves were distributed, and the delight of the recipients added to the enjoyable atmosphere.

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SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

The Annual General Meeting for the year 1966 was held on Sunday, 9th April 1967, at Westminster Ballroom, 30 Stratton Ground, London S.W.1. After opening prayers, the Chairman Mr. O. Grob extended a warm welcome to all present. He thanked His Excellency, Monsieur Olivier Long for having honoured us with his presence and offered him our heartiest congratulations on his appointment as Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to the Court of St. James's and best wishes for Monsieur Long's continued success in this new position. May his and Madame Long's stay in London be a pleasant one.

We mourn the loss of the following friends:

Mr. Léon Jobin, a great benefactor and supporter of our Mission and our Youth Club, and

Robert Schweizer, K.C.S.S., a member of our Committee from 1962.

Prayers were said for the repose of their souls and for the Rt. Rev. George L. Craven, M.C., V.G., Bishop of Sepastopolis, Provost of the Westminster Chapter, who died on 15th March. Bishop Craven has always been a very good friend of the Swiss Catholics in London, who will treasure his memory.

The Chairman stated in his report that 1966 can be recorded again as a year of steady progress in the activities of the Swiss Catholic Community, in which both permanent and temporary Swiss residents took an active part.

His Excellency Monsieur Béat de Fischer retired at the end of 1966. During his term of office, he and Madame de Fischer always showed keen interest in all our activities. We express to them our sincerest thanks and appreciation for the valuable support always so readily given to us. We wish them both a very happy and long retirement. We also thank other members of the Embassy for their welcome support.

We wish to thank the Editor of "The Swiss Observer" Mrs. Mariann Meier, and the publishers for accepting our appeals and reports on our social activities during the year.

The Chaplain, the Rev. Father Joseph Scherer said the following in his report:

Our foremost duties are the priestly ones: worship, sermon and administration of the sacraments. So we held regularly our Sunday Evening Service for the Swiss people; Holy Mass and Sermon in German and French; this was mostly attended by the young ones, and according to the seasons really satisfactorily. Opportunity for Confession was given regularly and on call.