

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1968)

Heft: 1558

Rubrik: Recent appointments

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PEOPLE IN NEED

During the autumn holidays (7th to 18th October), the Basle school boys and girls have undertaken work of all kinds to help people in need, whether Czech refugees, hungry Biafrans or earthquake victims. The initiative was taken by the youth group of a Basle Church Parish, and the whole campaign is based on the principle of "no begging". They work in shops, agriculture, hospitals, do baby sitting, car washing, carpet beating, window cleaning and any other job.

The Federal Council has granted another 1.5 million francs towards assistance schemes for Tibetan refugees in India. It will enable the campaign to settle some 9,000 Tibetans and to set them up in a trade or other suitable occupation.

The Swiss Red Cross keeps two stationary teams of medical and paediatric experts in South Vietnam. At Da Nang, they have their own children's pavilion built from money given by the Swiss Confederation and the Red Cross. This kind of help is not possible in North Vietnam, therefore, an X-ray plant and 2,000 surgical instruments were sent.

The Bernese Commune Councillor, Dr. G. Schuerch, Red Cross Delegate in Lagos, reported that thanks to the help of the International Red Cross in Nigeria, several hundred thousand children had been saved. The five Red Cross charter planes use the air corridor continuously and deliver food and medical equipment to Biafra — 2,677 tons since April. All help in Switzerland has been co-ordinated, and monetary contributions from all parts of the country total many million francs. The "Glückskette" Campaign of the Swiss Radio alone brought in nearly 4 million francs.

With regard to the Czechoslovak refugees in Switzerland, their number is estimated at 7,000. Over 1,000 applications for political asylum have been made to the Federal Police Department and 200 to cantonal authorities. Some 600 refugees have so far decided to go further afield, and the authorities are in contact with Canada and Australia, as well as with the International Committee of Migration in Geneva. There is still a transit camp at Buchs run by voluntary Red Cross helpers, where new refugees are looked after until they can be sent on. Most of the refugees are educated and trained people, and as they are excluded from the foreign workers' ceiling, there is no difficulty in finding work. Of 200 doctors, 150 are already working in Swiss hospitals. Housing is more difficult. 400 Czech refugees have registered at the *Gewerbeschule* in Zurich, mostly for German lessons. At Frauenfeld, the education authorities have decided to form a special class for the ten Czech school children, seeing that there was a teacher amongst the immigrants.

The Valais writers and authors organised a fast day on 13th October in solidarity with their Czech colleagues. The International Jury at the Film Festival in Locarno retired unanimously, as they were not willing to do the judging without their Czech colleague Miss Jiri Menzel. A Jury from amongst the "Jury des Jeunes" took over to everybody's satisfaction.

The Federal Council confirmed that the former Czech Minister of Economy Mr. Ota Sik has arrived in Switzerland with his family, probably to ask for asylum.

(Based on reports received from
Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Diplomatic

- The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Th. Haeberlin as Consul-General in Bordeaux in succession to Mr. A. Berthod who retires;
- Mr. A. Wyler as Consul in Alexandria;
- Mr. G. Kappeler as Consul in Nizza in succession to Mr. E. Gubler who retires;
- Mr. J. P. Bertrand (Marseille) as Consul in Lourenco-Marques;
- Mr. C. Mayor as Consul-General in Johannesburg to succeed Mr. O. Berchtold who retires;
- Mr. J. Kneusi (Salisbury) as Consul in Naples.

Federal

- As new Director of the Federal Finance administration: *Fürsprecher* Rudolf Bieri;
- Dr. Maurice de Coulon, ETH forestry engineer, as new *Oberforstinspektor*, to follow the retiring Mr. J. Jungo;
- Dr. Sc. Techn. Paul Faessler as Director of the new research institute for *Betriebswirtschaft und Landtechnik*;
- Dr. Miroslav Tucek, Meilen, as new head of the Swiss Social Archives in Zurich, in succession to Dr. Jakob Ragaz who is retiring after over 25 years.

Military

- Brigadier D. Borel (Neuchâtel) as Chief of Logistics (formerly known as provision and transport) in succession to the retiring Divisional Commander A. Schenk, and at the same time promoted to *Oberstdivisionär*;
- Col. J. L. Jeanmaire (Les Brenets and Mont Tramelan) as Chief of the newly formed section for Air Defence Troops;
- Col. L. Gisiger (Hauenstein) as *Oberpferdearzt* in succession to the retiring Brigadier F. Aeberhard;
- Col. Richard Baumgartner (Muenchenbuchsee and Birr) as new Commander of Territorial Brigade IV;
- Col. F. Seethaler (Egnach) as new Chief of Staff of Field Army Corps IV to follow Brig. E. Widmer who retires;
- Col. K. Weidenmann (Winterthur) as sub-head of News Service, succeeding Brig. P. Musy who is retiring;
- Col. Aymon de Pury (Neuchâtel) as Chief of Army Territorial Service;
- Col. F. Wick (Uitikon) as Commander of a Frontier Brigade following Brig. G. Rigonalli who retires;
- Col. Ph. Henchoz (Rossinière) as Commander of *Flugplatzbrigade* 32;
- Col. M. Bays (Chavannes-Les-Forts) as Chief of Staff of Field Army Corps I in succession to Brig. J. Bullet who is retiring.
- Col. H. Koppmann (Zurich) as Chief of Staff of Mountain Army Corps III in succession to Brig. H. Bernhard, retiring;
- Col. K. Bolliger (Merkheim and Duebendorf) as Commander and Staff Deputy of Air Troops;
- Ing. Techn. Hl. H. Giger as new Chief of the Section for military airfields to succeed Brig. F. Gerber who retires.
- All these Colonels are being promoted to Brigadiers.

International

The Technical Director of Swissair, dipl. ing. ETH Franz Roth, has been elected President of the Montparnasse Group of the European Aviation Companies. Dipl. ing. ETH Dr. Hans P. Eichenberger, Fribourg, Director of the Central Research Laboratory Princeton of Ingersoll Rand, New York, has been appointed Director of the European Research Laboratory of IBM at Rueschlikon.

Mr. Kurt Waldner, Vice-President of "Rheinschiffahrtsbuero" in Basle has been elected President of the Inland Navigation Commission of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva.

Mr. Joseph Voyame from Bassecourt, at present Director of the Swiss Office for Intellectual Properties in Berne, has been appointed Deputy Director of the International Bureau for the Protection of Intellectual Properties.

[A.T.S.]

ABEGG FOUNDATION AT RIGGISBERG

Riggisberg — not to be confused with the nearby Rueggisberg — is a village with a pleasant inn for lunch, little more than a half hour's drive from Berne. The Abegg Foundation is well outside the village, set in a country house with a noble view onto the great chain of the Alps. The display is luxurious: the size of some of the works lifted from French chapels (if I remember rightly) is amazing, but what matters is the quality of the exhibits. This is uniformly high, and the presentation is superb. On a second visit, I personally would hope for more written assistance to appreciate the importance of the objects in fields with which I am unfamiliar. Criticism is not in place: it is necessary to be grateful for such munificence which derives from the generosity of one Swiss citizen. Among museums, this is like a coffee-table book among books, expensive, but one enjoys the pictures.

Future generations will find the collection revealing of the taste of the 1960's, but for us, here are all the precious things from the past we should most like ourselves to possess, lightly linked by a theme and by a personal taste. No one will forget a visit. C.J.H.

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