

Dr. Gustave Kullmann forthcoming N.S.H. Talk

Autor(en): **H.E.**

Objekttyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1953)**

Heft 1200

PDF erstellt am: **02.05.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-688733>

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Dr. GUSTAVE KULLMANN
forthcoming N.S.H. Talk.

Our great compatriot Dr. G. G. Kullmann, most intimately connected with the refugee work of the League of Nations and the United Nations since the early twenties, will be the guest speaker at the next Open Meeting of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique on Tuesday 17th March (see advertisement). He will speak on Geneva's international institutions and the international work for the refugees, in which Dr. Kullmann has had and continues to have such an important share.

As representative of the American Voluntary Bodies, G. G. Kullmann was connected with educational and cultural work for Russian refugees in Europe from 1921-1928. During that period he had his headquarters first in Berlin and subsequently in Paris, and frequently visited all the Russian colonies of Europe including Finland, the Baltic States, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Greece.

As a member of the permanent Secretariat of the League of Nations in Geneva from 1931-1938 he acted as a representative of the Secretary-General of the League on the Governing Body and the Management Committee of the International Nansen Office for Refugees.

He was Secretary-General of the Diplomatic Conference in July 1936 concerning the adoption of an inter-governmental agreement regarding the status of these refugees. He acted in the same capacity at the Diplomatic Conference of February 1938 concerning the adoption of an International Convention concerning the status of German refugees (subsequently extended to refugees from Austria by Additional Protocol).

The new High Commissioner, Sir Herbert W. Emerson, late Governor of the Punjab, appointed him Deputy High Commissioner with seat in London as from January 1st, 1939 to December 31st, 1946, when this body was wound up as a result of the liquidation of the League itself. However, already in 1943, as a result of an agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom to reactivate the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees established in 1938 at the Evian Conference on the initiative of the late President Roosevelt, he was also appointed Senior Assistant Director of that body. To him is largely due the initiative taken by the Inter-governmental Committee to establish a travel document for all refugee categories other than those under the benefit of other intergovernmental arrangements concerning the issue of the so-called Nansen Passport. He was closely associated with the preparation of a new agreement and subsequently acted as Secretary General of a Diplomatic Conference of 19 Powers, which signed the so-called London Agreement on 15 October 1946. This instrument has been put into force by 22 Governments and 12 other Governments recognise the validity of this travel document.

He attended as an expert the special committee of twenty Powers set up by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations for the purpose of framing the Constitution of the International Refugee Organisation, (I.R.O.) a specialized agency of non-

permanent character of the United Nations. He was, in particular, closely associated with the drafting Committee of four Eastern and four Western Powers entrusted with the elaboration of the mandate of the new Organisation.

In June 1946 he attended the Five Power Conference convened at the Quai d'Orsay for the purpose of drafting a plan for the disbursement of reparation funds set aside under Article 8 of the Final Act of the Paris Reparations Conference of December 1945 in favour of Jewish and other victims of German action. The major points of the draft plan prepared by G. G. Kullmann on behalf of the IGC were adopted.

In March 1947 IGC seconded him to the Preparatory Committee of IRO in Geneva to act as a senior planner and adviser to the Executive of the Preparatory Commission. Subsequently he was appointed head of the Legal Department responsible for general legal advice, legal and political protection, authoritative interpretations of refugee eligibility as laid down in the Constitution, supervision of the semi-judicial machinery set up to enable refugees to appeal against negative eligibility decisions of the IRO, and the administration of reparation funds.

In 1948 he relinquished general legal advice in order to have more time to prepare a United Nations successor body of IRO in the field of international protection of refugees.

In close co-operation with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and with the Division of Human Rights of the U. N. Secretariat, he prepared the way for the adoption of a revised and

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consolidated draft convention regarding the status of all categories of refugees under IRO's mandate as the overwhelming majority of these unfortunates were not enjoying the benefits of any of the previous diplomatic instruments promoted by the League of Nations.

G. G. Kullmann attended the General Assembly meetings in 1949-50 as representative of the IRO concerned with the establishment of a new U.N. High Commission with seat in Geneva.

In January 1951, he was invited to join the staff of the newly elected U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Dr. G. J. van Heuven Goedhart, as Director for Europe also in charge of international protection policy. In this capacity he played a prominent role in shaping the structure and the policy of the new Organisation and in establishing the various branch offices in those European countries having an important refugee problem, (Western Germany, Austria, Italy, Greece, France, Benelux, United Kingdom). In May 1952, on his own request, he relinquished his post and was transferred to London to act as Chief of the United Kingdom Office of the High Commissioner accredited to the Government and also responsible for relations with the Governments of the British Commonwealth.

Owing to his long period of activity during the war years in Great Britain he was given a cordial reception upon his arrival and has been able to establish close ties of co-operation with all the Ministries and authorities concerned with refugee questions.

H. E.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

At the 81st Annual Meeting of shareholders of the Swiss Bank Corporation held in Basle on the 27th February 1953, the accounts were approved and it was agreed to pay a dividend of 8% against 7% last year.

The retiring members of the Board were confirmed in office and, in addition, Mr. Eric Choisy of Geneva, Chairman of Grande Dixence S.A. and Dr. Hans Schuler, National Councillor at Glaris, were elected to the Board. Mr. Ernest Renggli of Zurich, Director and Manager of the Spinnerei Murg A.G. was appointed a member of the Board of Control.

The Board has appointed Mr. Rennell Gordon Moretti, hitherto a deputy Manager of the Geneva Office, to be a Manager of the London Office as from the 1st July, 1953.



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