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Minister M. Jaccard retires

Due to his having reached the age limit, Minister Jaccard, a well-known figure in the many Swiss communities around the world, has retired from his office as Head of the Service for the Swiss Abroad of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. During his whole career he has put his indefatigable energy into the service of the Swiss abroad.

Minister Jaccard entered the service of the DFA – at that time called the Political Department – as a lawyer in 1946. In 1957 the Federal Council appointed him Head of the Central Service for the Swiss Abroad, which was part of the Police Division of the Federal Department of Justice and Police. Minister Jaccard, however, remained an official of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and remained in charge of its

Service for the Swiss Abroad. Finally the Federal Council appointed him Minister in 1972.

The creation of article 45bis of the Federal Constitution is due to a large extent to his efforts.

The drafting of Federal Council policy in foreign Swiss affairs is a complex business as the situation differs from country to country, and Swiss laws have no validity outside Switzerland.

Minister Jaccard, an untiring worker, was a member of various commissions and president of different work groups, whose main assignments were issues concerning the Swiss abroad as well as presenting Switzerland abroad. Although never stationed in a foreign post Minister Jaccard travelled a great deal to take part in the meeting of associations of the Swiss abroad on various con-

tinents. As a brilliant speaker he possessed the ability to captivate his audience while in his personal contacts he knew how to gain the trust and friendship of each individual with tact and flair.

The communities of the Swiss abroad knew that they could always count on his advice and his great experience.

A friend is retiring, but he will not be leaving us. No doubt we shall have the opportunity in the future of seeing him at conferences of the Swiss abroad or of meeting him on a private trip abroad. He will certainly be welcomed with open arms.

Finally nothing remains for us but to wish him with all our hearts «ad multos annos».

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