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PASSPORTS

The Consulate wishes to draw the attention of all compatriots to the fact that, even if at the present time this document is not needed very often, particularly if no voyage outside of New Zealand is contemplated, a VALID passport is the only legally recognized identification document of a Swiss citizen abroad. Moreover, only a passport, the validity of which has recently expired, can be renewed without difficulty. It is felt that these facts, coupled with experiences made during the last few months by the Consulate, make it desirable to recommend very strongly that all compatriots take the necessary steps to renew their passports before or immediately after the expiry date.

The "Auslandschweizerwerk der NHG" wishes to inform all compatriots that the Annual Conference for the Swiss abroad ("Auslandschweizertag") will be held at Locarno from 25/26th August, 1956.

Should any compatriots from New Zealand happen to be in Locarno at that time they could be very welcome.

Swiss nationals who possess real estate in Rumania are invited to contact the Consulate at their earliest convenience, but not later than July 31st, 1956.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

Dr. Eduard Zellweger, formerly Swiss Minister to Yugo-Slavia, who was elected a Member of Parliament (National Council) in the last autumn elections, is relinquishing his seat, having been asked by the President of the Government of Lybia to act as his adviser on constitutional matters.

His successor in the National Council will be Rudolf Welter (Socialist), Central Secretary of the "Schweiz. Kaufmannischer Verein (born, 1911).

Britain was the fourth biggest exporter of cars to Switzerland in 1955, exporting 6,340 cars. West Germany, with 31,106 cars was the biggest

exporter, followed by the United States and France.

The cost of sending a Swiss contingent of 60 to the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne will be about £33,500, the Swiss Olympics Committee estimates.

The Swiss sport-tote football pools fund will cover 90 per cent. of travel expenses, 80 per cent of accommodation expenses in the Olympic village, and all insurance and vaccination expenses.

The Swiss contingent will comprise 42 competitors, 12 officials, two gymnastic judges, and four other people.

SWITZERLAND AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

(Continuation)

Lecture delivered at the London Rotary Club on January 25th, 1956, by the Swiss Minister,

Monsieur A. Daeniker.

This experience will explain why the question of our participation was hardly discussed when the United Nations Organisation was founded in 1945. Our Government had no ambition to play a specific role in world politics; but it was our conviction that Switzerland could contribute towards the maintenance of peace and the furtherance of international understanding more efficiently by keeping strictly to our permanent neutrality. Our adherence to the U.N. would most certainly have meant abandoning neutrality. Then article two of the Charter demands that unrestricted assistance be given by all members "to any preventive and enforcement action" and similarly, the wording of chapter seven on actions to be taken with respect to threats to peace, breaches of the peace and against acts of aggression, leaves hardly any doubt as to the nature of the obligations and responsibilities involved. It is true that other States which profess a neutral attitude in world politics, have reached different conclusions; Sweden has joined the UNO right at the beginning and the compatibility of her neutrality with those obligations has hardly ever been questioned; even Austria, after announcing her willingness to adopt permanent neutrality, has not been reluctant to apply for and accept membership of the U.N. Such precedents can and do not change the conviction of our people, that membership of the U.N. would mean a departure from an age-long political principle. Being so largely led by practical considerations, they are, moreover, little impressed by the UNO's achievements in solidarity so far.

I hope to have shown you that our neutrality is not an attitude of weakness and has nothing to do with neutralism. It does not mean a policy of abstention from and indifference towards in-