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Christmas Message from the Embassy

My dear friends and compatriots,

1966 has witnessed another rejoicing increase of our Swiss community in New Zealand, whose vitality and drive is a most cheering feature. Since my arrival in Wellington, I have seen the number of our compatriots registered at the Embassy rise from about 1270 to nearly 1770, owing to immigration and births. The sight of the happy, laughing, pleurably excited and every year more numerous "very young generation" at a Swiss Club's Christmas party fills one's heart with confidence in the future of our community and with gratitude for the peace and the friendly hospitality we enjoy in this country.

The impressive majority with which the People and Cantons of Switzerland accepted the new Constitutional Article on the rights of the Swiss abroad is a well-deserved and encouraging gesture of solidarity of the home country to the "5th Switzerland".

I would like to take this opportunity to thank warmly those who, answering the Embassy's appeal, have provided us with information on the life and conditions of our Swiss communities, Clubs and compatriots in New Zealand. Such data on the early stages of Swiss immigration to New Zealand contribute most valuably in preventing the facts, interesting both for the Swiss and for the New Zealanders, from sinking into oblivion before having been recorded. I shall therefore be most grateful for any further information on this subject.

Also, I want to express my admiration for the devotion and remarkable work done by present, past (and no doubt future) members of the Committees of the Swiss Society of New Zealand and of our Swiss Clubs and by their wives.

All the members of your Embassy in Wellington join me and my wife in wishing you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

JEAN-PIERRE WEBER,
Charge d'Affaires