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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

AT THIS YULETIDE, my wife joins me in wishing each and every one of our compatriots living in New Zealand, a very Joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness and the best of health. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all Committee Members of the different Clubs, for another year of patriotic service to the homeland and its cause. I have been most fortunate in being able to spend a few weeks in our lovely homeland during the past northern summer, and despite the great enjoyment derived from it, I can admit that I am extremely pleased to return to the Antipodes.

The messages an Ambassador has to convey to his compatriots are not always of a pleasant nature; this is the case now, when I have to farewell a collaborator and his family. After more than 4½ years' service in the Embassy offices, which many of you know in the D.I.C. Building in Wellington, Vice-Consul Paul Erb is leaving New Zealand for good, to return for some years to the Department in Bern. The Embassy loses in Mr Erb a most valuable and well qualified collaborator with initiative, on whom the undersigned could depend at all times and with whom co-operation was always a pleasure. Held in esteem as a companion, he was also to his collaborators, a model of a superior. Mr Erb will not only be missed by the Embassy and his many New Zealand friends, but also in the Swiss community he will leave a gap which cannot easily be filled. The life of the colony was a matter of concern to him as well as to his wife, and this in an above average way. Mr and Mrs Erb participated with great pleasure and as often as possible, at Swiss gatherings, and many could enjoy their hospitality in their home and spend a few memorable hours in their company. The friendships made by them will outlast their departure; I am convinced that anyone visiting Switzerland during the next few years, will look forward to seeing them in Bern. I would like to be the spokesman for all of you in expressing to Mr and Mrs Erb, well-deserved thanks for their activity, and to wish them and their children the best of luck in the future.

With renewed good wishes to you all for the coming year,

MAX CORTI,
Ambassador.