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GEOFFREY HEYWOOD, Liverpool

Congratulatory Address

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is an occasion for joy and celebration – a birthday party – and the great honour and privilege falls to me to offer congratulations to the Association of Swiss Actuaries on the attainment of the 75th Anniversary of its founding.

On this occasion I am offering the congratulations on behalf of all English speaking actuaries and I must, therefore, represent more actuaries than my two colleagues who are also speaking this afternoon. The honour and privilege is therefore all the greater and I think it might be appropriate to mention briefly the countries of English speaking actuaries whose congratulations I am offering. They are: Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, The Philippines, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United States of America and last but by no means, I hope, least, the United Kingdom itself.

On occasions such as this, one inevitably looks back and on this occasion to the year 1905, when a group of Swiss actuaries in Basle decided to form the Association. The Association has, since that time, made a very great contribution to actuarial science, mainly in the field of actuarial mathematics, non life insurance, risk theory and probability. This is reflected in the pages of the scientific journal of the Society, of the *Mitteilungen* as it is called – I would not dare to pronounce the whole name!

But I would not like it to be felt that members of the Association have been only academics, because contributions have been made over the years to the development of life assurance, private pension schemes, data processing and, by no means least, advice has been given to the Federal Government on State Pension and Social Security.

Some of the great names of Swiss actuaries must be recalled on this occasion, notably Gottfried Schaertlin, who is generally regarded as the founder of what was originally called the “Union of Swiss Actuaries” and who was President from 1913 to 1921. Hermann Kinkelin, who was the first President, who held office from 1905 to 1912. Samuel Dumas, who was President for no less than 15 years, and who unfortunately died at a very early age. Emile Marchand, who was President from 1946 to 1958, and who was entrusted with the work of preparation for the 12th International Congress of Actuaries, arranged to

take place in Lucerne in 1940, but inevitably cancelled by the outbreak of the Second World War.

Coming to more recent years, we have Hans Ammeter, who has attained an international reputation as a result of his very many contributions to actuarial science and life assurance generally, and it must be a great pleasure to all of us here today to see him occupying the position of President of the 21st International Congress of Actuaries, which is being held here in Zurich and Lausanne. I was particularly delighted when in 1973 he attended in London the 125th Anniversary Celebrations of the Institute of Actuaries, the oldest actuarial body in the world. At that time, I was fortunate enough to be President.

One of the actuarial honours which came to me at that time in 1973 and which I value very highly was my election as a Corresponding Member of the Association. In some ways therefore perhaps to a small extent I am congratulating myself, but it is good to feel that one is a member of an association of such distinction and standing in the actuarial world.

May I, therefore, on behalf of all the English speaking actuaries, wherever they may be, say very many happy returns of the day, offer you my congratulations on attaining this 75th Anniversary and wish the Association continued success in all its spheres of activities in the future.