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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Federal Councillor Pilet-Golaz gave particulars of the steps taken in America with a view of exempting Swiss citizens living in U.S.A. from serving with the American Army. The Federal efforts were not concerned with persons of dual nationality. Swiss-Americans were regarded in the U.S.A. exclusively as U.S. citizens. The U. S. law of 20th December, 1941, had created an obligation of military service for all foreigners resident in the U.S.A. including neutrals and had thereby created a delicate problem. Foreigners could avoid this obligation by making a declaration to the effect that they renounced for ever their claims to U.S. citizenship. He added that after negotiations with U.S. Government the position now was that Swiss nationals resident in U.S.A. need not renounce formally all their rights to naturalisation, but had simply to declare that they did not intend to undertake military service in the U.S.A.

Some light was also thrown on the efforts made by the Federal Council to stop agitation abroad prejudicial to the safety of our country. The German and other governments were approached but the efforts to stop the subversive activities of the so-called Swiss "renovation movements" had not everywhere achieved the desired result. It was, however, recognized that the toleration of these activities were not compatible with correct and amicable relations. It was hoped that the necessary measures would be taken the more so as the Swiss authorities strictly forbade foreigners residing in Switzerland to conduct intrigues against their own particular governments.

The two Houses of Parliament met in joint session on June 16th, 1943, to consider an appeal against death sentence made by trumpeter Heinrich Reutlinger, born in 1906, domiciled in Neftenbach, Ct. Zurich. Contrary to the usual procedure particulars of the trial were released to the press. Reutlinger a staff trumpeter of a territorial battalion had on several occasions disclosed military information vital to National Defence and incited others in procuring such information. In June 1941 he attended a course of

sabotage abroad and managed on his return to assemble the necessary materials for turning out explosives which he secreted in the house of a friend. It was proved that from June 1941 to August 3rd 1942 (the date of his arrest) he actually supplied to foreign agents information of military dispositions on fortifications and airfields; he was in possession of a short wave transmitter. The appeal was rejected by 176 votes as against 18.

By a decree of the Federal Council dated May 25th, a small political group styling itself "Eidgen. Arbeiter- und Bauernpartei" is to dissolve. The party was formed in summer 1941 in Basle by one named Lothar Zumosen and is stated to harbour elements inimical to the safety of the country.

The initiative on the "right to work" launched by the independent party (Duttweiler) obtained 72,920 signatures which were lodged at the Federal Chancery at Berne.

The Federal Council appointed M. Mouri to be director of the P.T.T.; so far he was in charge of the local office at Lausanne.

A national meeting of Swiss Christian Socialist Workers took place in Baden. A number of speeches dealt with the protection afforded to labour by Christian Socialist activity and with social and

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, August First, 1943

AT THE

**STOLL THEATRE,
Kingsway, W.C.2.**

at 3 p.m. sharp (doors open 2.30 p.m.)

ADMISSION FREE

A special Committee has been formed from all the Swiss Societies to make this year's Celebration a great success.

REFRESHMENTS. Please reserve August First.