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which would cause a precedent. On the other hand, as you know, British industry is still subject to considerable restrictions. The British authorities were therefore reluctant to allow imports of goods which could be produced by the home industry but which the general economic position of the country does not permit to manufacture for the moment. Nevertheless, the British delegation made a real effort to meet the most important Swiss desiderata and it was fortunately possible to approach the two points of view. It is thus that the sum of the quotas granted by the Board of Trade increased appreciably and, furthermore, the amount provided could be divided amongst nearly all the goods enumerated on the Swiss list, which comprises especially textiles, chemicals and pharmaceutical products, certain apparatus, etc. Moreover, it will be possible in the course of the year to apply for special import licences up to the sum representing the difference between the quotas granted by the Board of Trade and our total requests.

Under these circumstances, the way was clear for the minutes of the discussions to be signed by the heads of the two delegations. I deem it useless to enter into details as to the measures to be applied to implement the agreement and, therefore, limit myself to mentioning that it was decided to administer part of the quotas by the Swiss authorities, whilst the others would be managed by the British authorities, thus allowing them to grant import licences and leaving it to them to distribute the quotas amongst importers. General instructions have just been addressed by the Federal Division of Commerce to the Swiss trade associations who are to fix their members' quotas in those cases incumbent on Switzerland.

I would like to mention also that the Token Import Scheme could be maintained for 1948 on the same basis on which it functioned last year. The proportion of 20% is preserved and, moreover, certain adjustments as applied for by Switzerland may in the course of the year be considered.

In conclusion, it seems possible to say that the result of the negotiations in the commercial sector marks a progress in comparison with the previous state of affairs as, for the first time, quotas for certain traditional Swiss exports have been fixed. This said, it is quite certain, however, that the situation is not as bright as it could be from various angles. In particular, it cannot be dissimulated that the complete fulfilment of the programme of Swiss exports depends in the first instance on the amount of Swiss francs which the Bank of England will be able to collect from British exports to our country. It is thus to be hoped that the export drive of the Sterling Area will achieve the contemplated aims, so that our industry can maintain and, if possible, increase its deliveries to the United Kingdom and the other countries of the Sterling Area, strengthening thereby our commercial relations with countries dear to us."

Mr. Weibel's words were cordially applauded, and both speakers then answered numerous questions put to them by the audience, who had followed their talks with keen interest. The Chairman, on behalf of the meeting, expressed thanks to the two representatives of the Legation for having provided an extremely interesting and instructive evening, which was heartily endorsed by all present.

W.B.

## ROBERT BOOTHBY, M.P., at the CITY SWISS CLUB.

As at the previous meeting, the City Swiss Club, had again a prominent politician as its principal guest at the Monthly Meeting, on Wednesday, March 17th, 1948, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

Mr. R. de Cintra was in the Chair, and there were about a hundred members and guests present.

In opening the Meeting, the President extended a hearty welcome to the guest of honour, Mr. R. Boothby, M.P., and Monsieur A. Escher, Swiss Chargé d'Affaires. He announced that there would be a "surprise item" in store for the gathering, and to everybody's amazement three very young Ladies, dressed in Swiss costumes appeared each one carrying a small accordion. After a neat curtsy towards the top table they played with much gusto a number of Swiss songs and dances which were very much appreciated by the company.

Breaking one of the rules of *etiquette*, I put a number of indiscrete questions to the youthful performers, from which I gathered that they are the daughters of Mrs. Ammann-Weber, and that their respective ages were 8, 9 and 10.

They sang, yoddled and played to their heart's content with great perseverance, true to the Motto: "J'y suis, et j'y reste." But the time was pressing on, and they had to make their exit, which they made very charmingly amidst the applause of the members.

Mr. de Cintra then called on Mr. Boothby, who, on rising, received a hearty ovation. The subject of his address was, "United Europe," a theme which is of imminent interest, and is occupying the minds of both politicians, statesmen, diplomats and the general public.

The speaker painted rather a gloomy picture of the present international position, declaring that only by a United Europe, aided by the United States of America and by the Commonwealth of the British Empire, the danger of a communistic preponderance, and a third world war could be prevented.

Dealing with Swiss neutrality, he said, that as much as same was justified and desirable, there might come a time when our country would have to make a decision, and break with traditions which in the past were thought as inviolable.

Mr. Boothby's *exposé* was followed with great interest, and although one may not see eye to eye with all that he expounded, it was nevertheless of interest to a Swiss community to listen to a politician who plays an important role in the political sphere of this country.

The address of the principal guest of the Club was duly acknowledged, and the President, in thanking him for his *exposé*, closed the Meeting.

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