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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Dr. Max Petitpierre, Head of the Federal Political Department (Foreign Office), has been elected President of the Swiss Confederation for the year 1950.

The new President was born on the 26th of February, 1899, in Couvet (Ct. Neuchâtel). He studied law at the Universities of Neuchâtel, Zurich and Munich. His thesis for the doctorate in law dealt with the recognition and execution of foreign judgements.

After the conclusion of his studies, he established himself as an advocate and notary in Neuchâtel. From 1926-31, and again from 1938-44, he was Professor of International law at the University of Neuchâtel.

In 1937, he was elected a member of the Grand Council of his native canton, and five years later (1942) he entered Parliament (States Council) as a Liberal.

Two years later (14th December, 1944), Monsieur Petitpierre was elected a Member of the Federal Government, in succession to Monsieur Pilet-Golaz; since then he has been in charge of the Federal Political Department.

Shortly after the announcement of the election a 22 gun salute was fired at his birthplace in Couvet.

Monsieur Edouard von Steiger, was elected by the two Chambers as Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation.

M. von Steiger was born on July 2nd, 1881, in Langnau (Ct. Berne). He studied jurisprudence at the Universities of Geneva, Leipzig and Berne. On the conclusion of his studies he practised as an advocate, firstly in Langnau, and afterwards in Berne. In 1914, he entered the Grand Council of the canton of Berne over which he presided in 1939. In the same year, he was elected a member of the government of the canton of Berne, and in the following year (December 10th, 1940) he entered the Federal Government, in succession to Federal Councillor R. Minger. Monsieur von Steiger was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1945.

Minister Daniel Secrétan, until recently Swiss Minister in Cairo, has been nominated Swiss Minister at The Hague, in succession to Minister Kohli.

Minister Secrétan was born in Lausanne on the 5th of November, 1895. He studied at the Universities of Lausanne, Basle and Stuttgart. In 1919, he entered the Diplomatic Service as Attaché of Legation. From 1921-1928, Secrétan was a member of the Swiss delegation at the League of Nations in Geneva. In 1928, he left the Diplomatic Service on his election as General Secretary of the International Institute for Intellectual Co-operation in Paris.

In 1939, he returned to the Political Department as head of the section for International Re-union. Two years later (1941) he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. Since 1946, he has been at the head of the section of International Organisations. On the occasion of his nomination as a member of the Swiss delegation to UNO in New York, he was promoted to the rank of Minister. In 1948, he was appointed Minister in Egypt.

Monsieur Charles Redard, Swiss Minister in Brazil, has retired from his post on reaching the retiring age.

Minister Redard was born in Verrières (Ct. Neuchâtel) in 1884. He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1911, and was transferred the same year to the Legation in Rio de Janeiro. In 1937, he was nominated Chargé d'Affaires in Lisbon, and four years later (1941) represented our country in the same capacity in Sofia. In 1945, he was promoted to the rank of Minister. At the beginning of 1946, he left Bulgaria, on his appointment as Swiss Minister to Brazil.

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Eduard Fer, at present Swiss Minister to the Republics of Argentine and Paraguay to the post of Minister in Brazil, in succession to Minister Charles Redard.

Minister Fer was born in 1894 in Brugg (Ct. Aargau). He studied National Economy at the Uni-

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