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EDITOR'S POST-BAG

18, Montagu Place,
Bryanston Square, W.1.
30th March, 1950.

A. Stauffer, Esq.,
Editor,
Swiss Observer,
London, E.C.2.

Dear Mr. Stauffer,

During the Ice Hockey World Championships, which took place in London from the 13th to the 23rd March, the Swiss Colony supported the participating Swiss team in a most encouraging way. This support has certainly contributed to a large extent to the fine achievement of the Swiss team, who won the European Championship and finished third in the World Championship. I have received a letter from Mr. R. Gafner, President of the Swiss Ice Hockey League, in which he asks me to convey his thanks to the Swiss Colony for their sympathy. Here is what he writes:

"Lorsque vous en aurez l'occasion, je vous prie de vous faire notre interprète auprès de la colonie suisse de Londres, pour lui faire savoir combien nous avons été sensibles à l'appui qu'elle nous a apporté, et à la sympathie dont elle nous a entourés. L'équipe suisse a pu ainsi disputer ses parties principales en étant constamment encouragée. Lors du dernier match Grande Bretagne — Suisse, l'on aurait même pu se croire sur une de nos patinoires suisses."

Yours sincerely,
H. de Torrenté,
Swiss Minister.

* * *

18, Montagu Place,
Bryanston Square, W.1.
March 31st, 1950.

A. Stauffer, Esq.,
Editor,
Swiss Observer,
London, E.C.2.

Dear Monsieur Stauffer,

May the Legation prevail itself once again of the "Swiss Observer's" usual courtesy for bringing two pieces of official news to the notice of your readers, especially of those who have joined the Voluntary Old-Age and Survivors Insurance.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique

(LONDON GROUP)

OPEN MEETING

Tuesday, April 18th, 1950, 7 p.m.

"Le Patrimoine de l'Art en Suisse"

A lecture in French by ALBERT J. WELTI,
Painter and Author, Geneva, with many
coloured slides.

At the Vienna Café,

Berkeley Arcade, Baker Street, N.W.1.

All Swiss and Friends are heartily welcome.

As you know the Legation and the Consulates have not so far been able to collect the contributions towards this insurance due for the years 1948 and 1949, because their transfer to Switzerland was not possible. The negotiations conducted by the Legation with the British authorities have now led to a satisfactory result. These authorities have agreed to the transfer of the contributions in arrears for the past two years. Our compatriots who have joined the insurance will certainly appreciate this gesture of the British authorities. They will be informed in the near future of the amount of the contributions due by them. It is hoped that they will do their utmost to settle the matter in the shortest possible time, so that the total of the arrears may be transferred to Switzerland before the end of the period covered by the financial agreement.

Contributions for 1950 will also be transferable during the same period.

On the other hand, in order to alleviate the consequences of the devaluation of foreign currencies in connection with the payment of the above-mentioned arrears, the Federal Council have decided that the debt in the currency of the country of residence should be calculated at the pre-devaluation rate of exchange, i.e. for the United Kingdom at 17.35 Swiss francs to the £. This also will certainly be welcome to those concerned.

With many thanks and kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
H. de Torrenté,
Swiss Minister.



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