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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Ludvik Svoboda has been appointed Czechoslovak Minister to Switzerland. The post has been vacant since June 1953, when the former Chargé d'Affaires, M. Josef Svare, was recalled, as the Swiss Government regarded him as no longer *persona grata*.

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Josef Kurmann to the post of Swiss Consul in Hong-Kong.

Consul Kurmann was born in 1911 at Hergiswil, and is a citizen of Alberswil and Willisau-Land. (Ct. Lucerne). He studied law at the Universities of Louvain and Fribourg. In 1942, he entered the service of the Federal Political Department, and four years later (1946) was sent to Warsaw, with promotion to the grade of Secretary of Legation, 2nd class; on his return to Berne in 1949, Kurmann was promoted to the rank of 1st Secretary of Legation. Since 1951, he has been a member of the Swiss Delegation in Berlin.

* * *

The Swiss Delegation for Korea, numbering twenty, under the leadership of Divisional-Colonel Rihner has left the airport at Kloten on their journey to Korea via Tokio, where it will stand by to take up duties on the four-Power neutral nations armistice commission.

Amongst the Delegation is Major Fred Bieri, who is well-known in the Swiss Colony in London, having been, during the last war, a delegate of the International Red Cross in London.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways carried in the month of May, 1953, 17.50 million passengers, or 2 million more than in May, 1952. (Receipts 26.20 million francs; (May 1952: 23.22 million francs).

Goods traffic registered 1.56 million tons carried, or 150,000 tons less than at the same period last year. (Receipts 32.04 million francs; May 1952: 33.32 million francs).

Cantonal

The new apostolic nuncio in Berne, Mgr. Gustavo Testa, has paid an official visit to the College "Mariahilf" in Schwyz.

He was offered a luncheon by the government of the canton of Schwyz during which he was welcomed by the "Landammann", Dr. R. Sidler. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mme. Elisabeth Wildi, a patient at the "Diakoniehau" Erlenhof (Ct. Zurich) has celebrated

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, 1st August, 1953

2.45 to 5.15 p.m. (Doors open at 2.p.m.)

at the

**CENTRAL HALL
WESTMINSTER, S.W.1**

Patriotic Address by the
SWISS MINISTER, Monsieur Henry de TORRENTÉ

SOLOISTS:
HEIDI and ERNST SOMMER
YODEL DUETS
and Full Supporting Programme including
CORALE UNIONE TICINESE
SWISS MALE CHOIR
SWISS ACCORDION CLUB
(alterations reserved)

ALL SWISS AND THEIR FAMILIES CORDIALLY INVITED
Admission by ticket only, free of charge.

See Note on Page 6976
TICKET HOLDERS TO BE IN THEIR PLACE BY 2.30 P.M.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES: on Sunday 2nd of August.

Joint Protestant Service in French and German at 11 a.m.
at Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2.

Catholic Service at 11 a.m. Solemn Mass, and Sermon in
French and English at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard
Street, S.W.1.