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DR. AUGUST LINDT AGAIN PRESIDENT OF UNICEF.

The United Nations Assembly has decided, on October 6th, to prolong the mandate for an indefinite period of the UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund).

It might interest our readers to learn that the President of this International organisation is Dr. August Lindt, formerly Press Counsellor at the Swiss Legation in London, who took up his appointment in March of this year. (We are indebted to our colleague Gottfried Keller, for the following biographical notes).

August R. Lindt was born in Berne in 1905, after his studies at the Universities of Berne and Geneva, he first tried his hand for a short while at banking. But very soon he turned to journalism and quickly made a name for himself as roving correspondent for various well-known European and American newspapers. He travelled in such countries as Manchuria, Palestine, Jordan, West and North Africa and Rumania. With his book "In the saddle through Mandschukuo", which proved a great success, he became internationally known. His description, in the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung", of the heroic stand of the Finnish people and army against the Soviet onslaught during the first Soviet-Finnish winter war, was a masterpiece of descriptive journalism which roused an enormous wave of sympathy and admiration for the Finns wherever it was read.

During the war 1939-1946 Lindt, a simple soldier, together with a handful of patriotic friends of his did a very important, if unobtrusive, job on the Swiss home front. He belonged to "Heer und Haus" and in that capacity talked to groups of soldiers and civilians alike, keeping up and kindling anew, where this was necessary, the will to resist. During the dark days of Hitler's sweeping victories all over Europe, this was no mean job. It needed a strong personality and a still stronger faith in the final triumph of right over might. It needed tact as well as persuasive power to administer those sometimes badly wanted "injections of concrete". How many people Lindt did persuade, how many doubters he did put back on the right road, will never be known; but the more spectacular the German successes in the field were, the more important Lindt's work became in a different field.

After the war Lindt went to Germany, first on a special mission of the "Don Suisse", then for roughly a year as special delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. In November 1946 he became attached to the Swiss Legation in London, first succeeding Dr. Eric Kessler, as Press Attaché, after with the rank of a Counsellor of Legation. In 1948 he became Switzerland's representative on the Executive Board of UNICEF, then in 1951 and 1952 Chairman of the Program Committee, and during the current year, he is the Executive Board's chairman which constitutes a distinction both for his country, and for himself.



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