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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, told Parliament that he would propose to the Government that Switzerland's envoys in the more important capitals should be accredited as ambassadors. At present Switzerland is one of the few countries whose leading diplomats are only "Ministers".

Addressing the States Council, M. Petitpierre said that accreditation as ambassadors would not prejudice in any way the transfer of envoys to lesser posts, where they would be known as Ministers; the rank of ambassador would be valid only for the period of limited appointments.

The two Federal Chambers (States and National Council) having assembled in Berne for their summer session lasting three weeks.

Monsieur Mohan Sinhe Mehta, the newly appointed Indian ambassador, has presented his credentials to M. Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation.

The new ambassador was, from 1949-1951, Indian ambassador at The Hague, and since 1951, High Commissioner of India to Pakistan.

A supplementary agreement giving the Swiss new tariff concessions under the United States-Swiss trade agreement of 1936, as compensation for last year's increase on watch tariffs, was signed in Geneva.

It was emphasised that this is the first time the U.S. has agreed to grant tariff concessions as compensation for the application of its escape clause.

Moreover, the American-Swiss agreement provides that should the watch tariff be reduced in the future the concession now granted in compensation would remain in force, though the Swiss would then have to grant in turn new concessions to the U.S.

The Federal Council, in agreement with the Government of the canton of Geneva, have agreed that the Four Power Conference (at Highest level), which is timed to take place from 16th to 18th July, should take place at Geneva.

The Prime Minister of Thailand, Marshal Pibul Songgram, was officially received at the Palais Fédéral in Berne, by Monsieur Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, and the members of the Federal Council.

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 18.39 million passengers during April, 1955, or 918,000 more than in April, 1954. Receipts: 26.93 million francs (April, 1954: 25.59 million francs).

Goods traffic has increased by 234,000 tons and is returned as 1.84 million tons. Receipts: 33.36 million francs (April, 1954: 32.71 million francs).

M. Max Petitpierre, the Swiss President, attended the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the European institute for nuclear research — a project in which 12 countries are co-operating, and the cost of which, in the first seven years, will be £10 million. The site lies not far from the Cointrin airport, at the foot of the Jura.

M. Petitpierre said the researches would not be carried out secretly; the results would be published for the benefit of science in general.

Among other speakers was Sir Ben Lockspeiser, president of the council of the European organization

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next

MONTHLY MEETING

will take place on **Tuesday, July 5th, 1955,** at **6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.** at the **Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1 (Stanhope Room).**

The Dinner will be followed by a game of Jass, Bridge or Canasta.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1, to reach him not later than Monday, July 4th, 1955.

THE COMMITTEE.