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A DEPARTURE.

The relations between the members of the Diplomatic and Consular staff at our Legation, and the Colony have since post-war days become very close, thanks to the efforts of the respective Ministers.

Not only have the Heads of our diplomatic mission fostered a close contact, but also quite a number of Counsellors, Secretaries, Attachés and Consuls have freely mixed with the Colony, taking an interest in the doings of the Swiss community both in London and the Provinces. It has not always been so, and this commendable change has turned out to be beneficial to both sides.

The — alas — far too frequent displacements in the personnel at our Legation, therefore, affects us more than ever before. In recent years, we have seen many diplomats departing who by their intimate collaboration with the Colony have endeared themselves to us, and their leaving has been much regretted. This, however, is in the nature of their profession, and it can not be helped whether we like it or not.

Today we have reluctantly to bid farewell to Monsieur Hans Miesch, 1st Secretary of Legation, who is being transferred to The Hague, where he will be first collaborator in charge of economic affairs.

In Monsieur Miesch the Colony loses a man who, in a relatively short time, has commanded the esteem especially of the commercial section of the Colony. He has from the first day of his appointment shown a keen interest in the doings of the Swiss community, and many will remember the various addresses he had given at the Swiss Economic Council, the Swiss Mercantile Society, and at different Press conferences.

His friendliness and helpfulness at all times, have been much appreciated by all those who have come in contact with him, either on business or socially.

Monsieur Miesch was born in Basle as a citizen of the canton Basle-Town, and received his schooling in Basle, followed by law studies at the University of that town and Dijon.

He entered into the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss foreign Office) in 1944, where he

had to deal mainly with problems arising from the relations between Switzerland and Germany.

Monsieur Miesch came first to London in 1951 to be an Observer at the German Debt Conference acting as Secretary to the Swiss Delegation. In June, 1952, he was appointed 2nd Secretary at the Swiss Legation in London as collaborator to the Commercial Counsellor, and during the last year he has dealt with legal matters.

His promotion to 1st Secretary of Legation occurred on the 1st of January of this year.

He acted also as Hon. Secretary to the Association of Economic Representatives in London, a body comprising all foreign Attachés connected with commerce, finance and agriculture, of which Dr. V. Umbrecht, formerly Commercial Counsellor at the Swiss Legation in London, was one of the founders.

In taking leave of Monsieur Miesch, we express to him our sincere thanks for the many services which he has rendered to the Colony during the last 3½ years. We have also much pleasure in including in this expression of appreciation, his charming wife, who has so efficiently aided him in his social engagements. To both of them we wish God speed and success in their new sphere of activity.

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