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The Swiss Observer

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The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Council has promoted Monsieur Emil Bisang, hitherto Chargé d'Affaires in Pakistan to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary.

The new Minister, is a citizen of Ettiswil (Ct. Lucerne) and was born at Geneva in 1900. He studied law at the University of Geneva, and later on at Melbourne (Australia), where he graduated as a Bachelor of Law. In 1929, he entered the service of the Federal Political Department, and in succession occupied various posts in Lyons, Sydney, Melbourne and The Hague. In 1942, he returned to Berne, and two years later (1944) was promoted to the rank of 1st Secretary of Legation. A year later, Monsieur Bisang was transferred to Washington, where in 1947, he was made a Counsellor of Legation. Then followed the appointment as first collaborator of the Swiss Minister at Ottawa. Since August, 1954, he has represented the Confederation in Karachi.

Federal-Councillor, Dr. Philipp Etter has intimated that he intends to stand again for re-election as a member of the Federal Government. Although it will be his turn to claim the Vice-Presidency of the Federal Council, he made it known that he would concede this right in favour of his colleague, Dr. Hans Streuli, Head of the Finance and Customs Department.

The Federal Government intends to establish Diplomatic Missions in Guatemala City, Manila, Havanna, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Ceylon and Nepal.

Dr. Raoul Thiébaud has been appointed Swiss Consul in Marseilles. He is a citizen of Brot-Dessous (Canton Neuchâtel), and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1943.

Dr. Thiébaud has occupied successively posts at

Vienna, Prague and Paris, first as Attaché, and later on as 2nd Secretary of Legation.

A new Consulate has been opened in Nairobi for the districts Kenya, Uganda and the Seychellen Islands. It will be in the charge of Mr. Othon Götz, born in Berne in 1899, and a citizen of Zurich. He entered the Federal Political Department in 1945, after which he was sent to the Consulate General in New York and later to the Consulate General at Chicago, where in 1952 he was promoted to the rank of Vice-Consul.

The Swiss Government has banned further exports of arms to Israel and the Arab States. Orders placed before November 8th will be carried out, but the Government reserves the right to suspend these also if the situation in the Near East worsens.

Divisional-Colonel Marcel Montfort has relinquished the command of the 1st Division; although he has not reached retiring age; he will be entrusted with the command of the "Zentralschulen". Colonel Montfort has been successively in command of the Frontier Brigade 1, the Mountain Brigade 10, and the 2nd and 1st Divisions.

Cantonal

The Grand Council of the canton of Berne has re-elected Mr. R. Weber (B.G. B. party) of Graswil, and Mr. G. Moeckli (Socialist) of Delsberg, as States-Councillors. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Franz Fischer (Peasant Party) has been elected a member of the Government of the canton of Schaffhausen. [A.T.S.]

Nouvelle Société Helvétique (LONDON GROUP)

FILM SHOW FOR OUR COLONY

**Saturday, December 17th, 1955, at 2.30 —
5 p.m., at Conway Hall, Red Lion
Square, W.C.1.**

(nearest Tube Station, Holborn)

"Journal Parlé" — Annual selection of News Films from Switzerland.

"Meet my Family" — The life of a Bernese family.

"Fête des Vignerons" — Short amateur film with the authentic music from Vevey.

FREE ADMISSION.

All Swiss and their friends are heartily welcome.
Bring your children. Please tell your friends about it.

Mr. Autognini (Conservative), and Mr. Bixio Bossi (Radical) will represent the canton of Ticino in the States Council. [A.T.S.]

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DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Colonel Alfred Vifian, formerly Head of the Engineering Corps of the Swiss Army, in Berne, at the age of 76.

Professor Jaques Handschin "Ordinarius" of Musical Science at the University of Basle, in Basle, aged 69.

Dr. med. William Albert Schüpbach, until 1955, Professor of medicine at the University of Berne, in Berne, at the age of 70.

Henri Chenevard, since 1924, Editor of the paper "Nouvel Essort", Geneva, in Geneva, aged 67.

Georges Chabloz, Industrialist, and a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel, in Le Locle, at the age of 65.

H. Leonhard Miescher, from 1909-1939, Director of the "Schweiz. Gesellschaft für Viscose", Emmenbrücke, in Basle, aged 71.

Louis Schmidt, composer, in Morges, at the age of 53.

Jean-Pierre Wassermann, Industrialist, in Lausanne, aged 81.

Dr. h.c. Hans Hoesli, former "Privat-Dozent", at the University of Zurich, at the age of 80.

Louis Casai, for 20 years a member of the Government of the canton of Geneva, in Lausanne, aged 67.

Dr. Gottlieb Geilinger, from 1941-1947, rector of the "Kantonsschule" Winterthur, in Winterthur, at the age of 74.

Dr. Ernst Brunner, the oldest practising lawyer in the canton of Solothurn, in Solothurn, aged 87.

[A.T.S.]

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DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Dubois-Kunzi of Couvet (Ct. Neuchâtel), Mr. and Mrs. A. Lüthi-Zurbrugg of Wetzikon, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hauser-Schrenk, of Wädenswil (Zurich), Mr. and Mrs. Stricker-Vetsch of Grats (Ct. St. Gall), Mr. and Mrs. A. Ducret-Piller of Düringen (Ct. Fribourg). [A.T.S.]

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Postal traffic during the Big Four Conference.

During the recent Conference of the Big Four in Geneva, more than 13,000 postal packets (cards

and letters) were handed over the counters of the special post offices. The office in the Press House was by far the busiest; it accepted more than 10,000 packets.

With regard to deliveries, some 20,000 packets were delivered to the houses occupied by the Big Four and their foreign ministers, as well as the hotels where their different delegations were staying.

Philatelists sent nearly 3,200 packets to Geneva post offices, each containing on an average ten other letters or cards, making some 33,000 in all, which had to be postmarked and returned to the sender or the addressee indicated. Some 1,800 blocks of commemorative stamps, worth 2,000 francs in all, were sold at the Press House.

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