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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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Welcome to the Swiss Minister

By the time these lines reach our readers, the newly appointed Swiss Minister, Monsieur Armin Daeniker, will have arrived in London to take up his responsible post as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Court of St. James.

We take this opportunity of extending to him, and Madame Daeniker, on behalf of our readers in particular, and our compatriots in general, a hearty and sincere welcome, coupled with our best wishes for success in his high mission with which he has been entrusted by the Federal Council.

* * *

Monsieur le Ministre Daeniker has a brilliant and varied career behind him; born in 1898 in Zurich he studied *juris prudencia* at the Universities of Zurich, Geneva, Berne, Berlin, Rome and London, obtaining his degree of doctor of law from the University of his native town.

In 1925, he entered into the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office), and occupied successively posts in Riga, Berne, Berlin and Shanghai.

Promoted in 1933 to the rank of 2nd Secretary of Legation, he was sent to Tokio, where a year later he advanced to the grade of 1st Secretary, and in this capacity he was in charge of the Legation.

Two years later (1936), Monsieur Daeniker was appointed Chargé d'Affaires in Teheran, and whilst there he was promoted in 1939 to the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

Returning to Berne in 1945, he was from 1945-1948 in charge of the section for administrative affairs at the Federal Political Department.

The Federal Council appointed him in February, 1948, to be the first Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to India, being at the same time accredited to Thailand.

At the beginning of 1952, Minister Daeniker was transferred to Sweden in the same capacity. From

August 31st, 1953 to March 30th, 1954, although still accredited to Sweden, he was Head of the Swiss Delegation of the Neutral International commission for the exchange of prisoners of war in Korea.

Monsieur Daeniker is the 7th representative of the Swiss Confederation in London, his predecessors being Monsieur C. D. Boucart (1892-1902); Monsieur G. Carlin (1902-1920); Monsieur R. Paravicini (1920-1939); Monsieur W. Thurnheer (1940-1944); Monsieur P. Ruegger (1944-1948), and Monsieur H. de Torrenté (1948-1954).

* * *

The relation between the diplomatic representatives of our country and the Colony have always been close and friendly, and especially so during the last few years, when the collaborators of the respective Ministers have shown great interest in the life and work of the Colony, playing often an active part, a fact which has been very much appreciated and beneficial to all parties.

The Swiss Colony in Great Britain is, we can safely say from experience, not only one of the most generous, but also one of the most active ones amongst the Colonies abroad, it has, at all times, remained loyal and responsive to the Head of the Colony, and we are glad to say that this loyalty has been returned in the same generous manner.

At the moment when our new Minister is taking up his high post, we gladly pledge ourselves to the same hearty and spontaneous collaboration, as far as the affairs of the Colony are concerned, which has been extended to his predecessors.

The Editor.

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