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# The Swiss Observer

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Council has announced the suspension of the Director-General of Customs (Oberzolldirektor) Ernst Widmer, pending an inquiry into suspicions of irregular activities. The Chief of the Federal Finance Department has sent the findings of a "disciplinary investigation" to the Attorney General so that he may establish whether there are grounds for opening penal proceedings.

\* \* \*

Dr. Ernst Wyss, Director of the Federal Tax Administration has tendered his resignation to the Federal Council for reasons of health, he has occupied this post since 1953.

\* \* \*

Monsieur M. Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation has sent a telegram of congratulations to the President of the Italian Republic on his election as Head of the State.

\* \* \*

The members of the Diplomatic Corps in Berne have entertained the members of the Federal Council to a dinner. No speeches were made.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 16.93 million passengers during the month of March, 1955, or 570,000 less than in the same period in 1954. Receipts: 22.91 million francs (March, 1954: 23.69 million francs).

Goods traffic has increased by 244,000 tons, and is returned as 1.90 million tons. Receipts: 35.30 million francs (March, 1954: 34.32 million francs).

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has remitted an amount of 20,000.—frs. to the Swiss Red Cross in aid of the earthquake victims in Volos (Greece).

\* \* \*

The Swiss Government has informed Parliament that membership of the Neutral Nations Commissions in Korea had so far cost the country 5,500,000 francs

(about £458,000) and the belligerents did not intend to pay back any of it.

In a 100-page report on Korea, the Government said: "There is no doubt that the mission offered to us in Korea gave us the opportunity to prove that neutrality can still serve the cause of peace through co-operation in peaceful international tasks, even though they may be thankless, difficult, and fraught with risks".

\* \* \*

Details have been issued in Berne of a revised Bill giving the Federal Government exceptional powers for the economic defence of the country in the event of war being imminent. It displaces earlier drafts — that of 1952 which was criticized as too authoritarian and centralizing, and that of 1954 which was condemned as too timorous.

The new draft has 41 articles, and is accompanied by an explanatory message running to 64 pages. It starts from the premise that a nation's capacity to resist aggression depends not only on its armed forces

## ANNUAL SWISS SPORTS AND GARDEN PARTY

SATURDAY, 4th JUNE, 1955

at

THE POLYTECHNIC STADIUM, CHISWICK  
from 2 to 7 p.m.

The programme includes

ATHLETIC EVENTS  
BOYS' and GIRLS' RACES  
MIXED RACES  
SPECIAL EVENTS

and musical entertainment by the Swiss Accordion Club.

PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN TO THE WINNERS

Admission free no tickets required  
Covered Stand in case of rain.  
Refreshments available.  
Programmes with full details will be on sale on the Grounds.

How to reach the Polytechnic Stadium, Chiswick:

By Train from Waterloo to Chiswick S.R. Station thence a few minutes walk.

By Underground District Line to Turnham Green Station, thence by No. 55 Bus to Chiswick S.R. Station.

By Bus No. 71 from Hammersmith to Polytechnic Sports Ground.