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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 appointed Dr. Agostino Soldati to the post of Permanent Observer to the United Nations in New York, with the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary. He is succeeding Minister August Lindt, who has been nominated United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Minister Soldati was born in 1910 and is a citizen of Neggio (Ct. Ticino). He entered the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1938 and successively occupied posts at the Swiss Legations in Rome, Berlin, Lisbon and Paris. In 1951 he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

* * *

As reported in our last issue, the appointment of Minister Dr. Auguste Lindt as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has been confirmed.

Minister Lindt was born at Berne in 1903 and studied law at the Universities of Geneva and Berne. From 1927 to 1940 he was special correspondent of several European newspapers. He served in the Swiss army from 1940 to 1945, and afterwards was appointed special delegate of the "Don Suisse" in Berlin.

Dr. Lindt was Press Attaché and later Press Counsellor at the Swiss Legation in London from 1946 to 1948. In the latter year he became Switzerland's representative on the Executive Board of UNICEF and, in 1953, was appointed the Executive Board's Chairman.

* * *

Counsellor of Legation Dr. René Keller, head of the Information and Press Service at the Federal Political Department in Berne, has been transferred to the Swiss Legation in Paris in the capacity of 1st Counsellor.

Dr. Keller was born in Paris in 1914 and spent the first five years of his life there. From 1919 to 1939 he lived at Geneva where in 1933 he matriculated. Then followed one year at Cambridge University

(Trinity College) where he studied law. In 1937 he became *Licencié en droit* of the Geneva University and a year later he was a *stagiaire* at the Dresdner Bank in Berlin, where he specialised on documentary credits which later became the theme of his dissertation. At the outbreak of the last war he joined his unit (heavy artillery) as lieutenant, and after his release from his regiment he entered the service of the Federal Political Department in Berne, having in the meantime acquired the degree of Doctor of Law at the Geneva University.

At the beginning of 1941 Dr. Keller was transferred to Prague as Vice-Consul, returning in 1945 to Berne where he occupied a post in the administrative section of the Federal Political Department with the rank of 2nd Secretary of Legation. A year later (1946) he was sent to the Swiss Legation at The Hague where he remained until September 1950, when he joined the Swiss Legation in London with the rank of 1st Secretary of Legation. In 1954 Dr. Keller was appointed head of the Information and Press Service at the Federal Political Department with the rank of Counsellor of Legation.

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The President of the Swiss Confederation, Dr. H. Streuli, has sent a telegram of condolence to the Austrian Chancellor on the occasion of the death of the President of the Austrian Republic, Dr. Theodor Koerner.

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The Swiss Government has ordered the Federal Attorney's office to conduct a full investigation into Swiss arms purchases.

CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next

MONTHLY MEETING

will take place on **Tuesday, February 12th, 1957**, 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, February 11th, 1957.

THE COMMITTEE.