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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

Monsieur Gaston Jaccard, formerly Swiss Ambassador to Belgium, has been appointed to head a section of the Swiss Embassy representing United States interests in Cuba, following the diplomatic break between Washington and Havana.

The Federal Council has appointed M. Jacques Mollet, Counsellor of Legation, and Consul-General at Damascus, to the post of head of the Swiss delegation to the Neutral Nations Commission for the Repatriation of Prisoners of War in Korea, in succession to M. Rudolf Hartmann.

Monsieur J. Dudley Lawrence has presented his credentials as Ambassador of the Republic of Liberia to Monsieur F. T. Wahlen, President of the Swiss Confederation, and to Monsieur Max Petitpierre, head of the Political Department, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

The Federal Council has addressed a congratulatory message to Mr. John Kennedy, on his taking over the American Presidency.

Cantonal

A sixteen-year-old student, on leaving his railway carriage before the train had stopped at the station of Schwyz, fell between two carriages and was killed. He was Peter Ceberg, of Richenbach nr. Schwyz. [A.T.S.]

Dr. Walter Raissig, Central Secretary of the "Hauseigentümer Verband", is entering the National Council, in succession to the late Mr. F. Buechi. The new National Councillor was born in 1910 and hails from Bolligen (Ct. Berne). He is residing in Langnau a. Albis. [A.T.S.]

The Zurich Government has acquired large grounds for the erection of new Barracks in the Reppisch Valley between Birmensdorf and Urdorf at a cost of 7,500,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

At the end of 1961 the population of the town of Zurich numbered 439,979. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the non-alcoholic restaurant "Side-Hus" in the Seidengasse Zurich caused damage estimated to amount to 30,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Dr.med. Hans Ulrich Buff, chief surgeon at the "Bürgerspital" Solothurn, has been elected Professor of Medicine at the University of Zurich, and Director of the surgical clinic of the cantonal hospital Zurich. [A.T.S.]

Frau Susanna Haegni-Pletscher, of Stäfa (Zurich), has celebrated her 101st birthday; she is the mother of seven children. [A.T.S.]

A burglar entered the office of the Victoria Hospital in Berne; he forced open the safe and decamped with its contents to the value of 30,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

Professor Walter Baumgartner, chief surgeon at the hospital in Interlaken, and his son, Martin, lost their lives in an avalanche disaster at the Wistaethorn, between Lenk and Zweisimmen. Two other sons of Professor Baumgartner were seriously injured and were taken to the Interlaken hospital. [A.T.S.]

Fräulein Magdalena Seiler has celebrated her 103rd birthday, at the district hospital in Interlaken. [A.T.S.]

M. Robert Mermoud, notary, has been elected Mayor of the town of Grandson. He belongs to the Radical Party. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Hans Schneider (67) has celebrated his 40th jubilee in the service of the Government of the canton of Berne. He has occupied the post of chancellor since 1928. [A.T.S.]

In the canton of Lucerne, 1,874 traffic accidents occurred during the year 1960. 1,510 persons were injured, 162 fatally. [A.T.S.]

Mr. Max Obrecht (66) and Mr. Otto Stampfli (64) have announced their decision to retire from the Government of the canton of Solothurn.