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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain**

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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Iraqi Government has invited Mr. Walter J. Amman, contributor to Swiss television, to organize television in their country.

The first twelve of the hundred South African "Centurion" tanks bought by the Swiss Government have arrived in Basle.

According to the latest statistics published in Berne, there are now 1,070,452 radio listeners and 135,028 viewers in Switzerland.

Mr. Pierre Francois Bruegger, at present Swiss Minister to Roumania, will change places with our Ambassador to Israel, Mr. Emile Bisang.

M. Max Petitpierre, head of the Swiss political department, has announced that he intends to resign on 30th June. M. Petitpierre has been in the Swiss Government since 1945, and has been three times President of the Confederation.

### Cantonal

In Schaffhausen last summer a traffic accident caused a considerable stir when former teacher and dean of the canton, J. Pfund, was knocked down and killed by a car after just having celebrated his 100th anniversary. The driver has now been convicted of manslaughter — but given only a suspended prison sentence of fifteen days !!

An earthquake has been reported in the centre of Grisons. It was felt particularly in the area around Davos.

The Geneva authorities have finally rejected the French proposal of an international gambling casino for the bordering town of Annemasse.

Under the patronage of the Anglo-Swiss Society, Lord Euston has recently given a lecture in Zurich on the protection and maintenance of England's historical buildings.

A fire has entirely destroyed the Hotel Riffelalp in the Zermatt region. Opened in 1884, the Riffelalp Hotel, which faced the Matterhorn, was well known among British Climbers.

The Canton de Vaud celebrates this year the 450th anniversary of reformer Pierre Viret's birth. Several events and attractions are being organized for the occasion.

Until 16th April there is a spectacular exhibition in progress, at Zurich's Art Museum, devoted to "Five Thousand Years of Egyptian Art".

Students of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales at St. Gallen are protesting against the Swiss sports association's decision to send a delegation to the international students games in Sofia this summer and to the organisation of the 1961-62 winter games in Switzerland where strong Communist participation is expected.

## Nouvelle Société Helvétique

(LONDON GROUP)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ANNUAL DINNER

on Tuesday, 21st March, 1961,  
at the "Schweizerbund" (Swiss Club)  
74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Guests of Honour  
H.E. the Swiss Ambassador  
and Madame Daeniker

6.15 p.m. Annual General Meeting  
8 p.m. Dinner (dress informal)

Members wishing to take part at the dinner are requested to notify the Management, "Schweizerbund" (M. & Mme. Vuistiner), by letter reaching the Club not later than Saturday, 18th March.