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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Swiss Embassy** has asked us to insert the following announcement :

An agreement concerning the indemnification of Swiss interests affected by nationalisation and other restrictive measures was signed between Cuba and Switzerland on 2nd March 1967.

Swiss nationals with a claim to compensation under this agreement should get in touch, by 30th June 1967, with either the Swiss Embassy in London or the Consulate in Manchester, according to the consular district in which they live.

*Swiss Embassy,
77-81 Gloucester Place,
London W.I.*

*Swiss Consulate,
Sunley Buildings,
Piccadilly Plaza,
Manchester 1.*

FREE REGISTRATION AT SWISS EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES

The Federal Council issued new passport tariffs on 7th February. According to these, a new passport of 32 pages will cost 6 francs and one of 48 pages 8 francs. In addition, a charge of 5 francs is made for each year of validity. To extend a passport will cost 5 francs p.a.

There is no longer any registration fee at Swiss Embassies and Consulates.

WEEKEND COTTAGES WITHOUT TEARS

Everyone now wants a weekend cottage of his own, at the seaside, in the mountains or in the heart of the country . . . But the building of even the simplest type of cottage is fairly costly. Consequently, in order to answer the requirements of those who want to build an inexpensive cottage taking up not too much room, more stable than a tent and more attractive than a simple log hut, a Swiss firm recently created the weekend cottage known as "Samoa", which is a circular construction with a central pillar, somewhat like a mushroom; the walls and roof are in double panels of stratified polyester and glassfibre with a layer of polyurethane foam insulation sandwiched in between. These rounded panels, just $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. thick, provide the same thermal insulation as a cork partition 4 to 5 ins. thick, corresponding to that used for refrigeration trucks. The cottage has a very wide double window and roller blinds. According to the manufacturer's plans, the inside is large enough to accommodate four people in comfort, with bedroom, sanitary installations, kitchen and living room. The diameter of the "Samoa" cottage is just under 20 feet, its area approximately 300 sq. ft., and it can be erected on a site measuring no more than 380 sq. ft. the "Samoa", which weighs 1,760 lb., can be loaded on to a single truck and erected or taken down in a day, either raised on stilts or on any other foundation. The walls and the roof come in different mass-dyed colours, so that the colour cannot fade and requires no maintenance. The whole cottage, supplied without flooring, costs no more than a medium-priced car. This is an article that will undoubtedly delight a great number of open-air enthusiasts.

[O.S.E.C.]

14 WOMEN IN THE GENEVA COMMUNE COUNCIL

On 24th April, the Geneva electorate had to go to the poll to elect their Commune Councils. Participation was between 42 and 54%. Changes as to Parties were very slight. The Municipal Council of the town of Geneva shows the following distribution of its 80 seats (voting participation 31.8%):

Workers' Party 16 (hitherto 15), Social Democrats 15 (21), Radicals 13 (15), Liberals 13 (16), "Vigilants" 12 (0), Christian/Socialists 11 (13).

In the last period, there were eleven women. These have been joined by three more. There were 35 women candidates. All the Parties have women members, though none of them more than three.

[A.T.S.]

AN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN SWITZERLAND

The first American Chamber of Commerce ever to be set up in Switzerland has just been officially opened in Zurich. This new group, intended to simplify trade and business relations between the United States and Switzerland, was formed after a survey carried out among Swiss and American business circles. The head of the new organisation, whose Honorary President is Mr. John F. Hayes, United States Ambassador to Switzerland, is Mr. H. G. A. Meili; it will be affiliated to the United States Chamber of Commerce and the Council of American Chambers of Commerce in Europe. A great number of heads of Swiss and American firms from all over Switzerland are already members and have amply subscribed to the budget needed for the first year of activity. The address of the American Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland is Dreikönigstrasse 7, 8002 Zurich.

[O.S.E.C.]

A RESEARCH AND PROMOTION CENTRE FOR THE SWISS PRESS

In Switzerland as abroad, the Press is often faced with important problems brought about by technical and social progress. The Swiss Association of Newspaper Publishers and the French-Swiss Newspaper Union have therefore decided to study these problems and try to contribute to their solution. For this purpose, these two organisations have set up a "Research and Promotion Centre for the Swiss Press", which has started work in Lausanne. The new Centre will carry out investigations and research bearing on administrative, technical, journalistic, economic and political problems which have to be solved in order to consolidate and preserve in Switzerland a strong, free and diversified press, indispensable to the normal functioning of a direct democracy. The Centre will build up a full documentation on all the problems of interest to it and at the same time be responsible, in particular by means of talks and lectures, for supplying information to all circles concerned in one way or another with the life and future of the Press in Switzerland.

[O.S.E.C.]