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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN LONDON

The German-speaking Church Council, together with a not too numerous representation from the Swiss-Centre staff, attended — on Sunday morning — an ecumenical service conducted by Rev. M. Dietler and Father Bosshard in the unusual surroundings of the Swiss Centre Restaurants. After a Luncheon offered by the management, the meeting of the Parish Church Council took place in the "skyroom" of the Centre — the Swiss Flag outside flapping in a London rainstorm. This created an appropriate atmosphere for the discussions covering problems of Church life.

The French-speaking Parish had their special Communion Services at the Eglise Suisse.

Again the co-operation between the Protestant and Catholic Churches in London was underlined in the ecumenical evening service, this time in St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church, following Mass Celebration. Introduced by an excellent performance of a Schuetz Cantata and before a packed audience in which youth was well represented, Rev. Dietler and Father Bosshard, with their gift for holding one's attention, found just the right words for the occasion, stressing the significance of the freedom in the Protestant Church and the value of the Sacrament of Confession in the Roman Catholic Church.

The "Talk about Nigeria" by Mr. Cookey-Gam (Biafra) given in the Westminster Ballroom, made a suitable ending for this day of prayer and thanksgiving, reminding us of the sufferings of the people in Nigeria and how much we, by contrast, have to be thankful for.

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In this connection, we should like to mention that nearly £160 has been collected in aid of Biafra refugees, the exact use of it to be determined later. Out of this, about £82 was collected at the three services on **Betttag** (i.e. Two ecumenical services mentioned above and the Mass.) The Contact Youth Group of the German-Swiss Church where the collection was started, contributed £57 and the rest was collected by the R.C. Youth Club.

CHANGES AT THE SWISS EMBASSY

Last June, Monsieur Charles H. Bruggmann, arrived at the Embassy as First Secretary. He had been Deputy Head of the Swiss Delegation of EFTA in Geneva. On 15th October, he takes over Press matters from Monsieur G. Bodmer, who will remain in London as First Secretary for a few months only until a new First Secretary will have arrived in succession to Monsieur J. D. Grandjean. We regret to announce his departure this month to a new post (not yet made known on going to Press). Monsieur and Madame Grandjean arrived in London in March 1966, and both have taken a great interest in the life of the Swiss community in this country. Before Monsieur Grandjean came here, he had been Deputy Head of the Swiss EFTA Delegation in Geneva, and he has been *Chargé d'Affaires* from then onward in succession to Monsieur M. Heimo. Best wishes for the future!

A RETIREMENT

Mr. Robert J. Keller established the London Office of the Swiss Credit Bank in 1954 and has been its successful Manager ever since. He is now retiring from active service, but will continue in a consultative capacity. The

Bank are indebted to him, as in this way, his expert advice will remain at their disposal.

Mr. George I. Williamson has recently retired from the office of General Manager (Overseas) of the Midland Bank. He has been appointed International Representative in London in succession to Mr. Keller. He will take up his post on 16th October, and his long experience and wide connections in international banking will be an asset to the Credit Bank.

We wish Mr. Williamson a successful term of office. To Mr. Keller who is a well-known personality in the Swiss community, we wish many years of well-earned retirement.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. Charles Voegeli (Winterthur) will be 71 on 16th, Mr. Pierre Savoie 78 on 17th October, and Ambassador Jean Revilliod (Djakarta) will be 63 on 20th of the month. On 21st, Mrs. Anny Gysin (Basle) will be 79, and on 23rd October, Dr. Ernst M. Bircher (Bissone) will be 73 and Mr. Henry A. Clottu 87.

Mr. and Mrs. Léon Jaggi sen. will be celebrating their 51st wedding anniversary on 20th October.

We wish many happy returns to all these readers and any others whose birthdays and anniversaries will fall within the next fortnight.

PERSONAL

It is with pleasure that we announce the birth of a son Charles Henry to Mrs. C. H. Hanbury of "Bishopsgate Lodge", Windsor Great Park, Windsor, Berks. Congratulations to the happy parents!

Mr. and Mrs. F. Conrad, of 24 Searchwood Road, Upper Warlingham, Surrey, who have become grandparents for the tenth time, when their son Peter's wife gave birth to a girl on 22nd September after three boys. The Conrads have three grandchildren in Canada and three in Australia. The best of luck

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for adding donations to their subscriptions and/or for taking out gift subscriptions for friends and old-age pensioners:

Mrs. M. Gfeller, Mrs. M. Nestorides, Miss M. Paly, Miss V. Schwarz (Effingen), Miss J. Steiger, Mrs. A. Zimmermann and Messrs. H. R. Bolliger, P. Brun, A. H. L. Cuany, C. Donati, E. Geier, K. Jung, A. S. Kiener, A. Kunzler, E. Laechler, J. P. Locher, F. A. de Maria, A. F. Rigiani, F. Schillig, F. Schmid, C. Schorno, A. W. Sommer, H. Steiner, F. B. Tschudy, C. Urfer (Ste. Croix), J. C. Wetter, W. Zuber.

We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLISHING DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the Month. Our next issue will appear on 25th October. We shall be glad to receive all articles and reports by Tuesday, 15th October. Short news items only can be accepted after that date.

Our next issue but one will be published on Friday, 8th November. All contributions for that number should be to hand by Tuesday, 29th October.