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SMS MUST FIND A NEW PRESIDENT

The 87th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Swiss House on 10th March, with Mr. A. Jaccard presiding. The meeting was honoured by the presence of Monsieur J. P. Zehnder, Counsellor (Economic & Labour) at the Swiss Embassy and Monsieur J. Keller, Swiss Consul.

In his report on the past year's activities the Chairman referred to the economic difficulties affecting not only this country, but also our homeland, if perhaps to a lesser extent, bringing short-time working and unemployment in their wake.

Regular meetings had been held at Swiss House, where the Society had spent its first full year since the commencement of the building operations in 1973. Due to the pedestrianisation of Fitzroy Square, now almost complete, all through-traffic had been stopped which was proving a great boon to the College, as after completion all noise would practically be eliminated.

The membership, unfortunately, had remained stagnant, if not on the wane. Endeavours to rejuvenate it were proving difficult, if not abortive, due to lack of young compatriots able to settle down here permanently, or at least long term. Efforts in this direction would, nevertheless, be pursued.

In the absence abroad of the Chairman of the Education Committee, Mr. F. O. Hausermann, the Secretary, Mr. W. Burren, reported on the activities of the College during the year under review.

Despite the recession in trade and industry which manifested itself in the Swiss economy in the course of last year, the number of full-time students admitted in 1975 was only fractionally below that of the previous year, i.e. 580 as against 595, with an average attendance of 227 and 240 respectively.

A total of 359 students had presented themselves for the diploma examinations held during the year, compared with 401 candidates in the preceding year.

The number of enrolments for evening courses had fallen considerably in recent years, due to fewer young Swiss being able to obtain employment here. On the other hand, many more day students were attending the preparatory evening courses for the Cambridge examinations. A total of 19 classes with 346 students were held last year, compared with 20 classes and 375 students in 1974.

With greater emphasis on spoken English being maintained, full use was made of the language laboratory, with noticeable and generally satisfactory results.

At the external examinations of

Cambridge University, held annually in June and December, 16 students of the College obtained the coveted Certificate of Proficiency in English, out of 24 candidates, whilst 154 S.M.S. candidates were successful in the examination for the First Certificate in English, out of 200 who sat.

A staff of 15 full-time teachers, all of British nationality and suitably qualified, were employed for day and evening courses.

As customary, the programme of studies was enriched by visits to places of cultural and historic interest as well as to commercial undertakings, etc. Social evenings and theatre visits were well patronised and enjoyed by the students.

In the field of sport, football in winter and tennis in summer and autumn, continued to prove a welcome diversion from intensive studies and were generally popular with the students.

Finally, Mr. Jaccard thanked the Ambassador and his staff for their goodwill, and the Swiss Government for their continued financial support. He further expressed appreciation of the constant help received from the Central Secretariat of the SKV and the Swiss Commercial Employment Office in Zürich. To the Trustees, the members of the Council and the Committees, as well as the members generally, he expressed his personal thanks for their co-operation and assistance during his term of office.

Having guided the Society's affairs since 1963, Mr. Jaccard announced his resignation from the Presidency of the Society and Chairmanship of the Council.

Mr. E. M. Huber, a member of the Council, was appointed Chairman *pro tem* to conduct the election of the Council and the Committees for the ensuing year.

He thanked Mr. Jaccard for the valued services rendered to the S.M.S. in various capacities in recognition of which he had been elected an Hon. Member of the SKV and the S.M.S. last year.

As a token of appreciation, a presentation was then made to Mr. Jaccard on behalf of the Council.

The election resulted in the following changes:

— President of the Society and Chairman of the Council: Mr. F. O. Hausermann

— Vice-President: Mr. M. Schneebeli

— Trustee and Member of the Council: Mr. M. Rothlisberger.

All other members of the Council and the Committees having declared their willingness to serve for another year, were declared duly elected and the proceedings then terminated.

BRIAN CROZIER AT CITY SWISS CLUB

For its February meeting the City Swiss Club was pleased to have a guest speaker of such exceptional interest. Talking brilliantly on a serious subject, he aroused the members present to an unusually long and lively discussion.

The speaker was the well-known author, journalist and broadcaster Brian Crozier, director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict. To his many books, including biographies of General de Gaulle and General Franco, he has lately added a major work entitled "A Theory of Conflict", one aspect of which, "The Subversive Apparatus of the Soviet Union", provided the theme of his address.

In great detail, which we cannot attempt to reproduce in this short report, Mr. Crozier described the build-up of the Russian Communist power system of terrorist suppression at home and subversion abroad to which aims all the resources of state and party are sacrificed in order to extend Soviet power wherever and however possible.

Apart from the elaborate system of interlocking official organisations serving these purposes, unofficial bodies and movements all over the world are secretly harnessed to the same aims in the name of cultural co-operation, national liberation and peace. Subverting trade unions, teachers and journalists, training them for strikes and sabotage wherever the opportunity arises are the chief methods employed in this biggest enterprise of power expansion the world has ever known, supplying also finance, arms, experts and even fighting personnel where the situation is ripe for armed conflict such as we have lately seen in Angola.

The IRA in Northern Ireland has, as Crozier assured questioners, also been supplied with Russian arms (even if not overtly), while the Unions in Britain and the Labour Party itself have numerous members with clearly Communist leanings.

Peaceful coexistence and détente are evidently only synonymous with cold war which might achieve its final result, if not checked by a far clearer realisation of the impending disaster.

With its warm applause Mr. Crozier's audience expressed its appreciation, both of the candour of his talk and the seriousness of the situation he described so lucidly.