

# Federal councillor visits London

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is not only stimulating to us but, above all, we believe it to be beneficial to the people we are trying to serve in our several functions.

The Committee held its regular monthly meetings to deal with the various matters that were brought to its notice. At the meetings, the Embassy was represented by Consul M. Ch. Glauser and following one of them, the Executive and the Finance Committees were invited by him and Madame Glauser to a memorable and pleasant dinner at the Post Office Tower Restaurant. We wish to record our thanks for this enjoyable evening to Consul and Madame Glauser.

As in past years, Mrs. M. Lyster, Social Worker, stood in for Mrs. Sharp during her holidays and we are indeed grateful to her for her keen involvement in our activities and her splendid co-operation.

At the last Annual General Meeting, His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador, Dr. E. Thalmann was elected Honorary

President and we are grateful to him for the interest he takes in our work; interest demonstrated by his attendance at one of the monthly meetings of the Executive Committee.

We wish to express gratitude to all the individuals and institutions whose support we enjoyed again during the year: the Swiss Embassy in London, the Swiss Churches, the *Swiss Observer*, English social services and their representatives and above all our individual friends on whose interest and donations we depend so very much. Our appreciation also goes to the British Authorities for their hospitality and assistance.

Finally, we should like to thank our Secretary, Mrs. A.-R. Sharp, Social Worker, for carrying out her varied tasks with great skill and never failing enthusiasm.

On behalf of the Executive Committee

*M. Schneebeli*  
President

## FEDERAL COUNCILLOR VISITS LONDON

Federal Councillor Ernst Brugger, Head of the Federal Department of Economy was in London recently at the invitation of Mr. Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade.

During his visit Councillor Brugger had a series of exchanges of views on matters of mutual interest with Mr. Dell, Chancellor Denis Healey, Dr. David Owen, Foreign Secretary and Sir Geoffrey Howe, Opposition spokesman on Treasury and Economic Affairs.

At a press conference at the Swiss Embassy shortly before his departure Councillor Brugger was kind enough to outline the theme of these important talks.

First and foremost said Mr. Brugger, there had been a large measure of agreement between the two parties on the problems facing both countries.

The Swiss delegation, which also included Ambassador Paul Rudolf Jolles, Ambassador Fritz Rothenbühler, Mr. Milan Lusser and Mr. P. L. Girard, explained Switzerland's economic policies and was also informed about Britain's policies.

Britain, said Mr. Brugger, envied Switzerland's economic situation but we were able to explain that the situation is not always as rosy as it seems because of the high value of the Swiss Franc abroad.

Some 300,000 jobs had been lost, but unemployment had perhaps been artificially kept at a low level because 200,000 foreign workers had left Switzerland.

The Swiss delegation was also well aware of Britain's problems and of her endeavours to reduce inflation, curb production costs and unemployment.

There was optimism among British Ministers on questions of reducing in-

flation and the balance of payments deficit, particularly in view of the North Sea oil which is now beginning to come ashore.

The Swiss delegation, added Councillor Brugger, was more optimistic than its British friends on world trade problems, European integration and further co-operation between EFTA and the EEC. But progress there must be.

Switzerland's action in floating the Franc had done much to help Britain by contributing in a large part to an international adjustment process. As a result Switzerland's imports had been increasing sharply. Another important Swiss contribution is her large exports of capital to other countries.

Mr. Healey, said Councillor Brugger, has expressed particular gratitude for Switzerland's participation in World Bank stand-by credits, the Sterling "safety net".

All in all, summarized Councillor Brugger, our visit to our British friends and counterparts had been as fruitful as ever. Relations between the two countries are excellent, a fact which greatly pleases both parties.

Unfortunately, Councillor Brugger and his party had not been able to meet Industry Secretary Mr. Eric Varley as planned due to Mr. Varley's illness. His place was taken by Secretary of State, Mr. Alan Williams.

Councillor Brugger thanked the British Government for their hospitality and assured all present that the good bilateral work will continue.

Mr. Dell has been invited to visit Berne, an invitation which to Councillor Brugger's obvious delight, has been accepted.

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