

Swiss national day celebration

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SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Dear Compatriot,

To their deep regret, the Swiss National Day Committee have had to recognize that, in view of the present circumstances, the traditional assembly to celebrate the Swiss National Day on August 1st cannot be held this year.

However, it is their intention to organise as soon as conditions will again allow it a general meeting of the Swiss Colony, in order to give the members a welcome opportunity of meeting.

You will eventually be given further information regarding these plans.

Our newly arrived Minister, M. Paul Ruegger, who is thus deprived of the pleasure of meeting the Colony now is sending you herewith a personal message.

With patriotic greetings,

THE COMMITTEE
OF THE SWISS NATIONAL DAY.

Special Services will take place in connection with the National Day on Sunday, July 30th, as follows:—

PROTESTANT DIVINE SERVICE, at 11 a.m., at the Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, W.C. 2.

CATHOLIC DIVINE SERVICE at 12.15 midday, at St. Peter and St. Edward Church, Palace Street, S.W.1.
Holy Mass, short Sermon and Hymns by the Choir and Community.

London, July 24th, 1944.

* * *

My dear Compatriots,

Since my appointment as Swiss Minister to H.M. King George VI. I have been looking forward to our National Day, hoping that it would bring me the first opportunity of meeting you and of talking to you, and above all, of feeling myself one of you.

This meeting, however, has had to be postponed, as the Presidents of the various societies in the Colony have held—wisely indeed—that the commemoration of our National Day should this time take place in the homes of the Swiss in this country, rather than in a large and public gathering.

I should not like to fail on this First of August to send to all of you, members of the Swiss Colony, a message to tell you that the old country has not forgotten you and is well aware that many of you have had to face great hardships and trials and have borne them in a spirit of fortitude worthy of the best Swiss tradition.

As for the future, Switzerland expects that her old established and industrious colonies abroad will, when the time comes, be prepared to take their share in the first task with which Europe will be faced at the end of the war: the task of rebuilding. It will be a gigantic task. And the contribution of Switzerland, who so far has escaped the horrors of war will obviously have to be very considerable.

Much help has already been given. I mention here only the activity of the International Red Cross Committee and of the Federal Services in charge of the interests of the majority of the belligerents. Much more will yet have to be done. Whatever has been achieved was made possible only because Switzerland has upheld and was always ready to defend in every case her rights as a sovereign and neutral state.

On this day our thoughts naturally turn more than

ever to Switzerland. But let us not forget that we Swiss owe so much to this great country's hospitality, generously granted us over many centuries.

And now may I express to you all the best wishes of my collaborators and of myself for your future well being.

PAUL RUEGGER.

London, July 24th, 1944.

SWISS Y.M.C.A.

The Swiss Y.M.C.A., 12 Bateman Street, Soho, W. 1, held its Fifty-fifth Annual General Meeting on the 18th May, 1944, when a report of the Association's activities was presented by Mr. B. Segall, President pro tem. A copy of this encouraging account of the Y.M.C.A.'s work will be gladly sent to anyone interested.

Mr. W. Fischer was elected President for the year 1944-45.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY — Divine Services.

Protestant Service, bilingual, Sunday, July 30th, at the Swiss Church, 79, Endell Street, at 11 o'clock a.m.

Catholic Service, Sunday, July 30th, at St. Peter's and St. Edward's, Palace Street, Westminster, S.W.1. Holy Mass and Sermon at 12.15 p.m.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, August 29th.—London Swiss Philatelic Society.—Monthly Meeting at Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W. 1. Official part at 5.45 p.m. sharp, afterwards "Swopping."

Unione Chretienne de langue française (French speaking Y.M.C.A.) 9, Soho Square, W.1, Reunion chaque mardi à 5.45 p.m. Invitation cordiale à tous.

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