

News from the legation

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NEWS FROM THE LEGATION.



Dr. ERWIN BERNATH.

Changes in the Diplomatic Service of the Confederation are — alas — only too frequent, but are apparently in accordance with the policy pursued by the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in Berne, during the last few years.

Once more we are to lose a member of the Swiss Legation, in the person of Dr. Erwin Bernath, 1st Counsellor of Legation, who, for the last five years has been first collaborator to the respective Ministers.

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Bernath to the post of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Kingdom of Thailand, (Siam) with residence at Bangkok, and we are tendering him, on behalf of our readers, and the Swiss Colony in Great Britain, our most sincere congratulations on this well merited promotion.

Dr. Bernath has from the time he first assumed his post in London, taken a keen interest in the doings of the Swiss Colony. Those who have attended the deliberations of the Presidents' Assembly, a body which came into existence through the efforts of Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, former Swiss Minister in London, — and now at Washington —, can testify how much this Assembly owes to him, for his always ready help and guidance.

No less indebted to him is the City Swiss Club to which he has belonged since 1951, as a *membre de*

passage, for he hardly missed a Meeting or a Social Function of this Club, and where he was, in the real sense of the word, always "ein gern gesehener Gast".

The Editor of this paper owes him grateful thanks for the interest he has always taken in the work of the Colony's organ, for his collaboration and advice on many occasions and his generous hospitality either at his private residence or at the Legation, when acting as Chargé d'Affaires, which will always remain in pleasant remembrance.

In his responsible task during his *séjour* in the Metropolis, he was ably assisted by his attractive wife, who by her charm has endeared herself to all who were privileged to come in contact with her.

Our best wishes accompany Monsieur and Madame Bernath to their new sphere of activity in the Far East, and whilst we rejoice in this new appointment, we cannot help but feel sorry at losing such a charming couple.

* * *

Dr. Erwin Bernath was born in 1911, and hails from Thayingen. (Ct. Schaffhausen). He studied law at the Universities of Geneva, Paris, Berlin, and Zurich, obtaining his doctorate at the latter University, after which he was *stagiaire*, for a year at the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade in Lausanne.

In 1936, he entered into the Diplomatic Service, occupying a post at the Federal Political Department in Berne, until 1939. In the latter year, he was transferred — until the end of the civil war — to the Swiss Legation at San Sebastian, and then to Madrid.

At the end of 1945, he was appointed Attaché, and subsequently 2nd Secretary of Legation at the Swiss Legation in Tokio as Head of the Division for Foreign interests.

In 1946, Dr. Bernath returned to the Political Department in Berne, where for the next four years he held an important position. In the meantime (1949) he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor of Legation. In January, 1951, Dr. Bernath was appointed 1st collaborator to the Swiss Minister in London.

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MONSIEUR & MADAME BERNATH'S FAREWELL PARTY.

On the occasion of their departure from London, Monsieur & Madame Bernath gave a cocktail party to members of the Swiss Colony, on Thursday, August 30th, 1956, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, September 28th, 1956.

We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: W. Schlapfer, M. Lindemann, Mrs. Habersaat, Mrs. L. Themans, L. S. R. Asch, W. Stettbacher, G. Bonetti, P. H. Aubaret.