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## COMMUNIQUE FROM SWISS LEGATION.

*Convention between the Swiss Confederation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for relief from double taxation with respect to taxes on the estates of deceased persons.*

This Convention has been signed the 12th of June, by the Swiss Minister, M. Armin Daeniker, and by the Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Right Honourable Selwyn Lloyd. The Convention has now to be ratified by the two Parliaments and shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification.

The Swiss Legation (18, Montagu Place, London, W.1) will be glad to answer any enquiries about the implication of this Convention.

\* \* \*

*Non-nationalised Swiss real estates in Rumania.*

The Government of Rumania have agreed, in the Agreement of 13th February, 1953, with buying the non-nationalised Swiss real estates in Rumania.

The owners of such estates who have not yet taken advantage of this possibility should announce their real estates to the "Commission des indemnités de nationalisation, 5, Gurtengasse, Berne", not later than 31st August, 1956. Announcements made after this date will not be taken into consideration.

## N.S.H. MEETINGS.

The London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, after a prolonged period of rest, has kept its members and friends particularly busy and well entertained these last six weeks or so. A few days after Mr. J. Kunz's talk on the work of Pro Juventute, fully reported in the Swiss Observer, the group entertained Monsieur Olivier Reverdin to lunch on the 12th of May at the Bush House Restaurant. As the City Swiss Club had invited him over from Geneva as chief guest and speaker the night before, the N.S.H. lunch was held in a restricted circle of friends, who wished to honour M. Reverdin particularly as President of the Commission des Suisses à l'étranger and former President of the whole N.S.H. organisation in Switzerland. He had come back from a visit to Rio de Janeiro much impressed by the wonderful club-house the small Swiss Colony there had built for itself, and he was equally surprised to discover how lamentably our Colony in London has failed in this respect. However, the knowledge of our efforts for a girls' home made some amends for it in his and other people's mind. M. Reverdin revealed himself in a short discussion following the lunch as a determined advocate of the abolition of military tax and assured us of his understanding of our irritation caused by it.

Dr. W. BALSIGER.

On the 22nd of June Dr. Werner Balsiger, formerly the first director of the Swiss federal police, talked to an Open Meeting of the N.S.H. at the Swiss Club Schweizerbund in Berndtsch on the organisation, functions and experiences of this small police force. Based on a new law of 1935, the so called "Spitzelgesetz", was established only in 1936 to combat the growing menace of Fascist, National-Socialist as well as communist influences in the immediate pre-war years. The Fronten-Paper "Das Signal" reached a circulation of 84,000 in 1941, a Swiss Society for Authoritarian Democracy was formed, the Nazis kept complete lists of sympathisers and dangerous opponents in the Federation, the Cantons and Communes and parties. Communists tried

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