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Some Swiss communities abroad wish a better division of work between the Embassies and the Consulates, especially in large capitals. Consulates-General are desired side by side with Embassies. This is not a new question, but it has been found undesirable to establish Consulates-General, for instance, in Paris. There seem to be little advantage if an Embassy is relieved of consular work. The diplomatic and consular services form a unity, as has been said before. It would not be according to Swiss neutrality and tradition if the diplomats became representatives who were no longer interested in the affairs of the Swiss abroad. The relationship between an Ambassador and his fellow countrymen should not only be of an administrative nature; in fact, they form one of the finest fields of activity for him. It would not be normal if the leading personalities of the Swiss community had only loose contacts with the Embassy.

The argument that an Embassy could get less effective protection for a Swiss national because steps on its part would have to be more carefully considered in order not to damage interstate relationship was not valid, and, in fact, no such cases are known. Anyway, if diplomatic intervention is necessary, it cannot be carried out by the Consul who has access to local authorities only.

Another reason for not establishing Consulates-General in addition to Embassies is the question of finance. The Federal Parliament would hardly grant the necessary credits.

[To end his address, Monsieur Micheli expressed thanks to the Nouvelle Societe Helvetique and its Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad. He said that the Federal Political Department appreciated the ready collaboration and co-operation always accorded to the federal authorities.]

—The Swiss Observer

Laugh a little . . .

A MIRAGE JOKE

A Mirage fighter starts off from a Swiss aerodrome, but is unable to take off (due to overload). The result of the subsequent enquiry shows that a mechanic had forgotten to remove the price tag.

—Nebelspalter

GENTLEMEN:

“Hubby,” says the wife, “today is our wedding anniversary. Make me a gift of 50 francs so that I can go to a salon for a beauty treatment.”

Hubby whips out his wallet: “Here you are my dear, 100 francs. I doubt if they’d still be able to make a decent job with 50 francs.”

—Nebelspalter