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## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Peter von Salis as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Rumanian Government. This post became vacant when René de Weck was transferred to Rome.

Peter von Salis hails from Soglio (Grisons) and was born in 1898. He studied at the University of Berne where he obtained the degree of doctor of law. After having joined one of the Banking Institutes, he entered the Diplomatic service in 1929; during his career as a diplomat he occupied various posts at Washington, Paris, Rome and Moscow. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Marshal Mannerheim, late commander-in-chief of the Finnish Army, who has been spending a holiday in Switzerland, before his departure paid a courtesy visit to the Swiss Foreign Minister, Monsieur Petitpierre. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Swiss Minister in Rome, M. René de Weck, has officially taken possession of the Villa Maraini, which was presented to the Swiss Confederation by the Countess Carolina Maraini Sommaruga. The building will be used to house the Swiss Institute in Rome. This institution has been founded to promote cultural relations between Italy and Switzerland. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On presenting his credentials to Dr. Etter, President of the Swiss Confederation, M. Rudolf Seemann, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Austrian Republic, expressed his appreciation to the Swiss government and the Swiss people for the help they have constantly given to his country during the darkest hours of their existence.

He expressed the sincere hope that both commercial and cultural relations between the two neighbouring countries will become ever closer for the mutual benefit of both nations. [A.T.S.]

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Gottfried Plattner, from Langenbruch (born 1900) to the post of Director of the Federal Powder Works in Wimmis. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Ottawa announced the establishment of a Canadian Legation in Berne and the appointment of M. L. Dana Wilgress as Canadian Minister there. A Swiss Legation was established in Ottawa about a year ago.

M. Wilgress hitherto has been in Moscow, first as Minister and then as Ambassador, since the opening of the Canadian diplomatic mission in the U.S.S.R. in 1942. In his new appointment he will retain his personal rank of Ambassador in the Canadian diplomatic service.

\* \* \*

A new financial and trade agreement was concluded between Greece and Switzerland to replace the 1933 pact. The new accord, which will have to be ratified, would be effective shortly. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Rumanian Government has made an offer to Swiss holders of Rumanian external loans for the repurchase of their holdings at prices considerably under their nominal value. The discount varies between 50 per cent. for the Seven per cent. Unified Loan of 1937 of the Autonomous Administration of Monopolies, and 5 per cent. for the Four-and-a-half per cent. Consolidated Loan of 1934.

Payment is made in Swiss francs up to the limit of the amount available for the purpose.

\* \* \*

A Swiss trade delegation to Poland is negotiating a new commercial agreement between the two countries. During 1946, Polish imports from Switzerland consisted almost exclusively of chemicals, medicines and dyes.

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