

Outings from the capital

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countries had been acknowledged. To several independence celebrations Switzerland had sent official representatives.

The Political Department had received more than 200 invitations to international events. Two international congresses held in Switzerland during 1962 had received some financial support from the Confederation — one the conference on "Allergy" in Basle, and the other that on agricultural work at Seelisberg.

Many were the visitors the Federal Council had to receive in 1962, amongst them the Secretary-General of United Nations, U Thant, Italy's President Giovanni Gronchi, Austria's Federal Chancellor Gorbach, Israel's Foreign Minister Mrs. Golda Meir, and His Majesty King Mwambutsa IV of Burundi.

Apart from Switzerland's active participation in Technical Assistance there were international aid schemes for which the Confederation had granted 4.4 million francs in 1962. These grants had gone to a large part to "Schweizer Auslandhilfe", the Swiss Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross, to UNICEF, to the High Commissioner for Refugees, and to the Inter-State Committee for European Emigration. In addition, 800 metric tons of milk products to the value of a further four million francs had been distributed to these organisations. This did not include the considerable sums collected by the Swiss people direct.

(Based on news received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse and "Basler Nachrichten".)

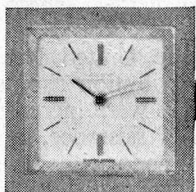
IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE EMBASSY

The Swiss Embassy have asked us to publish the following Communiqué.

Swiss nationals who owned immovable property in Hungary which was nationalized or compulsorily sold in February 1952 should report their claims for compensation to the Federal Political Department in Berne not later than 20th September 1963. Those who have already done so are asked to confirm their claims.

Negotiations between the Swiss and Hungarian authorities on the subject of possible compensation will probably take place at the end of this year.

Further details can be obtained from the Swiss Embassy in London.



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OUTINGS FROM THE CAPITAL

It is a tradition that once a year the Parliamentary Parties go on their summer outings. This year the Radical-Democrats travelled by coach to Grindelwald and then proceeded to Grindelwald-First. Later they visited Spiez. Federal Councillors Schaffner and Chaudet were amongst the guests.

The Socialists travelled by "Red Arrow" train to Schaffhausen, where an official luncheon took place. In the afternoon the members went to Stein am Rhein. Federal Councillor Tschudi was present, but the President of the Confederation, Federal Councillor Spuehler, was prevented through illness from attending.

The Liberals went to Fontainemelon in the Val de Ruz under the guidance of the President of the Council of States, Councillor Frédéric Fauquex. They ended their outing with a visit to the local watch factory.

The Conservative-Christian-Social Party chose Brig for their outing, and the "Blue Arrow" train took them through the Loetschberg. They visited the Stockalper Palace, one of the sights of the Valais. Federal Councillors von Moos and Bonvin were in the party.

The Farmer and Trade Parliamentarians visited Ins, Neuenstadt and Taeuffelen in the Lake District, whilst Spiez and Interlaken were chosen by the Democrats.

The National Councillors of the "Landesring der Unabhängigen" went on a "Fahrt ins Blaue" without a special programme.

A week later the Federal Council invited the foreign diplomats on the traditional biennial excursion. A special train of twelve carriages left the Capital for Lucerne. The two boats, "Stadt Luzern" and "Schiller", both gaily beflagged, took the party to the Ruetli. In the evening there was a reception in Lucerne in honour of the foreign diplomats.

Early in July the Federal Council went on an outing with the purpose of visiting various establishments. The Councillors, together with Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, visited the factories and laboratories of Brown Boveri & Cie at Birrfeld and Baden on the first day. In the afternoon the Councillors went to the Federal research establishment for horticulture at Waedenswil.

The next day they left Berne in four military aeroplanes for Locarno. By car they went to the military station of the grenadiers at Losone. Various high officers were present, and the guests watched some special battle training.

The Council then drove to the highest Ticino village, Bosco-Gurin, a German-speaking Commune, where they visited some of the typical houses and the Walser Museum.

In the afternoon the Councillors returned to Berne via Domodossola.

Now the Federal Councillors have started their staggered holidays, for each of them a well-deserved rest from arduous duties. [A.T.S.]

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