

Temporaray "White House" - near Geneva

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CHANGES IN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

The Federal Council has appointed the Swiss Ambassador in Washington Dr. August Lindt as Delegate for Technical Co-operation at the Federal Political Department. Dr. Lindt is particularly suited for this important task as former Observer at UN, President of the Executive Council of UNICEF, leader of the Swiss delegation at the Conference of the International Agency for Atomic Energy (1956), Chairman of the Opium Conference of UNO (1958), and as High Commissioner for Refugees (prior to his appointment as Swiss Ambassador in USA in July 1960). Dr. Lindt is well-known to the Swiss Colony in G.B. where he was Press Counsellor at the Swiss Embassy after the war.

He is succeeded as Ambassador to USA by Dr. Alfred Zehnder, Ambassador in Canada. Dr. Hans Keller, Delegate for Technical Co-operation has been appointed Ambassador to the People's Republic of China.

The new Ambassador in Accra is Counsellor Guy de Keller. He is accredited to Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali and Togo.

Dr. Richard Aman, who held ministerial rank and was Chief of Protocol in Berne, has been appointed Ambassador to Thailand and Burma with residence in Bangkok. He is succeeded by Monsieur Etienne Serra, who until recently, was head of the Swiss Delegation in the Neutral Supervisory Commission in Korea.

Three new Embassies have been created. Ambassador Dr. F. Gygax accredited to Australia is the first Swiss Ambassador to the Government of New Zealand. He will remain in residence in Canberra.

The first Swiss Ambassador to the Republic of Algeria is the *Chargé d'Affaires* in Bagdad, Monsieur Sigismund Marcuard who was in London until 1952.

The Swiss Legation in Bucarest has been raised to an Embassy and Minister Emil Bisang appointed first Ambassador to Roumania.

The Federal Council has given leave to retire, on reaching the age limit, to Monsieur Franco Brenni, Ambassador to Portugal since 1959. For the same reason the Federal Council has accepted the resignation of the Swiss Consul in Besançon, Monsieur Marcel Grosjean. His successor is the present Vice-Consul in Rotterdam, Monsieur Ernest Prodollet. The Swiss Consul in Winnipeg, Monsieur Charles Kilchenmann, has been transferred to Vancouver.

[A.T.S.]

TEMPORARY "WHITE HOUSE" — NEAR GENEVA

"Summit Fever" has broken out in the quiet village of Prangins near Nyon on the banks of Lake Geneva, and the inhabitants eagerly await the next conference. The castle of Prangins has been bestowed on the Government of the United States by its American owner, Mrs. Stanley McCormick, and is to become a temporary "White House" in Switzerland. Like Voltaire, who stayed at Prangins, the President of the United States is to reside in the Louis XIV style castle during his visits and conferences in Geneva, the meeting-place of the world.

[S.N.T.O.]

AS OTHERS SEE US

The following article is reprinted by courtesy of "The Motor" (9.1.1963). Whilst it makes amusing reading, some of the statements are obviously to be taken with a pinch of salt.

Motoring — Swiss roads are full of Swiss, along with cows and practically everyone else in Europe at one time or another. The natives are friendly but tend violently to resent being passed. Will speed up; ZH and GE plates especially dodgy. If you get an argument, French, Italian, Romansch, or dialects of dialect Schwyzerdütsch may be spoken. Or English. Sometimes all five.

Highways themselves generally good on flat if somewhat narrow and winding. Mountain ones ditto but can be gravel; on roads marked with posthorn, postbus has right of way. Guess who backs up? Numerous ACS telephone points, water fountains for car, rental depots for chains, latest weather information. On normal roads, touring rather slow as Switzerland is intensively built up. Don't pass over a solid yellow line whatever you do, or the cops will getcha. 60 k.p.h. all towns. Be careful on road along north side of Lake Geneva. Real shocker.

Scenery — Do you like mountains? There is also pretty farmland all over, Italy without dirt in the Ticino, and Lake Geneva with its neighbouring vineyards. Also many folklore villages. Do you like geraniums?

Food and Wine — Food choice a bit monotonous but you get a lot. Historical specialities are melted cheese dishes fondue or raclette. Affects me like cement. Prefer steak with garlic sauce (à la Café de Paris, Geneva), rösti (re-fried potatoes mit onion), *filets de perche*. Local wines very good, can be ordered by multiples of "deci" or tenths of litre. Don't let them sell you a bottle. Whites: Fendant, Aigle, Dézaley; reds: Dôle de Valais. Try Willémine, clear pear moonshine (Morand is best). Whoopee!

Hotels — Mostly very, very good and clean, but can be expensive; ask prices first. Heating is extra, occasionally along with day of month.

Price of Petrol — 4s. 1d. per gallon of super.

Miscellaneous — Switzerland is not inexpensive. Overcharging prevalent. Best-looking girls are in Lausanne. Country ones very country. Do you like cows? Fags cheap. Booze cheaper than home. Why not stay? — H.M.

SHERLOCK HOLMES GIFT FOR GENEVA

The entire Sherlock Holmes collection and many other family possessions belonging to Mr. Adrian Conan Doyle, the zoologist, son of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, will be left to the city of Geneva. The collection includes priceless English antiques, a Vandyck portrait, original manuscripts and a collection of weapons and armour. Assembled from the two family homes in Hampshire and Portugal, the collection is housed in a gothic mansion in the centre of Geneva's old city. Mr. Conan Doyle, who has lived in Switzerland for the past 15 years, was given the mansion as his residence by the city and after his death it will be turned into a museum.

[S.N.T.O.]