

# Our new man at the court of St. James's

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# OUR NEW MAN AT THE COURT OF ST. JAMES'S



His Excellency, *Ambassador Claude Caillat* and *Madame Beatrice Caillat* arrived in London at the end of January.

Ambassador Caillat was born 1918 in Geneva, where he obtained his university degree in Law. In 1942 he entered the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and began his diplomatic career in the Division of Foreign Interests. He was later posted successively to London, Berne, Athens and Washington, where he was promoted Counsellor. In 1960 he returned to Berne and joined the Federal Office of Foreign Trade. In 1962 he went to Paris to

become, first, the Ambassador's deputy at the Swiss Embassy, and then, in 1967, the Federal Council's Representative at the OECD, with the rank of Ambassador. In 1969 he was appointed Ambassador to the Netherlands, and since 1974 he has been Head of the Swiss Mission to the European Communities in Brussels.

Ambassador Caillat has vivid memories of his first London posting as a junior diplomat 1944-47, and was most impressed by the morale in bombed but proud Britain and how the Government of the day handled the situation. It was then that he met — among others — Ernest Bewin, who was Minister of Labour from 1940-45 and National Service Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Caillat has a great admiration for the British and their sense of tradition. He will have the opportunity of taking up links and friendships with people he met in the turbulent post-war years.

Ambassador Caillat is a very "european" diplomat which is hardly surprising considering his previous position in the OECD.

As Dr. Thalmann before him Ambassador Caillat sees the role of the Swiss Ambassador in Great Britain mainly in sustaining and furthering the good relationship which exists between the two nations, who after all have a similar

democratic tradition. He observes that nowadays Switzerland has to take a more defined position in international affairs, thus moving away from the ultra-discrete foreign policy approach of the past.

Ambassador Caillat has planned trips to Scotland, Wales, etc. so that our compatriots "on the fringes" will have a chance of meeting him.

Monsieur and Madame Caillat have three children: Their eldest son (30) is a banker, working with Sandoz in Basle, their second son (27) studied Economics in St. Gallen and works for IBM while their daughter (23) studied Law in Switzerland and is at present taking her bar Exams in America.

Monsieur and Madame Caillat share a number of hobbies: they collect oriental rugs, porcelain, paintings and sculptures.

Ambassador Caillat and Madame Caillat have been looking forward to their London appointment and we are extremely happy to have them here, hoping that their time in Britain may be very happy and rewarding "Soyez les bienvenus entre nous".

The Queen will be accompanied by Ambassador Caillat on her State Visit to Switzerland from 29th April to 2nd May and we intend to report on this memorable occasion in due course.

*mhm*

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*Ambassador and Madame C. Caillat at the Residence in Bryanston Square.*