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DEAR MEMBERS AND COMPATRIOTS,

Humbly and proudly, I wish to thank you all for electing me as your new President.

I am aware of my obligations and responsibilities to the Swiss community in this country and especially to new arrivals from home.

I had the privilege of a long stay in our motherland, and this gave me a real good insight into the intimate feeling of being dependent on one another and thus, I feel, is giving me a better understanding of the problems which generally are associated with the emigration to a new country.

However, I can assure you, that provided you are giving your best, New Zealanders will welcome you and work together with you and make you feel at home. I will endeavour to do my utmost to give any advice to new Swiss arriving in this country and, of course, to all my old established compatriots I hope to be of assistance whenever the need should arise. In this way I will try to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors.

In conclusion, I must thank your last President Walter Risi. He has made a wonderful job which sometimes was a difficult one. I wish Walter and his wife a well earned rest.

—JOHN STEINER

President, Swiss Society