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FAREWELL TO THE SWISS AMBASSADOR



At the end of the year, the Swiss Ambassador and Madame de Fischer will be returning to Switzerland for good. After not quite three years, Monsieur de Fischer's stay in London will come to an end and with it a distinguished diplomatic career.

Monsieur Béat de Fischer was born in 1901, a citizen of Berne. He studied at the Universities of Berne, Fribourg, Munich and Paris and obtained a degree of *Docteur en droit* of the University of Berne in 1926. After various periods of training in industry, both in Switzerland and abroad, he entered the service of the Federal Political Department in 1929. He was posted to the Swiss Legation in The Hague in 1932 and then successively to Buenos Aires, Warsaw, Bucharest, Riga, Helsinki, Bucharest and Cairo. In 1949, the Federal Council appointed Monsieur de Fischer Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Swiss Confederation to Egypt. Three years later he was also accredited to Ethiopia, with residence in Cairo. In 1954, he was appointed Swiss Minister to Portugal.

In 1959, Monsieur de Fischer was accredited Swiss Ambassador to Austria, and at the beginning of February 1964, he came to London as Head of the Swiss Diplomatic Mission to the Court of St. James's in succession to Monsieur Daeniker.

Monsieur and Madame de Fischer's stay was an extremely busy one, and they took great trouble to get to know the Swiss Colony in the whole of the British Isles. They travelled far and wide to meet even remote communities like those in Scotland. At the Residence in London, first in Bryanston Square and later at Upper Brook Street, Madame de Fischer was a gracious and generous hostess. On 13th and 15th December, the Ambassador and his wife gave two farewell parties to take leave of some of the many friends they made during the past three years.

One of the last engagements the Ambassador had in a Swiss society was an address he gave to the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique (Hostel for Girls, 24th November). Monsieur de Fischer called his talk "Die Psychologie eines Schweizerischen Diplomaten". He expressed his conviction that one of the most important guiding principles in politics should be to accept human dignity as the source of creative power. He also said that the crowning glory for a diplomat was when he could *live* history and be allowed to put a stitch into the pattern of the interstate fabric.

When we say good-bye to Monsieur de Fischer, we hope that he may have had that satisfaction as a diplomat. We wish him a happy retirement and trust that he, Madame

de Fischer and their three daughters will be able to enjoy more of the happy family life than was possible during the strenuous years of service in Great Britain.

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PERSONAL

We extend congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Beryl Shepherd, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Shepherd, of 11 Abbotshall Avenue, Southgate, N.14, on her recent marriage to Dr. Ian Magrath.

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We have great pleasure in announcing the recent marriage of Mr. Christopher R. Asch, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. S. R. Asch of 41 Bridge Road, E.6, to Miss Olive L. Gomer. We extend hearty congratulations to the young couple.

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It is with great pleasure that we announce the birth of a son Thomas Philip to the Rev. and Mrs. M. Dietler of the German-speaking community of the Swiss Church in London (25th November). We send best wishes to the happy family.

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We wish to congratulate Dr. Victor Umbricht on his recent award of an honorary doctorate by the University of Basle. The citation describes his many activities in the chemical industry towards closer relationship between science and practical work, his service to the Confederation by having put his great scientific knowledge and organising abilities at its disposal, and his dedication to international tasks where he was able to solve great humanitarian problems.

Readers may remember Dr. Umbricht from his stay at the Swiss Embassy in London from 1946 to 1953. He has remained a faithful subscriber to the "Swiss Observer" ever since; it followed him to Washington where he was on the staff of the World Bank and to Berne where he became Director of the Federal Finance Administration, then to the Congo where he was in charge of finance affairs during the first difficult year of independence, then again to U.S.A. where he was President of the Ciba Organisation and now back to Basle where he is at the head of Ciba.

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We announce with deep regret the death of two of our readers, Mrs. Rosa Blackwell, formerly of 86 Palace Road, London S.W.2, and lately of Riedtlistrasse 72, Zurich, and of

Mrs. M. Kullmann of 54 Ladbrooke Grove, W.11, widow of a former Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees.

We extend our sincere sympathy to their families.

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It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Hans Hauri (Dusseldorf), who was killed in the air-crash near Bratislava on 24th November. Mr. Hauri who used to live in London until 1961, was only 36 and leaves a widow and three little boys to whom we express our deep sympathy.

MAX BILL SHOW

Our compatriot, the well-known artist Max Bill is at present giving the first one-man show in London. This successful exhibition of sculptures and paintings is still on until 22nd December at the Hanover Gallery, 32a St. George Street, W.1.