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CHRISTMAS PRESENT

The time of gifts is near
The turkey fat for the roast
The tree stands there in the corner somewhere
And the wine made ready for the toast.

Is there a glass raised for those absent?
Is there a gift aside for the poor?
Is there a thought for the sick and the lonely
As we gaze on that tree's bright decór?

There shall be joy and gladness
The day our Saviour was born
But didn't He intend that same spirit
To live on, long past Christmas morn?

(From "Swiss Journal", San Francisco.)

CHRISTMAS 1967

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

I hardly imagined, my dear compatriots, that my first Christmas message to you would also be my last.

As you will have heard, the world organisation GATT, whose headquarters are in Geneva, have expressed the wish to have a Swiss as their new Director. Their choice having fallen on me I have been asked by the Federal Council to accept a nomination which, if flattering for a small country like ours, entails a considerable amount of embarrassment for the nominee! But this is the prize to be paid for the Swiss policy of active neutrality.

My wife and I are bitterly disappointed to have to leave London with our mission barely under way. We feel on the other hand immensely grateful for all the friendly contacts which we have been able to establish with both the Swiss community and wide-ranging British circles during our all too brief stay in this country.

We are looking forward to spending Christmas in your midst and are wishing you and your families, pending a final farewell, a very happy New Year.

OLIVIER LONG.

To all our Readers and Advertisers

A Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE EDITOR