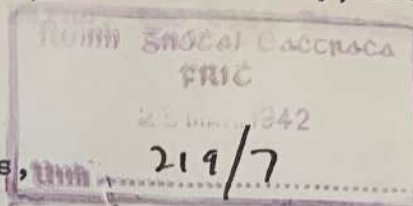


LÉGATION D'IRLANDE
BEATUSSTRASSE 24
BERNE

Berne, the 7th January, 1942.

S. Nolan

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
D u b l i n .



I have to state that the usual New Year's Day Reception by the President of the Confederation was held at the Palais Fédéral. The Reception commenced at 10.00 A.M. when the General was received. Then followed the representatives of the Bernese authorities. The reception of the Members of the Diplomatic Corps took place between 10.30 A.M. and 12.30 P.M. The Nuncio came first, and after him the French Ambassador and members of the Embassy. Other groups came at each half hour, the groups being so arranged that representatives of belligerent countries were not in the waiting hall at the same time. I was invited for 11.30 to noon, with the Danes, Swedes, Portuguese, Brazilians, &c. The members of each Legation were received separately by the President, and the interview lasted in each case only a few minutes.

In expressing his own, and the Federal Council's good wishes for Ireland and the Irish Government, Mr. Etter said that the situation and the difficulties of the two countries, in present circumstances, were very similar, - Ireland had always been an island, and now, Switzerland had become an island. He recognised that the difficulties were great, but he expressed his hopes, and his faith, that in both cases they would be surmounted. I had the opportunity of explaining briefly our position.

The Nuncio, S.E. Mgr. Bernardini, also expressed recently to me his good wishes for Ireland. He desired me in particular to convey his warmest greetings and wishes to the Taoiseach.

T. Senn's
Chargé d'Affaires.

