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DIRECTOR-GENERAL PETROVSKY PAYS TRIBUTE TO SWITZERLAND'S WILLIAM RAPPARD

Following is a statement by Vladimir Petrovsky, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, given during an interview with Radio Suisse Romande on 29 June:

"Today's launching of the second volume of "International Destinies" which focuses on a prominent Swiss citizen - Professor William E Rappard, gives us an excellent opportunity to pay tribute to this great man who is known for his internationalism and humanity. Before I begin, I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to "La Radio Suisse-Romande" in making this series on internationally known personalities possible and for their continuous and excellent work and collaboration with us.

Professor W. Rappard, a man of diverse talents, is perhaps best known to us, in multilateral diplomacy, for his outstanding contribution to the work of the first international organization and predecessor of the United Nations, the League of Nations.

He was convinced, as was President Wilson whom he had a chance to know personally, that peace through collective security was the answer for the future. Mr. Rappard was the Official Delegate representing the Swiss Confederation to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 which gave birth to the League of Nations. Neutrality did not prevent Switzerland from being one of the original members of this organization.

In 1920, Eric Drummond, the first Secretary-General of the League of Nations, appointed Professor Rappard the head of the mandate section of the new international organization and in 1924, due to his substantial experience and great competence, he was nominated as a Permanent and Extraordinary Member of the Commission. In addition, Mr. Rappard held other diverse functions during his tenure in the Organization. In 1927 he was a member of the Commission of Experts of the International Labor Organization which investigated the annual reports relating to the right to work. Finally, from 1928, he was a member of the Swiss delegation to the League of Nations.

In these years, the League of Nations made substantial efforts to overcome the tragic consequences of World War I and to create conditions for international cooperation. It also attempted, for the first time in history, to build collective security.

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The role of Professor William Rappard in multilateral diplomacy, and Switzerland's extensive, fundamental and impressive contribution to the League of Nations, belong not only to history. In our increasingly globalizing world, such internationalists and humanists as Professor Rappard serve as a meaningful example to all of us."

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