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On December 11, Will You be Plunged into Darkness?

Imagine a normal evening around 7 p.m., back home, the evening meal served, talking about Servette, the local football club, and suddenly the lights go out... a power cut. Without previous information from the Municipal Electricity Suppliers, without the possibility to get news on the radio, in total silence when the minutes that pass like hours, one gets sudden fearful butterflies.

And this is where Guy-Olivier Segond will help you out. No, the ambassador for the World summit on the Information society hasn't gone nuts, but he would like to see the reaction of Geneva's inhabitants to a moment without energy. The idea, maybe not as stupid at second sight, goes back to the Swedish artist Elin Wikström and was adapted for this Summit dealing with the digital divide. In other words, the gap between the rich and the poor. Hinrich Sachs, production team member, explains that the symbolic event might be seen as a gift of solidarity for regions in the world less privileged than ours. In a city where the motto is *post tenebras lux* (after darkness, light) a moment in time is proposed where those that normally have agreed to not having, at their disposition.

During the blackout everything will be possible. Maybe the inhabitants of Geneva will appropriate the event for themselves giving it meaning, as the organisers expect. Lighting candles for peace, taking photos of Geneva by night or making love like during the famous incident in New York. But maybe it will be fear or indignation that take over. Or, maybe in the end nothing will happen at all. Therefore the organisers have begun informing the population about the idea this early in order to evaluate and anticipate the impact.

Until this artificial power cut takes place – likely to boost a summit suspect of becoming boring and announced to avoid the fear of the inhabitants of Geneva – several steps need to be taken. A feasibility study, if you can call it that, is being worked out by the Municipal Electricity Suppliers. And then the City's as well as the Canton's go-ahead is needed before being submitted to the Swiss national authorities by the grey eminence, Guy Olivier Segond. While waiting for confirmation that the project isn't about to toss Geneva into chaos, it cloaks itself in darkness. *Post tenebras lux*.