

News from Switzerland

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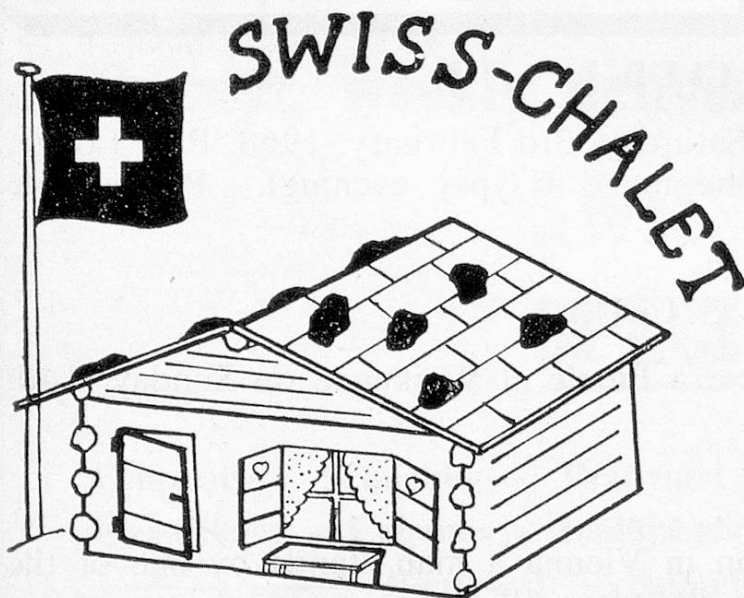
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SURVEY OF SWISS MARKET BY GATT

A report entitled "The Swiss Market for Certain Products from the Developing Countries" has just been prepared by the Lausanne branch of the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade concerning the possibilities of finding a market in Switzerland for the products exported by the developing countries. The survey was carried out in compliance with a suggestion by the International Trade Centre of GATT and at the request of the member of the Swiss Federal Council for Technical Cooperation and the Trade Division of the Federal Department of Public Economy, as a contribution to the efforts made by the developing countries to step up their exports.

The bulk of this survey consists of an analysis of the Swiss market with regard to six categories of products selected among those considered as being of special interest for the export trades of the developing countries: salt water fish, oysters and similar produce; frozen fruit, tinned fruit, confectionery, jams and jellies; travel goods and leather articles; braiding materials and wicker-



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work; articles in asbestos and mica; sports goods. The last section of the report contains general observations on all products from the developing countries.

Thanks to this new survey issued by the International Trade Centre of GATT, in Geneva, the governments, export offices, trade associations, producers and exporters of all developing countries will be able to see the new outlets open to their exports and the way to make the best use of them.

NEW PHYSICS RESEARCH CENTRE

Mettler Co. Ltd., a Zurich firm making precision balances, was founded only 22 years ago. Yet in these few years it has succeeded not only in producing entirely new types of precision balances for science and industry but also in making itself known and appreciated throughout the world with its exports, representing 95% of its output. This firm has just inaugurated a big private research centre at Greifensee near Zurich where it employs a team of 120 physicists, chemists, opticians, electronics engineers and precision machinery engineers, carrying out research in the field of precision balances, thermal measurement and photo-chemistry. One detail will suffice to illustrate very clearly the care taken with production: Mettler balances are tested in the laboratory for over a month under conditions similar to those of their subsequent use, before being placed on the market. (Osec)

SLOT-MACHINE BANK SERVICE

The first bank in Switzerland to introduce a money slot-machine, intended to come to the rescue of absent-minded businessmen who have forgotten to check the contents of their wallets before the banks close, the Union Bank of Switzerland has installed one of these slot-machines at the entrance to its head office in Zurich. In order to get money from this machine — provided of course one is a client of this bank! — all one has to do is insert a special client's card into the slot-machine to receive a sum of S.Fr. 200, allowing one to manage until the banks open again. (Osec)

DIPLOMATS VISIT WATCHMAKING INSTITUTION

The Swiss Watch Industry's International Training Centre in Lausanne was recently visited by a number of foreign diplomats representing some ten developing countries, all higher officials in various ministries. Taking advantage of a study visit to GATT in Geneva, they wanted to find out as much as possible about the watchmaking industry and, in particular, the help it gives abroad, especially in relation to the training of distributors. Many countries have already applied to the Swiss Watch industry's International Training Centre for assistance in organising training seminars, either in Lausanne or in their respective countries. (Osec)

SWISS ATOMIC CLOCKS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

The Swiss watch factory of Patek, Philippe recently installed, on the facade of its premises in Geneva, a clock whose timing is more accurate than the rotation of the earth even. In fact, the daily period of rotation of the earth may vary by a hundredth of a second, while the new Patek, Philippe clock — which contains about 100 transistors and diodes and is controlled by the atomic master clock at Neuchaetel Observatory (Switzerland) — has a precision that is higher still. It is more precise than all previous clocks made by this firm, i.e., in particular, the one that was used at the Swiss National Exhibition in Lausanne in 1964, the one at the New York World's Fair, and the one installed in the Timekeeping Centre of the Swiss Pavilion in Montreal, which set the time for all the official clocks at that exhibition. In addition, it is even more precise than the timing system supplied to Radio Vatican in the summer of 1967, which comprises over 1000 diodes and transistors.

The Vatican timekeeping centre consists of two master clocks permanently checked by a system of mutual supervision and containing two quartz oscillators kept at a constant temperature of 50° C, guaranteeing accuracy of timing as great as one thousandth of a second per day. The master-clock system controls the timing of several hundreds of secondary clocks (max. 1000), timing switches, signally clocks, the broadcasting of radio time signals, etc. (Osec)

SUCCESS OF SWISS ENGINEERING WORKS

In the face of keen American, German and Japanese competition, the Bell Co. Ltd. Engineering Works at Kriens near Luzern has just been awarded an order for the supply of a big paper-making machine for the Manila Paper Mills Inc., in the Philippines. The machine, over 100 yards long and designed to carry out the whole paper-making process, will be shipped to the Philippines next summer, where it will be assembled on the spot by employees of the Swiss firm. (Osc)

SWISS INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

The Swiss Institute of Agricultural Technology, a joint effort by 22 cantons, has now been officially dedicated after only one and a-half years of construction. The agricultural technicians that will be trained at this new Institute will serve as links between the practicing farmer, the engineer and the manufacturer of farm equipment. The large number of foreigners who have registered for the first two courses indicates that the new Institute will fill an important need internationally as well as on the national level. The course of study will last four semesters.