

United Nations in an old farmhouse

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STRANGE CONSEQUENCES OF ARAB ATTACK ON ISRAELI AIRCRAFT

The Swiss Society of Israel philatelists planned an exhibition at the PTT Museum in Berne. Although the authorities had already given their consent, the Society has now been asked to cancel the exhibition, as PTT fears for the invaluable philatelic treasures at the Museum.

Early in June, the Israeli security official who shot one of the Arab attackers at Kloten Airport, and who had been released on bail, returned to Switzerland for trial.

A delegate of the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva visited the three Arab terrorists in jail, and the mother of the woman prisoner came to Switzerland to visit her daughter.

(A.T.S.)

UNITED NATIONS IN AN OLD FARMHOUSE

In 1949, the United Nations Nursery School opened its doors, which were then those of an apartment, to 21 children; today, as the United Nations School, it educates over 100 children of many different nations in an old farmhouse opposite the Palais des Nations.

To celebrate its 20 years of existence, the Board of Trustees entertained a large party of parents, representatives from educational and international organisations and city authorities at a party last Tuesday.

The only children present were those who had important parts to play in the adult celebrations, for the pupils are having their own party later.

Inez, a former pupil, welcomed the guests in both French and English, a tribute to the bilingual nature of the school; one of the earliest pupils, now looking very grown-up indeed, lit a birthday candle for 1949, followed by a diminutive chap who — with complete *savoir-faire* — lit the one for 1969.

Then pupils representing every continent of the universe set an example of international collaboration by blowing them out with one big blow.

Mrs. Joyce Hackl, an Englishwoman who has been headmistress for 10 years, finds that the children — whose ages range from nursery-school age to eight — integrate wonderfully well, and language difficulties in the very young are quickly overcome.

Mr. Russell Cook, President of the United Nations Schools Association, paid tribute to the school's excellent record, recalling that it was one of the first four to be established.

But if the record of past achievement is notable and the present situation flourishing and self-financing, the

future problems are great. Mrs. Hackl and her four assistants have to cope with several shifts of children; some come in the morning, some in the afternoon, and some on certain days of the week only.

That is the only way the old farmhouse can still accommodate them all.

In addition, there is a long waiting list. Children often have to wait a year before they can be admitted.

Mme. Marie-Claire Lamunière, Chairman of the Board of the United Nations School, alluded to these problems in her speech of welcome.

Together with the Lycée des Nations, the United Nations School has formed a project for building a new school that will accommodate them both and allow them to meet the ever-growing educational requirements of the English-speaking community.

Everyone has expressed sympathy and support for the idea, but, so far, hard cash for such a large undertaking is lacking.

It is an encouraging sign, however, that the Trustees of the United Nations School regard the first 20 years of the school's existence as a mere stepping stone to bigger things.

(By courtesy "Weekly Tribune Geneva.")

THE "SWISS OBSERVER" 30 YEARS AGO

In the first issue of June 1939, we read that two Italian newspapers had been banned in Switzerland on account of insulting language re: the Ticino in particular and the Confederation in general. Twenty-five Church organisations had protested to the Zurich Cantonal Government about the scanty clothing worn by the Folies Bergères revue girls in Zurich. After a storm of public protest, the show was stopped and banned by the police. There had been various social events during the London visit of "Swissair Tour d'Europe". They included a large dinner party at the Swiss Legation, at which the Corporation of the City of London was represented. The Swiss author Alfred Gehri's "Sixth Floor" was played in a London theatre. The forthcoming retirement of Monsieur Paravicini as Swiss Minister was announced by way of a reprint from the "Daily Telegraph". Switzerland was described in an article as "Das Land der Schützen", true sons of William Tell!

On 10th June, we learned that the Swiss electorate had accepted by a very large majority (Referendum) projects costing over 19 million pounds for strengthening national defence and combating unemployment. Much of the issue was taken up by a report on

the Swiss Sports and Garden Party at Herne Hill, an event which has, unfortunately ceased to exist. We well remember the races, the veterans' walking, the funny pillow fight, the tug-o'-war, the relay races, the children's events.

The next issue was left out, as the one published on 24th June was a double issue on art paper, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the "Swiss Observer". It began with a message in French by Monsieur le Ministre Paravicini. The Editor Mr. A. Stauffer wrote a page on the history, and "Gallus" (the late Mr. W. Deutsch) expressed his wishes in verse form. The Swiss National Tourist Office showed a beautiful picture of the Matterhorn in their advert, filling a whole page (nearly twice today's size). Then followed pages and pages of congratulatory messages by Consuls, Presidents, Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad in Berne, journalists and former editors, etc. A number of advertisers had increased the size of their usual adverts. Swissair showed a fine picture of their Douglas DC-3, and a long report appeared on the 70th Fête Suisse which had been held at the Central Hall Westminster, with the participation of the Swiss Orchestral Society under the late Mr. E. P. Dick, a yodeller from Switzerland, children of the Colony, the Swiss Accordion Club, and Mr. Rolf Senn (Piano). The Swiss Minister addressed the gathering, Mr. A. F. Suter was in the chair, and the Glendower Schmidts provided the catering. When we read of this, we feel a little nostalgic, no doubt, that this, once so popular event should have disappeared, too, just like the Swiss Sports.

"ALUCOBOND"

New bonded material of Swiss origin

A big Swiss company has just announced the launching on the market of a new material combining the advantages of aluminium and polyethylene, for the use of architects, builders and industrial stylists. "Alucobond" consists of two sheets of aluminium 0.5 mm. thick (standard execution) with a polyethylene core. The total thickness of the "Alucobond" sheet varies from 3 to 8 mm. depending on the thickness of the polyethylene, its weight being 4.5 kg. per square metre for the 3 mm. sheet and 9.1 kg. for the 8 mm.; the aluminium faces can be supplied in standard or special finishes. A material with many possibilities of use — bodywork, machinery, mechanical and electrical appliances, interior decoration and furnishing — "Alucobond" will render invaluable service to everyone looking for an expensive and modern solution. It is in fact light, decorative, resistant, easy to shape and to assemble, requiring no maintenance, and hard wearing.

(O.S.E.C.)