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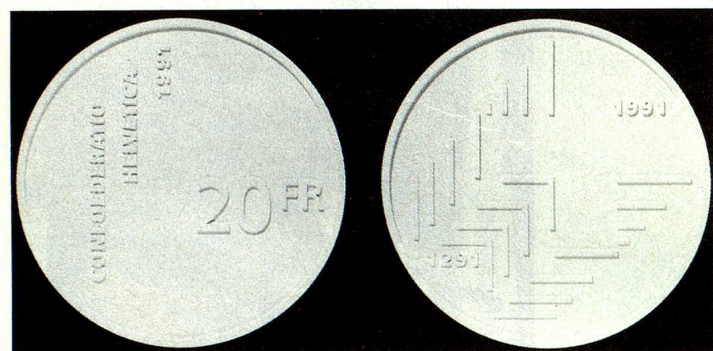
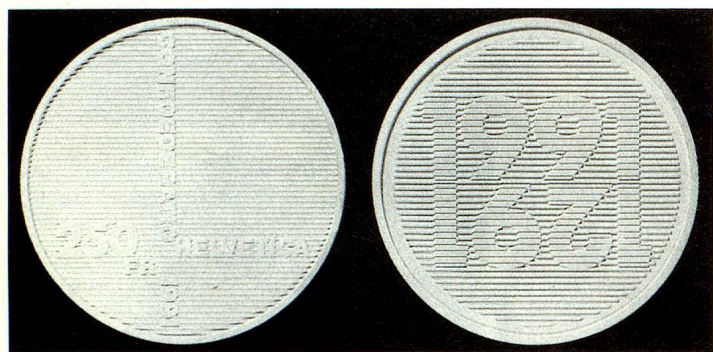
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## Commemorative Coins 1991



The simple modern design of this special coin edition is attractive. Above: Gold 0,900, diameter 23 mm, weight 8 g; below: Silver 0,835, diameter 33 mm, weight 20 g. (Archive photo)

In commemoration of 700 years of Swiss history all Swiss people abroad should be given the opportunity to purchase the official commemorative coins in gold and/or silver designed elegantly and expressively by national illustrators. These coins are accepted as legal currency. Since your

order can only be considered as long as supplies last we ask you kindly to send in the coupon below as soon as possible to the following address.

Auslandschweizer-Sekretariat  
Sondermünzen 1991  
Alpenstrasse 26  
CH-3000 Bern 16

| Quantity | Description                             | Face value | Sale price* | Amount |
|----------|---|------------|-------------|--------|
|          | Gold coin uncirculated, in de luxe case | 250.-      | 280.-       |        |
|          | Silver coin uncirculated                | 20.-       | 20.-        |        |

\* Mailing costs not included

Total:

Name:

Given name:

Street:

Locality:

Country:

The orders will be delivered by the Swiss National Bank against advance payment.

## Federal Chancellor Resigns

Federal Chancellor, Walter Buser, has unexpectedly announced his decision to resign at the end of June. The 65-year-old Social-Democrat has held this office since 1981.

Walter Buser studied law and economics at the universities of Basle and Berne. In 1965 he entered the federal services, and was appointed Vice-Chancellor in 1968. In this capacity he was responsible for the Federal Government's information service and the legal department of the Federal Chancellery. From 1977, Buser also lectured on constitutional and administrative law in his capacity as extraordinary professor at Basle University. On 11 Juni 1981 Walter Buser was elected tenth Federal Chancellor of the Confederation. Succeeding Christian Democrat Carl Huber, he was the first Social Democrat to become Chancellor. Contrary to his German namesake, the Swiss Federal Chancellor is not head of government but acts as Chief of Staff, and for this reason is often called the eighth Federal Councillor. This central Staff office is particularly responsible for the preparation and implementation of the quarterly governmental programme and for informing the Federal Government about administration activities. It also ensures that the resolutions made



Walter Buser

by the Federal Government (approx. 3,500 each year) are implemented) and carries out numerous informational and coordinational duties.

Among other responsibilities the Federal Chancellor controls the petitions and referendums, as well as National Council elections and national ballots.

Walter Buser's successor, to be elected during the coming summer session by the Federal Assembly, has not yet been named. He will, however, certainly not be a Social Democrat. The two Vice-Chancellors, 50-year-old Achille Casanova, political scientist from the Ticino (CPP), and 56-year-old François Couchepin, lawyer from the Valais, are both in the running for the Chancellor's seat. Both have held their present positions since 1981.

## Edouard Brunner appointed Special Emissary to the Middle East



Edouard Brunner

On 21 March 1991 the Swiss ambassador in Washington, Mr Edouard Brunner, was appointed Special Emissary to the Middle East by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Perez de Cuellar.

This post was created in 1967 by the Security Council after the Six Day War, but it had almost become forgotten in recent years. Brunner's predecessor, the Swedish diplomat Gunnar Jarring, re-





tired for reasons of health and age after 29 years in the post. Edouard Brunner, a respected senior diplomat and master of negotiation, rose to the position of Secretary of State in the Department for Foreign Affairs under Federal Councillor Pierre Aubert mainly as a result of his negotiation skills during the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). Brunner was subsequently sent by Federal Councillor René Felber to the United States as Swiss ambassador, a post he will

retain for the time being despite his UN mandate.

The aim of this assignment – the peak of the rapid rise in his diplomatic career – will be to bring the Arab nations, Israel and Palestine together around the negotiating table. A very difficult task, especially now that the fronts are stronger than ever due to the Gulf War. Diplomatic tact and experience, as well as Switzerland's healthy relationship with all parties involved will certainly come in useful to the new UN special emissary.

## Air as clean as in 1960

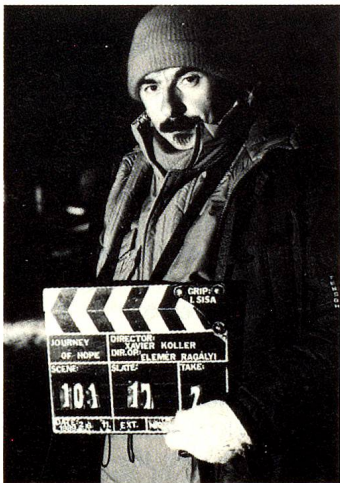
With a further package of measures the Federal Government hopes to come closer to achieving its aim of being able to breathe the clean air of the Sixties by the year 2000. It seems to be generally accepted that environmental pollution cannot be fought by technological means alone. The consumer's behaviour might, for example, be influenced by an "environmental bonus", which, however, can only be introduced when a foolproof system for measuring the number of kilometres driven exists? The car

tax payable will depend on the distance driven. In other words: whoever drives less, pays less tax.

Furthermore, the Federal Government's programme provides for the continuation of vehicle taxes, the promotion of electric cars, more stringent rules concerning diesel engine exhaust and finally stricter speed limit controls.

The controversial ban on the 500,000 cars not equipped with a catalyser from 1995 has been shelved for the time being.

## Oscar for a Swiss Film



Director Xavier Koller shooting "Journey of Hope" on the Splügen Pass.

who had died from exhaustion and cold while attempting on the Splügenpass to cross the Swiss border illegally with his parents. The tragic story of these refugees and above all the emotions it aroused led Koller to base a film on this theme. Emotions are much in demand in Hollywood, and they certainly contributed to the fact that Switzerland was able to come out ahead of much more ambitious movies from France, Italy, Germany and China.

In retrospect it is interesting to note that the Swiss films which made their mark in Hollywood over the years all dealt with the fate of refugees. Particularly fresh in one's memory is that Markus Imhoof's film "Das Boot ist voll" about Switzerland's attitude towards refugees during the Second World War, received an Oscar nomination. The enormous advertising capacity created by this often maligned Award will certainly help the successful director, Xavier Koller, in his plans to produce more films in the future. For the last two years he has been working on the filming of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's story "Die Mondfinsternis" (The Eclipse of the Moon), which promises to incur high costs.

This year's 63rd Academy Awards Presentation in Hollywood had a great surprise in store. For the very first time since the Award for the Best Foreign Language Film was introduced in 1947, this most prized of all trophies was awarded to a Swiss director, Xavier Koller, for his film "Journey of Hope" (Reise der Hoffnung).

On 15 October 1988 the newspapers reported the sad news about a seven-years old Turkish boy



Air pollution in Switzerland reaches critical levels even outside the cities.

## Joining the University conventions

The five conventions of the Council of Europe, of which Switzerland has recently become an official member, provide for improved mobility of students. As a result Swiss school-leaving certificates and university diplomas will be internationally recognized, scholarships for Swiss

students will also be available abroad, and the length of time spent studying at universities both at home and abroad will bear equal weight.

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Photos: Keystone