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The Museum for the Swiss Abroad needs money

The Museum for the Swiss Abroad at the Château de Penthes near Geneva is plagued with huge budget problems. Last spring the debt mountain now amounting to Sfr. 2.5 million led the museum's sponsor, the Foundation for the History of the Swiss Abroad, to make an appeal for public support. This had an immediate favourable response, so that the risk that the museum will be closed has disappeared for the moment. But further contributions are urgently needed if this important collection devoted to the history of Swiss emigration

is to be maintained on a permanent basis. ■

UN sanctions against Serbia

The Swiss ambassador in Belgrade, the capital of former Yugoslavia, left his post at the beginning of July. This diplomatic measure was in response to UN sanctions, with which Switzerland concurs. The embassy is still operating but with a much reduced staff. ■

"Hornets" in the balance

In their spring session both the National Council and the Council of States approved the purchase of 34 of the American-made F/A-18 Hornet fighter aircraft for Sfr. 3.5 billion. But the final decision now rests with the referendum on the popular initiative handed in on June 1

"For a Switzerland without new fighter aircraft".

If accepted, the initiative would prohibit purchase of new fighters until the end of the century. It was launched on April 28 by the "Group for a Switzerland without an Army" and gathered the unprecedented number of 500,000 signatures in record time. The vote will probably take place in mid-1993. Parliament has decreed that no further payments should be made until that time. ■

Demoted team wins football cup

With a 3-1 victory against Lugano, FC Lucerne won the cherished Switzerland Cup at Berne's Wankdorf Stadium on Whit Monday. This is the first time in the history of Swiss football that a team about to be demoted from the A League to the B League has won the cup. ■

Point of view

"I believe that this conference (the Rio Earth Summit) and the consequences the UN draws from it at General Assembly level is one more piece of evidence that Switzerland's UN membership should again be up for discussion."

(State Secretary Franz Blankart in an interview with the "Basler Zeitung".)

Calendar

September 10-20

Ascona, Ticino: International Marionette Festival

September 16-27

Lausanne: Comptoir Suisse (Swiss Trade Fair)

September 21-27

Les Diablerets, Vaud: 23rd International Festival of Alpine and Mountain Environment Films

October 5-11

Zurich: European Indoors International Ladies Tennis Tournament

Until October 18

Aathal, Zurich: "Dinosaurs in Aathal". Exhibition about discoveries of prehistoric animals

Until October 18

Berne: Exhibition "Eduard Joos (1869-1917) - Architect of Federal Square, Berne"

October 18-24

Bellinzona: International Youth Film Festival

Until December 31

Basle Sports Museum: Exhibition "Bicycles, from the penny farthing to the modern racer"

Books

Ewald R. Weibel/Markus Feller - **"Schweizerische Identität und Europäische Integration"** (Swiss Identity and European Integration), published by Haupt, Berne, 1992, 269 p., Sfr. 38.-.

A historical, legal, political, economic and cultural study, devoted to the question of how far Switzerland's special characteristics stand in the way of its participation in the unification process and to what extent the basic elements of integration can be developed. Politicians, economists and scientists (including Professor Walther Hofer) put forward their points of view.

Gérard Benz. - **"Les transports - un défi européen"** (Transport - a European Challenge), published by Georg, Geneva, 1992, 209 p., Sfr. 39.-.

Whatever shape Europe is to have in the year 2000, whether or not Switzerland joins the European Community, "Transport Europe" will have to come about. The author shows that if Switzerland does not want to become Europe's "bad boy" preventing the development of a common transport network between the



Hornets over Switzerland? The question is still open. (Photo: Keystone)



Castelgrande shines anew

Bellinzona's impressive Castelgrande has now been completely restored and given a new aim in life – after ten years of rebuilding at a cost of Sfr. 20 million. This stark bulwark of old has been

transformed into an attractive park landscape complete with exhibition rooms, a museum and a restaurant. ■

(Photo: Keystone)

EC countries, it must opt in favour of the new trans-Alpine railway system – involving new tunnels on the scale of the Channel Tunnel, which will be rich with political and economic consequences.

Mark Schenker, **“EG als Chance”** (The EC as an Opportunity), published by Benteli Werd, Zurich, 1992, 415 p., Sfr. 44.80.

Today its future relationship with the European Community is certainly Switzerland's most important political subject. Many people think this is vital for Switzerland's identity. The author discusses concepts such as the European Economic Area, economic and currency union and political union – and throws much light on the background of the unification process. For many years an EC correspondent in Brussels, he arrives at the conclusion that EC membership is unavoidable and that it can only represent an opportunity for the future.

Hans Küng, **“Die Schweiz ohne Orientierung?”** (Is Switzerland Rudderless?), published by Benzinger Verlag, Zurich, 1992, 120 p., Sfr. 19.80.

The author is a Swiss theologian known

the world over who has been working in Germany for the past 30 years. He sees a lack of vision and of new spiritual dynamism in his homeland. In his quality of citizen of the world, Küng looks at Switzerland very critically but still puts the question of whether it might be a model for Europe's future.

Max A. Ambühl ■

These books may be obtained from the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16 (postage and packing free of charge).



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Switzerland's place in Europe

The Foreign and Economic Affairs Ministries' Integration Bureau is able to provide a wide range of information material on the above subject for the Swiss Abroad. The following may be thought suitable as an introduction:

- “Der schweizerische Weg in die europäische Zukunft” (The Swiss Road to Europe's future). Available in German, French, Italian and Romansh.
- EWR praktisch (EEA in practice). Available in German and French.
- EWR Fragen – Antworten (EEA: Questions and Answers). Available in German and French.
- EWR/Auslandschweizer (EEA/Swiss Abroad). Available in German and French.

These publications may be obtained free of charge from: Integrationsbüro EDA/EVD, Sektion Information, Bundeshaus Ost, CH-3003 Berne. Please include an addressed glue-on label with your request. ■

Telegrams

● Swissair has just phased out its last 14 long-distance DC 10s; they have been replaced by 12 super-modern MD-11s.

● Heinrich Ursprung, head of the Group for Science and Research at the Federal Department of Home Affairs, has been promoted to the rank of State Secretary.

● Switzerland's unemployment figure for May was at a new record high – with 82,000 registered jobless, or 2.7% of those in employment.

● In Switzerland every sixteenth child is now born out of wedlock. For ETTA as a whole the figure is every third child, and in the EC every fifth child.

● The block of four postage stamps issued for Switzerland's 700-year jubilee has in retrospect been declared the finest Swiss issue of the 1990/91 series.

● On June 1 Lutz Krauskopf was appointed to succeed Peter Hess as head of the Federal Office of Police.

● May's Swiss year-on-year inflation rate was down to 4.2%, after 4.8% in April and 6.3% a year ago.