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Light on the "secret files" scandal

After the forced resignation of Elizabeth Kopp, Switzerland's first woman federal councillor, it was discovered that Swiss intelligence had been pin-pointing potential enemies of the state over a period of 50 years and had made extensive notes about them. In the wake of these disclosures, the Federal Council asked historian Georg Kreis, political scientist Jean-Daniel Delley, and former Supreme Court Judge Otto F. Kaufmann to draw up a report on the activities of the intelligence services since 1935.

The result of their work, covering 670 pages, was presented in June. It concludes that, while there was no question of systematic spying over the whole population, the surveillance operation was carried out unprofessionally, high-handedly and overzealously, and that it was directed against the political left only.

The report examines the legal background of file-collecting and analyses the historical circumstances. In 1951, for example, at the height of the Cold War, a secret ordinance was enacted by which people designated as dangerous and listed as "enemies of the state" (most being members of the communist Labour Party) could have been interned at a time of crisis. According to Kreis, the problem with this one-dimensional view of the potential enemy was that it did not take any account of the social and political changes which took place after the late 1960s. It was this that really led to the so-called "secret file" scandal.

Point of View

"The fact that dictators are afraid of culture we know well enough. We feared that democracies were also afraid of culture, but we did hope that they would be a little less afraid of it."

Cabaret Artist Franz Hohler, whose activities were thoroughly filed by the Zurich city police.

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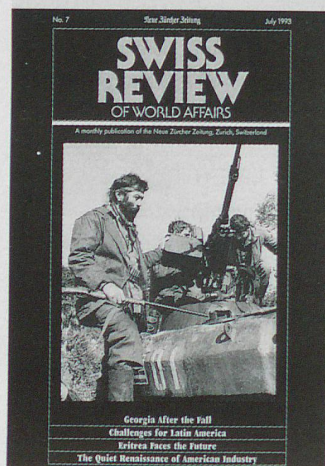
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Diary

Music – Theatre – Film

29.–31.10.93

Montreux/VD: European accordion festival

Folklore – Public festivals

22.11.93

Berne: "Zibelemärit", traditional onion market with public festivities

10.–12.12.93

Geneva: "Escalade", historical festival with parade

Fairs – Markets

23.10.–7.11.93

Basle: Basle Autumn Fair, oldest and largest fair in Switzerland

4.–18.11.93

Zurich: "Expovina", Zurich Wine Exhibition on ships (Bürkliplatz pier)

12.–21.11.93

Berne BEA-Expo: "Mowo", Bernese Autumn Fair

Sports

29.11.–5.12.93

Zurich: Cycling: six-days race

13.–18.12.93

Leukerbad, Valais: Curling, European Championship, ladies and men

26.–31.12.93

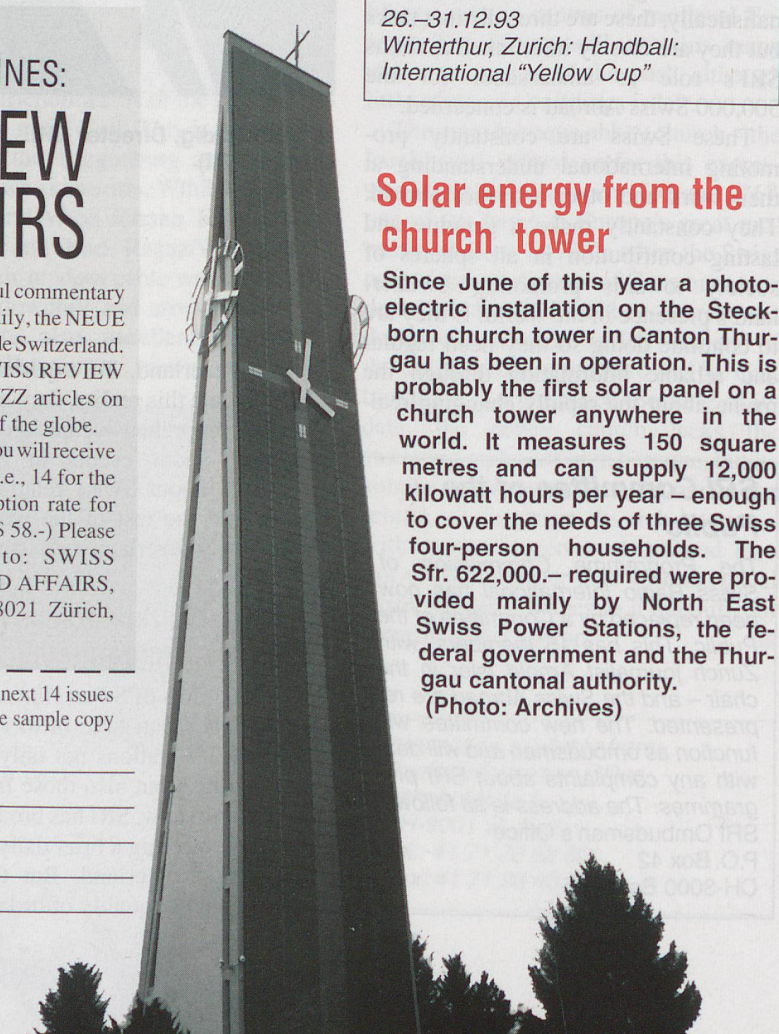
Davos, Grisons: Ice hockey: International Spengler Cup

26.–31.12.93

Winterthur, Zurich: Handball: International "Yellow Cup"

Solar energy from the church tower

Since June of this year a photo-electric installation on the Steckborn church tower in Canton Thurgau has been in operation. This is probably the first solar panel on a church tower anywhere in the world. It measures 150 square metres and can supply 12,000 kilowatt hours per year – enough to cover the needs of three Swiss four-person households. The Sfr. 622,000.– required were provided mainly by North East Swiss Power Stations, the federal government and the Thurgau cantonal authority. (Photo: Archives)



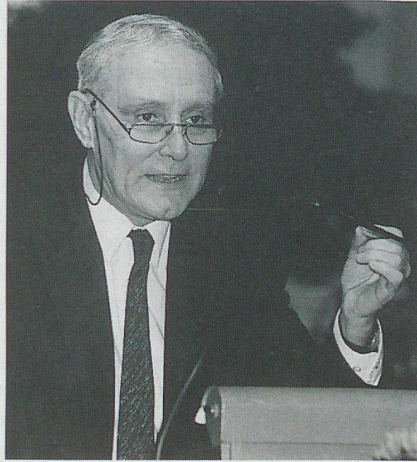
Brief portrait of Flavio Cotti

In the footsteps of Giuseppe Motta

As mentioned more than once in *Swiss Review*, Christian Democrat Federal Councillor Flavio Cotti became foreign minister at the beginning of April. More than the symbolic 100 days have now gone by. Time not for a summary of achievement, however, but merely a brief portrait.

From childhood on Cotti's career followed his great Ticino forebear and model, Giuseppe Motta, who was in the Federal Council from 1912-1940 and was one of Switzerland's best foreign ministers: Collegio Papio in Ascona, Fribourg University, Swiss Student's Union for the Christian Democrats, lawyer and notary, Grand Council, party chairman in Ticino, National Council, Federal Council.

After a rapid political rise at the cantonal level which began in 1967 when he was 28, Cotti was elected to the National Council in 1983 with the best



Switzerland's new foreign minister since the spring, Flavio Cotti from Ticino.

result of all the Ticino candidates. He was also the first Ticino chairman of the Swiss Christian Democrats, and in 1986 became the seventh ever Ticino member of the Federal Council.

His first ministerial appointment was at home affairs, where he dealt with matters as delicate and diverse as environmental protection and the national pension scheme. But from the outset his linguistic skill and command of the media pointed to the foreign ministry, which he had hoped for in 1987 on the retirement of Pierre Aubert. But that did not work out since Police and Justice Minister Elizabeth Kopp did not want to move to home affairs.

This spring, however, he finally got what he wanted. The newly elected federal councillor, Ruth Dreifuss, took over at home affairs, and Flavio Cotti succeeded René Felber as foreign minister.

WIL

Controlled supply of drugs

Misery due to drugs is steadily increasing in Switzerland. An attempt to destroy open traffic in drugs has failed in Zurich. In other towns the drug scene may not be quite as visible, but drug problems and the associated rise in criminality is nevertheless strongly felt. Two contradictory popular initiatives on Swiss drug control policy are at present pending. Both emphasise the virtues of prevention – but one requires strict repression and prohibition, while the other would legalise the use of drugs under a state monopoly.

In the meantime, the Federal Council has decided to carry out experiments on the controlled supply of drugs in eight towns from this autumn. A total of 700 heavy addicts are to be prescribed heroine, morphine or methadone for use under medical and psychological supervision. It is hoped that these scientific projects will improve the health of those concerned and lead to improvements in drug policy. There is considerable resistance to these experiments, particularly in French-speaking Switzerland and on the political right. ■

Texts: René Lenzin

World-famous bridge burnt down



The Kapellbrücke, the symbol of the city of Lucerne and the oldest roofed wooden bridge in Europe, has been destroyed by fire. Built about 1330, this bridge – with its famous corner – has been modified and renovated several times, most recently in 1969. The bridge is due to be rebuilt before next year's city carnival, but unhappily most of the 111 Renaissance paintings which adorned its wooden beams have been irrevocably lost. (Photos: Keystone)

Two golds for Swiss horse-riders

At the European Horse-Jumping Championships at Gijón, Spain, the Swiss team shone with two gold medals. First of all, Leslie McNaught Mändli on Pirol, Thomas Fuchs on Dylano, Stefan Lauber on Lugana and Willi Melliger on Quinta won a gold for the best team, and then Melliger and Quinta followed up with another in the individual final. ■