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Refugee helper rehabilitated



After much beating about the bush, Paul Grüniger, a cantonal police chief before the Second World War, who helped hundreds of Jewish refugees to enter Switzerland illegally, has been rehabilitated by the St. Gall government. Politically, that is, and not at law. Rehabilitation before the St. Gall courts is not planned, since a correction of the judgement of the time – one of the accusations proved against Grüniger was forging documents – is not possible because of the separation of powers.

Just 54 years after Grüniger's abrupt dismissal and 21 after his death in poverty, the St. Gall government has for the sixth time of asking allowed justice to prevail. This could not be taken for

Second World War refugees: for them Paul Grüniger sacrificed his career.

Point of View

"We even use drinking water to wash the car. We are hardly in a position to ask people in Africa to save resources because the water level is sinking".

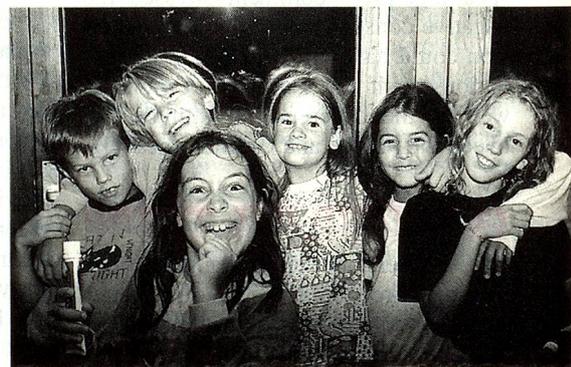
Brigitte Weber, managing director of the Swiss UNICEF Committee

granted, and without public pressure and persistent demands it would have been impossible. Until his conscience required him to put himself above the law to treat those threatened by death with common humanity, Paul Grüniger had been highly respected. With his rehabilitation, the risks he took and his utter disregard for his own interests in favour of the persecuted have been recognised as a special achievement. But – and this has been repeatedly emphasised – today's officials cannot use Grüniger as a precedent. Indeed there is no reason to, since the ethical standards for which he sacrificed his career are now at the basis of Swiss asylum law. ■

Round the family table

The exchange scheme "Visit Switzerland – See the World" will be continued in 1994 with the new name "Swiss Ping Pong". Details will appear in the next issue of Swiss Review.

Holidays for Swiss Abroad children



Request for information

Please send me an information kit and an application form for the "Visit Switzerland – See the World" scheme (Do write clearly)

Mr./Mrs./Family _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Country: _____

Preferred language: _____

Please send to: Stapferhaus, "Visit Switzerland", Schloss Lenzburg, CH-5600 Lenzburg, Fax: 41 64 52 07 57.

The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad is again organising holidays in Switzerland for Swiss Abroad children in order to strengthen their ties with the homeland.

When? July 4–August 20, 1994 (for any three weeks, or any two weeks for ages 7 to 10)

Where? – In a Swiss family
– At a holiday camp organised by the Foundation

Who? Children aged 7 to 15 of Swiss nationality or whose mother was born Swiss.

How much? Participation in costs is based on family circumstances up to a

maximum of Sfr. 40.– per day per child.

Registration: Before March 31, 1994
Ski camps: December 27, 1994 to January 4, 1995

(from age 10); January 2 to 9, 1995 (ages 13 and 14).

Registration: Before September 30, 1994.

Application forms and further information may be obtained from Swiss diplomatic posts or directly from the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad. The forms must be sent to the diplomatic post at which you are registered.

*Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad
Holiday Scheme
Wattstrasse 3, CH-8050 Zürich
Tel. 41-1-313 17 17* ■

Personal

UNESCO, MUBA, new federal attorney

● **Doris Morf**, former Zurich Social Democrat member of parliament and chairman of the Swiss UNESCO Commission, has been elected Switzerland's delegate to the UNESCO Executive Council, regaining the seat occupied from 1987 to 1991 by former Uri State Councillor Franz Muheim. She intends to campaign for continuing the reform process and says she is sure that in two years time the United States and the United Kingdom, which left UNESCO in 1984 in protest against the system, will be back. The main points on UNESCO's immediate agenda are the struggle against illiteracy, vocational training, education in peace and tolerance, promoting media freedom and diversity, and environmental awareness. The poorest countries, particularly in Africa, and the women living there should benefit more from UNESCO operations, says Doris Morf.

● The managing director of the Basle trade fair (MUBA), **Philippe Lévy**, has resigned with immediate effect, refusing to prolong his contract with the Swiss Industries Fair Cooperative – which was due to end in mid-1994.

Back in 1987, this bold visionary and successful businessman – previously the Federal Council's Delegate for Commercial Agreements with the rank of ambassador – seemed to be the ideal person to take the Swiss Industries Fair into the future. But the planned leap across frontiers was brought to nothing by the recession, the No to the EEA and the poor situation of Basle City's cantonal finances. The divorce between Lévy and the fair came suddenly, but it was not surprising to



observers: loss of trust on both sides was inevitable once it was clear there could be no unity of views on internationalising business activities.

● "I hope that thanks to the support of my future staff I shall be able to fulfil the expectations invested in me", said Ticino lawyer and cantonal attorney **Carla Del Ponte** on her election as federal attorney. This is the first time the office has gone to a woman.

Today, the federal attorney is the official government prosecutor and at the same time head of the federal police. In the future, these two functions will be separated, but after the reorganisation Mrs. Del Ponte will head the newly created Federal Office for Internal Security and will remain the top national police official.

She made a name for herself far beyond Switzerland's borders as the prosecutor in the spectacular "Pizza Connection" drugs trial and through her fearless pursuit of the Mafia. In 1992, she worked closely with the Italian examining judge, Giovanni Falcone, who was later murdered in Sicily. She also assisted the Milan state prosecutor, Antonio di Pietro, in the "mani pulite" corruption scandal. She then attracted attention by putting behind bars for peddling cocaine the nephew of drug baron Pablo Escobar – since shot in Medellin. Last spring, the Ticino cantonal police provided her with a special escort after she had received Mafia death threats and together with a Lugano examining magistrate had barely escaped a murder attempt in Palermo.

Carla Del Ponte is 46, divorced and the mother of a 16-year old son. ■



Texts: Heidi Willumat
Photos: Keystone

Diary

Festivals and folklore

March 17–19
Berne: Casino, Easter egg festival

April 1
Romont, Fribourg: "The Weeping Women of Good Friday", religious custom

April 24
Appenzell, Trogen, Sarnen, Stans, Cantons Appenzell and Unterwalden: Landsgemeinde, or open-air parliaments

May 12
Beromünster, Hitzkirch and Sempach, Canton Lucerne: Ascension processions on horseback, religious customs

Fairs

March 23–27
Lausanne: Palais de Beaulieu, Camping and Caravaning Trade Fair and Junior International Youth Fair

April 15–24
Geneva: Palexpo, International Exhibition of Inventions, Techniques and New Products

Music and Theatre

March
Bellinzona: "Homo Ridens", comic festival

March 19–26
Fribourg: "Ex Musica", early European music festival

April 14–17
Interlaken, Berne: Folk Music Days (folk music forum and musicians' seminar)

Art Exhibitions

Until end of March
Lugano: Museum of Art, 19th and 20th Century Masterpieces: from Turner to Beuys

March 4–June 4
Basle: Museum of Antiquities, Pompeii
Lucerne: Transport Museum, Inventions and Technologies of Ancient China

Sport

March 24–27
Zurich: Horseriding, CSI International Showjumping

March 26–27
Berne: Fencing, Grand Prix Tournament

April 11–13
Davos, Canton Grisons: Acrobatic Skiing, World Cup Final

May 15
Berne: Football, Swiss Cup Final