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"Idée suisse" competition on the 150th anniversary of the Federal State

Smiles all round

"Dear Swiss Radio International, Many thanks once again for the wonderful prize of a Swiss trip that you presented to me and my brother." These words of gratitude were written by Hildegard Leutenegger on a postcard from Zermatt, expressing her thanks for winning the first prize of the SRI competition on the 150th anniversary of the Federal State. The seven-day vacation in the Valais was filled with fond memories of bygone days for Mrs Leutenegger and her brother Father Bonifaz, because they spent the same vacation 53 years ago with their parents.

For the Swiss who has lived for over 49 years near Rome, where her husband worked for the UNO special

organisation for Food and Agriculture (FAO), her link with Switzerland is strengthened thanks to broadcasts by the SRI and Swiss Television.

Loyal listening public

The fact that the SRI programme is listened to not only by our compatriots abroad but also by a non-Swiss public, is demonstrated by the Swedish couple who came second. When Anne-Marie and Reinhard Lach recently took up their prize of a weekend in Berne, Mr Lach said that since the 50s he has particularly appreciated the balanced opinion and reliability of SRI's information programmes. This is also attested to by the 30 or so

listener's letters he has written to the editorial team over the years. Lach, originally from Austria, followed with particular interest the debate on Switzerland's role in the Second World War.

While his wife has never been to Switzerland before, he himself knows our country from previous visits. Telephoning from Stockholm, Lach said that the weekend was too short, adding, "That was the absolute crowning glory of my 50-year loyalty to SRI."

Jean-Michel Berthoud and Sergio Regazzoni ■



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