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Visitors to Switzerland

ROYAL VISITORS are a rarity in Switzerland. Last year Queen Frederika of Greece and the King of Burundi honoured Switzerland with their presence. This year Queen Juliana of the Netherlands travelled through Switzerland incognito, and a month later her husband, Prince Bernhard, made a short stop in Geneva. Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia spent a private visit in Zurich together with several members of his family. The main purpose was to see a sick granddaughter. His Imperial Majesty also had some treatment at Baden. The Zurich authorities entertained the Emperor at the Muraltogut, and when he left he presented a gift of £2,000 to the Town President as a token of his gratitude for the kindness shown to him by the people of Zurich. The money is to be used to provide pleasure to sick people.

King Ibn Saud was in Switzerland for a prolonged stay. He had to spend some time at a nursing home in Lausanne. His brother, Prince Pin Abdul Aziz, spent three weeks in Geneva.

The King of Laos and his son as well as several ministers spent a few days on a private visit, coming from Moscow and going to Washington.

The visit of Princess Margaret and her husband and Prince Charles caused great interest in Switzerland, and other welcome royal visitors were Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco, who spent a winter-sports holiday at Villars with their children.

Amongst heads of state who have passed through Switzerland this year are the President of the Dominican Republic, Monsieur Juan Bosch, and President Tubman of Liberia, who spent four weeks of rest with his wife and a retinue of forty people after having attended the Pan-african Conference in Addis Ababa.

German Vice-Chancellor Erhard, the Dutch, Danish and German Foreign Ministers, and Ministers of State from many countries, U.S.A., Poland, Chile, India, Kenya and Czechoslovakia, were amongst the illustrious visitors. The Chief Mayor of Stuttgart, the burgomaster of Lisbon and former Italian President Signor Gronchi stayed there, too.

Many well-known political personalities came to Geneva to attend various international conferences, among them U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General, and the special envoy of President Kennedy, Mr Christian Herter. The UNESCO Director-General, Monsieur Rene Mahue, called on the Swiss Government in February, whilst the President of Euratom gave a talk in Berne on nuclear industry and nuclear economy in the Europe of the future. He

said that the six states of the Common Market had founded Euratom not only out of technical and financial considerations, but also to bring about political unity.

A delegation of the Polish town of Cracow visited Geneva to pay back the courtesy visit by a Geneva Group to Poland last year. A Commission of the French Senate was in Switzerland in March in connection with matters of telecommunications. Forty-seven German educationists visited Switzerland under the patronage of the "Pro Helvetia" Foundation in order to study educational and cultural institutions.

Two groups of Canadian school-masters on a study tour in Europe devoted a week each to Switzerland. A delegation from Luxembourg studied Swiss Civil Defence and members of the American "Million Dollar Round Table" organisation discussed insurance matters. Thirty members of the American "Women for Peace" flew to Geneva early in May to distribute peace leaflets at the Palace of Nations, meant for members of the delegations to the Disarmament Conference. Twenty other women visited Switzerland in June at the invitation of an American women's magazine.

Three hundred pathologists from many European countries visited Basle for the 47th meeting of the German Society for Pathology. At the end of June a Nigerian delegation arrived in Geneva for a study tour of Switzerland. A Chilean group arrived on 12th June on their European tour. There was an exchange of views about economic and financial questions affecting the two countries between the Chilean visitors and Swiss representatives. An Austrian and a Swedish military delegation visited the Swiss army, and the American Admiral Rickover, the "father" of the U.S.A. atomic fleet, attended recruits' tests, which he followed with lively interest.

Journalists from many countries also came to Switzerland from Germany, Japan, Poland. A group of thirty information specialists from several African countries went on a study tour. Eighty-five American paper boys were allowed to visit Tell's Country as a reward for good work.

The Viennese "Sangerknaben" gave a serenade in the lobby of the Federal Palace in Berne, and the ever young film actress, Miss Marlene Dietrich, spent her birthday in St. Moritz. Salvation Army General Kitching attended the traditional Ascension Day festival of the Salvation Army in Zurich, in which 2,000 members took part.

And finally, the Norwegian poet, Tarjei Vesaas, should be mentioned as one of many well-known visitors to Switzerland. [A.T.S.]