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News from Switzerland

USSR HONOURS SWISS MATHEMATICIAN

The Praesidium of the Academy of Science of the USSR recently awarded the 1968 Lobatchevski Prize to the Swiss mathematician Heinz Hopf for his work in the field of differential geometry and topology. This prize has been awarded every three years since 1947 for the best mathematical research work submitted by Soviet and foreign scientists. From 1959 to 1963 Professor Hopf, whose research has had a decisive influence on some of the essential principles of geometry, was President of the International Union of Mathematics, which has its headquarters in Zurich. (osec)

SWITZERLAND AS A TURNSTILE !

In the course of the next few months a telephone cable will for the first time link Europe with Japan via the Soviet Union. A part of it will run under the ocean; it will already be put into operation in May of this year and will be called JASC (Japan Sea Cable). On the other hand, in the course of the year 1969 a telephone satellite of INTELSAT (this is the International Telephone Satellite Consortium) is to be put into orbit over the Indian Ocean for a direct connection between European and Japanese surface stations. (snto)

SWISS BANK BECOMES PATRON OF THE ARTS

On the occasion of its hundredth anniversary, the Banque Populaire Suisse launched a large-scale campaign for the purpose of rousing interest among the public in the problems facing Switzerland in the future. In addition to various projects of a cultural nature, including the setting up of a foundation favouring the development of science and art, it commissioned three Swiss film producers to make a film entitled "Swissmade", giving three personal interpretations of the integration of society. (osec)

OVER 3 MILLION PASSENGERS IN 1968

For the first time ever, the airline company Swissair carried over 3 million passengers in a year. Its network of lines covers 107,854 miles and serves 71 towns situated on all continents except Australia. Swissair increased its transport capacity by 23% compared with 1967 with a total of 500 million ton-miles.

Freight traffic was particularly heavy last year. The number of ton-miles used increased by almost a half to amount to nearly 64 million. Passenger traffic increased to 187 million ton-miles, i.e. a rise of 8% compared with 1967. (osec)