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Autor: [s.n.]
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Government Warns Over Power Cuts

OPPOSITION to the construction of new power stations in Switzerland is such that the Government has now had to warn of possible power cuts within the next five years unless the present deadlock is lifted. In a letter to the Federal Electricity Administration, Mr Roger Bonvin, Head of the Department of Transport, Energy and Communications, underlined the urgency of putting in service at least one new nuclear power station by 1975. If this were not achieved, the power shortages which would inevitably be felt by then would require rationing current.

Switzerland has only three power stations in service. Several more are planned but stalled by local opposition. Among the sites where new power plants were planned are Verbois, near Geneva, Kaiseraugst near Basle and Geosgen, near Solothurn. The struggle between the regional electricity boards and the communes of the two latter villages has dragged on for years. The Great Council of Basle Country recently appealed to the Administrative Court of Canton Aarau (which borders on Basle-Country) against the erection of the Kaiseraugst power station. This action having been rejected, the Great Council decided to bring the matter to the Federal Court. Similar wrangles have been brought about by the planned power station at Goesgen. The Public Works Department of Canton Solothurn has recently rejected the third appeal by Goesge against the decision by the neighbouring commune of Daeniken to go ahead with the works. But the Department partially accepted a complaint by the company, called 'Gesegen-Daeniken AG', responsible for building the plant. This complaint had been lodged because of the stringent conditions set by Daeniken for the continuance of the works.



SWISSAIR'S REGIONAL MANAGER FOR LATIN AMERICA LIBERATED

Mr Kurt Schmid, Swissair's Regional Manager for Latin America who was kidnapped in Buenos Aires on October 22nd, 1973, has been released by his captors. He is in good physical condition but now needs a prolonged period of undisturbed recreation. Swissair had to pay a ransom, the amount of which will not be disclosed.

— W. R.