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ministry of Lands. Then there is a ministry for Information Technology (this is not even good English) and a ministry of Business Development. We wonder if the Ministers who are supposed to run these weird ministries really know themselves what these ministries are there for and what they are supposed to be achieving. Then there are still all the so called Ministers "in Charge of": War Pensions, Audit Department, Public Trust Office, Government Superannuation Fund Department, Education Review Office (different from the Education Dept.), National Library (yes we have a Minister for Books), Valuation Department and the most peculiar one: the ministry in Charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations. And can anyone tell us what on earth the Minister Responsible for Contact Energy Ltd is really there for? And what does the Minister of Forestry do? Count trees? We have a Minister of Defence but we also have the luxury of a Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control and another Minister again of Civil Defence. Considering this labyrinth of interwoven, overlapping ministries, it should not come as a surprise that we also need a Minister of Communications and a Minister of Statistics. Since our Government has already gone totally made in its frenzy of creating more and more ministries, here are a few more we could through in for good measure: For instance, there is a Minister of Maori Affairs, but why

isn't there one for Chinese or Dutch Affairs (after all these groups are just as numerous as the Maoris). Then there is a Minister for Senior Citizens and one for Youth Affairs. So what about a Minister for the Middle-Aged? And finally we have a Minister for Women's Affairs but not one for Men's Affairs which is of course straight out discrimination, particularly when you consider that in these modern times of equal rights, it is really the men who need help more often than the women. As you can see, New Zealand's cabinet is such a complex affair, no minister has stayed there long enough to fully grasp its intricacies. If our Ministers find it hard to make out the workings of their own Cabinet, how can we expect them to handle the complexities of running our country? Good question.

NEW JOB FOR SWISS ARMY

As from last January, one of the duties of the new Swiss army is to assist the Swiss border patrols in their job of controlling the influx of refugees and illegal immigrants. As these functions are primarily of a civil nature, every effort has been made to avoid any misunderstandings or clashes with the civil authorities. The duties of the new Swiss army have now been clearly defined. Apart from its main mission to defend the country and to promote peace, the army must now also assist civil authorities in all cases of catastrophes, rioting and now also in controlling and assisting in cases of sudden influxes of refugees.



SPECTACULAR EXPLOSION

In Renens near Lausanne, an explosion occurred in this house. The explosion totally destroyed the inside of the house and ripped out one side of the building. Three people who were in the upstairs flat were thrown out into the street and miraculously only suffered minor injuries. How the house managed to remain upright on its foundations is also a miracle.

NOTE TO SECRETARIES

Next issue of the Helvetia magazine: MAY 1996. All contributions must be in by 15 April. Many thanks for your kind cooperation.

IMMIGRATION TO NEW ZEALAND

OBTAINING A NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT OR A WORK PERMIT HAS BECOME MUCH MORE DIFFICULT SINCE THE IMMIGRATION POLICY CHANGES INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN NOVEMBER OF 1995.

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