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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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involved in the case, although "very distressed about the tragic events", could not see anything wrong with their decision. They do not feel responsible for the death of an innocent man, because it was all the fault of the criminal who "disregarded the bail conditions".

Ask yourself the question: Would the judges still feel the same way if a member of their own family had been killed under identical circumstances? We wonder....

SWISS WATCHES SMUGGLED INTO SWITZERLAND.

Would you believe it? This must be worse than taking coal to Newcastle. But it is a fact that Swiss customs agents discovered indeed that a gang of Swiss individuals smuggled genuine luxury Swiss watches which had been exported back into Switzerland.

The trick was relatively simple. The luxury watches valued at over 10,000 SFR a piece were manufactured in Switzerland and duly exported to a foreign country. The exporter enjoyed the double advantage of paying the manufacturer only a low wholesale price plus getting back from the Government the VAT (GST) which does not apply in Switzerland to goods destined for export.

The watches were usually sent to countries such as Russia, Poland and ex-Yugoslavia. Shortly after that, special couriers brought the watches back to Switzerland by smuggling them through customs. By means of small advertisements in various trade magazines and daily newspapers, the watches were offered to the public at exceptionally low prices.

It was these advertisements that did attract the attention of the Customs Dept. whose inspectors set up a special undercover operation which eventually allowed them to arrest the whole gang of smugglers in one single swoop.

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NEWS ITEM FROM THE EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN WELLINGTON:

VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND OF TWO SWISS-ITALIAN WRITERS

Under the auspices of Pro *Helvetia*, Arts Council of Switzerland, two writers from the Italian area of Switzerland, Ticino, will be visiting New Zealand from 8-15 September 1996 to read and talk on their works, and to speak about life and linguistics in their region.

The programme for **Elda GUIDINETTI**, a writer of prose and **Antonio ROSSI**, a poet, will encompass the following:

Wellington:

Evening hosted jointly by the Wellington Garibaldi Club and Circolo Italiano at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 10 September, in the Club' premises at 118 Tory Street.

Christchurch:

An evening organised by the Società Dante Alighieri and the Italian Department of the Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Canterbury. The function will be from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at the Centre for Continuing Education on Wednesday, 11 September and a \$5.00 entry fee will be charged.

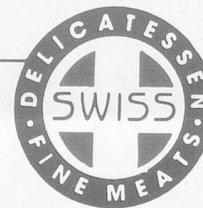
Auckland:

A lecture at the University of Auckland for the Italian Department in conjunction also with the Auckland Società Dante Alighieri, at 1.00pm on Friday, 12 September at the University Arts I Building, Room 209.



LEANING TOWER OF SCHAFFHAUSEN

No this is not a London bridge falling down, but the new motorway bridge over the Rhine near Schaffhausen. The pylon, leaning towards the river, is fifty meters high and has been nicknamed the "Munot Pendant". This particular construction allowed the bridge to be suspended on one pylon alone which is quite a novelty as far as suspension bridges go.



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