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### **CUSTOMS SELLING PROPERTIES**

The Swiss Federal Department of Customs is getting rid of some 900 properties, houses, huts, border guard posts and blocks of flats it no longer requires. Most properties are situated in villages close to the border, but some guard houses are in such remote areas that they have neither water nor electricity. Some have even been erected in areas where no building permits are normally being granted which, of course, causes now quite a legal problem when these constructions are being sold on to private purchasers.

Amongst the properties for sale was even a guard post in the Engadin at the altitude of 2600m. Like most other properties, it easily found a buyer. In order to obtain the best prices and quick sales, the properties are put on the marked through auctions.

#### STRIP SEARCH

Now the last thing anyone would want is to be stopped by Customs and subjected to a total search which includes stripping down to your birthday suit and inspection of your most intimate body parts.

So would you believe it: a whacky Swiss guy, Alain Erni of Niederhelfenschwil (SG) made this request at a national Coca-Cola Christ-mas show called "Wünsch Dir was" as a special Christmas present for his friend Christian Huber of Niederutzwil (SG) who's fondest wish had always been to be strip searched by Customs (weird!)

Contacted on the matter, the Customs Department agreed to co-operate and Christian Huber duly went through a 3rd degree search at the border post of Kreuzlingen and loved every minute of it. Some people really get thrills out of the most peculiar situations!

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