

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1957)

**Heft:** 1288

**Rubrik:** News at random

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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

## The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain

Advisory Council: R. DE CINTRA (Chairman); O. F. BOEHRINGER, LS. CHAPUIS, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

EDITED BY A. STAUFFER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

Published Twice Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON

Vol. 42. No. 1288. X

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11th, 1957.

PRICE 11d.

### PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES. (Fortnightly issue.)

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### NEWS AT RANDOM

#### Federal

The Federal Assembly, that is the two Chambers of Parliament sitting together, elected Dr. h.c. Hans Streuli, head of the Federal Finance and Customs Department, as President of the Swiss Confederation for 1957.

The President was born in 1892, and is a citizen of Wädenswil and Richterswil. He studied architecture at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, and at the University of Munich. From 1928 to 1935 he was President of the commune of Richterswil. In 1935 Dr. Streuli was elected a member of the Government of the canton of Zurich where he took over the Finance Department, which post he held until his election to the Federal Council in 1953. In 1940 the University of Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* in recognition of the work he had rendered as President of the organisation committee of the "Landesausstellung" in 1939. In the army Dr. Streuli held the rank of Colonel (Engineering Corps).

Dr. jur. Thomas Holenstein has been elected Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation.

The Vice-President was born in 1896, and is a citizen of Buetschwil (Ct. St. Gall). He studied law at various Universities in Switzerland and abroad, after which he practised as a lawyer in St. Gall. From 1933 to 1946 he was a lecturer at the Commercial University, St. Gall. Dr. Holenstein entered the National Council in 1937. He had been previously a member of the St. Gall cantonal Government, and in 1954 he was elected a member of the Federal Government. In the army he held the rank of a General Staff Colonel.

The National Council has elected Mr. Robert Bratschi (Socialist), of Berne, to be its Vice-President. He is 65 years old. After 10 years' service with the Swiss Federal Railways he became General Secretary of the "Schweiz. Gewerkschaftsbunds", and of the "Schweiz. Eisenbahnerverbands". He relinquished

these posts when in 1954 he was appointed Manager of the Bern-Lötschberg-Simplon railway. Mr. Bratschi has been a member of the National Council since 1922.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Max Holzer to the post of Director of the "Bundesamtes für Industrie, Gewerbe & Arbeit" (BIGA), in succession to Mr. Max Kaufmann who has relinquished his post on reaching retiring age.

Dr. Holzer was born in 1902, and is a citizen of Berne. After having studied at the Universities of Jena, Munich and Berne, he entered in 1933 into the service of the "BIGA" where he occupied several important posts. He is also a Professor for Economic History at the University of Berne.

\* \* \*

M. Chaudet, head of the Federal Military Department gave the National Council the broad lines of expenditure for extra defence credits totalling about 160 million francs which will be asked by the Government in the light of the international situation.

He outlined a big new military construction programme, including places to install many fuel reservoirs and extend aircraft facilities.

Some 87 per cent of defence credits, he added, were spent in Switzerland, and 13 per cent abroad (mostly for British aircraft and tanks).

\* \* \*

Professor Pierre Gavin and M. André Grisel have been elected members of the Federal Supreme Court, Lausanne.

### CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next

#### MONTHLY MEETING

takes place on Tuesday January 15th, 1957, at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. (Orchid Room).

The Dinner will be followed by a talk by **Monsieur Salvador de Madariaga**, on "The part played by Switzerland in International life."

THE COMMITTEE.



M. Gavin was born in 1909 in Lausanne; he studied law at the Universities of Lausanne and Berlin. From 1936 to 1945 he practised in Lausanne as an advocate, and in 1945 he was elected Professor of Law at the University of Lausanne.

M. André Grisel was born in 1911, in La Chaux-du-milieu, and is a citizen of Travers. On completion of his law studies he was appointed secretary of the Neuchâtel Chamber of Commerce, and afterwards President of the Courts of La Chaux-de-Fonds, Le Locle and Boudry. He then was appointed a judge at the Cantonal Court.

\* \* \*

The two Federal Chambers have elected Mr. Wilhelm Stauffer (Berne) to the post of President of the Federal Supreme Court in Lausanne.

\* \* \*

The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Josef Jungo of Fribourg and Duedingen, at present "Kantonsoberförster", of Fribourg, to the post of "Eidg. Oberforstinspektor", and Franz X. Ruckli to the post of "Eidg. Oberbauinspektor".

\* \* \*

Monsieur Jean-Louis Pahud, Swiss Minister in Egypt and Ethiopia, will also represent the Confederation in Saudi-Arabia, with residence in Cairo.

\* \* \*

National-Councillor Dr. Paul Gysler, President of the Board of the Swiss Federal Railways since 1948, has tendered his resignation.

\* \* \*

Peru and Switzerland have agreed to establish an air service between the two countries, which will stop at various points in America and Europe.

**Cantonal** The art prize for 1956 of the town of Lucerne has been awarded to Dr. J. B. Hilber, composer and conductor in Lucerne. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Professor Dr. Edwin Fischer, the famous pianist, has been made an honorary citizen of Weggis (Ct. Lucerne). [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

At the end of November, 1956, the town of Zurich numbered 423,361 inhabitants. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The Gottfried Keller prize for 1956, amounting to 8,000.— frs., has been awarded by the "Martin Bodmer Foundation" to Dr. Max Rychner, Zurich. The art prize of the town of Zurich has been awarded to the sculptor Otto Charles Baenninger. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

On the occasion of its 100th Jubilee the paper "Neuen Glarner Zeitung" has published a special issue, comprising 68 pages. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The municipal elections of Bienne show the following strength of the various parties: Socialists 22 (1 loss); Socialists romand: 6 (no change); Liberals: 17 (1 gain); National romand party: 8 (3 gains); Communists: 1 (1 loss); Evangelical Popular Party: 1 (1 gain); Christian Socialist Party: 2 (no change); Bourgeois Party: 1 (1 loss); Landesring, Duttweiler: 2 (2 losses). [A.T.S.]

Mr. Eduard Baumgartner has been re-elected Mayor of the town of Berne. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Professor Norbert Luyten has been elected rector of the University of Fribourg. The following have received the degree of *doctor honoris causa*: Louis Dupraz, a member of the Borough Council of Fribourg, Wilhelm Meile, formerly General Manager of the Swiss Federal Railways, and Mgr. Louis Waeber, Vicar-General in Fribourg. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The elections for the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg show the following result: Conservatives: 77 seats (80); Radicals: 30 (36); Peasant Party: 15 (9); Socialists: 9 (6). The cantonal Parliament comprises 131 members; 324 candidates were proposed.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Dr. Hans Derendinger (Liberal) has been elected Mayor of the town of Olten with 2805 votes; his opponent Hermann Berger (Socialist) received 1,619 votes. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Three persons were killed when two motor-cycles collided on the Oberwiler Strasse near Binningen. The names of the victims are: A. Imgruen (38), Insurance Agent of Basle, F. Mitterhaeuser (28), electrician of Binningen; the third victim has not yet been identified. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The "Puntota" home for old people has been opened at Schuls (Ct. Grisons). It can accommodate 30-35 inmates. The cost of the home amounted to 600,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The premises of the "Likoer & Sirup" concern in Barbengo (Ct. Ticino) were completely destroyed by fire. The loss is considered to be more than 100,000.— frs. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The town of Vevey has recently celebrated its 600th anniversary. [A.T.S.]

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Maurice Salzmann (Conservative) has been elected Mayor of the town of Siders (Ct. Valais) with 825 votes; his opponent E. Zwissig (Radical) received 821 votes. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

Federal Judge Albert Rais has tendered his resignation as a member of the Federal Supreme Court. He has been appointed President of the Board of the paper "Impartial", and the Printing works "Courvoisier, S.A.", La Chaux-de-Fonds. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The town of La Chaux-de-Fonds, an important centre of the watch manufacturing industry in Western Switzerland now numbers 38,000 inhabitants. The town recently celebrated its 300th jubilee as an independent commune. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The result of the elections for the Municipal Council of Schaffhausen is as follows: Socialists: 21 (22); Liberals: 15 (15); Cath. Popular Party: 7 (5); Evangelical Popular Party: 3 (3); Landesring (Duttweiler): 2 (2); Bourgeois Party: 1 (3); Liberal Socialists: 1 (0).

National Councillor W. Bringolf (Socialist) has been re-elected as Mayor. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The oldest inhabitant of La Sagne (Canton Neuchâtel), Mme. von Bergen-Kuenzi, has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

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## DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Mlle Ilse Hohl, in Berne at the age of 86. The deceased was for more than 60 years a parliamentary reporter. She was one of the oldest members of her profession in Switzerland and devoted her whole life to the reporting of the proceedings of the Federal Parliament. Her work was marked by high conscientiousness and political probity.

Charles Gree, a well-known pedagogue, President of the Pedagogical Society of the canton of Vaud, and editor of the paper "L'educateur", in Vevey, aged 76.

Josef Maria Truetsch, a member of the "Kantonsrat" Schwyz, in Schwyz, at the age of 75.

Mgr. Joachino Mascirini, for 63 years a priest, and Professor at the Pollegio seminary, and later on at the Lugano seminary, in Lugano, aged 86.

Dr. Arthur Steinmann, until 1952 President of the "Verbandes der Arbeitgeber der Textil Industrie". He acted for some time as editor of the paper "Limmat". In the army he held the rank of a General Staff Colonel. He died in Zurich at the age of 82.

George Huguenin, watch manufacturer, in Biel, aged 70.

Otto Coninx-Girardet, President of the Board of the "Tagesanzeiger für Stadt & Canton Zurich", in Zurich, at the age of 86.

Dr. phil., theol., Carli Fry, a well-known writer versed in Romantsch, in Disentis, aged 60.

Paul von Geyerz-Gross, in Berne, at the age of 88. The deceased practised as a notary from 1892 to 1945, and was one of the founders of the Boy Scout movement in Switzerland.

Jean Lacour, eminent lawyer and a member of the Appeal Tribunal, Geneva, in Geneva, aged 57. He was also a lecturer at the University of Geneva.

Georges Nagel, Professor of Theology and Egyptology at the University of Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 57.

Dr. Adolf Kuery, from 1924 to 1941 Bishop of the Christian-Catholic church of Switzerland, and Professor at the University of Berne, aged 87.

Dr. phil. Paul Chaponnière, author and, since 1927, editor of the "Journal de Genève", in Geneva, at the age of 74.

Dr. phil. and theol. Ludwig Koehler, a former Rector and Professor at the University of Zurich, in Zurich, aged 77.

Pius Jeker, since 1955 teacher of gymnastics at the "Kantonsschule", Solothurn, in Solothurn at the age of 68.

Dr. Philippe Saurin, a medical practitioner and member of the Grand Council of the canton of Vaud, in Lausanne, aged 67.

Dr. Hans Fricker, from 1905 to 1930 President of the District Court Laufenburg (Ct. Aargau), and from 1930 to 1949 a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Aargau.

The deceased was from 1909 to 1930 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Aargau, from 1925 to 1932 he sat in the National Council, and, from 1933 to 1955, in the States Council. He died in Aarau at the age of 77.

Alfred Scherz, Publisher, in Berne, aged 53.

Edgar Bichsel, since 1938 General Manager of the watch manufacturing firm "Zenith", in Le Locle, at the age of 68.

Jean Barbezat, a former watch manufacturer and member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel, in Fleurier, aged 74.

Mgr. B. Keller, Prebendary of the St. Leodegar "Stift", in Lucerne, at the age of 79.

Emil Bührle, head of the Oerlikon arms concern, in Zurich, aged 66. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

## ARMY.

General Staff Colonel Hugo Troller has been appointed commander of the Swiss Flying Corps in succession to Brigadier H. Bachhofner, who is vacating his post for health reasons.

Brigade-Colonel Troller was born in 1902 and hails from Starrkirch (Ct. Solothurn). He is a member of the Instructors Corps. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

## ANNIVERSARIES.

Iwan Bally (80) of Schoenenwerd, from 1921 to 1933 a member of the "Kantonsrat", Solothurn, from 1937 to 1943 a member of the States Council, and a former President of the Chamber of Commerce of the canton of Solothurn.

In 1900 he entered, as a member of the 3rd generation, the then "F.C. Bally Soehne" shoe



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manufacturing concern; seven years later (1907) he was appointed Manager, and in 1908 was appointed a member of the Board; later on he was also a member of the Board of the Holding Company F.C. Bally, A.G., in Vienna.

\* \* \*

Albert Kitcher (80) of Rheinfelden, for many years estate administrator of the "Salmenbrauerei", and since 1932 President of the "Nordwestschweizerischen Milchverbandes" of which he was, on his retirement in 1953, elected Honorary President.

\* \* \*

Otto Bartel-Hefti (80) of Glarus, for over 50 years in the service of the publishers of the "Neuen Glarner Zeitung", and since 1930 head of the firm.

\* \* \*

O. H. Jenny (80) of Basle, for over 30 years head of the Statistical Bureau of the canton of Basle-Town, and a member of the International Statistical Institute.

\* \* \*

Felix Huonder (70) of Zurich, Central Secretary of the "Verbandes Schweiz. Schreinermeister & Moebelfabrikanten", and editor of the "Schweiz. Schreinerzeitung". [A.T.S.]

#### LEGACIES.

Mme. Christine Jenny-Jenny of Glarus, who died recently and was over 100 years old, left various legacies to institutions, societies and charitable bodies amounting to 149,000.—frs.

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The late Arnold Teucher "Stimmregisterführer", of St. Gall, has left the amount of 50,000.—frs. to the "St. Gallische Stiftung für das Alter".

Mme. Maria Hosang of Almens am Heinzenberg (Ct. Grisons) has left the sum of 23,000.—frs. to various charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. & Mrs. A. Litzler-Schmitt of Basle, Mr. & Mrs. Braun-Wohlgensinger of Flawil (St. Gall), Mr. & Mrs. Schmuki-Wildhaber of Echeltschwil (St. Gall), Mr. & Mrs. Hagenbüchli-Bueeler of Lucerne, and Mr. & Mrs. E. Favre of La Chaux-de-Fonds. [A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

#### VARIOUS.

The collections in Switzerland for the Hungarian people continue. Amongst the larger donations are: 1,000 pairs of shoes to the value of 20,000.—frs. by the Bally Shoe Co., Schoenenwerd; collection of the "Giornale del Popolo" Lugano: 63,000.—frs.; Swiss Old Fellows Association: 20,000.—frs.; Dr. A. Wander, A.G. Berne: 12,000.—frs.; the Government of the canton of Neuchâtel: 20,000.—frs.

[A.T.S.]

\* \* \*

The organising committee of the Grindelwald women's ski races has refused to accept Russian competitors because of Russian actions in Hungary.

\* \* \*

Women can now become fully officiating ministers in the Swiss Evangelical Reformed Church in Basle — providing they are unmarried — as the result of a referendum held there. If they marry they will lose their office automatically.

\* \* \*

The three political parties at Langenthal, where cantonal and municipal elections are due to take place, have decided to limit electioneering expenses to the minimum, and to devote the money which would ordinarily be spent on posters, leaflets, and advertising to the relief of Hungarian refugees. In Geneva, students of the university collected more than 220 tons of waste paper, helped to collect leaves in the parks and private gardens, washed windows, and did many other odd jobs to raise funds for 15 Hungarian students who are to begin their studies at the university.

\* \* \*

Prices continued to rise in Switzerland last month. The cost of living index on Nov. 30 was 177.2 (1939 equals 100). This is half a point higher than on Oct. 31 and 3½ points higher than a year ago.

\* \* \*

Switzerland exported watches valued at almost £70 million in the first nine months of this year, an increase of 12.7 per cent. over the figure for the same period in 1955. Despite these record exports the profits of Swiss watchmakers have not increased in proportion to sales.

\* \* \*

The transfer of foreign capital into Switzerland since the Middle East and Hungarian crises began has amounted to about Sw.Fr.500m. (about £41m.).

\* \* \*

The first flying-boat service between Britain and Switzerland is to be introduced on June 1st this year.

Solent aircraft of Aquila Airways will operate once a week between Southampton and Montreux.

The service, which has just been approved by the Swiss authorities, will cater for inclusive tours.

The 58-seat Solents will land on Lake Geneva.

\* \* \*

Five thousand polyglot dictionaries have been presented to Hungarian refugees by the Swiss Society of Booksellers and Publishers.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Post Office demonstrated a completely automatic international telephone system linking six countries. Numbers in London, Paris, Milan, Stockholm, and anywhere in Belgium or Federal Germany can be dialled direct from Geneva. The equipment is installed in a building where a meeting of the International Telephone and Telegraph consultative committee is going on.

Under the system a caller dials a prefix for the country, then another for the exchange, and finally the individual number required. The telephones for London and Paris have letters as well as figures on the dial. A similar system already operates on a limited basis between Brussels and Paris.

\* \* \*

Every eighth Swiss owns some form of powered vehicle, says the Swiss Federal Bureau of Statistics.

\* \* \*

The National Council, Lower House of the Swiss Parliament, voted to make it compulsory for women to train as fire-fighters in a new civil defence programme.

\* \* \*

The Council of States, the Upper House of the Swiss Federal Parliament, approved by 32 votes to 5 an agreement under which the Swiss Government will extend a loan of 200m. Swiss francs (£17m.) to the World Bank.

The agreement became effective on January 1st, 1957.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Government has decided to expel a former third secretary of the Hungarian Legation after discovery of a spy ring allegedly working against Switzerland and a neighbouring country, most probably Austria.

\* \* \*

Britain has raised the value of her car exports to Switzerland by £3,750,000 so far this year and become the third biggest car exporter.

\* \* \*

An Association Suisse des Cinemas d'Art has been founded in Switzerland. It is a member of the Confederation International des Cinemas d'Art et d'Essai, the object of which is to co-ordinate, on an international plan, all efforts leading to the development of public interest in films of artistic value.

\* \* \*

St. Gall, an important cultural centre with great musical tradition, will offer, this coming winter, a series of first-class musical events: 8 subscription concerts by the Concert Society (Konzertverein), 6 Friday symphony concerts at reduced prices, 5 chamber-music evenings, as well as a Sunday afternoon concert on January 27th. Works by classical and modern composers will be conducted by Dr. Volkmar Andreae, Otto Ackermann, Jean Meylan, Rudolf Albert and Hedy Salquin. Soloists taking part will be: Karl Arnold Horn, Annelies Kupper, Herbert Handt, Felix

Loeffel, Witold Malczynski, Else Cserfalvi, Monique Haas, Hans Leygraf, Arthur Grumiaux, Ida Haendel, Paul Baumgartner, Fridolin Mosbacher, Siegfried Hildenbrand, etc.

Furthermore, there will be ten concerts, spread over the period from November 6th 1956 to May 31st 1957, with the participation of Lisa della Casa, André Segovia, Pierre Fournier, Madeleine Lipatti, Walter Gieseking, Alfred Cortot, Shura Cherkassky, Clara Haskil, the Amadeus String Quartet and the Vienna Octet. Music-lovers will thus find many opportunities during the coming season in St. Gall to hear first-class performers in a wide selection of musical masterpieces.

\* \* \*

*Important Winter Sports events in St. Moritz.*

The World Bobsleigh Championship for 1957 will be carried out in St. Moritz, after Oslo had to forgo its Claim to the World Championship for Two- and Four-man Bobsleighs. The dates for the main bobsleigh events have been fixed as follows: January 26th/27th, European Championship for Two-man bobs; February 2nd/3rd World Championship for Two-man bobs; February 9th/10th World Championship for Four-man bobs. The Swiss Ski-ing Championships in the Nordic events have been arranged for March 9th/10th, and the famous "White Ribbon of St. Moritz", as well as the "Piz Nair Gold Trophy", which is a ski-race of international renown, have been marked down for February 22nd/24th. For the first time the "Ski Club of Great Britain" will hold its most im-

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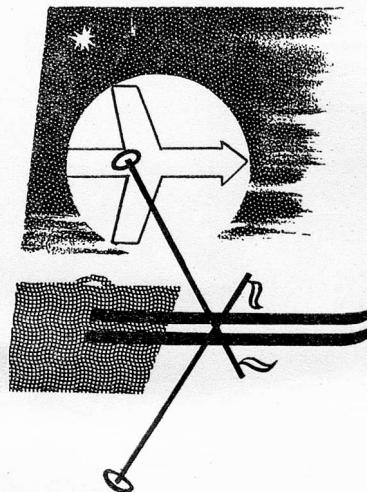
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portant ski-races in one place this coming winter and will concentrate every event into a "British Ski-Race Week". This British Ski-Race Week will be carried out in St. Moritz from 6th to the 12th January, 1957.

\* \* \*

#### *A Well-Hidden Treasure.*

Approximately 100 years ago, Moutier, in the Bernese Jura, which has just received the status of a town, was still in possession of one of the oldest and most remarkable Roman churches. It was replaced in 1858 by the Church of St. Germain, an architectural patchwork in bad taste and in keeping with the artistic fashion of the "turn of the century". It was decided some time ago to restore the Church of St. Germain and an architect was commissioned to undertake an examination to this effect. To his great surprise, he discovered that the old Roman church had not been destroyed as was generally believed and as the historians had affirmed, for underneath a thick layer of mortar some genuine Roman pillars and capitals were brought to light. After having been restored, the Church of St. Germain will be one of the oldest historical monuments of Roman art in Switzerland and, according to the statements of some experts, also one of the most beautiful.

\* \* \*

*In the short time of seven months, St. Gall has acquired a new hotel built in the centre of the city. This is the "Touring Garni" Hotel which has 28 single and 8 double rooms. The majority of them are equipped with showers and baths, air-conditioning, telephone and sound-proofing.*

#### NEW APPOINTMENT TO SWISSAIR MANAGEMENT.

Mr. Armin Baltensweiler, Head of the Planning Department of Swissair, has been appointed a member of the Management of the Company.

The Management now comprises Dr. W. Berchtold, President; Mr. E. Groh, Vice-President Finance; Mr. L. L. Ambord, Vice-President Traffic and Sales; Capt. R. Fretz, Vice-President Operations; Mr. I. Lack, Vice-President Engineering and Maintenance; Mr. A. Baltensweiler, Head of Planning Department; Dr. C. F. Ducommun, Head of Personnel Department, and Dr. H. Haas, General Secretary.

#### RECORD NOVEMBER FIGURES FOR SWISSAIR.

Swissair carried more air freight in November 1956 than in any previous single month. At 1,118,174 kilogrammes the total was 25 per cent higher than in November 1955.

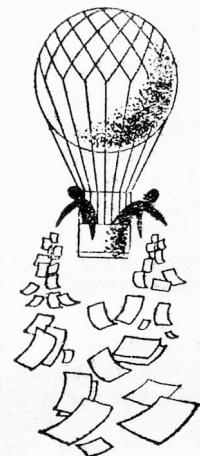
The charter flights carried out for the United Nations between Italy and Egypt and other special flights more than made up for the temporarily suspended services to some Middle East destinations. Capacity offered increased by 39 per cent, compared with November last year, to 9,106,217 tonne-kilometres and the passenger figures rose by 34 per cent to 48,698.

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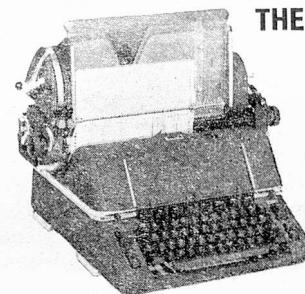
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