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Switzerland will not be left behind in the peaceful use of atomic energy.

A Congress of the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electric Energy (UNIPEDE) is now taking place in Lausanne. In his inaugural address Federal Councillor Lepori, the Head of the Federal Department of Posts and Railways, recalled the efforts undertaken by Switzerland to intensify the exploitation of her hydro-electric forces. The national production of electric power amounts at present to approximately sixteen thousand million kwh. per year. The projects which are now being studied or else are in a fair way of being realised will make it possible for this figure to be doubled by 1975. Even then, this will not be sufficient. That is why, Mr. Lepori went on to say, Switzerland, in spite of her abundant hydraulic riches, will have to take "the atomic way", nuclear energy being indicated to furnish the necessary relief.

A "transport house" at Lucerne.

A "transport house" is being put up in Lucerne, which will make it possible for Switzerland to contribute towards the technique of travel and of communications. The vehicles, machines, instruments and documents which will be gathered there will also constitute a centre of attraction which should have an excellent future, the more so as it will be situated in a region which, of itself, attracts thousands of foreigners each year.

A prize-winning Swiss documentary.

A film, produced by an important firm in Basle belonging to the chemical industry, devoted to the "active behaviour during the placental period" was awarded a prize at the 1958 Cannes Festival as being the best in its category and also received a bronze medal for its remarkable technical realisation.

Plans for the expansion of Basle airport.

Switzerland, a country of some five million inhabitants and possessing a superficial area of only 41,300 square kilometres, nevertheless possesses three large airports, namely those at Geneva, Zurich and Basle. The one at Basle, however, is inadequate, and the Government of Basle intends to enlarge it. The project, the cost of which amounts to approximately 54 million francs, provides for the replacement of the temporary building, put up in 1946, by an aero-station which can accommodate at least 300,000 passengers annually, the building of a hangar with workshops and premises for the personnel, the extension of the concrete surface for parking the aircraft, the construction of new ways of access to the buildings, the establishment of a parking place for 750 motor-cars, and the construction of cleaning apparatus, as well as the extension of the technical installations and the acquisition of a double radar.

SWISSAIR CHARTERS DC-6B.

Swissair has chartered a Douglas DC-6B aircraft from American Airlines for use on its European and Middle Eastern network. The charter is for two years and brings to seven the number of DC-6Bs operated by Swissair.

The aircraft will fly in Swissair colours with the registration markings HB-IBC.