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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Federal Department of Justice and Police has expelled two officials of the Soviet Embassy in Berne. Their names are not given. (In the case of the arrest of officials enjoying diplomatic immunity from trial, it is customary not to disclose their names or status; this information may be gleaned later from the lists, periodically published by the Swiss Government, of arrivals and departures amongst the staffs of foreign missions in Berne.)

The Russian Ambassador, Monsieur Nikolai Koriuchin, was called to the Foreign Office, where he was informed of the arrest of two members of his Embassy on a charge of espionage, and was told that they would have to leave Swiss territory within twenty-four hours — as is usual in such cases. He protested against the arrest and expulsion.

The two officials were arrested at a restaurant near the railway station in Zurich, as they were about to make contact with an agent of the Soviet intelligence service. These men should have received from the agent — against payment — plans of military radar installations in Switzerland, and information about the organisation of the Swiss army.

A Russian Note to the Swiss Government concerning the arrest and expulsion of two members of the Russian Embassy in Berne protests against the Swiss action, which the Russians describe as “unlawful and provocative”. They suggest it was taken in the interests of certain circles which on the eve of the Summit Conference seek to aggravate the international situation. The Note says that the Russian Government expects that the Swiss Government will take the necessary measures for punishment of the culprits and for avoiding in the future a repetition of unfriendly incidents.

The Swiss Foreign Office has accompanied the publication of the Note by a short comment saying that

the measures taken against the Russian Embassy men have no relation whatever with either the United States aircraft incident or the Summit Conference. They say that the coincidence of these events is exclusively due to the illicit activity of the two Russian officials who had been caught red-handed. It was not in the interests of the Swiss authorities to organize any provocation, as Switzerland, like all peace-loving countries, wished the Summit Conference to be a success. The Swiss said that the authorities acted in the present case as in all similar cases, and they would continue to take the necessary measures against all those who commit espionage offences on Swiss territory either against the Swiss Confederation or against other countries.

The Swiss Government has rejected, as insulting, a Russian protest against the expulsion of two Russian Embassy Officials from Switzerland on a charge of espionage. Switzerland has also rejected a Russian request for punishment of those “guilty of the gross provocation”, and for Swiss assurances that such incidents would not be repeated.

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The Austrian Foreign Minister, Dr. Bruno Kreisky, was received at the Palais Fédéral in Berne by Dr. Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation, in the presence of Federal Councillor F. T. Wahlen, Head of the Public Economy Department, Minister Kohli, General Secretary of the Federal Political Department, Minister Dr. Schaffner, Chief of the Commercial Division, and Dr. J. Coreth, the Austrian Ambassador in Berne.

The distinguished guest was entertained to luncheon at the Wattenwyl-Haus.

* * *

The Swiss Federal Railways have carried 18.5 million passengers in the month of March 1960, or 2.4 million fewer than in March 1959. Receipts: 30.2 million francs (March 1959: 31.5 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2.42 million tons, or 530,000 tons more than during the same period in 1959. Receipts: 48 million francs (March 1959: 39.4 million francs).

* * *

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. med. Reinhold Kaeser of Melchnau, to the post of "Oberfeldarzt", with promotion to the rank of Brigadier, in succession to Colonel Meuli, who has retired.

Cantonal

As a result of the elections for the cantonal government of Uri, all the previous members were re-elected.

They are, Ludwig Danioth, Andermatt (Conservative), Alois Müller, Altdorf (Conservative), Hans Villiger, Erstfeld (Conservative), Dr. Martin Huber, Altdorf (Conservative), Josef Müller, Flüen (Christian Socialist), and Dr. Alfred Weber, Altdorf (Liberal). Mr. Willy Gamma, Gurtellen (Liberal), was elected a new member of the cantonal government. Mr. Hans Villiger was elected to the post of "Landammann" and Joseph Müller as "Landesstatthalter".

The strengths of the various parties in the "Landrat" of the canton of Uri (54 members) are as follows: 41 Conservatives, 10 Liberals, 3 Socialists.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

On the occasion of the "Stiftungsfeier" of the University of Zurich, the following were honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*: Dr. med. Theodor Bovet of Zurich and Arnex (Vaud), Pastor Karl Zimmermann of Zurich and Vitznau, Dr. jur. Walter Linsmeyer of Mühletturnen (Ct. Berne), and Dr. Arata Osada, Professor at the University of Hiroshima (Japan). [A.T.S.]

* * *

Between Zizers and Trimmis, at a level-crossing on the route Zurich-Chur, a train collided with the trailer of a tractor driven by Mr. Peter Meng, a

farmer, of Trimmis. The trailer carried four of his children; one of them, Peter (14), was killed, whilst the others were injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Kerenzenberg tunnel — after a three-year building operation — was recently opened. It is 3,955 metres long, and is on the route Zurich-Sargans. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two elderly ladies, whilst out walking in Zurich, were attacked by a twenty-three-year-old kitchen porter of Italian nationality, who snatched one of their handbags, which contained jewellery to the value of 1,100.— francs. The thief was pursued and caught by a motorist, who retained him until the arrival of the police. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Landsgemeinde" of the canton of Glarus was held in Glarus. Amongst the invited guests were Federal Councillors A. P. Tschudy and L. von Moos, the members of the government of the canton of Obwalden, and Brigade Colonel König.

Mr. Franz Landolt "Landammann" and all the other members of the government were re-elected.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The 25th anniversary of the foundation of the "General Motors Suisse, S.A." Bienne was celebrated



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at the municipal theatre. Amongst the many guests were the American Ambassador, Mr. Henry J. Taylor, and Finance Director Siegenthaler, the Mayor of the town of Bienne, and representatives of industry and commerce. [A.T.S.]

An army tank fell into the lake of Greyerz near Broc. The three occupants were able to extricate themselves, reaching the shore in safety. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Solothurn for 1959 show a deficit of 1,044,746.— francs. [A.T.S.]

At the end of March 1960 the population of the town of Basle numbered 226,100. [A.T.S.]

After being open for eleven days, this year's Basle Fair closed its doors on Tuesday, 3rd May. All former records have been beaten, 800,000 visitors having gone through the turnstiles. [A.T.S.]

The accounts of the canton of Basle-Town for 1959 close with a credit balance of 2.9 million francs. [A.T.S.]

A fire which broke out at the hotel "Drei Könige" in Chur caused damage estimated at 100,000.— francs. [A.T.S.]

On the invitation of the government of the canton of Grisons, the members of the Tyrolean government arrived in Chur on a visit to some of the electric power works. [A.T.S.]

Mlle. Alexandrine Farron of Tavannes has celebrated her 100th birthday. [A.T.S.]

The commune of Wölfliswil (Fricktal) has bestowed honorary citizenship on Fräulein Ida Zimmermann, a schoolteacher. [A.T.S.]

Frau Gertrud Schifferli, of Sennhof, in the commune of Remtschwil (Ct. Aargau), has given birth to her nineteenth child. [A.T.S.]

A Piper aircraft caught fire in mid-air and crashed near Lostallo (Ct. Ticino). The pilot, Manger, chief pilot of the Agno airport, and his passenger, W. Müller, an actor, were killed. Apparently the machine came into contact with the cable of a lift carrying wood. [A.T.S.]

On returning home the proprietor of a photographer's studio in Locarno found his 38-year-old-wife,



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his daughter (12) and his son (7) dead in the parents' bedroom. It appeared that the wife in a moment of despair had poisoned the children and then taken poison herself. [A.T.S.]

The municipal tramways of Locarno, which were put into service in 1908, have disappeared, and have been replaced by trolley-buses. [A.T.S.]

Two goods trains of the Visp-Zermatt railway collided at the St. Niklaus station. The driver of one of the trains received facial injuries. The material damage is reported to be considerable. [A.T.S.]

Mme. Sylvia Chatelain of Sezenove (Geneva) was bitten by a snake whilst out walking. In spite of immediate efforts to save her life, she died soon afterwards. [A.T.S.]

The costs of the law action against Pierre Jaccoud, who was recently sentenced in Geneva to seven years' imprisonment for murder and attempted murder, amount to 48,000.—francs. These costs are to be borne by Jaccoud. A number of friends of the former president of the Geneva Bar Association have opened a subscription list to help him to defray the costs. [A.T.S.]

DEATHS.

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland:

Dr. med. René Burnand, in Lausanne, at the age of 78. The deceased was from 1911 to 1926 head physician at the "Volkssanatorium" Leysin, from 1926 to 1929 he was in charge of a sanatorium in Egypt, and afterwards established himself as a specialist for tubercular diseases. Burnand was a lecturer (Dozent) at the University of Lausanne, and in 1954 was nominated Professor. He was the author of a great number of scientific works.

Charles Hinden-Lang, eminent painter, in Basle, aged 65.

Dr. h.c. Adolf Ryniker, in Basle, at the age of 85. The deceased was until recently director of the "Schweiz. Seeschiffahrtamt". Dr. Ryniker was born in 1875 in Lauterbrunnen and was a citizen of Habsburg. He obtained in 1898 the diploma of "Schiffbauingenieur" in Berlin. From 1925 to 1940 he was a lecturer (Dozent) at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich. From 1941 to 1960

{Ryniker was director of the "Schweiz. Schiffahrtamt". In 1945 the Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

Colonel Antoine Wildhaber, in Neuchâtel, aged 75. The deceased, a chemist by profession, was a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel. During the last war he was chief of the Territorial District 2, with the rank of Colonel.

Charles Hoffer, founder and president of the Swiss Garage Proprietors' Association, and one of the founders of the International Automobiles Salon, Geneva, in Geneva, at the age of 79.

Dr. med. Julius Stocker, a well-known dental surgeon, and during the last war commander of the "Territorial Kommandos 8 & 9", with the rank of Colonel, in Zurich, at the age of 72.

Albert Virieux, director of the Geneva Tramway Company, in Geneva, aged 53.

Canon Robert Müller, from 1902 to 1912 Professor and Rector of the "Mittelschule" Beromünster, and from 1913 to 1943 "Stadtpfarrer zu Franziskanern" Lucerne, in Lucerne, at the age of 84.

Dr. Josef Meier, general secretary of the "Schweiz. Katholischen Volksverein", in Lucerne, aged 56.

[A.T.S.]

ANNIVERSARIES.

Professor Hugues Alexander von Senger (80) of Geneva, an architect of international repute, and at one time Professor at the Technical University of Munich.

Dr. jur. Hermann Frey (80) of Solothurn, from 1922 to 1931 head of the "Schweizerwoche Verband", and from 1932 to 1953 at the head of the "Solothurnischen Staatspersonal Verband". He is at present still active as a journalist.

Paul Burckhardt (80) of Basle, well-known landscape and portrait painter.

Johann Schmucki (70) of Uznach; from 1926 to 1955 "Bezirksammann" of the "St. Gallischen Seebezirkes", from 1930 to 1954 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, and from 1936 to 1957 a member of the States Council.

Joseph Müller (90) of Naefels. He was for many years a member of the government of the canton of Glarus and held the post of "Landammann" for six years.

[A.T.S.]

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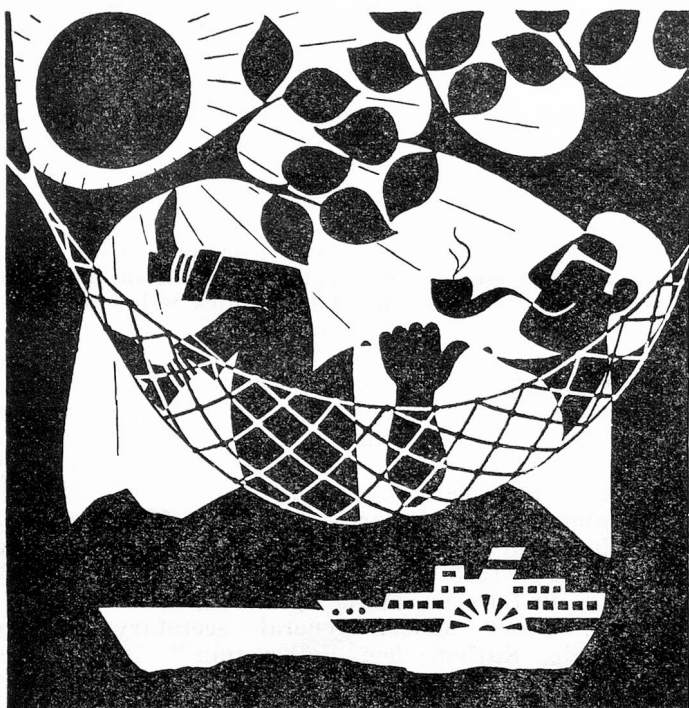
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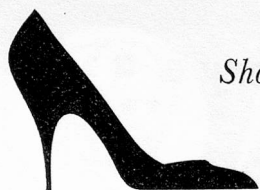
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LEGACIES AND DONATIONS.

The late Mr. Georges Zellweger of Winterthur, a great patron of the arts, has left 20,000.— francs to the College of Music, Winterthur.

On the occasion of the 25th jubilee of the "General Motors Suisse, S.A." Bienne, the management has presented a cheque for 25,000.— francs to the Mayor of Bienne for the acquisition of a work of art for the future "Vereinshaus".

The late Frau Emma Eichenberger-Stoll of Beinwil a. See (Ct. Aargau) has left 96,000.— francs to various charitable institutions.

The late Frau Hedwig Schwendimann-Wihler of Breite nr. Altstätten (Ct. St. Gall) has left 10,000.— francs to the Evangelical Church Community of Altstätten, 1,000.— francs to the "Kindergarten", and 1,000.— francs to the secondary school of the commune of Oberheintal.

The late Fräulein Ida Wildberger of Neunkirch has left to the community of Neunkirch (Ct. Schaffhausen) 100,000.— francs. Of this amount the "Krankenhilfsverein" receives 40,000.— francs, and the "Frauenverein", the "Ortsmuseum" and the "Kinderheim" Löhningen receive 5,000.— francs each.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Graf-Graf of Rehetobel (Ct. Appenzell A.Rh.), Mr. and Mrs. K. Ehrsam-Raas of Basle, Mr. and Mrs. A. Meier-Gutmann of Uttwil (Ct. Thurgau), Mr. and Mrs. C. Baumann-Kieser of Zurich-Wollishofen, Mr. and Mrs. Stark-Bürki of Oberegg (Ct. Appenzell I.Rh.), Mr. and Mrs. Leo Wirth-Stierli of Waltenschwil nr. Wohlen, Mr. and Mrs. L. Inglin-Schlittler of Niederurnen, Mr. and Mrs. V. Kuster-Winiger of Schmerikon (Ct. St. Gall), Mr. and Mrs. Wälle-Bosshardt of Ebnet-Kappel, Mr. and Mrs. N. Staub-Metz of Biberist.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Rüegg-Kündig of Haselhalden nr. Bauma have celebrated their iron-wedding anniversary (65).

[A.T.S.]

* * *

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

A motor-car driven by Mr. Walter Haegny-Ryffel (28) of Pfäeffikon (Ct. Schwyz) crashed into a tree near Jona; he received fatal injuries. Haegny was married, and had three children.

Frau Elisa Müller (61) of Zurich was run over by a lorry at the Klusplatz Zurich; she was taken to hospital, where she died as the result of her injuries.

A motor-car driven at an excessive speed crashed into an iron fence in Rheinau. Whilst the driver escaped injuries, his passenger, Heinrich Landolt (23) of Rheinau, was killed.

At the Ochsenplatz in Wetzikon a lorry collided with a motor-car. Five passengers occupying the motor-car were injured and were taken to hospital, where one of them, Frau Katharina Faust-Leuzinger (39) of Wiesendangen, died.

Mr. Ernest Gut (68) of Volketswil (Zurich) was run over and killed by a motor-cycle on the Boetsberg.

Four persons were killed when a motor-car collided, on a level-crossing at the western entry of Solothurn, with the express train Solothurn-Biel. For some as yet unexplained reason the barrier was not closed. Those killed were Fritz Zürcher (21), farmer, of Rüttenen, Hans Zürcher, railway-clerk (23), of Rüttenen, and Alfred Schober (62) and his wife Margaretha (56), of Solothurn.

[A.T.S.]