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PART IV

In the political and economic sphere, relations between Switzerland and Britain have remained very good. Economic problems have been in the foreground, especially with regard to Britain's candidature for entry into the European Communities and the continual Swiss financial support of the pound. In May, Dr. Spühler, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Dr. Schaffner, Federal Councillor, attended the ordinary Spring Assembly of EFTA in London. In July, Dr. Conzett, President of the National Council, and five other Swiss members of Parliament were, for a week, the guests of their British colleagues. During the second part of 1968, as the conflict in Biafra became more violent, two delegations, one including Professor Wahlen, former President of the Confederation, and representatives of the various Swiss Churches, and the other headed by Ambassador Rüegger, travelling on behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross, of which he has been a President, came to London and had conversations, at the highest governmental level, on the plight of Biafra.

A large number of Swiss personalities took part in the Wilton Park Conferences, which are aimed at developing a better political understanding between Britain and other European countries, including also, since 1966, those in the Eastern part of the Continent.

Switzerland was represented at numerous international conferences in London. She plays an active part at the meetings of the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organisation, of the European Satellite Telecommunications Conference and of the international wheat, coffee and wool organisations whose headquarters are in London.

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As may be gathered, the activities of the Swiss in the United Kingdom in 1968 were very varied and their position continues to be on the whole as satisfactory as it was in 1965, the last time a survey like this was made.

In the meantime, it has been possible to finalise plans for a new Embassy building. Planning permission for the reconstruction of the Embassy on its traditional site at the corner of Bryanston Square and Montagu Place was obtained from the Westminster City Council last autumn. Demolition of the present structure has begun, and work on the new building will be taken in hand from mid-June onward.

After some years of consideration, it has been decided that the façade of the residence in Bryanston Square shall be reconstructed in the classical style of the Regency period, which means that it will be a close replica of the present elevation. The office block in Montagu Place, which will provide office space for about 60 people, and

the interior of the residence will be built in the modern style. The project will take roughly three years to complete.

Although some progress has been made in this respect, the principal question concerning the Colony in London is still the setting up of a social and cultural centre, the "Swiss Forum", which, combined with the now existing Institute for Swiss Trade Promotion, will greatly facilitate the co-ordination of activities in the various sectors of Swiss life in London.

NUCLEAR WORLD FAIR

Only some years ago, nuclear technology was considered a problem for the far future. Today, this new technique is a very important factor in the economic and industrial evolution. Enormous amounts have been invested by industrial countries in the development of nuclear power stations and their components and over the last two or three years, this field has become an important factor in the industrial markets. U.S.-industry having clearly dominated the first phase of the nuclear market, several European companies have now succeeded in filling up a great part of the initial gap and are becoming — above all in the field of nuclear components — serious competitors for the Americans.

The steadily increasing number of producers of nuclear components in all industrial countries and the growing demand for nuclear power stations in these countries as well as in developing areas have created strong international competition in this field, which already at NUCLEX 66 in Basle has led to a worldwide meeting of producers and buyers.

NUCLEX 69, Second International Fair and Technical Meetings for Nuclear Industries (from 6th to 11th October 1969) in Basle will present a very reliable picture of the increasing importance of the nuclear market. The fact, that several attempts for organising similar events in Europe and in U.S.A. have failed, shows that Basle is recognised by producers and buyers as the right place for a nuclear event of such an importance.

The powerful participation of the European countries, and, above all, of the nuclear industry of the Federal Republic of Germany will constitute one of the main characteristics of NUCLEX 69. The U.S.-industry will have to face a first strong attack of the European producers on the existing and newly forming nuclear sales positions. Even if in the field of the sale of nuclear reactors only the Federal Republic of Germany could be considered as a serious competitor of the U.S.-reactor companies, one should not forget, that the reactor only constitutes between 20 and 23% of the necessary investments for a nuclear power station. As today the turn-key-offers

for entire nuclear power stations has disappeared, the interest has clearly turned to the sale of components, which represents 80% of the market. NUCLEX 69 will be the first big-size nuclear component fair in the world.

Furthermore, the planning of future introduction of nuclear energy into the networks has increased the interest for the advanced reactor systems. In this field, the European nuclear industry will start the commercial phase under equal chances with U.S.-producers. As the adequate planning of future energy needs can only be done as a long-term device and as the construction of the first power stations equipped with advanced reactor types will start around 1975, NUCLEX 69 will give large emphasis on the present state and the future development of these promising reactor concepts.

In conjunction with the Fair, NUCLEX 69 organises *Technical Meetings*, which will give to the potential buyer a first-hand opportunity to get a clear picture concerning his needs in the nuclear sector. Leading representatives of important power utilities will present their experience with operating nuclear power stations equipped with proven reactor systems, whereas highly competent specialists from industry and research will discuss the prospects of advanced reactor systems. Furthermore, the programme contains sessions dealing with the crucial problems of the fuel cycles the prospects of automation in nuclear power stations as well as with the experience gained in the field of nuclear safety. A special chapter is devoted to the possibilities offered by the industrial applications of radioisotopes.

Exhibitors from the following countries are participating in the NUCLEX 69 — Fair, which will show a 30% surface increase compared with the 1966 event: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, U.S.A.

GENEVA — FESTIVAL

The traditional "Fêtes de Genève" will be held on 15th, 16th and 17th August. The principal events will be the grand flower corso and the sensational firework display on the lake.

HORSE-RIDING

Guests at the Hotel Bahnhof at Trogen, Appenzell, are offered (throughout the year) all-inclusive arrangements for 7 days, costing Fr. 220.— (£22. 0s. 0d.) comprising full pension terms at the hotel, use of the hotel's own horses and 10 riding lessons.