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"THE EXPORT OF ARMS REMAINS A SCANDAL"

Under this title, the initiative committee for increased control of armaments and a ban on arms export has published information designed to complete its "Manifest 69". This information is again signed by the 129 signatories of the original "Manifest 69".

The authors of the initiative not only attack the export of Pilatus-Porter planes to the Far East, but the participation of the Bührle concern to the construction of Malaysia's first ammunition factory also. "Once again, the racial and social conflicts of a developing country will be 'resolved' thanks to infantry ammunition coming from our country". For the same reasons, the export of the Army's assault rifle, manufactured by the S.I.G. in Neuhausen, to Brazil, Bolivia and Chile are strongly opposed. The initiative committee declares that "This Swiss policy of arms-exports is contrary to loyalty in trade, honesty in thinking, humanity in attitude and solidarity in foreign policy". It further deplores that Bührle had received the licence to export arms in February 1969, that the expert commission designated to enquire into the "Bührle scandal" had only been set up in March 1969 and that it had from the beginning been exposed to the constant pressure

of Mr. Bührle. The latter is accused of forbidding his personnel of signing the initiative. Finally, the commission for armaments company, responsible for manufacturing licences, and the Federal Council, fall under the committee's attack for neglecting their responsibilities in the Bührle affair.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS AND SANITARY TROOPS

Following what had appeared to be a contradiction between a Federal Council order on conscientious objectors and a recent memorandum by the Army's head doctor, the Federal Council had the following precisions to make on the treatment of conscientious objectors:

"The recruits who, for motives of conscience, believe they ought not to serve as combat troops and desire to be incorporated in sanitary troops must furnish proofs to back their demand.... The necessary certificates delivered by ecclesiastics or leaders of religious communities attest that they have had opportunity to convince themselves of the sincerity of feelings expressed by the applicants. These attestations are a valuable criterion to the cantonal military authorities charged with examining these demands. If they deem that they can be approved, then the applicant is convoked in a sanitary recruit school according to the in-

structions of the head doctor and his case is considered as settled....

(A.T.S.)

THE "STRADA ALTA", A HIKING ROAD FROM AIROLO TO BIASCA

The "Strada alta" (high road) forms a connecting hiking road along the eastern slope of the Leventina Valley from Airolo to Biasca in Switzerland's Italian-speaking canton of Ticino. Various sections of this road have been used by hikers before. However, as a whole the "Strada alta" was not well known.

In order to enable those not so much used to hiking to use the road the Swiss Federal Railways, together with the Pro Leventina, the "Associazione turistica del Ticino", the Swiss Association for Hiking Roads and the Ticinese Forest Inspectorate have newly marked the "Strada alta" with signs. Furthermore, special railroad tickets at reduced rates will be available at various larger railroad stations. They will entitle the purchaser to travel to and from any station between Airolo and Biasca.

An envelope with three folders is available. Each contains, to cover the three days' stages necessary for the entire route, a section of the map 1.500 000. These are the sections Airolo-Osco (Faido); (Faido-) Osco-Anzonico (-Lavorgo); (Lavorgo-) Anzonico-Biasca.

(S.N.T.O.)

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