

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:	- (1970)
Heft:	1584
Rubrik:	Swiss news

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 08.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Last year, students of the London School of Economics in London, lodged and generously subventioned by the bourgeois tax-payers which they aim to overthrow one day, damaged property in their school and invaded the rector's office. In the same way, an iconoclastic Zurich stage-director takes the risk of saying that capitalists are cannibals in a theatre founded and inspired by a people believing precisely in the virtues of capitalism.

Last year, the L.S.E. dissenters were scorned by most "right-thinking" persons as being the destructive and spoilt children of a too generous society. Loeffler's case has similarities. The Zurich theatre, after all, owes its existence to the hard-working capitalism of the Limmat. The town wouldn't have become so rich had it not been blessed by so many diligent enterprising and cívically-minded bourgeois; had it not been so rich, it would not have been able to afford the quality of entertainment which the "Schauspielhaus", the "Stadtheater" and the "Congresshaus" can offer. This wealth and smooth life could not have been acquired without law, order and a stable society; social stability itself could not have been achieved without an accepted morality. All is thus tied together: the ornate theatre and the gilt concert-halls of Zurich owe their very existence to the efforts and enlightenment of a hard-working society. They are the pleasures offered after a hard week's work, but not any kind of pleasure. It must, like everything in the capitalistic tradition, serve a purpose, and that is to perpetuate the good society that had borne so many valued fruits. The bourgeois society is not held together by any dictatorial decree, but by a cívically-minded consensus and by conformity. It is traditionally liberal (a business necessity) and therefore gives playwrights plenty of opportunity for self-expression. Indeed, what socialist civilisations have produced worthwhile works of art? But senseless, or seemingly senseless lashings

against a society in which not only the privileged elite, but the great majority, firmly believe in is not only destructive: more than that, is is ridiculous. The censors of Zurich were not primarily concerned with saving their social scheme of things, it was far too strong to have had anything to fear from Loeffler and his likes. They don't fear his destructiveness, neither are they criticising at his dissent as such (although Zurich is a particularly conformist city) They just find him laughable in his irrelevancy and in the unreality of his conceptions. The rift in understanding between the "silent" majority and the dissenters is particularly wide in Zurich, where both camps stick hard to their conceptions. There is a strong circle of dissenters in Zurich, who feel that the whole "system" is rotten and must be wiped out. They have given strongest support for "Early Morning" jeered the loudest at the dismissal of Loeffler.

It follows from the reality that theatres owe their existence to, and are frequented by, the middle-class that they are there to please it. Art is partly dependent on the holders of power in capitalistic society, and this is a main source of scandal for left-wing writers. For one camp, Loeffler is viewed as a herald of the new art and a prison-breaker, for the other, he is just an obstreperous disruptor.

Naturally, we ought to debate whether Loeffler's controversial play was any good. But it is hard to agree on the aesthetic quality of a play when there is no agreement whatever on its message. For the board of the theatre, the play *could not have* been any good since it portrayed something which was not only disruptive, but which reflected no reality whatever. For the beatnick, the message of the play was so packed with truth that the play *must* have been good. A work of art is appreciated in relation to a belief and a way of feeling life. For these reasons, it is difficult to decide whether the failure of the play was due to its warped political message or its innate artistic defects. Loeffler claimed that the disagreement was aesthetical, the theatre's board said it was political: they were both right.

For the time being, the bourgeois have won. Even the Union of Actors have fallen on Loeffler, attacking his political intransigence and the unbearable atmosphere he had brought about in the "Schauspielhaus" stage-community. They have clearly refused to join Loeffler's attack on the establishment. Max Frisch, the renowned Swiss author, took a middle stand and said that he approved of every attempt at innovation in art, but dissociated himself from deliberate and unpsychological provocation. These words were probably the most balanced in this whole impassioned debate.

SWISS NEWS

THE WEBER REPORT ON THE SWISS ARMAMENTS BUSINESS

In the wake of the "Buehrle Affair", the Federal Council appointed a commission, headed by the former federal councillor Max Weber, to enquire into the doings of the Swiss armaments industry. It has now come up with its findings, which in fact have little new to bring, other than suggestions pointing to a stronger control in the granting of manufacturing and trading licenses. The 41st article of the Constitution lays down that the commerce and manufacture of arms is subject to Federal control, the modalities of this control being fixed by decree of the Federal Council. It is now proposed to devise a law which would specify more in detail how the 41st Article is to be obeyed, and this law would include penal provisions. Other suggestions brought forth by the Commission are that traffic in Swiss arms abroad should be watched with a sharper eye; a more stringent customs' check into the outgoings of arms should henceforth be practised; the definition of "war material" should be revised for practical purposes; export-licenses should only be granted when the importing country is proved to be peaceful and politically stable — a specially wary eye should be kept on the developing countries; export licenses may only be granted to firms with an irreproachable business and managerial record.

These recommendations will doubtless seem insufficient to those who, in the heat of the Buehrle scandal, had claimed for a complete Federal control in the arms industry. The Weber report says, quite to the contrary, that nationalisation of the arms industry would go against the technical progress borne of the dynamism of the private sector. It would also mean a considerable public burden. On the other hand, a prohibition of exports would impair the quality of production.

In the meanwhile, the Buehrle inquiry trudges on, silently.

Shortly before the Weber report had been made public, the Federal Council, said in a written answer to a question by a socialist national councillor from Geneva, that total exports of "war material" to third-world countries had amounted to 17 million francs in 1967 (1.7 m) and risen to 33 million francs (3.3 m) in 1968, including 9 million francs' in actual weapons. That figure did not include the illegal exports worth 13 million francs by the firm Buerhle.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

—that's what counts

FOR ALL TRAVELS
—by Land, Sea and Air

let **A. GANDON** make
your reservations

TICKETS issued at STATION PRICES
NO BOOKING FEE

HOWSHIP
TRAVEL AGENCY
188, UXBRIDGE ROAD
Shepherds Bush W.12

Telephones: 01 - 743 6268/9 and 1898

(PMB)

(ATS)

THE "MIRAGE" DOCUMENTS WERE CLASSIFIED AS "CONFIDENTIAL"

The "Mirage" blueprints sold for over 800,000 francs by a Sulzer engineer to the Israelis were considered as "confidential" and not as "top secret". This was the answer given by the Federal Council to a national councillor, curious to know why a private firm had been entrusted with the destruction of secret defence-documents. It turned out that the "Mirage" blueprints, being only "confidential", were one rank below "top secret" documents. "Confidential" documents could be destroyed by the private firms to which they were addressed. But "top secret" documents were destroyed by the departments that had produced them. (ATS)

IN FAVOUR OF SOLJENITSYN

Mr. Claude Garino, a teacher at La Chaux-de-Fonds has decided to collect signatures in protest against the exclusion of Alexander Soljenitsyn from the Union of Soviet Writers. The lists of signatures will be deposited in bookstores and in the public library of La-Chaux-de-Fonds and then addressed to the Union of Soviet Writers through the Russian Ambassador in Berne. (ATS)

ANNIVERSARY IN THE CERN

When the European nations decided to pool their resources to build an international laboratory which would

delve into the secrets of elementary particles, they were really committing themselves to an act of faith.

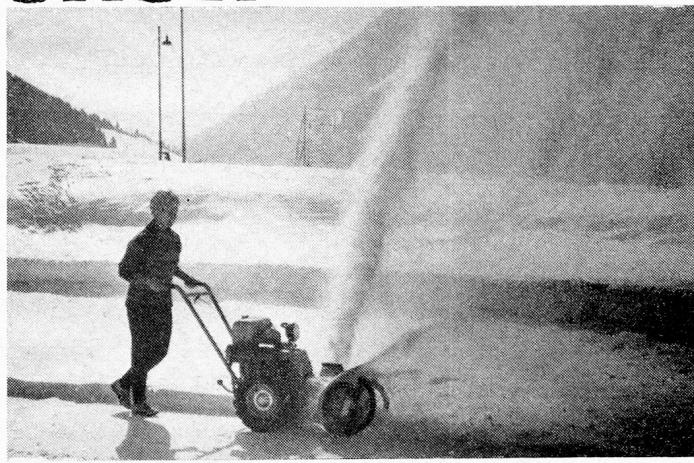
But it has been a successful act and the CERN (Centre Européen de Recherches Nucléaires) can be proud of its record. Ten years ago, its huge atom-smashing, 24-billion electron-volt synchrotron, was first switched on. This machine, the first of a new generation of laboratory super-monsters, proved to be a great technical success and the proton-beams which it generated and hurtled on the investigated probes reached intensities 200 times greater than has been foreseen. The accelerator had largely contributed to increasing man's knowledge on the universe of sub-nuclear particles and is presently being manned by fifteen research-teams and scientists from 50 universities. (ATS)

RELATIVE ARTISTIC JUDGEMENTS

The artist who splashed red paint on the facade of the law-court building of Zurich during a public demonstration last year pretended that he had wanted to beautify the gray and dull facade and that his deed could be considered as a gift to the Canton. The plaintiff, the house-keeper of the building, claimed that the removal of the paint had cost 4000 francs. For the artist, this amount was far too high. The paint, he said, could be washed away with cold water. All the same, he was condemned to 42 days imprisonment. (ATS)

SNOW

comes without warning
be armed with the
ROLBA range!



rolba

SNOW-BABY
-the snow remover of
your choice.

- Economical
- Surprising efficiency
- Easy to operate
- Easily transportable
- Mobile, robust, long life
- Swiss quality workmanship

ORDER NOW!

ROLBA LTD. Charlwoods Road, East Grinstead, East Sussex. Tel. East Grinstead 21161/2 Grams: Rolbaworks East Grinstead.

THE "CHRISTEN AG" SHOPS OF BASLE ARE CLOSED

USEGO has decided to give up the shops of its affiliate society, "Christen AG". Some of the shops will be converted into "discounters" but the bulk will be sold. This decision had been made necessary by the conditions of the market, which had placed "Christen AG" into renewed difficulties and deprived it of all chances of survival. The business had been run up to 1962 by three independent firms — Christen AG, Schaad and Co, and Rigggenbach and Krayer AG. USEGO had controlled 50% of Christen since 1953 and had taken over the responsibility of the three firms when they had been subsequently united. The Company has taken all the necessary measures in compensating the dismissed personnel. (ATS)

FOLLOWING THE SENTENCE OF A SWISS CLERIC IN RHODESIA

The press service of the Immensee Missionary Society has disclosed the reasons why a Swiss cleric, Father Michael Traber from Zurich was facing trial in Rhodesia. Father Traber had been responsible for "Moto", a paper in the Chikaranga language (the only paper in this language, in fact) with a circulation of 34,000 and a readership of 200,000. He was also in charge, together with other Africans, of the "Mambopress", a printing-factory for



**I've always had
a straight
answer
from the
Union Bank
of Switzerland**



UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND

SCHWEIZERISCHE BANKGESELLSCHAFT
UNION DE BANQUES SUISSES
UNIONE DI BANCHE SVIZZERE

117 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2



African publications. Father Traber had run into increasing difficulties with this paper since 1961, and on many occasions it had been seized. A caricature appearing in June and ironizing on an official declaration about the new Rhodesian Constitution (voted by the white colony in a national referendum) had been the cause of the trial.

(ATS)

AEROPLANES AND AIRPORTS

The Federal Council has decided to set up a "socio-psychological" enquiry into the effects of aircraft noise on human beings and has allocated 700,000 francs to this end. Cantons with commercial airports will be contributing towards half of these costs. The results of this enquiry will constitute a scientific basis for the creation of future noise-zones in the neighbourhood of airports.

The planned construction of two airfields are causing some concern in two communes in the Canton of Fribourg: in Fillistorf and Chiètres. In the latter case, the airfield is to be built on Bernese territory, at Kallnach/Arberg, but the commune of Chiètres still plans to complain to the higher cantonal instances about the disadvantages which the presence of this airfield would incur.

The "Granges-Jura regional airport Co. Ltd." has recently held a general meeting in which the financial situation and federal position towards the construction of this airport at Granges (So) were debated. A number of resolutions were passed and the works are expected to start in the spring of this year. (ATS)

OBJECTIONS TO A NUCLEAR POWER-STATION

Some villages rise against the placing of new airfields in their vicinity, others strongly oppose any eventual nuclear-power station on their communal soil. However, Switzerland, rapidly using up her hydro-electric

resources, has begun planning her nuclear industry and the site of the second of her nuclear power-stations will lie near the village of Rheinklingen. Against this, the Committee for the protection of the Rhein has objected that the region lying between Schaffhausen and Stein am Rhein counted among those which were to be officially protected. The people had said "no" to the construction of a dam at Hemishofen, their verdict would also hold in the case of a nuclear power-station. The Committee considers that it would be a real scandal for the North Switzerland Electricity Board to ignore such an evident popular opinion and adds that, should the power-station be constructed all the same, the ensuing discontent might well be expressed physically. (ATS)

A RAILWAY IN DIFFICULTIES

To keep the Emmental-Berthoud-Thun railway operational, the Confederation and the cantons of Berne and Solothurn have had to inject into it some fifteen million francs in 1962 and in 1967. A further subvention has proved necessary. The Federal Government and the Canton of Berne have recently allocated 1.8 million francs to the continued modernisation of the railway, and in particular, to the doubling the line on the Oberburg to Hasleruegsau section. (ATS)

VAUD CELEBRATES MR. PIERRE GRABER

Mr. Pierre Graber, a highly respected and well known political personality in the Canton of Vaud, has been elected as successor to Federal Councillor Spuhler. The people of Lausanne are proud of this nomination and have celebrated it with a 21-fire gun salute, with the ringing of the bells of all the churches of the town and a festive gathering at the Palais of Beaulieu.

REACTIONS AFTER THE VERDICT OF THE EL AL TRIAL

The three Palestinians accused of attacking an El Al jet in Kloten airport, killing its pilot in the process, were condemned to 12 years imprisonment on the charge of premeditated murder. The Israeli agent who had jumped out of the plane and shot one of the aggressors dead was acquitted. The jury (who, together with the president of the court and the two judges had to decide on the sentence) were satisfied that there was no proof that he had *not* acted out of self defence.

The judgement unleashed an out-break of joy in Israel. Official-radio programmes were interrupted to break the good news. The Israeli agent was hailed a national hero and his mother received flowers from all over the country. The press was unanimous in backing the objectivity of the judges at Wintherthur.

The sound from Amman was rather different. A Palestinian Liberation Front spokesman said that "Switzerland would pay for this" and added that the Front was in a position to retaliate against the Swiss government and save the honour of Palestine.

But the Federal Authorities had taken the trouble of ensuring the protection of Swiss embassies in Arab countries even before the verdict of the El Al trial had been known.

The following few days, there were two ruffles between the Swiss and the Palestinian movement. The first was the audacious kidnap and ransom of the Portuguese consul in Geneva, an act which the Geneva police attributed to a Palestinian movement. The second was the seizure of 32 machine-guns found in a Swissair plane and belonging to Lebanese citizens.

FOR *your*
WORLD
TRANSPORT
(ANYTHING - ANYWHERE)

WORLD TRANSPORT

20/22 EMERSON STREET
LONDON S.E.1.

AIRPORT OFFICES:
LONDON BIRMINGHAM SOUTHEND
MANCHESTER YEADON GATWICK

BRANCHES: BASLE · MANCHESTER · BRADFORD · BIRMINGHAM · HULL · SHEFFIELD · LIVERPOOL
LEICESTER · STOKE



Ask /
WORLD TRANSPORT
first!

Tel: 01-928 6996 . Telex: 28401 London

AGENCY LIMITED

Specialized Regular Groupage Services

GREAT BRITAIN - SWITZERLAND and ITALY
and VICE VERSA

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Working conditions for bank robbers have shown little improvement since the wild 1930s. The modern bank robber, to be sure, is less likely to be gunned down in his tracks. But he must contend with cameras that record his every move and high-speed teleprinters that transmit serial numbers of stolen money. All things considered, there is a much safer way to reap illegal riches: Wall Street crime.

It is clean work, with no guns and no getaway cars. Among other things, the "new bank robbery", as U.S. Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau calls it, involves the stealing of negotiable securities from brokerage houses—to the tune, Morgenthau estimates, of \$45 million this year. On a more complex level, Wall Street crime involves the use of secret foreign bank accounts and other financial gimmicks to defraud the U.S. Government and to provide a convenient "laundermat" for organized crime in "bleaching" illegal profits from narcotics and gambling. Thus cleansed, the money can be reinvested in legitimate businesses.

Last week in Washington, the House Banking and Currency Committee began looking again into one of the "new robbery's" principal tools—the secret Swiss bank account. And it was plain from the start that the use of such accounts for fraudulent ends has become even more rampant than when committee chairman Wright Patman, a raspy Texas Democrat, first looked into the matter about a year ago. Indeed, as the committee was told by Will R. Wilson, chief of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, a confidential survey of Swiss-bound mail by the U.S. Post Office disclosed that "thousands" of wealthy Americans are hiding assets in Alpine vaults—presumably to evade U.S. taxes and to hide illegal tactics in stock and bond trading.

Theft Rings: Foreign bank accounts are not in themselves illegal, and the privacy of Swiss banking is backed by the full force of law. But for his part, Patman has proposed a new law that would call for positive identification of people depositing money in foreign accounts through U.S. banks. And the U.S. and Swiss Governments are mulling over a treaty draft that would establish a reciprocal arrangement to police the use of secret accounts for illegal purposes.

Stopping outright thefts of securities in the chaotic back offices of Wall Street may prove to be an even harder problem. Since last January, Morgenthau has estimated, his office has returned indictments involving \$20 million in alleged securities thefts. Another ring, he said, has stolen some \$5 million a month for the past four months, "with defined organizers at the top, crooked back-office employees and knowing sellers".

On Wall Street, a few brokers said that Morgenthau's loss estimate was a

bit high. But no one denied that the theft problem was serious, and no one offered much hope for immediate improvement. The main reason: the brokers need help too badly to be very choosy. "We've simply had to take anyone we could get, just to keep up with our paper work", one partner summed up. "And if you look at some of the people thumbing through certificates in the cashier's cage or down in the vaults, you'd wonder how come the tables are still here. I wouldn't trust some of that crowd with my old sneakers".

(*Newsweek*)

AN ITALIAN CRIME

The body of a 75-year-old professor was found in Milan. It was assumed that he had died of natural death. But during his funeral, policemen in Lugano enquiring in a traffic of forged Canadian dollars found that one of their suspects was carrying the professor's cheque book. They immediately contacted Milan, and the funeral was cut short just before the professor's incineration ceremony. The autopsy revealed that he had been assassinated. Following preliminary enquiries, it turned out that the professor's niece, the separated wife of a Ticinese teacher, and her lover were responsible for his murder. The lover, the man involved in the Canadian forgeries, had received from his mistress all the proceeds of the murder. The affair has made headlines in Italy.

(*ATS*)

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF CLAUDE DORNIER

Claude Dornier, one of the pioneers of aviation, has died in Zuf hospital, at the age of 85.

Born on May 14th, 1884 in the Bavarian town of Kempten of a French father and a German mother, Claude Dornier studied mechanical construction in the industrial school of Munich and qualified as an engineer in 1907. He began his career in the metallurgical industry but entered in the service of Count Zeppelin in 1910, working in his factories at Friedrichshafen. He was the first to recommend the use of metal, as opposed to wood, in the construction of flying machines. His first plane flew in 1911. At the same time, he founded the "Dornier Metallbau", through which he constructed a large series of famous aeroplanes, from single-seat fighters to giant sea-planes. He introduced a wide number of technical novelties, among which the first plane to be constructed entirely of metal, in 1914, and the "Dornier Wal" a capacious sea-plane, in 1922. His company expanded and ramified in other parts of Europe, in particular, at Altersheim in the Canton of St. Gall. In 1931, he produced a giant sea-plane with 12 engines, nicknamed the "flying hotel", which made an epic flight around the world. It was however so costly that its

life stopped with the prototype. At the outbreak of war, the Nazi regime forced Dornier to work for the Luftwaffe. But he could later prove to his allied inquisitors that he had not supported the regime in any way and had only produced transport planes in his factories. He was thus exempted from all charges at the end of the war. He retired to Switzerland, and as all his factories had been destroyed, took to making machinery for the textile industry. However, he reverted to aeronautics and the resurrected "Dornierwerk", which actually employ 7,000 workers, were responsible for making components of the "Starfighters" and the "Fiats" under licence. (ATS)

"BREAD FOR BROTHER"

Three years ago, the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches launched the "Bread for Brother" campaign and have since reaped some 29 million francs. This sum was devoted to the construction of schools, hospitals, the setting-up of social services and technical training in countries of the third-world. On the 15th of next month, the Federation will be launching the third of these campaigns.

THE "RIGHT TO LODGINGS" INITIATIVE REJECTED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

On October 11th 1967, the "Popular Movement of Families" presented the 83,000 signatures it had gathered to back its initiative against excessive rents. The initiative claimed a constitutional amendment whereby the Confederation was to guarantee accommodations for every family, each according to its means. This meant a legal protection against all excessive rents claimed by greedy landlords. Over two years later, the initiative has now been rejected by an 81 to 34 majority by the National Council.

In the absence of Mr. Schaffner, who was recovering from his recent operation, it was Federal Councillor Spuhler who presided the session. He was strongly opposed to any State rent-control and contended that, under present circumstances, it would not help to solve the difficulties of finding accommodation in some cantons. The solution was to increase the speed with which new flats were being built, and he therefore proposed to prolong the application of the building-encouragement law, to which the Council readily agreed by a vote. The Great Council of the Canton of Vaud had also filed an initiative to the Federal Parliament on the same matter. It had petitioned for an exclusively cantonal rent-legislation. This motion was equally rejected. Mr. Spuhler agreed that a constitutional basis to the right to accommodation was lacking at present, but he promised that the Federal Council would study this question in the near future. (ATS)

THE SEPARATIST "ALTERNATIVE"

It is a well known fact that the Separatists have refused to credit the "four wise men Commission" with the right to enquire into their plight, let alone to formulate solutions, because they believe that the Commission was hired by the "imperialistic" Canton of Berne. What they now want is a "truly" mediative commission to start the work of the four wise men again. Their seven points, as presented by their outspoken leaders (Messrs. Roland Béguin, Gérmain Donzé, Roger Schaffter and Jean Wilhelm) in a press conference are as follows: Max Petitpierre, former president of the Confederation and head of the "four wise men" is deemed worthy to lead this new commission of their design; the other members of the commission will not be Bernese; they will be six in number, three from German-speaking Switzerland, two from Romandie and one Ticinese, all will have to be accepted by the Separatist Movement; the commission will be thoroughly independent from both Bernese and Federal authorities; the first object of the negotiations which it will have to mediate will be the ways and means by which the Jurassians will reach self-determination; the unilateral Bernese plan for the Jura (i.e. going through with the recommendations of the four wise men and calling the people to vote on the principle of a Jurassian statute of autonomy next May) will be suspended; the preliminaries to the creation of the new commission will have to be accomplished by the end of next March.

One may gather from these Jurassian desires that the Separatists are still ready to talk, but remain adamant in their basic attitude. The rift between Berne and the Jurassian Movement has by no means been getting narrower.

(ATS)

RENEWED DEBATE ON THE FLORIDA AFFAIR

Some two months ago, the tapping of the telephone conversation of a national councillor trying to convey classified information on the "Florida" defence system to a third party caused some ruffle in Parliament. The affair was assessed again in the National Council. It was conceded by the Government that members of Parliament (i.e. of the National Council and the Council of States) should have been better informed on a specialised but nationally vital question as "Florida". If Parliament was to do its job correctly, then it should not be hidden important information at the simple convenience of military authorities. The idea of an ombudsman, a kind of informative intermediary between Parliament and the specialised departments of the state-machinery, was mentioned as a new possibility. He would be entitled to hear private complaints on classified subjects by parliamentarians. The

question of knowing whether the parliamentary immunity of the national council involved in the "Florida" affair had been flouted was not solved. The Council agreed that the notion of parliamentary immunity had to be refined, at least, in relation to the investigatory powers of Parliament. The military authorities that had conducted the enquiry in the "Florida" affair (and tapped the national councillor's telephone conversations) had been in the right: in the particular case, military code had to be given precedence over civil legislation. If telephone-tapping was to be banned, then this was to be the object of a debate in Parliament.

(ATS)

JAPANESE CAMERAMEN AND THE SWISS ARMY

The Japanese Broadcasting Corporation has sent three of its cameramen to Switzerland to produce a half-hour feature on the Swiss Army. The film they will shoot will purport to show how a citizen can also be a soldier and illustrate the relations of the Army with the civilian population. The first day of filming took the Japanese TV-men to a typical Swiss manifestation: the compulsory shooting. On their second day, they visited a grenadier in the Canton of Schwyz and recorded, for the benefit of the millions of their compatriots, how he took his gun and haversack from the cupboard, put on his uniform and walked away to his repetition course. The following days, they studied further aspects of Swiss defence, visiting an armaments factory and interviewing a federal councillor.

(ATS)

THE SWISS NAVY

The Swiss merchant navy counted 31 ships grossing 285,333 tons at the end of 1968. Due to the sale of two ageing vessels during the year, the tonnage had been reduced by 12,000 tons. Improvements on another ship had meant an increase of 2,000 tons in the overall tonnage. Further improvements will have increased the gross tonnage of the Swiss Navy by 16,000 tons during 1969. The average age of the fleet is over 11 years. It will be renewed at an accelerated pace in order to keep abreast of the tendency of world shipping.

TOURIST NEWS (SNTO)

Swiss Alpine/Swiss Lakes & Mountain Tours

The popular all-inclusive coach tours organized by the Swiss Post Office will again be repeated next Summer.

The Swiss Alpine Tour will start from Zurich and Geneva and cover the following route:

Zurich — Rapperswil — Wildhaus — Vaduz — Chur — Julier — St. Moritz — Lugano — Gotthard —

Rhone glacier — Interlaken — Grindelwald — Spiez — Gruyeres — Lausanne — Geneva — Bern — Lucerne — Zurich and last 7 days.

The Swiss Lakes and Mountains Tour will again start in Zurich and cover the following route:

Brunnen — Andermatt — Rhone glacier — Interlaken — Spiez — Gruyeres — Montreux — Lausanne — Geneva — Berne — Lucerne — Pilatus — Zurich and last 4 days.

Full particulars are obtainable from the Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Centre, 1 New Coventry Street, London, W1V 3HG.

Winterthur — Art Museum

From January 18 to March 8 the dominating trends will be cubism, futurism and orphism which will be exhibited as expressed by Swiss artists.

Hoch-Ybrig—the ski-ing area

Plans for the creation of a new Sports and Holiday Centre in Central Switzerland are well under way.

For the Winter Season 1969/70 the following facilities are already available:

- (a) A new 3 mile long road from Unteriberg to Weglossen, the cable car station.
- (b) Two covered car parks for approximately 1,000 cars.
- (c) Additional parking space for 60 cars.
- (d) Cable way Seebli with cabins holding 125 persons (open from 1st February, 1970).
- (e) Three skilifts.
- (f) Several restaurants and tea shelters.
- (g) Mechanical preparation of runs.

Future development will include: Two cable ways, one gondola cable way, 5 skilifts and one chairlift, hotels indoor swimming pool etc.

Weglossen is reached by road from Zurich in one hour or by rail and Postal Coach in one hour and forty minutes.

Hotels in the Hoch-Ybrig area are available in Einsiedeln, Unteriberg and Oberiberg.

Bernina Pass open in Winter

The Bernina Pass Road will again be kept open this winter for motorized traffic by the communities of Poschiavo and Brusio. Several critical spots on this road were improved last summer.

New Zurich Airport Hilton to be opened in May 1970

The foundations for the first Hilton hotel in Switzerland, the "Zurich Airport Hilton" were laid last March in Glattbrugg-Opfikon, near the international airport Zurich-Kloten.

The Zurich Airport Hilton will be located on a 3.7 acre site at the intersection of the airport expressway and the Zurich-Stuttgart motorway, with direct access to the Swiss Autobahn network. Only 15 minutes by car from the