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Kunzler, said that forwarding firms preferred to use their own employees in their groupage depots because there were more guarantees that the goods in their care would be handled with care and properly placed in containers. Another good reason why the firms should rely on their own staff is that they are spared the extremely high wage bills which the employment of registered dockers would entail.

(PMB)

SWISS CHURCH

Journalist speaks to Youth Club

Mr. Bernard Feller, the London correspondent of the three most important French-speaking dailies, "Vingt-quatre Heures", "Tribune de Lausanne" and "Tribune de Genève" spoke to the regular weekly meeting of the youth club at the Eglise Suisse about his visit to six Bantu homelands in South Africa.

Mr. Feller, who was speaking to a good forty youths, mainly au pair girls, began by situating the background of Apartheid policy introduced by the white Nationalist Party 22 years ago. Recalling developments in South Africa up to the present day, he said that all the published figures showed that Apartheid had dismally failed in its prime purpose: in separate development. Mr. Feller, said that there were far more blacks in white urban areas than before Apartheid.

Mr. Feller, who was one of the first western journalists to make an exclusive report on African homelands, all of which are generally closed to whites with the exception of the Transkei, said that most of these areas could just about survive on a subsistence level if they weren't overpopulated. But primitive methods of agriculture hastened the erosion of the soil and the disappearance of arable land. Many of the African homelands have only one harvest a year and famines are not uncommon. Mr. Feller said that although the homelands may one

day become independent and even form a federation speaking on equal terms with Pretoria, there was no hope of these states becoming economically viable. The white South Africans held all the levers of wealth and power and it was economically inconceivable to launch new industries in areas totally devoid of the necessary infrastructure when the necessary white-ruled centres already existed.

Although the speaker agreed that life in an African homeland was not necessarily as bad as often depicted, he said there was no means for the overcrowded populations of these areas to improve their lot without aid from the white-run South African government. At present, the government has drastically cut its Bantu-advancement budget and cancelled a vital five-year job creation plan. Mr. Feller said that white South Africans considered spending money on the negro majority "rather in the same way that Swiss people react when asked to allocate more public funds to prisons". Despite this, Mr. Feller said that Apartheid was spoken of in every paper, visible on every street corner and troubled many white consciences.

He did not foresee any change of attitude among the whites in the immediate future but said that young people were becoming increasingly critical of Apartheid. The speaker also ruled out any mass revolt by the blacks for many years to come. This was impossible because of the absence of organisation and preparation among the black masses, and also because of the immense power wielded by the South African police state.

Among the many points raised during question time, one African listener stressed that it was shameful that Christian Missionaries should condone with Apartheid. The speaker said that he had met Missionaries who not only accepted this institution, but actually made good use of it by running colonial-type farms with dirt cheap labour. The Rev. Nicod wanted to know why a minister friend of his with liberal principles returned after six years in South Africa as a firm

supporter of Apartheid. This the speaker could not answer. The answer would probably sound as illogical as the principles on which Apartheid are based.

(PMB)

TWO QUEEN'S AWARD WINNERS MERGE

Acrow (Engineers) Limited announce that the merger between themselves and the Steel Group has been ratified by shareholders and will proceed as planned.

On the basis of the last published balance sheet (which excludes Acrow's overseas companies), the new Group has a combined turnover of £55 million with a combined pre-tax profit of £5,650,000. The new market evaluation of the Acrow Group is approximately £57 million.

The acquisition of the Steel Group constitutes a major advance of Acrow's formidable growth rate. The enlarged Group—with a combined labour force of 10,000—now represents a powerful and broadly-based group with widespread interests in both the construction and mechanical handling industries.

Substantial customer benefits are expected as a result of both companies' crane and hoist manufacturing interests and from the development of their complementary network of sales, service and production facilities throughout the world.

Acrow, which has just been awarded the 1972 Queen's Award to Industry for export achievement, has established itself as the world's foremost manufacturer of steel formwork. This, together with Acrow shoring and scaffolding systems, is being used in virtually every country in the world. Other interests include industrial storage and materials handling equipment, pressure vessels for the oil and petrochemical industries, storage tanks, steel freight containers, Bailey bridg-

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ing and flotation equipment, agricultural machinery, industrial refrigeration as well as overhead cranes and hoists.

Acrow was founded in 1936 by the present Chairman, Mr. W. A. de Vigier.

The Steel Group, who also won the 1972 Queen's Award, is principally engaged in the design and manufacture of Coles mobile, truck-mounted and crawler cranes and Priestman excavators, is also engaged in the design and installation of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning equipment and pipework for land and marine use.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. L. S. R. Asch will be 64 on 24th June, and Mr. M. Schneider (Basle) 67 on 26th. Mr. P. Bucher will celebrate his 72nd birthday on 27th June, and Prof. J. Inebnit his 82nd on 5th July.

The following couples will celebrate wedding anniversaries: On 16th July, Mr. and Mrs. W. Pellet will have been married 54 years and on 18th July, Mr. and Mrs. W. Schedler will celebrate their 37th wedding anniversary. Best wishes to all!

Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Haberstich, of Magnolia Cottage, Mill Lane, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, will be celebrating their Golden Wedding on 7th July. We wish them a memorable day and many happy returns of it.

TRAGIC DEATH IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Franco Picciotti, the 14-year-old son of Mrs. T. Picciotti (daughter of our compatriot, Mr. Walter Zuber, of The Grove, Grove Road, Ventnor, Isle of Wight) was found dead in bed by his grandmother, Mrs. Walter Zuber, at her home on Sunday, 28th May. A post mortem examination showed that death was due to natural causes.

Franco was born in Zurich on 5th March, 1958 where he went to primary school. For the past few years, he had lived in England and attended classes at the West Byfleet Secondary School, Surrey. He was on holiday in the Isle of Wight where he was well known and popular. He had played small roles in the films "David Copperfield" and "Scrooge" and appeared in a number of television commercials.

In a tribute sent to the "Isle of Wight Mercury", Mr. F. C. Smith, a neighbour from Ventnor, writes: "He was a brilliant and happy boy, excellent at everything he did or undertook, but above all he had the gift of giving and extracting love and affection to all whom he met. We are such stuff as

dreams are made of—and life is rounded off with sleep".

Indeed, life has its mysteries. We should like to convey our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. T. Picciotti (of 30 Green Lane Close, Byfleet, Surrey) and to Franco's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Zuber.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SCHWEIZERBUND. Social Dinner on Thursday, 13th July at Valchera's Restaurant, Richmond. 19.00 for 19.30.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE. Thursday, 22nd June at 7.45 p.m. at the Swiss Embassy. All members of the City Swiss Club, the Swiss Mercantile Society and the Unione Ticinese are welcome. Dr. Philippe Garraux, member of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, speaks on "Coordination of schooling, a key problem of Switzerland".

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Next shooting at Bisley on 25th June.

50th ASSEMBLY OF SWISS ABROAD: Berne 25th-27th August.

FEDERATION OF SWISS SOCIETIES IN U.K.: Friday, 23rd June.

1st August Badges

The badges traditionally sold every year by the Swiss societies on 1st of August will serve this year to further the work of the organisations devoted to the life of the Swiss abroad. Every six or seven years since 1874, the proceeds of the *Bundesfeierspende* have been used for this purpose. This year, they will go to the Secretariat for the Swiss abroad, to the Aid Committee for Swiss Schools Abroad and to the Solidarity Fund for the Swiss Abroad. Neither of these institutions really need introduction.

The Secretariat's main purpose is to inform the Swiss abroad on a variety of matters by a variety of means, the best known of which is the magazine *Echo*. The Aid Committee for Swiss Schools Abroad is concerned with supplying these private and neutral institutions with adequate material and teaching staff. The Solidarity Fund offers protection against loss of livelihood through wars, revolutions and political pressures. It has already paid out approximately 3.5 million francs to about 330 of its members.

These badges will cost 20p each. The sale of badges in the UK helped last year to collect £230 in favour of women's organisations.

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches a 11h15 et 19h00.

SAINTE-CENE: le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER: huit veillées en automne et au printemps: voir "Le Messager".

CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNINO DE COUTURE: le 2e mardi du mois.

LUNCH: tous les dimanches a 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicdo, 7 Park View Road, London, N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

* * *

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, at 10 a.m. At John Southworth Centre, 48 Gt. Peter Street, S.W.1 at 6.30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUPS W.4 and S.E.21, and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Stimme".

SERVICES IN ENGLISH: every fourth Sunday at 7.30 p.m.

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 6.30 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

SWISS Y.M.C.A.: see Forthcoming Events.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the Month.

MOTHERS' REUNION: 3rd Wednesday in the month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTER: Pfr. M. Dietler, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 01-340 6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HA.

Sundays: Holy Mass at 6.30 p.m. with sermon in German, in the Club hall, ground floor.

(2nd floor at the same time, Protestant service in German).

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: by appointment.

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2, on Sundays, 10.00, 11.00, 12.15 and 6.30 p.m.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB: Open every Sunday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. (48 Great Peter Street). Discussions, dance, lectures (with members of other denominations), Sunday services and refreshments. See programme "Die Stimme".

During the week: open according to programme of the English Youth Club.

RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Paul Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street, (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Telephone: 01-222 2895.