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for refusing their claim and answer "your job is to manage and make sure that we get our demands", irrespective of their own responsibility in achiev-

ing this, this agreement points to the only way to make capitalism work, despite its shortcomings and injustice. (PMB)

ing the creation of new convents. The question will be put to the National Council this Autumn and then to the people. There is little doubt that the days of the "anti-Catholic" provisions of the Constitution are numbered.

SWISS EVENTS

FEDERAL

The defence of the Franc

Switzerland reacted very firmly to defend the Swiss Franc against the inflow of weak foreign currencies triggered off by the floating of the Pound. To begin with, the Swiss National Bank refused to support the Dollar, which fell way below its lower limit of 3.75 francs. Later the Federal Council took a series of firm steps to chase away unwanted foreign currency (mainly dollars and pounds) from the Swiss money market.

This was a situation which the country had faced before because of its strong currency. Any holder of a sizeable sum in Sterling or Dollars will these days be naturally inclined to convert it into something affording greater security, such as: Swiss francs, Swiss fixed interest securities and shares, and Swiss property. To counter alluvial masses of floating capital pressing into the Swiss haven, the Federal Council erected in about a week a treble line of defence.

It first stopped all foreigners from buying Swiss securities and buying into Swiss real estate. This immediately affected the Zurich Stock Exchange, which slumped badly, and moved a National Councillor into convening the National Assembly by demanding explanations to Mr. Nello Celio, Head of the Department of Finance and 1972 Federal President. Mr. Celio explained that despite restrictions on the building industry, planned construction was already up by 20 per cent over 1971 and that bank loans had increased threefold in the first five months of the year. It was necessary therefore to prevent banks from obtaining foreign funds to finance housing, which was the principal factor in the economy's overheat and tendency to excessive imports.

Earlier, Mr. Nello Celio had categorically rejected all idea of a revaluation of the Swiss Franc. This would have been unfair to our export industry, he said. As it is, with a *de facto* devaluation of the Pound of about 7 per cent, Swiss industries working with Great Britain will suffer to some extent. Although the U.K.'s share of Swiss export is only 1.5 billion francs out of 22 billion, watches will

feel the pinch. Machines shouldn't be hurt too badly, as Britain has already become one of the most difficult markets. Swiss tourism should hardly be affected owing to the declining importance of British tourists due to restrictions on foreign spending and the fall of Sterling. Having barred a new revaluation of the Franc, the Federal Council resorted to technically floating the Franc by refusing to preserve its Dollar parity and by taking the two aforementioned measures.

A new package was announced a few days later: All foreign capital deposited into Swiss banks after 30th June, 1972 must pay a 2 per cent negative interest every quarter; and all funds deposited in Switzerland since 31st July, 1971 are deprived of interest. These decisions, taken a day after 100 million floating dollars had swamped the Zurich money market, wafted these liquidities like a gale towards Frankfurt and other German financial markets. The Germans, who have mopped up about ten billion Marks worth of foreign currency this year took similar but more lenient measures. A spokesman in Bonn said that the Federal Republic lacked the legislative apparatus enabling it to impose a negative interest on foreign speculative funds.

The final package, decided on 5th July, compels banks in Switzerland to: a) have a deposit at the National Bank representing up to 90 per cent of new foreign funds and thus submit the exchange of these funds to the National Bank; b) be authorised by the National Bank to obtain foreign money with the purpose of hedging against monetary uncertainties and c) it prevents banks from buying foreign currency with a view to selling it back to the National Bank at speculative rates.

With these measures, Swiss exporters remained well protected and the Swiss franc was firmly defended against the onslaught of financial speculation.

Council of States abrogates anti-Jesuit article

The Council of States voted by 37 votes to nil for the abrogation of articles 51 and 52 banning the Jesuit order from Switzerland and prohibit-

Increased postal rates

The National Council debated in mid-June for two days on the increase of postal rates, a theme which had already been dealt with by the Council of States. It had to decide between price scales proposed by the Commission of the Council of States, the Council of States and the Federal Council. The main argument was centred on the level of rate increase to apply to heavy newspapers. The minimum cost of sending a letter in Switzerland will rise from 20 to 30 cents. Postcards are subjected to the same rates. Large letters will cost up to 60 cents.

New arms export bill adopted

The Council of States has rejected the popular initiative demanding a general ban on arms exports to all countries save neutral European countries and accepted in principle a counter-proposal by the Federal Council, whose text is to be redrafted by a special commission. More compromising than the Initiative Committee, the Federal Council suggests that the official authorisation to export war material will be subject to the condition that this material is not intended for countries recently involved in war or threatened by war.

Exports would also be forbidden in those cases where they would con-

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flict with the aims of the Confederation, particularly in the field of development. The National Council had already examined the bill in March. The Council of States was practically in agreement on the main points of the Bill but required a re-drafting of one article dealing with specific conditions of arms delivery. There was little support in both houses for the Initiative, which would have dealt a serious blow to the Swiss arms industry.

Common Market negotiations: edging towards an agreement

Everything will be done to respect the deadline of 27th July, the date fixed for the conclusion for an association treaty between Switzerland and the European economic community. But the signing of this final pact will come after a final sprint, the main stages of which will be a meeting of the EEC Council of Ministers on 10th July, renewed negotiations during the following days, a new meeting of the Council of Ministers on 19th and 20th July to clear up the last remaining divergences.

In early July, most of the arduous trek towards finalisation of an agreement had been cleared and Ambassador Paul Jolles, leader of the Swiss delegation at Brussels said that the negotiating partners had made important steps. Swiss demands had been satisfied regarding free trade in steel and coal and regarding the later inclusion of industrial products in free trade agreements not covered by the present treaty. A common agreement has practically been reached on processed agricultural products, for which satisfactory openings in the E.E.C. will be provided for.

Swiss demands have only been partially met in respect of the strict "origin" clauses laid down by the E.E.C. partner, who originally wanted to tax all Swiss goods with semi-manufactured components made abroad. Disagreement has not yet been lifted on chemical products. Swiss

demands have still to be met in the paper and pulp trade, but this will depend on the outcome of negotiations currently being held between the Community and Scandinavian countries.

Swiss negotiators are not fully satisfied by the concessions already granted regarding the import of cheap Swiss watches in the E.E.C. and would like these items to be entirely free of tariffs.

THE JURA

Separatist Demonstration in Berne

It appears that as a result of an organised "demo" in Berne, 11 people were injured and over 120 arrested. The clashes between 300 separatist demonstrators and almost 200 policemen, resulted as a form of protest against the Canton's rejection of new laws regarding primary and secondary education. In effect this type of demonstration has been the most violent to occur in Switzerland since the cinema price "war" last year in Lausanne.

During the course of this present conflict, which the police had unreservedly banned, the hundreds of militants who had turned up commenced to address the meeting with the aid of a few megaphones. Contrarily, the police came armed with a profusion of battery operated loudspeakers in their attempt to denounce the legality of the now over-boiling demonstration.

The tempo soon reached an unexpected ferocity with the advent of specially trained combat police, who proceeded to eke out all remaining resistance "petit à petit". This latter development was reached only after the introduction of a monster-sized water cannon, specially procured to disperse the belligerency (all well meant of course) of over-incensed citizens. This unfortunate lack of common understanding could yet lead to further excesses, and a lesson in toleration would not be out of place even in this haven of tranquil habitation.

BEHAVIOUR

Footballer killed by policeman

The Sion striker, Vladimir Durkovic, a former Yugoslav international footballer was shot dead by a policeman during an argument outside a dance hall in Sion. The incident, which occurred after a match between Sion and the Corsican team, Bastia, caused considerable emotion in the town and even in Belgrade, where the Swiss Embassy received special protection. The return match against Bastia was cancelled. The enquiry showed that the policeman, who had been off duty, had been drunk.

Swiss murdered in Africa

While on holiday in North Africa, two young men from the Canton of Solothurn, were found murdered in a forest on the outskirts of Tangiers. Both men who were in their early twenties had made the journey in a 2CV, which was found abandoned nearly 500 km away at Fez. The police authorities at Tangiers have arrested three legionnaires who had escaped from prison, and have now been officially charged with the crime.

Ironically enough the three convicts who had effectively removed all traces of identification from the two mutilated bodies, had only overlooked a military disc which one of the friends wore round his neck. This was sufficient for identification purposes, and within a few days the police had even notified their Swiss counterparts that the murderers had been appended. In spite of the celerity and diligence of the Morocco criminal department, the parents of the two young men were presented with a "fait accompli" from which justice for them was far away indeed.

"Coronado" crash due to bomb

An enquiry into the causes of the crash of a Swissair "Coronado" airliner on 21st February, 1971 over



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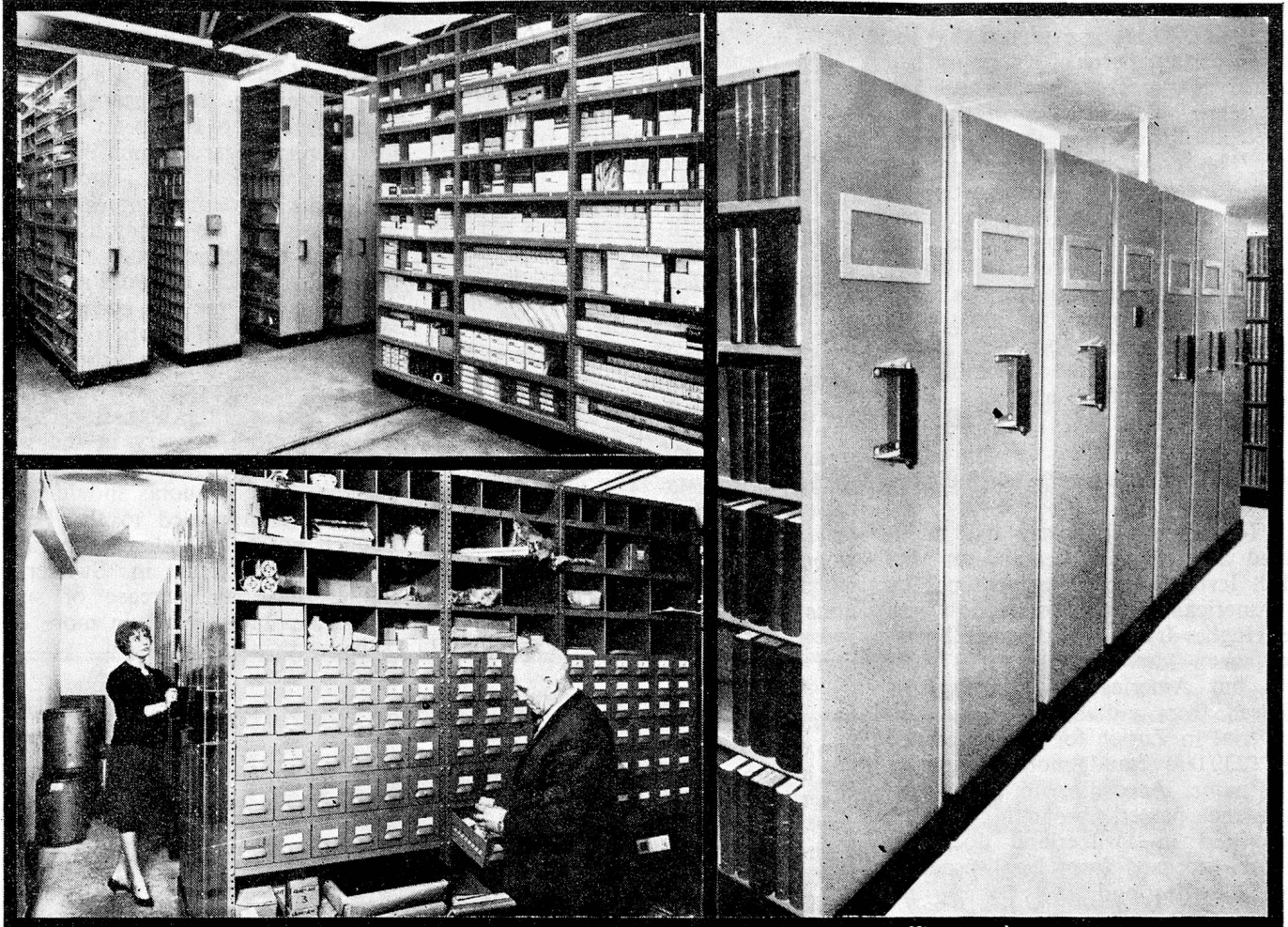
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Wuerenlingen has confirmed that the disaster was due to the explosion of a device planted in the back of the aircraft and actuated by a cheap altimeter.

The bomb was probably contained in a parcel mailed in Munich on 20th February, 1971 and addressed to a fictitious Mr. Hamid in Jerusalem. The plane crashed about thirteen minutes after the explosion, which had started a fire disrupting the cabin's pressure control and affecting the automatic pilot. There is evidence that the heat in certain parts of the cabin had reached 500 degrees centigrade and that dense smoke had been the primary cause of death of the 38 passengers. The crew, which had put on oxygen masks, had kept themselves under complete control and kept contact with Kloten up to the end. The reason why the "Coronado" finally crashed is not exactly known. Its reactors were still operating and it is assumed that the pilots were faced with unsurmountable difficulties in keeping control of the aircraft.

Mrs. Irving sought by Zurich judiciary

The Zurich judiciary has maintained its extradition demand on Mrs. Edith Irving, despite her sentence by an American court in connection with the Hughes-Irving fraud case. Therefore, when Mrs. Irving who is Swiss born but American by marriage, is released from jail, she will have to face trial in Zurich for having cashed the £230,000 fraud money under a false name. According to Swiss law, a sentence passed abroad for a crime committed in Switzerland does not free the accused from legal proceedings in Switzerland.

SPORTS

Trophy to Meta Antenen

The "Pierre de Coubertin" Trophy which is awarded every year to athletes to reward sporting behaviour, has been awarded for 1971 to Swiss long jump champion Meta Antenen.

The trophy has been given to her in reward for the "spirit of fair play and generosity" displayed during the European Athletics Championship in Helsinki last year. Meta Antenen was ahead of her competitors with a 6.73 metre jump (Swiss record) but she backed a request by the German team to the Jury, asking that Ingrid Mickler-Bevker, who had been called to take part in the 4 x 100 metre relay during the long jump event, to be given extra rest time before her last attempt. She won the medal with a European record 6.76 metre jump.

How to help the Press

There should be no question of subsidising the Swiss Press or taking equivalent measures, because this would be contrary to the principles of mutual independence between the Press and the State. Newspapers should be supported by various reductions in paper and postal costs, and should be protected from television and radio publicity, as well as from free advertisers.

These are the conclusions of a report prepared by a study group for the intention of the Federal Council, which will soon decide on measures to safeguard the survival of Switzerland's highly diversified press.

The difficulties of the Swiss press are mainly due to rising costs coupled with stagnating revenues. The Report stresses the importance for democracy of a free press, reflecting all tendencies of opinion. The report says that the structure of the Swiss press should be preserved as it is and suggests that the best way to do so is to ease the overheads of newspapers by reducing postal tariffs and increasing subsidies to Swiss forestry. The cost of Swiss newsprint is higher than that applied on the world market because Swiss wood costs twice as much as foreign wood. This is partly due to restrictions on forestry aiming at preserving Swiss sources of wood and the mountain environment.

The group recommends tight controls on audio-visual publicity and a ban on radio commercials. It also calls for a stop to the distribution of free advertisers, which harm the press as a whole and do not offer their readers a service which they can't obtain from other media. One way which has been put forward to help newspapers is for the federal administration, which publishes a considerable amount of official literature, to use the printing presses of smaller and needy newspapers rather than on those of the large groups, as hitherto. A final recommendation of the report is for Swiss newspapers to organise a central information service.

MODERN LIFE

Swiss Touring Club introduces emergency service charges

Holding the Annual General Meeting in Biel, 183 delegates from all the national sections of the Swiss Touring Club decided to charge a fixed tariff of 15 francs for emergency repairs by the breakdown services of the Club. Repairs have heavily burdened the Club's 10 million franc budget owing to rising costs.

A proposal to increase the membership fee was turned down and members voted in favour of a flat 15

franc rate for night or day repairs. A minority of members were in favour of differential rates: 10 francs for day repairs, and 20 francs for night service.

The Swiss Touring Club, which has 750,000 motorist-members has also decided to launch a vast Road Safety Campaign in 1974. For the first time in its history, a woman was elected to its Board.

Opposition to EEC conditions

The Swiss anti-Alcoholic Secretariat in Lausanne issued a communique expressing its concern over the demands of the European Economic Community regarding an increase of Common Market wine into Switzerland. The Secretariat notes that this would increase the supply of wines on the Swiss market and lead to a worsening of alcoholism. It would also prejudice home winegrowers because of the cheaper cost of imported wines, particularly Italian production.

The Secretariat remarked that Switzerland was the highest per capita wine importing country in the world and demanded that the already generous wine import quotas should not be enlarged. It appealed to the Federal Council not to abandon its policy of fighting alcoholism in Switzerland, stating that any increase of supply would inevitably result in more cases of heavy drinking.

ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Tschudi speaks for Switzerland at Stockholm

Representing Switzerland at the United Nations Conference on the Environment in Stockholm, Mr. Hans-Peter Tschudi, Head of the Department of the Interior, endorsed the new UN Declaration on the Environment. One of the main objects of the Conference was to lay down the principles of human behaviour in respect of world environment. These principles were to be as important and fundamental as the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Expressing Switzerland's complete support of the draft declaration, Mr. Tschudi said that the world community should help the developing countries to abide by its principles.

The Federal Councillor referred to efforts carried out at home in preserving the environment. He recalled that, a year before, the Swiss people had given the Confederation the means of legislating on the environment. He said that Switzerland's first priority was to safeguard her water resources and added that about 400 dollars per inhabitant would be invested to this end. Efforts undertaken so far had already improved the quality of Swiss water supplies, he said.

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