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SWISS INVESTMENTS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A survey carried out in the Swiss private economy sector showed that the direct investments made by it in the developing countries during the year 1973 totalled 255 million francs. Investments last year were therefore slightly lower than those made in 1972, which amounted to a total of 281 million francs. The total aid given to the developing countries in the form of direct investments over the last five years has been calculated to be 1.25 billion francs.

GREAT ST. BERNARD ROAD TUNNEL

1964 saw the opening of the Great St. Bernard road tunnel, the first transalpine tunnel connecting the north and the south of Europe by a road open all the year round, every hour of the day and night. For ten years now, without a moment's interruption, the Great St. Bernard tunnel has guaranteed the safety of motorists driving beneath this pass which, in the past, was practicable only five months in the year owing to the difficulty of access, snow conditions and the altitude. From the moment it was opened to traffic, the tunnel, run by a mixed Italo-Swiss firm, has met with

growing success. The number of vehicles passing through — there have been 4.25 million so far — is divided into several categories, viz. private cars, motor coaches and commercial vehicles, with the latter gradually increasing in proportion.

Jura: Signature collection of a Half-Canton

A manufacturer from Court has launched an initiative for the establishment of an autonomous half-Canton comprising the three anti-Separatist districts of the Jura (Moutier, La Neuveville and Courtelary). The 15,000 signatures required for a referendum were collected in record time and deposited at the Bernese Chancery before the Great Council opened its December session to discuss further steps to be taken under the complicated procedure leading to the creation of a new Jura. Although the majority of voters in the southern districts were in favour of remaining "Bernese" at last June's plebiscite, the idea of a separate half-Canton, distinct from Berne and the three northern districts, is gaining increasing interest in the area.

New Publications by the Swiss National Tourist Office

The brochure "Events in Switzerland — Winter 1974/75" compiled by the Swiss National Tourist Office has just been issued. It is 72 pages long and contains information in alphabetical order on new means of transport, indoor swimming pools, ski-hiking runs, hotels, travel tickets, etc., in over 160 Swiss winter resorts. 95 all-inclusive ski-packages and cross-country skiing possibilities are equally described. A new catalogue has also just appeared on institutes and private schools for young people in twenty-five winter sports resorts during Christmas and Easter Holidays. Both these brochures are obtainable from: SNTTO, Talacker 42, CH-8001 Zurich.

News About the Panoramic Corvatsch Mountain Ski-ing Region

Skiers will need less than a quarter-of-an-hour to travel to the upper terminal (9909 ft. a.s.l.) of the Corvatsch railway in cabins (maximum load: 80 persons) which recently underwent safety tests. The brand new 2-4 mile long cross-country ski-ing run, which lies at a height of 8100 ft., is intended for beginners, advanced skiers and for people training for the 30-mile long Engadine Ski Marathon from Maloja to Zuoz. One of the Corvatsch mountain's special attractions is the moonlit run which will take place during full moon on 26th January, 25th February, 26th March and 24th April. Moreover, a sports bus will be running every quarter-hour as from 22nd December on the following route: Lagalb-Diavolezza-Pontresina-Punt Muragl-Celerina St. Moritz - Champfèr - Silvaplana - Corvatsch-Sils-Furtschellas and back.

SKI-ING NEWS

Cross-country Ski-ing in the Jura

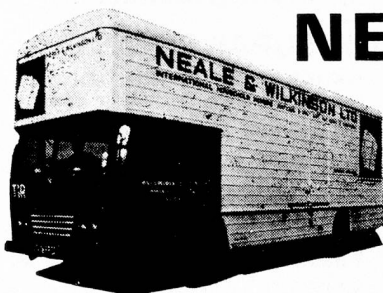
It's a worthwhile experience to go cross-country ski-ing through snow-covered Jura meadows on the high plateau of the Franches Montagnes. The 40-mile long cross-country ski-ing itinerary which was opened last winter follows well-marked routes going from La Ferrière (easily reached both by rail and by car) via Les Bois, Le Noirmont, Saignelégier, Montfaucon, Lajoux, Bellelay, Les Genevez, Les Breuleux and back to La Ferrière. The following stretches: Saignelégier — Les Reussilles (4 miles) and La Ferrière — Les Breuleux (9 miles) are especially worthwhile. Most of these places can be reached with the Jura railway. On weekends and holidays, the day tickets costing Fr. 9 (children up to

16 years, Fr. 6) are issued for unlimited travel on all rail and postal coach routes. The train stations at Berne, Basle, and Bienne also offer special excursion tickets. There are cross-country ski-ing schools at Peu-Péguignot and Vacheries-des-Breuleux. Ski-hiking and cross-country ski-ing weeks will take place from the beginning of December till March at *Sonceboz*. Two nights in a double room at "Le Grillon" Motel with full board and guided excursions cost Fr. 105. "Ski hiking weeks through the Jura" is the name given to guided tours. Skiers won't have to think about their luggage which will be transported separately from one stopover to another. These tours, which will take place from 10th to 22nd February, and from 23rd February to 1st March, cost Sw.Fr. 360 per participant. For additional information contact "Pro Jura", CH-2740 Moutier.

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