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A breathless experience — some of the contestants in the Alphorn blowing contest held at the Goat Hotel, Shepperton, Middlesex, recently. The event was organised by the Swiss Cheese Union.

NUCLEAR PHOBIA

The site of the Kaiseraugst's future nuclear power station was occupied during most of April by an environmentalist group called the "Kaiseraugst non-violent Committee". The Federal Council was reacting coolly to the situation and denied charges by the demonstrators that it would be calling in troops.

The "Committee" claims that too many nuclear plants are being built in the Basle area (there are others in neighbouring France and Germany) and is demanding a complete reassessment of Switzerland's nuclear policy.

They asked for a meeting with Mr

Willy Ritschard, Head of the Department of Transport, who said that he would meet them only when they had cleared the site and handed it back to its legitimate owners.

In a further letter to the Government, the Committee called for a suspension of all work on nuclear power stations in Switzerland until a general nuclear policy has been drawn with particular concern for environmental effect. They backed their demand by 15,000 signatures and claimed that they had the telephone numbers of thousands of people whom they could rely on in case the police were called to clear the site.

In a further letter, the Committee renewed these demands and said that it would leave Kaiseraugst for three weeks if the Federal Council pledged to satisfy the demands. The Government, meanwhile, held urgent talks with the five Cantons interested in the power plant: Berne, Basle-Land, Basle-Town, Solothurn and Aargau.

The Press was overwhelmingly against the demonstration and said that it was neither necessary nor possible to reassess the environmental effects of a 1,000 mW nuclear plant at Kaiseraugst. Building permission for this plant was given as far back as August 1972 after a thorough meteorological expertise.

WIDENED SCOPE OF THE MECHANICAL HANDLING FAIR

From now on, the fourth International Mechanical Handling Fair, IFM 76 — which will be held in the halls of the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle once again from 25 February to 4 March 1976 — will include equipment and installations for the transport of passengers.

By widening its scope, the Fair's Committee is endeavouring to meet the wishes of the many exhibitors who, in addition to equipment, plant and vehicles for the handling of merchandise — previously forming the main theme of the fair — also manufacture plant for the transport of passengers.

Apart from goods lifts and aerial conveyors, it will now be possible to display lifts (elevators), escalators and conveyors, as well as chairlifts and aerial cableways for passengers. The last IFM 72, which was still devoted exclusively to the handling of goods, especially firm's internal transportation, numbered 206 exhibitors from seven countries, displaying the products of 380 manufacturers from 14 countries in an exhibition area of over 400,000sq ft. The fair was attended by 25,000 visitors.



Don't forget — the World Archery Championships take place in Interlaken from 25–28 June.



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