

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: - (1977)
Heft: 1732

Rubrik: Letter from Switzerland

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: 09.07.2025

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

LETTER FROM SWITZERLAND

By Gottfried Keller

TRIAL BY JURY—OR BY THE PRESS?

This letter is written just *before* the beginning of the trial by Military Court of Brigadier Jeanmaire. He is, as is well known, accused of espionage in favour of the Soviet Union and of betraying Swiss military secrets. It may well be that the Court will find him guilty and punish him accordingly. But what I find shocking is the fact that the Swiss media have found him guilty long ago and have vilified the man with all the verbose skill at their disposal. Not only has he, before the Court has even met, been called a spy and traitor, but he has also been characterised as a drunkard, a braggard, and — vis-à-vis his erstwhile subordinates as a brutal near-sadist. Is it, one cannot help wondering, still possible to give the man a fair trial under such circumstances? Can a Court still be completely objective when public — or published — opinion has long since condemned the accused? To make my position quite clear: this is not a plea in favour of Brigadier Jeanmaire, but it is a plea for objectivity and fairness.

Much of what has been published about Jeanmaire would have constituted Contempt of Court under the British legal system. And there is a very great deal to

be said in favour of this British legal system. It not only secures a fair trial for anyone who is accused of crimes or misdemeanours, but it also affords him protection against public vilification. Every man in Britain is supposed to be an honourable gentleman unless the contrary has been proved beyond any reasonable doubt.

If one supposes for a moment that Jeanmaire is acquitted and that the Military Tribunal finds him not guilty — an unlikely supposition, it is true, but nevertheless a possibility — how could he ever return into Swiss society after having been hounded publicly for months?

At first, when the scandal broke, it was said the Jeanmaire had confessed, but later the version was put about that he had revoked his confession. Which of the versions is true is uncertain as there is little official information available. In view of the enormous publicity the case has received it might have been more prudent if the authorities had not been as secretive about whether there has been a confession and a revocation of it. After all: if Jeanmaire is really guilty of betraying Swiss defence secrets to the

Soviets they naturally know just what and how much he has betrayed to them. As already stated: the British legal system which protects the individual against defamation before a court has given its verdict has much to be said for it — whichever the verdict of the Court in the Jeanmaire case may be.

Footnote: Since we went to press the court has given its verdict. Brigadier Jeanmaire was found guilty as charged and sentenced to eighteen years' imprisonment along with other lesser penalties. His wife was discharged.

W.G.S.

SWISSAIR TO RESUME BEIRUT FLIGHTS

From 1st July Swissair again serves Beirut as part of its normal schedules. The Lebanese capital is included as a call on the Tuesday flight to Teheran, which is at present routed via Damascus. The westbound flight leaves Teheran on Wednesday and also calls at Beirut.

The resumption of Swissair services to Beirut is additional to the Swissair/MEA joint venture programme between Switzerland and Beirut. This is to be stepped up to a daily frequency from the present five times weekly from 1st June. The new departures are from Zürich on Monday and from Geneva on Tuesday, and the opposite direction to Zürich on Sunday and to Geneva on Monday.



GENEVA by jet from only £45

This Summer, for the first time ever, CPT Ltd are pleased to announce 6 flights weekly to Geneva (daily except Tuesday) from Gatwick with the superb service of British Caledonian Airways' BAC 1-11 Jets. Our programme this summer offers a wide range of holidays in Geneva from Hostels to the unbeatable luxury of the Hotel Du Rhone. Prices start from as little as £45 for 2 days including return jet flights and 1 night's basic hostel accommodation or, at the other end of the scale, our price is still a very reasonable £98 including return flights and two nights at the Du Rhone. For the business man, a single room with shower and breakfast for 1 night, giving one complete day for appointments starts from as little as £62 at the Hotel le Grenil.

For full details of the above and many other Hotels in Geneva ask for a copy of our comprehensive brochure which gives all details of Hotels, prices and flight timings.

CRAWFORD PERRY TRAVEL LTD.

260A FULHAM ROAD, LONDON SW10 9EL

ATOL 369B

Telephone: 01-351 2191 (6 lines) Telex: 919078

ABTA