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auf 3000 verdoppelt. (Diese Zahlen wurden dem "echo", Zeitschrift für Auslandschweizer, entnommen).

Im Herbst wurden allerorts grosse Gedenktagungen an die Mobilmachung vor 40 Jahren abgehalten. Am 1. September 1939 begann der Zweite Weltkrieg mit dem Angriff der deutschen Wehrmacht auf Polen. Am 30. August ernannte die Bundesversammlung Henri Guisan zum General, am Tag darauf wurde die Neutralitätserklärung erlassen, und bereits am 1. September konnte die allgemeine Kriegsmobilmachung angeordnet werden. Mit all den Erinnerungen an jene Tage ist auch Dankbarkeit vermischt, dass die Schweiz vom Kriege, Gott sei Dank, verschont wurde. Was man leider nur noch selten hört, ist der Dank, der den heldenhaften Piloten der Britischen Kampfflugstreitmacht gebührt, die in der "Battle of Britain" Hitlers Pläne vereitelten. Aber vielleicht denkt man in der Schweiz erneut daran wenn im September 1980 vier Dezennien vergangen sein werden seit jenen denkwürdigen Tagen, die auch für die Schweiz von gewaltiger Bedeutung waren.

Mariann Meier

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## SWISS WELFARE OFFICE for young people

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# COLIN FARMER'S DISPATCH FROM BERNE

## WHO SAYS SWITZERLAND IS EXPENSIVE?

Five leading Swiss tourism organisations have announced the joint promotion of a *Discover Switzerland* programme — with prices guaranteed until September, 1980.

*Discover Switzerland* — offered under the slogan "Who says Switzerland is expensive?" — has been launched by the Berne City Tourist Office, Budget Rent-a-Car, Swiss Federal Railways, Inter Hotels Switzerland and their marketing organisation Tourismart of Berne.

The organisers describe the programme as "the ideal all-inclusive go-as-you-please vacation package".

*Discover Switzerland* combines hotel accommodation, unlimited rail travel or self-drive car hire, and vouchers for at least Sw.Fr. 200 worth of free or reduced-price tourist facilities — "all for just a little more than a normal hotel room rate".

Prices are from Sw.Fr. 378 per person for eight days, Sw.Fr. 439 for ten days, Sw.Fr. 638 for 15 days and Sw.Fr. 899 for 22 days. There are no high season charges, and children up to 12 years sharing a room with parents pay only half these rates.

Tourists can select their own itinerary from any of the 30 participating resorts and cities, and may stay as many or as few days as they like in any one place. The only exception is Berne, where the minimum stay is three nights.

## INTER-HOTELS SWITZERLAND TO CONTINUE TARIFF FREEZE

Inter-Hotels Switzerland has announced that its price "freeze" is to continue for the seventh successive year — until the end of 1980.

The decision by the 36-member group means that Inter-Hotels will next year be offering the same basic rates as in 1974.

Said group marketing director Martin Buehler: "This unanimous decision by our members is a demonstration of our determination to remain very competitive — both nationally and internationally."

"In particular we hope this move will compensate foreign tourists from weak-currency countries for the high value of the Swiss franc."

The announcement follows Inter-Hotels' recent appeal for urgent action by the Swiss National Bank "to bring down the exaggerated exchange rate of the Swiss franc against other currencies to a more realistic level".

Inter-Hotels Switzerland offer uniform individual rates nationwide, starting from Sw.Fr. 35 per person for bed/breakfast (double room occupancy) and from Sw.Fr. 45 per person for a single room. Special rates are available for tour operators and group bookings. Inter-Hotels will also continue its policy of offering guests free advance reservation from one member hotel to another.

## DAN-AIR CELEBRATION

London businessman Peter Quinn unexpectedly found himself being given VIP treatment when he boarded Dan-Air's regular London (Gatwick)–Berne flight, recently.

The reason — he was the 75,000th passenger to have booked the flight since the British independent carrier opened its route to the Swiss capital seven years ago.

Dan-Air is still the only airline operating a regular service between Britain and Berne, and expects to carry a record 15,000 passengers on the route this year.

On arrival in Berne passengers were given a champagne reception, at which Mr. Quinn received souvenir gifts from representatives of Dan-Air's Berne office and the Berne City Tourist Office.

Mr. Peter Quinn is welcomed at Berne Airport by DAN-AIR sales manager Marco Agostini (right) and Berne City Tourist Office PR manager, Marcel Grandjean (left). With them is the pilot captain Don Graham.

