

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: - (1981)

Heft: 1774

Rubrik: Farmer in Berne

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: 15.02.2026

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

Farmer

in Berne



THE Swiss Broadcasting Corporation has a new Director General – Mr Leo Schürmann.

He succeeds Mr Stelio Molo, Director General since 1972, who has retired after more than 30 years' service with the SBC.

Mr Schürmann (pictured below) is 63, and has been vice-president of the Swiss National Bank for the past four years. He was a Member of Parliament from 1959 to 1974, and in 1973 became known as "Mr Prices" when he was appointed by the federal government to the newly-created post of consumer prices supervisor.



THE inflation rate in Switzerland this year is expected to remain at four per cent, says Economics Minister Fritz Honegger. He also predicts that the Swiss franc will strengthen during 1981, with negative effects on exports and tourism.

□ □ □

SWITZERLAND'S four per cent inflation rate last year was the second lowest in the world, according to provisional figures released by the International Monetary Fund.

Highest inflation rate was recorded by Israel, with 131.5 per cent, followed by Turkey (109 per cent) and Argentina (102 per cent). The lowest? Saudi Arabia – with 1.5 per cent!

□ □ □

SWISS salaries increased by an average two per cent in 1980, according to a Swiss news agency survey. In

addition most employees also received cost-of-living adjustments.

□ □ □

THE Swiss are paying more for milk and dairy products this year. Milk prices increased in January by an average five centimes per litre, and butter went up by one franc per kilo.

□ □ □

THE Swiss Co-operative and Migros supermarket chains have launched a joint Sfr. 200,000 (£50,000) food aid programme to Poland.

They are delivering baby foods, meat, cheese, fats and oil to Polish church and charity organisations and are also transporting additional supplies collected by Swiss aid organisations.

Colin Farmer, our regular columnist in Berne, reports in brief on the latest happenings in Switzerland.

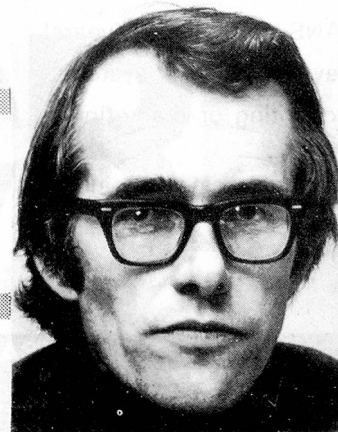
THE Swiss people are opposed to their country joining the United Nations, according to a *Weltwoche* public opinion poll.

Of those polled in an end-of-year survey, 39 per cent were against Swiss entry, 32 per cent in favour and 29 undecided. In polls in 1979, 1978 and 1977 a majority of those questioned were in favour of Swiss UN membership.

A nationwide vote on Swiss entry into the United Nations is expected to be held by 1983.

□ □ □

VETERAN *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* journalist Eric Mettler has died in Zurich at the age of 63. A foreign affairs specialist with the newspaper for 36 years, he served as correspondent in Rome



and, from 1951 to 1965, in London.

□ □ □

AVIATION pioneer Henri Dufaux has died in Geneva at the age of 101. He and his brother Armand developed a helicopter in 1908 and in 1910 built the first aircraft to fly the length of Lake Geneva.

□ □ □

INCREASING drug addiction in Switzerland – and the lack of suitable treatment facilities – is causing serious concern, reveals a Federal Health Office report.

The death toll among addicts now exceeds 100 a year, representing an annual increase of 20 per cent. An estimated 6,000 people are serious addicts, and up to 6,000 others are believed to be regular drug-takers.

In addition, says the report, Switzerland has about 100,000 alcoholics.

□ □ □

MANAGEMENT and workers in the Swiss printing industry have reached agreement on a new collective contract.

Final agreement on improved salaries and conditions was reached after months of negotiations, one-day regional stoppages which prevented publication of several newspapers, and threats by the Swiss Paper and Printing Workers' Union of a nationwide strike.

□ □ □

ROAD death figures in Zurich, Basle and Berne have fallen following experimental reduction of the standard speed limit from 60 to 50 kilometers (37 to 31 miles) per hour. During the first five months of the trial period, road accidents in these cities dropped by an average 10 per cent and traffic deaths and injuries by 14 per cent.

□ □ □

SWISS writer Friedrich Dürrenmatt celebrated his 60th birthday last month. Among the congratulations were messages from Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany and Swiss Interior Minister Hans Hürlimann.