

Pardon youth rioters, says Commission

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Pardon youth rioters, says Commission

DEMONSTRATORS convicted during the Zurich youth riots should be pardoned, a Swiss government-appointed commission has suggested.

The controversial proposal comes from the Federal Commission on Youth, which states: "Certain political groups are demanding that examples be made out of youthful trouble-makers through stiff punishment. But that would only set against the state and society a considerable number of young people who are resolutely engaged in pressing their ideas.

"Amnesty is regularly used in favour of those who cheat the tax authorities, and no one takes offence. So the same would be almost fitting for the young people who have done nothing other than participate in a non-authorised demonstration."

In Zurich some convictions brought sentences as long as 60 days' imprisonment. Several thousand people were arrested or detained in the city over a one-year period, and youth unrest also broke out in Berne, Basle and Lausanne.

The disturbances, provoked by

demands for "counter-cultural" centres, called into question the values of one of the most affluent and efficient of western societies.

The commission reiterated the theme of its report last year that "for the young people who demonstrate in the streets, violence is the expression of a desperate situation and of their distress. The violence and the extremism are the consequences of an isolation from which a large number of people of all ages in our society suffer.

"But the troubles would not have erupted if we had not lost the habit of speaking with one another, between generations and among the generations."

Said commission chairman Guy-Olivier Segond, deputy mayor of Geneva: "It is important – and urgent – that the generations re-learn how to speak to each other. Young people don't need new laws – they need a new atmosphere."

□ □ □

SWITZERLAND has a new man in Moscow. Mr Karl Fritschi – deputy to the Swiss Ambassador in London since



1975 – has been appointed Ambassador to the Soviet Union. He served in Moscow during the 1960s and has also held posts in Paris and Bonn. Mr Fritschi is 53.

□ □ □

A SOVIET intelligence officer and his East German wife have been arrested in Switzerland on charges of political and military espionage, the Swiss Justice Ministry has announced. They are expected to go on trial in Zurich next year.

The couple are accused of using Switzerland as a base for collecting intelligence on a "non-European country," unofficially named as Iran. The Swiss government has delivered formal protests to the Soviet and East German embassies in Berne.

Breaking several months of official silence, the Justice Ministry statement said the husband and wife – both in their early forties – were arrested this summer at Zurich Airport and had since admitted working for the Soviet KGB.

The Ministry said they began using Switzerland as their base in 1978, sending coded reports back to Moscow by shortwave transmitter and financing their operations from an account at a Zurich bank.

Some 200 cases of espionage

have been uncovered in Switzerland since the end of the Second World War – about two-thirds of them involving eastern European agents.

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THE Swiss government has given the go-ahead for construction of the country's controversial sixth nuclear power station – subject to parliamentary approval.

The planned plant is at Kaiseraugst, near Basle. A consortium of mainly French, West German and Swiss companies began preparing the site in 1972, but a wave of protests and bomb attacks disrupted the project. There has been particularly strong opposition from local citizens and environmentalist groups.

Swiss Energy Minister Leon Schlumpf said the Kaiseraugst plant was essential to meet the nation's future energy needs. He assured anti-nuclear protesters that safety precautions would be very strict, with tight controls on environmental protection.

If parliament rejects the government's go-ahead recommendation the Kaiseraugst consortium will attempt to recover at least

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part of the Sfr 1,000 million already invested on the project.

Four existing nuclear stations at present supply more than a quarter of Switzerland's electricity needs, and a fifth plant is due to start operation in about 18 months' time. If constructed, the Kaiseraugst plant will not be completed until the 1990s.

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GERMAN-born American writer Walter Mehring, whose satirical works were banned and burned by the Nazis, has died in Zurich. He was 85.

Berlin-born Mehring directed many of his early novels, plays, poems and biting ballads against Hitler and Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels. When the Nazis took power the writer was stripped of his German citizenship and he fled the country.

He went to the United States in 1940, returning to Europe in the 1950s to live largely in seclusion in West Germany and Switzerland.

Mehring never wrote in English. Many of his manuscripts – including the Hölliche Komödie (Infernal Comedy), a

Diana und Charles sagten ihre Schweizer Ferien ab



● Di: Reisen statt Ferien.

★★ Prinzessin Diana und Prinz Charles haben ihre Skiferien in Klosters abgesagt. «Beide sind zu beschäftigt, und zudem hastigstes Jahr Klosters zu kommen.»
★★ In England glauben viele nicht so recht an die angegebene Begründung für die Absage. «Die Prinzessin kann halt nicht ski-

THE Prince and Princess of Wales have cancelled a planned skiing holiday in the Swiss resort of Klosters this winter. Princess Diana is expecting a baby next June. Before the announcement of the birth Swiss Press reports had quoted a Buckingham Palace spokesman as saying the Royal couple had too busy a schedule to take their Klosters holiday.

One newspaper also quoted "a skiing friend" of Prince Charles as suggesting that the Swiss holiday plans had been cancelled because the Princess lacked her husband's skiing experience and his enthusiasm for the sport.

Prince Charles has been a regular winter visitor to Klosters in the Grisons over recent years.

bitter denunciation of Naziism – were lost during his wartime wanderings.

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THE Swiss Federal Court has upheld a Sfr 2.6 million award against the United States-based Firestone Tyre Company, which

closed its Swiss plant three years ago. Rejecting an appeal by the company, the court confirmed a Basle court's ruling that Firestone should pay the sum to two trade unions in compensation for their members' lost jobs.

The parent company closed its

Swiss subsidiary at Pratteln, near Basle, in 1978 with the loss of more than 600 jobs. The closure became necessary, said the company, because of excessive production costs and the high value of the Swiss franc against other currencies.

SWISS SOCCER

Football League tables up to and including November 13

'A' Division

	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts	
Servette	11	11	0	0	41	10	22
Zürich	11	6	5	0	15	7	17
Xamax NE	11	7	2	2	19	6	16
Grasshoppers	11	6	3	2	24	11	15
Young Boys	11	6	2	3	22	15	14
Sion	11	4	5	2	22	18	13
Basle	11	4	3	4	13	12	11
St. Gallen	11	5	1	5	17	18	11
Lucerne	11	5	0	6	18	21	10
Aarau	11	3	2	6	17	26	8
Lausanne	11	3	1	7	14	18	7
Vevey	11	2	3	6	17	23	7
Bulle	11	2	3	6	13	26	7
Bellinzona	11	2	3	6	9	23	7
Chiasso	11	1	4	6	6	16	6
Nordstern	11	2	1	8	12	29	5

'B' Division

	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts	
Wettingen	11	7	3	1	21	13	17
Winterthur	11	7	2	2	28	11	16
Grenchen	11	6	4	1	22	11	16
Chênois	11	6	3	2	17	9	15
Biel	11	6	2	3	19	14	14
Locarno	11	6	1	4	32	15	13
Chaux-de-Fonds	11	5	3	3	21	11	13
Mendrisio	11	5	2	4	17	21	12
Freiburg	11	3	5	3	16	14	11
Lugano	11	4	3	4	21	19	11
Ibach	11	2	7	2	14	18	11
Frauenfeld	11	1	6	5	8	18	8
Altstätten	11	1	4	6	6	17	6
Berne	11	1	3	7	12	28	5
Aurore	11	1	3	7	8	36	5
Monthey	11	1	2	8	12	19	4

Lines separate championship leader, relegation and promotion zones.