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Two Swiss honoured for services to Britain



Theodor Haller (right) – accompanied by Mrs Haller – is congratulated by the British Ambassador to Switzerland, Mr Sydney Giffard, after receiving his OBE. Photo: Colin Farmer



Mr Emil Frey

THE Queen has conferred British Empire distinctions on two prominent Swiss citizens in recognition of their outstanding services to Britain.

The CBE has been awarded to Mr Emil Frey, 83, who in 1924 founded the company which is now Switzerland's leading importer and distributor of British motor cars. And journalist Theodor Haller, for more than 30 years a Swiss correspondent in London, has been awarded the OBE.

The awards were presented at separate ceremonies in Berne by the British Ambassador to Switzerland, Mr Sidney Giffard.

An embassy statement said: *The award to Mr Emil Frey is in recognition of the outstanding personal role which has played in the establishment and development of Swiss interest in British motor cars; and of more than half a century of work devoted to their promotion in Switzerland.*

"Throughout this period, Mr Frey has maintained a close relationship with the British industry and with many of its leading representatives, in engineering and design, marketing and management. To the success of decades of distinguished collaborative enterprise, his knowledge and initiative have made a decisive contribution."

Announcing the award to Theodor Haller, who retired last year at the age of 66, the British embassy said:

"This award is in recognition of the outstanding contribution which Mr Haller, in his work as a Swiss journalist in London for many years, has made to the furtherance of

Swiss-British relations, and in the wider cause of international comprehension, mutual respect, and harmony.

"His articles and reports in the Swiss Press and his regular broadcasts from London, presented with humour and affection, have greatly helped to maintain a close and friendly understanding in Switzerland of Great Britain and the British people. For the better part of a generation he has acted as an interpreter between peoples, fulfilling this constructive role with notable success and distinction".

As the only media representative granted permission to attend this private ceremony, I was proud and privileged to obtain for the Swiss Observer the photo appearing on this page.

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A ZURICH court has sentenced a Soviet citizen and his East German

wife to prison terms on charges of using Switzerland as a base for spying activities on Iran.

Karl Kruminsch, 41, was sent to prison for three years. His wife, Katarina, 47, received a two-and-a-half year sentence. The court deducted seven months from the sentences for the time spent in prison by the couple since their arrest at Zurich Airport last year. The two were also banned from re-entering Switzerland for 15 years on completing their sentence.

The prosecution alleged that Kruminsch had been a Soviet KGB secret agent for 11 years and had visited Switzerland with his wife on a number of occasions since 1978 to receive coded messages from Moscow.

It was claimed that the couple had financed their operations through an account at a Zurich bank.

About 200 cases of espionage have been uncovered in Switzerland since the end of the Second World War – about two-thirds of them involving agents from Eastern Europe.

□ □ □

ZURICH now has a twin city – in China. Mayor Sigmund Widmer has just returned from an official visit to China, during which he signed a partnership pact with Mayor Zhu Kui of Kun-ming, capital of the southern Yunnan Province.

Kun-ming has a population approaching

.. reporting from Berne

two million, compared with Zurich's 450,000. Like Zurich, Kun-ming is a lakeside city and is a political, cultural and major transportation centre with its own university, institute of technology and medical college.

The twinning agreement covers "exchange and co-operation programmes in economic, cultural, sporting and other fields."

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THE collapse of Sir Freddie Laker's cut-price airline came just as Laker Airways was preparing to launch its London-Zurich route, which would have been the company's first regular service to the European continent.

The fortunes of Sir Freddie have always been followed closely by the Swiss media, and his bankruptcy duly received extensive coverage in the Press here.

Ironically, the Laker collapse followed closely an award by the Swiss-based European Management Forum honouring his company as one

of Europe's top pioneering enterprises.

The prestigious non-governmental Forum praised Sir Freddie's "pioneering, innovative and competitive aggression, and his long and tenacious fight against many and powerful vested interests."

□ □ □

WITH so many international organisations

based in Geneva the mail service there does have its problems, despite the efficiency of the Swiss postal authorities.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) recently received a letter asking for free Bibles and pictures of Jesus. The letter was passed on to the nearby headquarters of the World Council of Churches with the covering note: "Perhaps you have meanwhile received a request for pictures of airplanes."



SWISS SOCCER

Football League tables up to and including March 9

'A' Division

	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts
Servette	16	14	0	2	52:16	28
Zurich	17	10	7	0	32:12	27
Grasshoppers	17	10	5	2	39:13	25
Xamax	17	8	6	3	28:14	22
Young Boys	16	8	4	4	29:22	20
Sion	17	7	6	4	32:23	20
Basle	16	6	5	5	24:20	17
Aarau	16	5	5	6	28:32	15
Lucerne	15	6	2	7	26:27	14
St. Gallen	16	6	2	8	21:26	14
Bulle	16	3	5	8	19:33	11
Bellinzona	17	3	5	9	15:39	11
Vevey	15	2	6	7	20:30	10
Lausanne	15	3	3	9	20:28	9
Nordstern	17	4	1	12	17:43	9
Chiasso	17	2	4	11	9:33	8

'B' Division

	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts
Wettingen	17	10	6	1	35:17	26
Winterthur	15	10	3	2	34:14	23
Chênois	15	8	5	2	27:12	21
Grenchen	16	6	7	3	30:22	19
Locarno	17	7	5	5	40:26	19
Biel	17	6	7	4	28:24	19
Ibach	17	5	9	3	24:24	19
Mendrisiostar	17	8	3	6	27:35	19
La Chaux-de-Fonds	15	6	5	4	31:20	17
Lugano	17	6	4	7	32:30	16
Fribourg	17	4	7	6	22:24	15
Berne	16	4	3	9	23:36	11
Altstätten	16	2	6	8	14:31	10
Frauenfeld	15	1	7	7	13:26	9
Aurore	16	2	5	9	15:42	9
Monthey	17	2	4	11	13:29	8

Lines separate championship leader, relegation and promotion zones.