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Pope in whirlwind visit to Geneva

SWISS authorities have detained a Turkish national suspected of involvement in last year's attempt on the life of Pope John Paul. Italy has demanded the extradition of the man, whose name has not been revealed.

A Swiss Justice Ministry spokesman said that the suspect is believed to have supplied the pistol with which the convicted attacker – another Turk, Mehmet Ali Agca – shot and seriously wounded the Pope 15 months ago. Agca is now serving a life sentence in an Italian jail.

Soon after the assassination attempt, the Swiss government confirmed that the gun used had been “legally traded” in Switzerland.

The latest arrest was announced by the Swiss authorities only hours after the Pope had returned to the Vatican following a whirlwind one-day visit to international organisations in Geneva.

During his gruelling 13-hour tour the Pontiff met Swiss President Fritz Honegger, addressed the International Labour Organisation, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the European Centre for Nuclear Research, and conducted an open-air mass attended by an estimated 25,000 people.

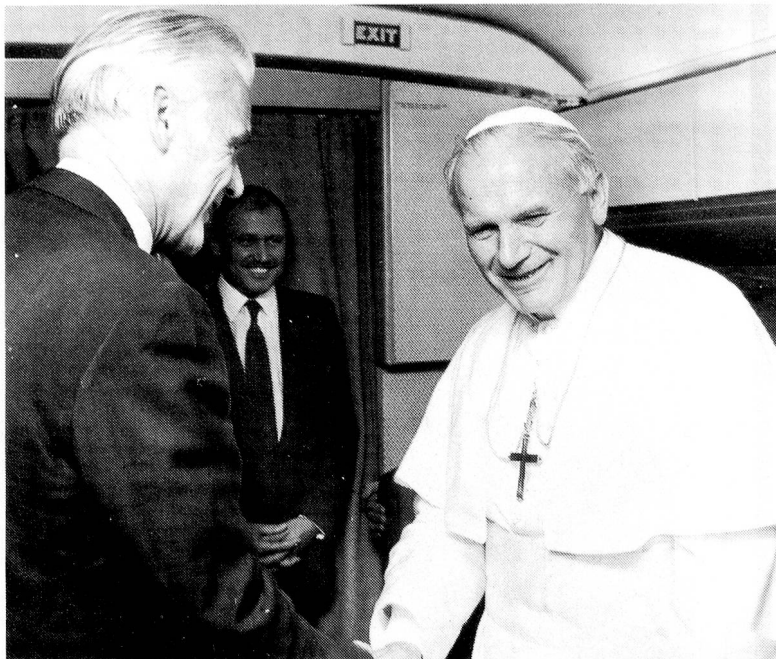
The same evening he returned to Rome by special Swissair jet, accompanied – at the invitation of the Vatican – by Swissair President Robert Staubli.

★ ★ ★

YOUNG demonstrators, apparently protesting against new government measures to combat crimes of violence, have damaged the home of Swiss Justice and Police Minister Kurt Furgler.

About 30 young people arrived at the Minister's home shortly before midnight and only hours after a nationwide vote strongly backing government plans to introduce a tougher penal code and wider police powers (voting details on page 13).

The group said they wanted to talk to Mr Furgler and give the 57-year-old minister a paving stone carrying the words Der Kampf



Pope John Paul is welcomed by Swissair president Robert Staubli as he boards the special jet in Geneva. (See first story).

geht weiter – “the fight continues”.

Mr Furger, who had already gone to bed, said he was prepared to receive the group but at his office during normal working hours.

The demonstrators then broke windows, daubed the house with slogans and damaged his car. The protesters fled as police rushed to the scene, but two arrests were made.

★ ★ ★

BRITAIN'S new ambassador in Berne, Mr Ernest Powell-Jones, is no stranger to Switzerland.

Since 1979 he has been heading the UK delegation to the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in Geneva.

Mr Powell-Jones, who is 57, joined the Foreign Service in 1949 and has served in South America, the United States, Africa and



Britain's new man in Berne – Ambassador Ernest Powell-Jones

Asia. In Berne he succeeds Mr Charles Giffard, who has taken up a diplomatic post in London.

★ ★ ★

SWISS authorities are investigating an arms deal in which Iran was apparently tricked into paying about Sfr. 100 million (about £30 million) for military tanks it never received.

A Zurich newspaper report claims that the complex international fraud also involved American citizens and London-based Iranian businessmen and diplomats.

The affair was revealed by the mass circulation Blick newspaper, whose report was confirmed by the Swiss authorities as being “essentially correct”.

According to Blick several Swiss businessmen last year proposed the sale of about 50 American-built tanks to a former Iranian deputy minister living in West Germany. They had reportedly been informed by an American contact that the tanks were “available”, despite a US arms embargo against Iran.

On the advice of the ex-minister, claimed Blick, the businessmen contacted an Iranian trading company in Britain, which arranged for a London-based Iranian diplomat to fly to Zurich to finalise the deal.

The West German bank handling the transaction released the Sfr 100 million after the businessmen had produced freighting and other documents, said Blick.

Swiss authorities have since been investigating the authenticity of the documents. The newspaper also reported that some of the money had been used to pay off Americans involved in the deal, but that some money had been recovered.

★ ★ ★

THE Geneva Theatre Ballet has cancelled its

. . reporting from Berne



scheduled appearance at this month's Edinburgh Festival because of the recent Falkland Islands conflict.

The company was to have given four performances at the festival but the director of the ballet, Oscar Ariaz, is an Argentinian and said he felt it would be "inappropriate to appear at the present time".

Mr Ariaz said the decision had been taken in consultation with the director of the festival.

★ ★ ★

GRASSHOPPERS of Zurich have won the

1981/82 Football League Championship after one of the most dramatic finishes to any Swiss soccer season for years.

For 28 games of the 30-match season (which in Switzerland extends well into June) the table was headed by Servette of Geneva. By the halfway stage, Servette had amassed 28 points out of a possible 30 and had built up a commanding seven-point lead.

But the Geneva club faded badly in the second half of the season, while the Grasshoppers extended their unbeaten run to 26 matches and won their last 10 games

in succession. The Zurich club overhauled Servette in the final week and won their last game to take the title by a clear three points.

Grasshoppers have now won the Swiss league championship 18 times. They have also won the cup 13 times and achieved the league-and-cup double on six occasions – a record unequalled by any other Swiss club.

Grasshoppers' striker and Swiss international Claudio Sulser was the season's top scorer with 22 goals, and in the annual poll among league trainers and players he was voted Switzerland's Player of the Year.

SWISS SOCCER

Football League tables, 1981-82 season

'A' Division	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts	'B' Division	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts	
Grasshoppers	30	21	7	2	72	24	Winterthur	30	19	7	4	65	26	45
Servette	30	20	6	4	76	32	Wettingen	30	17	10	3	60	29	44
Zürich	30	18	10	2	62	25	Chênois	30	16	8	6	52	30	40
Neuchâtel Xamax	30	18	9	3	67	30	Chaux-de-Fonds	30	14	9	7	64	36	37
Young Boys	30	15	9	6	52	40	Grenchen	30	11	12	7	46	34	34
Sion	30	12	7	11	51	46	Mendrisiostar	30	14	6	10	45	53	34
Aarau	30	10	8	12	51	55	Lugano	30	11	9	10	55	49	31
Basle	30	11	6	13	47	51	Locarno	30	11	8	11	54	40	30
Lucerne	30	10	7	13	54	59	Biel	30	8	14	8	51	47	30
St. Gallen	30	10	5	15	40	45	Berne	30	9	8	13	45	57	26
Vevey	30	6	11	13	44	57	Ibach	30	6	13	11	36	47	25
Bellinzona	30	7	7	16	34	66	Fribourg	30	7	10	13	37	47	24
Lausanne	30	6	8	16	39	52	Monthey	30	8	7	15	34	47	23
Bulle	30	5	9	16	29	58	Aurore Biel	30	7	8	15	26	64	22
Nordstern	30	6	5	19	29	69	Altstätten	30	4	12	14	25	56	20
Chiasso	30	4	8	18	25	63	Frauenfeld	30	3	9	18	26	59	15

Lines separate champion, promoted and relegated clubs.