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Switzerland's sociological time bomb

SWITZERLAND is sitting on a "sociological timebomb" because of its mounting population of migrant children, a United Nations report has warned.

Such children in Switzerland and elsewhere in Europe have become foreigners not only in their country of residence but also in their country of origin. They have become "displaced" persons, reports the Geneva-based International Labour Organisation. "And political and social risks are high that they will become the misfits of Europe."

The ILO says there are an estimated 4.1 million such "second-generation migrants" in Switzerland, France, West Germany, Netherlands and Sweden. Their numbers are increasing with the relatively high birth-rate among foreign workers and as more migrant families are re-united.

Most migrant workers come from Italy, Spain, Yugoslavia, Turkey and Greece. But not enough is being done to integrate them into society, says the report.

"In addition to language difficulties," says the ILO, "second-generation migrants face discrimination because of the socio-cultural status of their parents. In consequence, they leave school with pronounced handicaps compared with young nationals.

"Unemployment, already high among West European youth in general, hits the young foreigners even harder. And a great many migrant children find themselves pushed into the same kind of unskilled, dead-end jobs their parents hold" – jobs shunned by host country nationals.

The ILO concludes: "The pressing cultural, economic and social needs of this second generation of migrants can only be met by a searching re-evaluation of migration policy and . . . co-responsibility by the sending and receiving countries."

ENGLAND soccer captain Kevin Keegan has been voted international

footballer of the year in a poll organised by the Swiss newspaper Blick. In the survey, carried out before the World Cup results were known, Keegan polled 6,000 of the 20,000 votes.

ON May 27, 1936, a small propeller aircraft took off from an airfield near Dublin and spluttered its way across the Irish Sea with a full load – of one pilot and five passengers.

And so Aer Lingus, the Irish national airline, took flight. Since then, the company has spread its wings to the European and American continents, operating a 3,000-seat fleet, carrying more than two million passengers annually, and employing some 6,000 personnel. As an Aer Lingus brochure proudly puts it: "We project an image of progressive modern Ireland throughout the world."

This summer the company has been holding celebrations in Zurich to mark the 25th anniversary of its Ireland-Switzerland service. Since the inauguration of the Dublin-Zurich route in 1957, the number of regular return flights between the two countries has risen from two to eight a week (flights to Geneva were introduced in 1974) and the passenger total has soared from 810 to more than 30,000 a year.

Guests of honour at the Zurich celebrations included city mayor Thomas Wagner. Mr Eddie Reid – Aer Lingus manager for Switzerland – presented him with a copy of the Book of Kells, the 8th century original of which is on permanent display in Dublin's Trinity College library.

The Book of Kells – the chief treasure of Celtic art in Ireland – was a forerunner of the illuminated gospel book reputedly produced



Zurich city mayor Thomas Wagner (right) receives a copy of the Book of Kells from Eddie Reid, Aer Lingus manager for Switzerland.



THE Swiss Post Office last month issued nine new postage stamps. Four of the values commemorate 1982 events and anniversaries in Switzerland and will remain on sale for a period of one year.

The other five stamps are "definitive" issues with unlimited validity.

The four values related to this year's events and anniversaries commemorate

the centenary of tram transport in Zurich, the centenary of the Salvation Army in Switzerland, the World Dressage Championship in Lausanne, and the 14th World Congress in Zurich this month of the International Water Supply Association.

The new "definitive" stamps depict signs of the zodiac in conjunction with seasonal Swiss landscapes.

A further seven values in the series will be issued over the next two years, the designs representing a wide geographical range of Swiss regions.

The stamps, which went on sale last month, depict the zodiac signs of Pisces, Aquarius, Taurus, Aries and Gemini and feature scenes from the Berne, Valais, Basle, Obwalden and Appenzell regions.

by 9th century Irish monks and now housed in the St. Gallen Abbey Library in eastern Switzerland.

★ ★ ★

FOUR Swiss clubs are among the 132 teams who will line up next month in the opening rounds of the 1982/83 European football cup competitions.

Grasshoppers of Zurich will face the toughest task, meeting Dynamo Kiev in the Champions' Cup in Zurich on September 15 and in Kiev two weeks later. Dynamo Kiev have been Soviet league champions a record 11 times and have competed in European tournaments over the past 10 successive seasons. They suffered their last home defeat in a European cup match in 1969. And no fewer than seven Kiev players were in the Soviet squad for this year's World Cup in Spain.

In the Cup Winners' Cup, Sion were meeting Aberdeen in the qualifying round in Scotland on August 18, with the return

match in Switzerland on September 1. The winners face Dynamo Tirana of Albania on September 15 and 29.

Two other Swiss clubs - Servette of Geneva and Zurich - face less formidable opposition in the first round of the UEFA Cup on the same dates. Zurich has been drawn against Pezoporikos Larnaca of Cyprus, and Servette against the Luxembourg club Proges Nidercorn.

★ ★ ★

A FORMER British Foreign Ministry official, suspected of espionage links during the Second World War, has been convicted by an Italian court - of attempting to smuggle currency into Switzerland.

John Cairncross, now 69, has been sentenced to a one-year prison term and fined 86 million lire (about £35,000). He was travelling on the Milan-Lugano express and arrested on the Italian side of the small Swiss

border station of Chiasso while in possession of more than 50 million lire in banknotes. Cairncross claimed he was crossing the border unintentionally, not realising that Chiasso was on Swiss territory.

Cairncross, who speaks several languages, had been resident in Rome for several years working as a translator for publishing companies.

He resigned from the British Foreign Office in 1952 after being questioned about the passing of secret information to the Soviet Union during the war. His resignation followed the defection to the Soviet Union of top British intelligence officials Donald McLean and Guy Burgess. His name was also linked with the espionage activities of another intelligence expert, Kim Philby, who defected to Moscow in 1963. Cairncross denied the allegations and was never prosecuted.