The logical mediator

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objekttyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): **- (1982)**

Heft 1794

PDF erstellt am: **30.04.2024**

Persistenter Link: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687553

Nutzungsbedingungen

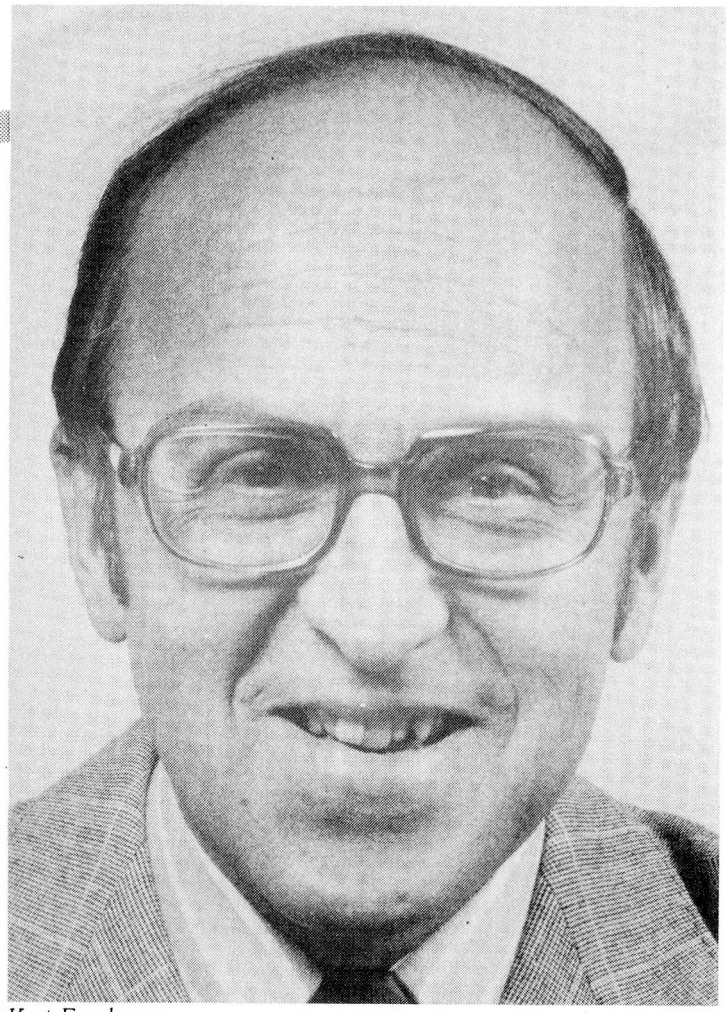
Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.
Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.
Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

Haftungsausschluss

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

Ein Dienst der *ETH-Bibliothek*
ETH Zürich, Rämistrasse 101, 8092 Zürich, Schweiz, www.library.ethz.ch

http://www.e-periodica.ch



Kurt Furgler

Being brilliant is not necessarily a fault with a cabinet minister

'Well done Mr Furgler! That was the reaction of many Swiss on hearing from the minister himself that the Polish embassy affair had had a happy ending.

Nobody hurt, the embassy freed, the rule of law upheld, and the ambiguous identities of the gunmen unmasked. Efficient, precise, clean qualities which are attributed to the Swiss.

That was how the operation was carried out and no better way could be taken to demonstrate that Switzerland does not give in to blackmail or tolerate terrorism. And at the same time the Swiss system remains a humane one. The security forces of the Eastern bloc will have been able to see that a democratic system has advantages, because there is no doubt that Swiss public opinion supports Mr Furgler's actions unanimously.

However great Swiss people's sympathy is with the Polish people and their fight for human rights, they nevertheless disapprove of terrorism in all its forms. The Swiss have been asking themselves who these madmen could be, men who carried the struggle against General Jaruzelski to a foreign country, and who have at the same time damaged the reputation of Solidarity whose popular support rests on its non-violent nature.

It is now known that the head of the terrorist group is a former member of the Polish secret service who has already been convicted of a serious criminal offence in Austria, and who was once refused political asylum in Switzerland. This is not the picture one has of a member of the Solidarity movement, but the image of an ambiguous personality. It is to be hoped that enquries will establish for whom and for what he was acting.

Mr Kurt Furgler, the Swiss Minister of Justice and Police, led this affair with a masterly touch. He is above average in intelligence and ability. But because the Swiss distrust anybody who is outstanding, his popularity has not been as great as his ability. The events of the past few days have perhaps shown the Swiss that being brilliant is not necessarily a fault for a cabinet minister.'

Swiss Radio International.

The logical mediator

THE 80-year-old roman catholic priest who mediated between the Swiss authorities and gunmen occupying the Polish embassy is known as a fan of fast cars who took a flying licence at the tender age of 67.

But Father Joseph Bochenski, a Polish-born philosophy professor and former Rector of Fribourg University, also has a long list of scholarly publications on both logic and Marxism-Leninism to his credit.

It was probably this mix that led Justice Minister Kurt Furgler, a Catholic educated at Fribourg, to bring the retired professor into the government's crisis team as its main link with the gunmen. During the drama. Father Bochenski, who was born near Krakow in 1902 and became a Swiss citizen after World War II, spoke to the occupiers in their native Polish by telephone. He also visited them in the embassy for an hour.

His negotiations appeared to have contributed to the release of several of the hostages.

His role as mediator has become just another addition to an eventful career which began with law and economics studies at the University of Lwow, then in Poland. Then came religious training in the Polish city of Poznan and in Fribourg, and teaching positions in Rome and Krakow before the outbreak of World War II.

After being wounded and imprisoned early in the war, he escaped to Britain and later served as chaplain to the Polish army in exile during the Italian campaign in 1944.

At the end of the war, Fribourg University appointed him Professor of Philosophy, a position he held until retirement in 1972. He was Rector of the University from 1964 to 1966 and once led a demonstration demanding a cafeteria for students.

One of Father Bochenski's main interests has been East European studies. He founded Fribourg's East European Institute and has written several books on Soviet philosophy and Communism as well as on logic and theology.

The ordained Dominican has also lectured widely abroad, especially in West Germany, and has been a visiting professor at several American universities.

Ambassade de Pologne occupée : le Père Bochenski négociateur