

Spotlights

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Switzerland's press, radio and television not only report the news – they sometimes make it as well. This round-up by Colin Farmer spotlights some of the recent happenings back home in which the media made their own headlines.

ZÜRICH'S public prosecutor has appealed against the court acquittal of a Swiss television camera team charged last year with causing a breach of the peace while covering a youth demonstration.

The prosecution had demanded a two week suspended prison sentence for the TV team, which had been accused by police of helping demonstrators to build street barricades. But the three-man crew was acquitted – and also awarded compensation totalling Sfr. 9,000 (about £2,500).

Protester must pay

THE head of a Swiss peace movement has been fined Sfr. 300 (about £90) for trespassing on the premises of the international armaments magazine, Armada International. He was also ordered to pay all costs.

The prosecution had demanded a suspended prison sentence of eight days.

Markus Heiniger, 28-year-old secretary of the Swiss Peace Council, was charged with unlawfully entering the offices of the magazine in Winterthur earlier this year during a controversial armaments exhibition in the city.

New monthly launched

A NEW English-language magazine is being launched in

Switzerland this month.

Called Swiss Life, the monthly is being introduced by IBO Publishers of Zurich. Ten thousand copies of the launch issue are being distributed free to potential advertisers and subscribers, after which the annual subscription will cost Sfr. 38 (about £10).

Swiss Life is aimed at informing the English-speaking community "of everything you have always wanted to know about Switzerland, and to help you get the most out of living in this interesting and enjoyable country."

A number of similar ventures have failed in Switzerland over recent years, although one monthly, Geneva News and International Report, is now in its third year of publication.

'Disaster' magazine

A SWISS publisher has launched "the first international technical periodical devoted to civil defence and disaster relief."

The magazine, Aegis International, is to be published bi-monthly from Zurich in separate English and German editions.

The publishers say the aim of the new periodical will be to provide "sound professional information relating to civil

defence and disaster relief – information which, until now, has been somewhat scant on the international level."

And then there was one

SWITZERLAND'S German-speaking region, with a population of more than four million, now has only one Sunday newspaper, following closure of the Sonntags-Zeitung.

Announcing the closure, the publishers said they intend concentrating on expansion of their daily, Berner Zeitung, which is Switzerland's third biggest selling daily.

German-speaking Switzerland's sole surviving Sunday newspaper is the Zurich-based Sonntags-Blick, which succeeded four years ago in breaking through the 200,000 sales barrier and now has a circulation of 275,000.

Papers push up prices

SWITZERLAND'S French-language daily newspapers have announced a 25 per cent price increase to Sfr. 1 (about 30 pence).

Publishers have blamed the rise on higher salaries and in-

creased newsprint and other production costs. The new price brings the French-language dailies into line with many newspapers in German-speaking Switzerland.

Foreign sales are down

FOREIGN sales of Swiss newspapers and magazines are declining "rapidly", according to latest official trade figures released in Zurich.

Sales for the first half of 1982 were more than 13 per cent down on the same period last year.

Soccer on the screen

THE European Football Union, UEFA, has accused television companies of trying to enforce "unrealistically low" fees for the screening of soccer matches.

Hans Bangerter of Switzerland, general secretary of the Berne-based UEFA, says in his annual report that "although TV fees represent a supplementary income for the clubs involved... too many matches on TV do have a negative effect on attendances at live matches in the stadium."

The UEFA view, says Mr Bangerter, is that while television coverage has a certain propaganda effect for football, "it has become a form of competition for the game itself."