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Autor: Farmer, Colin

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Minister sees Swiss way with transport



BRITISH Secretary of State for Transport, David Howell, on a two-day fact-finding visit to Berne, has been briefed on the Swiss government's ambitious plan to restructure the nation's transport system by the year 2,000.

Mr Howell had talks with Swiss Communications Minister Leon Schlumpf and other senior transport officials, and also attended a parliamentary debate.

Switzerland's "Integral Concept of Trans-

port", as the plan is officially called, has been drawn up by a government-appointed 62-member commission of experts which deliberated for six years on the problems and policies of the nation's rail, road, water and air transportation.

Their findings? The system so much admired and envied by the rest of the world was considered by the critical Swiss to be poorly utilised, unco-ordinated, anti-environment and lacking in economic viability.

★ ★ ★

BRITISH actor Peter Sellers, who died in 1980, left Sfr. 50,000 to the Swiss alpine resort of Gstaad. In his will, published recently, he stipulated that the money was to be used for cultural purposes in the interest of Gstaad's inhabitants.

Peter Sellers often stayed in the fashionable Bernese Oberland resort which has become a popular home for many other show business celebrities.

Roger Moore has an eight-room chalet style villa there, and other property owners in the Gstaad region include Liz Taylor, Julie Andrews and David Niven.

★ ★ ★

SIX major airlines, including Swissair, being sued by Laker Airways are mounting a co-ordinated examination of their position.

Laker, which collapsed last year with debts totalling £270 million, is suing Transworld,

British Airways, British Caledonian and Lufthansa as well as Swissair for allegedly conspiring to drive it out of business.

In its lawsuit, Laker alleges that its low cost service and its pioneering efforts to expand operations constituted "a unique competitive threat" to established airlines.

It is claimed that "the airline defendants agreed to a predatory scheme to destroy transatlantic charters and Laker's scheduled skytrain services by offering, among other features, high-cost service at prices below the cost of those services."

Zurich-based Swissair spokesman Hans Hautle said the lawsuit was currently in the hands of the company's lawyers, and that the company could not comment on the Laker charges until they had been studied in detail.

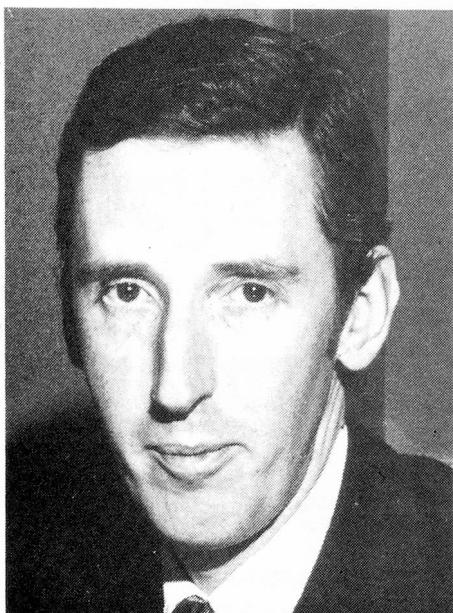
He said Swissair intended contacting the other airlines named in the suit "so that we can co-ordinate our strategy".

He described the total amount being claimed by Laker - \$1.7 thousand million - as "one hell of a high sum".

★ ★ ★

SWITZERLAND has formally rejected a request from Poland for the extradition of four men accused of occupying the Polish Embassy in Berne last year and threatening to blow it up.

A Swiss government statement says that the four men, all Polish-born and aged between 20 and 42, will all be tried in Switzerland because their alleged crimes



David Howell: Seeing for himself

were committed on Swiss territory.

The case will be tried this year by Switzerland's highest court, the federal tribunal in Lausanne.

International attention was focussed on Berne when four men occupied the embassy on September 6, taking hostages and threatening to blow up the building and its occupants if the Polish government failed to meet wide-ranging political demands.

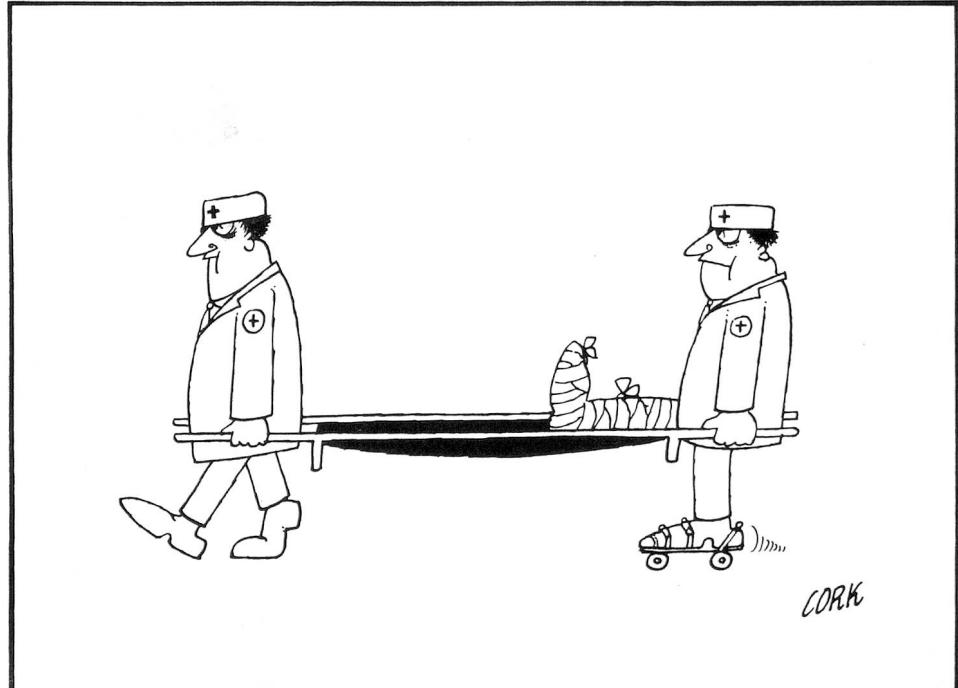
After a tense, 73-hour siege Swiss police stormed the embassy, freeing all the hostages and capturing the gunmen.

★ ★ ★

SWISS boxer Joseph Iten has failed in his bid to win the European feather-weight title from Britain's Pat Cowdell.

The referee stopped the Zurich fight in the 12th and final round, with the courageous but inexperienced Iten already hopelessly behind on points.

For Iten, 23, it was the fourth defeat in 13 professional fights. Cowdell, who is 29, has now won all but three of his 26 contests.



SWISS SOCCER

Football League tables up to and including December 4

'A' Division	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts	'B' Division	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts		
Grasshoppers	15	12	1	2	41	13	25	La Chaux-de-F.	14	13	1	0	45	5	27
Servette	15	12	1	2	31	8	25	Biel	14	9	2	3	32	17	20
Xamax	15	9	2	4	33	22	20	Chiasso	14	8	3	3	31	14	19
Zürich	15	8	3	4	29	21	19	Lugano	14	8	3	3	35	22	19
Lucerne	15	8	2	5	34	28	18	Chênois	14	7	4	3	28	20	18
Young Boys Berne	15	7	4	4	19	18	18	Laufen	14	6	6	2	22	15	18
Sion	15	6	5	4	23	16	17	Fribourg	14	4	7	3	23	19	15
St. Gallen	15	7	2	6	27	17	16	Nordstern	14	5	5	4	22	19	15
Lausanne	15	7	2	6	26	19	16	Mendrisio	14	5	4	5	21	14	
Basle	15	7	2	6	26	20	16	Grenchen	14	3	6	5	13	18	12
Vevey	15	7	2	6	27	27	16	Monthey	14	3	4	7	22	25	10
Wettingen	15	5	4	6	27	26	14	Ibach	14	3	3	8	16	32	9
Aarau	15	2	2	11	11	32	6	Locarno	14	3	3	8	14	30	9
Bellinzona	15	2	2	11	13	45	6	Berne	14	3	2	9	16	31	8
Winterthur	15	0	4	11	10	32	4	Baden	14	1	6	7	10	30	8
Bulle	15	0	4	11	10	43	4	Rüti	14	1	1	12	16	43	3