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X-tra radio service in English

FOR nearly half a century, Swiss Radio International – a division of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation – has been broadcasting in English around the world.

Now, it has launched a community radio service within Switzerland itself. It will serve the Geneva region where the largest English-speaking community in the country is located. The name of the new service is Radio X-tra.

The Geneva programme, which will also serve English-speaking tourists, has been under discussion for some years. Interest was expressed at various levels in the Geneva area throughout the 1970s, and SBC then began serious study of such a service.

The Geneva city and cantonal authorities were in favour of the project, and last November the Swiss Communications Ministry gave the SBC the go-ahead for a three-month trial period.

Radio X-tra went on the air on March 31. It operates 12 hours a day, seven days a week, broadcasting international, national, regional and local news as well as feature programmes and music.

Policeman found guilty

A SWISS policeman who seized and damaged equipment belonging to a Press photographer covering a youth demonstration in Zurich has been found guilty of

abuse of authority.

The Zurich court gave the policeman a suspended five-day prison sentence and ordered him to pay the costs of the case. He was also ordered to pay the photographer Sfr 1,000 (about £300) in damages.

The court was told that the photographer, who was wearing a Press armband, was attempting to photograph the arrest of a demonstrator during Zurich's 1981 youth unrest.

It was alleged that the policeman seized the photographer's flash equipment and threw it to the ground. A second policeman, who has not been identified, picked up the flash and threw it into a river.

The case is the first of its kind arising from the Zurich demon-

strations in which a policeman has been convicted. In 12 previous cases, policemen were found not guilty.

New title in trouble

A NEW English-language magazine in Switzerland has changed its title after only one issue.

A promotional launch issue was published last November under the title *Swiss Life*. But a leading Swiss insurance company, which had been using the same name for many years as an abbreviated company designation, won a court order preventing the publishers from making

further use of the title.

The first issue proper has now appeared with the new title, *Swiss Scene*.

The magazine is published by IBO Verlag of Zurich and will appear 10 times a year. It is aimed at the estimated 50,000 English-speaking community in Switzerland and at the further 150,000 residents using English as their second or working language.

Stamp of success

THE Swiss Post Office has issued a special postage stamp to commemorate the centenary of the Swiss Journalists' Federation.

The Federation has 3,000 members and is one of Switzerland's oldest professional organisations.

The stamp shows a teleprinter tape forming the letters J and P – for Journalism and Press.

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.