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Black day for the women of Switzerland



THE Swiss parliament has rejected the first woman candidate to bid for election to the federal cabinet.

Lilian Uchtenhagen (55) from Zurich, a member of parliament for 12 years and the official candidate of the Social Democrats,

would have become the first woman cabinet minister in Swiss history.

But her fellow parliamentarians, in a secret ballot, elected instead former MP Otto Stich (57) from Solothurn.

Opinion polls had indicated overwhelming

public support for Mrs Uchtenhagen (a former student of the London School of Economics), but the conservative make-up of parliament favoured Stich.

Of the 246 votes cast, he received 124 and Mrs Uchtenhagen 96. Mr Stich now succeeds Willi Ritschard, the popular Social Democrat Finance Minister, who died last October shortly after announcing his retirement.

Ritschard himself had frequently expressed the view that it was time for a woman to join the cabinet, and that he would like to see Mrs Uchtenhagen as his successor.

In the event, her non-election was summed up by several newspapers here as "a black day for the women of Switzerland".

A second vacant cabinet post went to Jean-Pascal Delamuraz (Radical), 47-year-old mayor of Lausanne, who succeeds retiring Defence Minister Georges-André Chevallaz.

Since 1959, the seven cabinet posts in Switzerland have been divided up between the four main parties. The Radicals, Christian Democrats and Social Democrats can each claim two cabinet posts, with the seventh going to the Peoples' Party.

In the pre-Christmas parliamentary poll, the incumbent five other cabinet ministers



— courtesy Tribune le Matin, Lausanne



Transport Minister Leon Schlumpf was also elected President of the Swiss Confederation for 1984.

easily won re-election to a new four-year term.

They are Foreign Minister Pierre Aubert (Social Democrat), Economics Minister Kurt Furgler and Interior Minister Alfons Egli (Christian Democrat), Justice Minister Rudolf Friedrich (Radical) and Transport Minister Leon Schlumpf (Peoples' Party).

Mr Schlumpf was also elected President of

the Swiss Confederation for 1984 – a largely ceremonial post that rotates annually among the seven cabinet ministers.

★ ★ ★

SIXTEEN months ago, Switzerland was the focus of world attention for three dramatic days when a group of gunmen seized the Polish embassy in Berne, took diplomats hostage, and demanded a Sfr. 3 million ransom.

Now the Swiss federal court has sentenced the four Polish exiles to prison terms of up to six years. The presiding judge told the defendants that they would have received more severe sentences had they seized the embassy only three weeks later, when tougher Swiss penalties came into force.

A six-year sentence was passed on self-styled "Colonel" Florian Kruszyk, 42, who masterminded the embassy take-over and claimed to have acted on orders from an Albanian-based "Polish national liberation front".

The three others, aged 22 to 34, received prison terms of two and a half and three years.

They testified they had wanted to join in a "patriotic struggle" against the Polish government, but now realised that the organisation Kruszyk claimed to represent did not in fact exist.

All four men will be banned from

Switzerland on completion of their sentences.

The 72-hour September siege ended without bloodshed when a Swiss commando unit stormed the embassy. During the siege Kruszyk handed over to Swiss police secret files from the office of the Polish military attaché.

Swiss authorities said later that the documents contained evidence of Polish espionage activities in Switzerland – and the attaché was subsequently expelled.

But the court rejected Kruszyk's contention that he had demanded Sfr. 3 million not as a ransom but as payment for the secret files.

The federal prosecutor acknowledged that the unmasking of the attaché had been "of advantage" to Switzerland, but said this could not be taken into account in judging the crime of hostage-taking. He said Swiss counter-intelligence could do without "unauthorised agents" and was under no obligation to be grateful to Kruszyk.

★ ★ ★

SWITZERLAND'S Omega watch company has celebrated 20 years in space with its participation in the latest flight by the American "Columbia" craft.

Last month's mission was the 34th time since 1963 that the "Speedmaster Profess-

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SWISS SOCCER

Football League tables up to and including December 10

'A' Division	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts
Sion	15	10	1	4	36	20
St. Gallen	15	9	3	3	30	24
Zurich Grasshoppers	14	9	2	3	28	16
Neuchatel Xamax	15	8	4	3	33	15
Geneva Servette	15	9	2	4	33	17
Wettingen	15	8	3	4	24	18
Berne Young Boys	15	6	3	6	21	17
Chaux-de-Fonds	15	5	5	5	32	15
Lausanne	14	6	2	6	26	18
Vevey	15	6	1	8	24	32
Aarau	15	4	4	7	28	28
Basel	15	5	2	8	29	36
Zurich	15	5	2	8	23	30
Lucerne	15	5	2	8	18	26
Chiasco	15	3	0	12	13	42
Bellinzona	15	2	2	11	12	43

'B' Division	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts
Martigny	15	9	2	4	32	17
Lugano	15	6	8	1	29	16
Mendrisio	15	6	6	3	25	18
Biel	15	6	6	3	35	28
Winterthur	15	6	6	3	29	28
Grenchen	15	6	5	4	24	18
SC Zug	15	6	5	4	22	20
Chênois	15	6	4	5	20	20
Baden	15	6	3	6	35	35
Bulle	15	4	6	5	29	28
Laufen	15	4	6	5	19	25
Monthey	15	4	5	6	19	22
Locarno	15	3	6	6	20	26
Zurich Red Star	15	4	2	9	27	33
Fribourg	15	2	5	8	19	30
Basel Nordstern	15	1	7	7	14	34

Lines separate championship leader, relegation and promotion zones.

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ional" had been worn on a space flight.

The watch – which retails in Switzerland at Sfr. 750 (about £230) – is one of the very few products of regular and current manufacture included in the astronauts' official equipment.

Omega was selected by the US space authorities in the early sixties after rigorous testing of a series of competing products acquired locally in Houston from commercial sources without the knowledge of the manufacturers.

One of the watches was worn by Neil Armstrong on July 21, 1969, as he became the first man to set foot on the moon.

The Omega products were also on the wrists of American astronauts when they shook hands with Soviet cosmonauts during the 1975 Appollo-Soyuz space rendezvous.

But the Swiss chronograph played its most spectacular and dramatic role in April 1970 during the Apollo 13 mission.

Because of an oxygen tank explosion, the pilots of the lunar module had to depend entirely on the perfection and precision of "Speedmaster Professional" to refire the rocket at the precise moment – and enable the crew to return safely to earth.

★ ★ ★

ENGLAND will have to wait a few more months before knowing if its application to stage the 1990 World Cup has been successful.

The Zurich-based International Football Federation (FIFA) was to have announced the host country a few weeks ago. But the volume of documentation and other paperwork to be studied made a December decision impossible. A FIFA statement said it was now hoped to make an announcement in May.

England is one of four countries which have submitted firm applications – the others are Greece, Italy and the Soviet Union.

THE ARTS

THERE are several ways of paying tribute to the opera and the ballet. Certain cities maintain permanent companies of their own, with varying degrees of success. Others have a tradition of welcoming companies from outside.

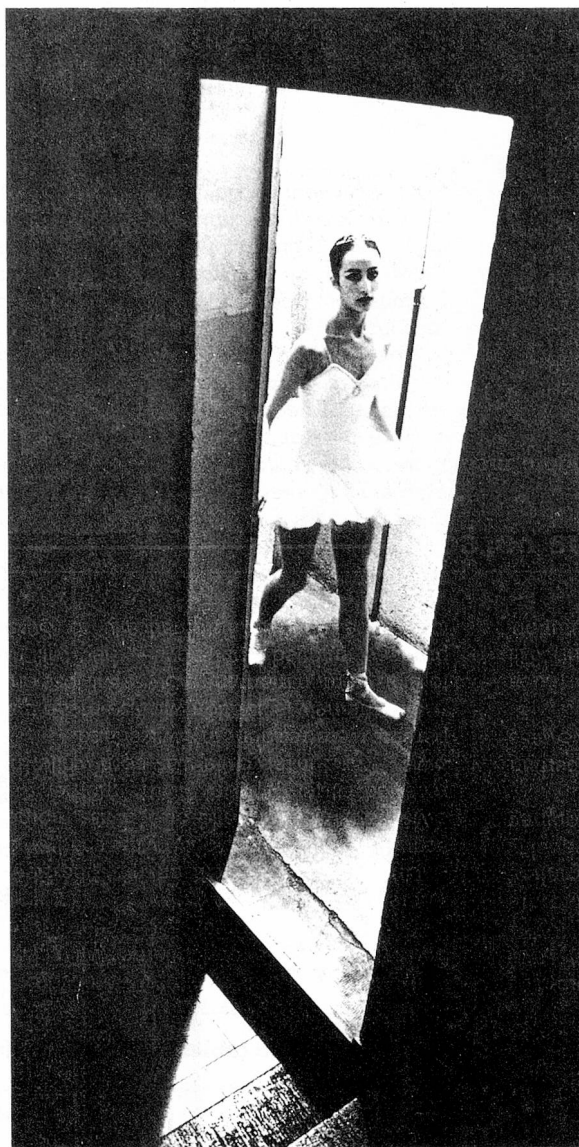
This is the case of Lausanne which, while boasting a Chamber Orchestra of international repute, the OCL (Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne), and contributing to the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, prefers – in the lyric and choreographic fields – to invite companies of no less international fame.

In addition to the various performances arranged throughout the year – with the important International Festival in the spring – a big ballet competition is organised at the end of January every year: the Prix de Lausanne.

Whether at Varna, Moscow, Tokyo, or Jackson, classical dance competitions abound all over the world. The Lausanne competition is nevertheless unique.

First of all because it is open exclusively to young dancers from 15 to 18 (for girls) and to 19 (for boys). Then because even though various prizes in the form of cash and medal are awarded, the main big prizes are scholarships.

This year the four prizewinners will have the pleasant task of choosing from the nine big ballet schools participating in the scheme the one where they wish to complete their training: the Princess Grace Academy in Monte Carlo, the Hamburg Ballet



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