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OVER 600 enquiries were received about the 2nd Swiss Videotex Congress to be held in the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle on September 6 and 7.

The number of exhibitors – including almost all the big names in the fields of electronics and telematics – is increasing all the time.

The new Swiss videotex industry has adopted the Basle congress as its main event.

But the congress is more than a Swiss show. French and Germans from the Videotex and postal administration fields will be getting together.

There will also be speakers from Austria, the UK, the USA and Canada so it will be possible to see how Swiss Videotex compares with European and overseas systems. For example, there is a completely different approach in France.

On show will be the latest equipment and software, including intelligent editing stations and

Videotex Congress is a big attraction

scanners.

The congress is being held on three levels under the motto "Videotex taking off": One will include domestic and foreign suppliers of equipment, programmes and services.

Then there will be two important, and probably controversial, panel discussions – "Videotex – who benefits?" and "Does Switzerland need Videotex?"

Videotex and laser video discs complement each other. The latest developments in video discs and related search programmes, plus a number of Swiss video discs will be premiered.

As a prelude to the congress,

September 5 will be Youth Day – 1,500 young people will get free invitations. Next evening an international jury convened by the Basle Chamber of Commerce will for the first time present the Golden Monitor, the prize for the best videotext programmes.

The Swiss Viewdata Information Providers Association (SVIPA) is supporting the congress. Related organisations plan their own functions on the fringe of the congress.

The fee for taking part in the congress, including lunch, is Sfr 650.

Now at the operational trial stage, Videotex is entering its decisive phase in Switzerland now that

the first 3,000 and more users are connected and central facilities installed.

By the end of 1984 there should be 150 suppliers of information. The Basle congress will show what progress has been made in this new media technique and will present the first practical results of the use of Videotex.

Profits up

THE Swiss-based international Hotelplan group, which operates in nine European countries, pushed its profits up by 15 per cent to Sfr 3.9 million last year.

Turnover was 6.3 per cent down and the number of

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passengers, 539,462, also dropped by six per cent. But expenditure was cut by seven per cent.

Outside Switzerland, every national unit in the groups suffered a fall in income except Italy. But all were in the black with the exception of the Belgian company.

Hotelplan Japan was closed down, while in the UK, Hotelplan gave up Swans. In Italy, successful restructuring measures were taken.

.. and up

SWISS regional airline Crossair reached new heights last year, showing an increase in average seat occupancy, freight carried, earnings and net profit.

Crossair's cash flow rose by 46 per cent to Sfr 9.3 million, while net profit shot up by 70 per cent to Sfr 1.43 million.

The first of 10 new 35-seater Saab Fairchild Cityliners will go into service shortly. Crossair will be the world's first airline to use them and seat availability will go up by 54 per cent this year as a result.

The airline expects to increase its profit again, with 18 per cent more flights.

Crossair is also to open its own maintenance facilities at Basle-Mulhouse airport this year.

In the first four months of this year, Crossair carried 74,851 passengers, 36 per cent up on the same period last year. Seat occupancy rose six per cent to 57 per cent.

● Crossair has published the first issue of its in-flight magazine *Airtalk*. With contributions in German, French, Italian and English, it is to be published every two months.

Phänomena

ZURICH is staging "Phänomena" – an exhibition of natural phenomena and mysteries – until October 23.

Owing to the rapid pace of

technological progress, it has become ever more difficult for the layman to grasp new discoveries and achievements. The aim of "Phänomena" is to relate outward effects to hidden causes, and thereby shed light on the basic natural phenomena. A lively interaction between visitors and exhibits is encouraged.

The scientific aspects of the exhibition have been organised by the Zurich and Lausanne Institutes of Technology, the Universities of Zurich and Geneva, and numerous other scientific bodies. Special emphasis is given to water, air, acoustics, optics and mechanics. Wind and water sculptures, a solar observatory and a weather station all feature among the exhibits.

Further themes covered by the exhibition are gravitation (a 30 metre steel tower is used for demonstrations), photosynthesis, crystal-growing, mathematical and acoustic experiments, alternative energy sources (including solar engines) – to mention but a few.

£71m sale

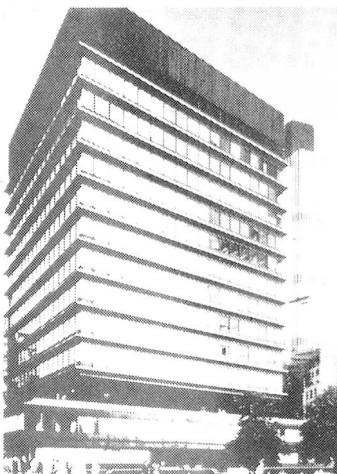
THE Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company and the Union Bank of Switzerland have completed the sale of the P & O Building on Leadenhall Street, London to UBS at a price of £71 million – £10 million now and the balance in six months.

The price is equivalent to the book value of the property at December 1983.

The building has been acquired by UBS with a view to a phased occupation. UBS plan a programme of improvements to the property to coincide with their occupation.

Savills have been appointed managing agents, having acted in the acquisition on behalf of UBS.

The P & O Building is one of the landmarks of the City of London. It was built in 1967, in a joint development with the adjacent Commercial Union Tower. It is 185 feet high and provides column free offices



A new London home for the UBS arranged around a central service core.

The building provides 160,000 square feet of offices and ancillary stores, plus a basement car park for 85 cars. It is currently occupied by 17 tenants operating largely in banking.

The Union Bank of Switzerland

has purchased the freehold interest in the building with a view to a phased occupation over a number of years by their expanding London branch.

The bank plans to improve the building and bring it up to the standard of the best accommodation in the City.

Meanwhile, the expected annual income from the property will rise to £3.96 million by the end of 1984, representing an initial yield of 5.55 per cent on the purchase price of £71 million (the book value of the property in the vendors' accounts).

★ ★ ★

SWISS coach travel firm and tour operator Marti has taken delivery of its new Sfr 720,000 'flagship', a 375 horse power double-decker coach seating 70 passengers.

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HIGH drama marked the final days of the 1983/84 Swiss soccer season, which lasted well into June. Grasshoppers of Zurich snatched the league championship for the third successive season and has now won the title a record 20 times.

High drama because Servette of Geneva (who last season came second in the league and were beaten cup finalists against old rivals Grasshoppers) again had the chance of the double.

In an emotional final league fixture in Geneva against Neuchâtel Xamax, Servette managed only a 1-1 draw. Grasshoppers won their final game against Wettingen, and so both Servette and Grasshoppers finished their 30 league games on 44 points.

In Swiss soccer that means that there had to be a play-off to decide the league championship, because here goal average or difference does not count.

It was to be a busy and gruelling Whit week for Servette. On the Whit Monday they defeated Lausanne 1-0 after extra time in the

Did penalty decision cost the double?

— asks Robert Brookes

Swiss Cup Final in Berne's Wankdorf stadium. At last they had something to display in the boardroom!

In the league championship play-off in the same stadium just 96 hours later, Servette also had to play extra time against Grasshoppers.

Then a controversial penalty decision was given in Grasshoppers' favour, and Andy Egli shot the only goal of the match to retain the coveted league title.

It was so controversial that Servette's Belgian international Michel Renquin took his shirt off after the goal and led some of the players off the pitch. It took trainer Guy Matthez to persuade them to play on.

Despite this cliffhanger of a climax, the 1983/84 season was a lacklustre affair. There was an unusually large number of injuries, the relegation struggle was decided early on, crowds were not so large and traditionally strong clubs like Basle, Young Boys of Berne, Lucerne and Zurich were rather casual in their approach.

The brighter points of the season were provided by matches involving St Gallen, Sion and Neuchâtel Xamax, all of whom at times played attractive attacking football.

For the record, Heinz Hermann of Grasshoppers was voted Swiss footballer of the year and Georges Brégy of Sion was top marksman of the season with 21 goals.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES

'A' Division	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts
Zurich Grasshoppers	30	19	6	5	59	32 44
Geneva Servette	30	19	6	5	67	31 44
Sion	30	18	7	5	74	39 43
Neuchatel Xamax	30	15	10	5	54	27 40
St. Gallen	30	16	8	6	57	41 40
Lausanne	30	13	8	9	49	37 34
Chaux-de-Fds.	30	12	9	9	52	47 33
Wettingen	30	12	6	12	43	43 30
Basle	30	11	6	13	55	59 28
Aarau	30	9	9	12	50	42 27
Berne Young Boys	30	8	9	13	39	40 25
Zurich	30	8	8	14	39	56 24
Vevey	30	9	6	15	43	65 24
Lucerne	30	9	4	17	35	52 22
Bellinzona	30	4	4	22	30	79 12
Chiasso	30	4	2	24	26	82 10

'B' Division	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts
Zug	30	16	9	5	64	33 41
Winterthur	30	16	9	5	56	43 41
Lugano	30	13	12	5	59	35 38
Martigny	30	13	7	10	49	40 33
Baden	30	13	7	10	60	53 33
Bulle	30	12	7	11	48	45 31
Mendrisio	30	9	12	9	41	35 30
Locarno	30	9	11	10	44	49 29
Chênois	30	10	9	11	42	51 29
Grenchen	30	8	12	10	41	45 28
Biel	30	8	12	10	45	51 28
Laufen	30	8	12	10	38	47 28
Monthey	30	7	10	13	34	43 24
Fribourg	30	8	8	14	38	51 24
Basle Nordstern	30	7	9	14	38	60 23
Zurich Red Star	30	8	4	18	48	64 20

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