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Rudolf Friedrich to resign this month.

Justice Minister resigns: 'I have no choice'

SWISS Justice Minister Rudolf Friedrich is to resign this month because of ill-health.

Mr Friedrich (61), who suffers from heart trouble, has been a member of the seven-man coalition cabinet for only 21 months. Swiss ministers normally serve at least one four-year term.

He announced his resignation at a special press conference, saying that the ill health which had forced him to cut back on engagements earlier in the year would no longer enable him to concentrate fully on his work.

"This is a job which you do either 100 per cent, or not at all", he said. "I take this decision to resign with the deepest regret. I have no other choice".

He will leave office on October 20 – almost one year to the day after cabinet colleague, Finance Minister Willi Ritschard, died of a heart attack.

Mr Friedrich is one of two Radicals in the Swiss cabinet and represents strictly conservative thinking. He will be replaced by another Radical – to be elected by parliament this month – leaving unchanged the balance of power shared by Switzerland's four major parties since 1959.

The Justice Minister announced his resignation only three weeks after a bomb attack on his home in Winterthur – the first ever such attack on a Swiss government minister.

But his health had already been causing concern for some time, and Mr Friedrich confirmed the generally-accepted view that the bomb blast had not been a factor in his

decision to resign.

Mr Friedrich was asleep in the bedroom of his villa at Winterthur when the explosive charge – fastened to the living room window shutters – went off shortly after one o'clock in the morning.

The minister was unhurt, but the blast was powerful enough to cause damage estimated at some Sfr 20,000 (about £7,000).

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack and a full-scale police operation has produced no known results so far. The attack was widely condemned by other political parties and the Swiss press.

Lausanne's *Le Matin* wrote of "a cowardly act" and commented: "Without being chauvinistic, one is tempted to say that this attack is more intolerable in this country than elsewhere."

"For Switzerland is a country where you can meet a member of the government on a tram. A place where you can walk past the director of the national bank while crossing the street. A country where you can quietly say hello to a celebrity while buying a loaf of bread."

"These are almost banal situations, with no escorts or bodyguards in sight. In short, peaceful and democratic Switzerland".

Blick, Switzerland's top-selling popular daily, noted that "our government ministers have even less protection than film stars".

A spokesman for the Justice Ministry said, however, that he did not anticipate any major changes in the liberal security

measures for government ministers.

"Switzerland must avoid losing its coolness and composure", warned the *Tribune de Genève*, "because that's exactly what people who plant bombs want".

Said one prominent politician: "We live in a very relaxed climate. And it is absolutely necessary to keep it that way".

★ ★ ★

BRITISH Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has been holidaying in Switzerland. Mrs Thatcher, accompanied by her husband Dennis, spent nearly two weeks relaxing at the spacious luxury home on Lake Zug of her close friend Lady Glover-Hürliemann, who has been host to the Thatchers several times in recent years.

Lady Glover-Hürliemann is the widow of Sir Douglas Glover, who was for 17 years Conservative Member of Parliament for the Lancashire constituency of Ormskirk and who died in 1982. Her first husband was a prominent Swiss businessman.

During her holiday, Mrs Thatcher spent a day in Berne where she was guest at a private luncheon hosted by members of the Swiss cabinet.

While the Prime Minister was in Switzerland, young Swiss demonstrators dumped a pile of coal outside her luxury holiday residence – "to remind Mrs Thatcher of striking coal miners in Britain".

Mrs Thatcher was also in Switzerland at

...reporting from Berne



the same time as 20 children of striking Welsh miners, invited here for a holiday by the Swiss Trade Union Federation as a gesture of solidarity with the British mine workers.

Switzerland sees a softer side of the 'Iron Lady'. (Photo: Robert Grogg, Wiedlisbach)



Mrs Thatcher with Swiss government ministers in Berne. From left to right: Mrs Delamuraz, Defence Minister Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, Dennis Thatcher, Economics Minister Kurt Furgler, Mrs Thatcher, Swiss President and Transport Minister Leon Schlumpf, Mrs Schlumpf, Lady Glover-Hürlimann and Foreign Minister Pierre Aubert. (Photo: Robert Grogg, Wiedlisbach)

Colin Farmer

From Page 5

WITH the new soccer season only a few weeks old, there have already been some surprises in Switzerland.

After only the first two matches of the league programme no club had won maximum points. Defending champions Grasshoppers of Zurich are currently "only" in fourth place – just one point ahead of

promoted Zug.

Geneva Servette, last year's cup winners and league runners-up, top the table. High-scoring Neuchâtel Xamax – with 16 goals in five matches – are in second place.

Football League tables up to and including September 14

'A' division

	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts
Geneva Servette	5	3	2	0	11	3 8
Neuchâtel Xamax	5	3	1	1	16	9 7
Aarau	5	2	3	0	15	8 7
Zurich Grasshoppers (D)	5	3	1	1	9	3 7
Zug (P)	5	2	2	1	11	9 6
Sion	5	3	0	2	6	9 6
St. Gallen	4	2	1	1	11	4 5
Lucerne	5	2	1	2	4	8 5
Lausanne	4	1	2	1	8	7 4
La Chaux-de-Fonds	5	1	2	2	6	7 4
Zurich	5	2	0	3	6	12 4
Vevey	5	0	3	2	5	8 3
Wettingen	5	1	1	3	5	8 3
Berne Young Boys	5	1	1	3	5	8 3
Winterthur (P)	5	1	1	3	5	12 3
Basle	5	1	1	3	6	14 3

'B' Division

	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts
Grenchen	5	3	2	0	13	3 8
Biel	5	3	2	0	13	5 8
Chiasso (R)	5	4	0	1	11	6 8
Schaffhausen (P)	5	3	2	0	6	3 8
Martigny	5	2	2	1	13	7 6
Bulle	5	3	0	2	8	5 6
Etoile-Carouge (P)	5	2	1	2	9	8 5
Mendrisio	5	2	1	2	7	7 5
Locarno	5	1	3	1	7	8 5
Baden	5	2	1	2	6	7 5
Laufen	5	1	2	2	5	6 4
Lugano	5	2	0	3	4	7 4
Yverdon (P)	5	1	1	3	4	8 3
Bellinzona (R)	5	1	1	3	4	9 3
Chênois	5	0	2	3	4	12 2
Monthey	5	0	0	5	5	18 0

D = Defending champions

P = Promoted last season

R = Relegated last season



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