

# Swiss events

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## TWO FEDERAL COUNCILLORS RESIGN—POLICY ROW LOOMS

Federal Councillors Pierre Graber and Ernst Brugger, head of the Political and Economics Departments, have resigned and will leave office at the end of the year (see Gottfried Keller's Letter from Switzerland). Mr. Brugger's successor, a member of the Radical party from Zürich, has been named as Mr. Fritz Honnegger. Mr. Graber's successor was expected to be established during November. There was talk of Mr. Enzio Canonica, the Socialist Speaker of the National Council, taking over Mr. Graber's job. Owing to the Socialists' growing dissatisfaction with federal economic policies, the choice of a suitable candidate to replace Mr. Graber was said to create difficulties to the

party. The two outgoing federal councillors have been in office since the beginning of 1972 and Mr. Brugger said that his time in office had been long enough. Mr. Graber heard the news of his resignation over the radio as it had only been agreed verbally by the time it was made public.

Mr. Graber had taken the succession of Willy Spuehler and Mr. Brugger, that of Mr. Hans Schaffner. During Mr. Graber's tenure as Head of the Political Department, Swiss foreign policy has become more demonstrably active, and there has been a significant increase in the number of official journeys of Swiss leaders abroad.

## SWISS EVENTS

### Outlook good

Inter Hotels of Switzerland can expect increased business from Britain over the coming year, representatives of the 22-member nation-wide group were told at their recent annual meeting in Rorschach.

Group founder-member Mr. Rolf Tanner (Savoy Hotel, Berne) told the Inter Hotels meeting that much of the expected increase could result from the "See Berne, Discover Switzerland" programme, launched this year by the Berne City Tourist Office.

The 10-day go-as-you-please arrangement offers individual and group visitors to Switzerland bed and breakfast accommodation at the Inter Hotels of their choice, unlimited rail travel or self-drive car hire and other benefits. Prices per person start from about Sw.Fr. 400 for economy class accommodation and from about Sw.Fr. 600 for first class accommodation.

Mr. Tanner said the "See Berne, Discover Switzerland" programme was attracting widespread interest in Britain — "despite the state of the pound".

"It will prove to the British tourist that Switzerland can meet the challenge of offering high quality holidays without high prices," he said.

## DR. WEITNAUER AT SECURITY CONFERENCE

Dr. Albert Weitnauer, former Swiss Ambassador in London and well known to many members of the Colony, was the first delegate to speak at the conference which opened in early October in Belgrade to assess the results of the European Security Conference that took place in Helsinki two years ago.

This important gathering of 35 European nations and the U.S. and Canada has set itself the task to review progress in detente, in the respect of

human rights, in economic co-operation and the flow of ideas and people between east and west. Switzerland attaches considerable importance to the meeting since it is the first major political platform on which it has made its ideas and presence felt.

In his speech, Dr. Weitnauer said that it had to be recognised that security was not really guaranteed in Europe today and that small countries, in particular, remained vulnerable. It was necessary for them to ensure their security through their own efforts, he added.

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# VOTE TO 'RESTRICT' RIGHTS

During the important referendum held on the weekend of 24th-25th September, the Swiss people voted in favour of an initiative requiring that the number required to support an initiative be raised from 50,000 to 100,000 and that the number of signatures for a referendum be raised from 30,000 to 50,000. An initiative allows the people to demand of Parliament that it draft, alter or abolish laws considered in the initiative proposals. An initiative usually entails a modification of the Constitution.

A referendum offers the people a final word, superseding that of parliament, on legislative matters. It is compulsory in cases where the final word *has* to be given by the people in accordance with the Constitution, it is called optional when it is held at the demand of people who have collected the required number of signatures. The system applies both on the federal and cantonal levels.

During that same weekend, the Swiss people rejected three other

initiatives put to them: One which called for legal abortion during the three months of pregnancy, another which called for State controlled rents in order to protect tenants, and one which called for a ban on Sunday driving once a month to save energy.

The vote the number of signatures for a referendum related to an important aspect of Swiss life. An increasing number of people feel that they are being called too often to the polls and often on issues of remote interest to them. The result is that abstentionism is very high and the ideals of direct democracy with every citizen being politically responsible and caring for the affairs of the State are hardly countenanced in real life.

By making Referenda less easy, the Swiss people will possibly be called to the polls at fewer intervals. Another point is that the great majority of initiatives that have been launched during the past hundred years have been rejected by the people.

on Monday, Thursday and Saturday to supplement the normal three flights daily. The London-Zürich night flights, operated three times weekly last winter, will be discontinued. No change is made in the three daily London-Geneva flights. The London-Basle service will be daily, against six times weekly last winter, and weekend night flights will again be available from mid-December. The daily Manchester-Zürich service continues unchanged.

Linz, the industrial centre and capital of Upper Austria, joins the network with a daily service from Zürich via Salzburg. Geneva-Barcelona receives more capacity with DC-9-51 aircraft and a daily frequency from March. Zürich-Lisbon will be flown daily throughout the winter period. Frequencies are also being increased on domestic services between Zürich and Geneva.

## North and South America

Daily non-stop services will operate by Boeing 747B between Zürich and New York, while Zürich-Geneva-New York will have five flights weekly until mid-February and six thereafter. Boston and Chicago are to be served daily by DC-10. On the route Switzerland-Montreal-Toronto Swissair and Air Canada will each have four flights weekly, with Swissair for the first time operating Zürich-Toronto non-stop once weekly.

On the South Atlantic, the increased DC-10 capacity to Brazil and Argentina, introduced in the summer, will be maintained.

## NEW DESTINATIONS IN SWISSAIR WINTER PROGRAMME

Innovations in Swissair's winter schedules effective from 1st November include a London-Zürich noon flight, the addition of Linz (Austria) and Ankara (Turkey) to the network and more

wide-body capacity on the Far East routes. The two new destinations bring the number of cities served by Swissair to 90.

## Europe

On the London-Zürich route Swissair is introducing an 11.30 departure

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