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SPECIAL NOTICE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Visit to Basel Depot

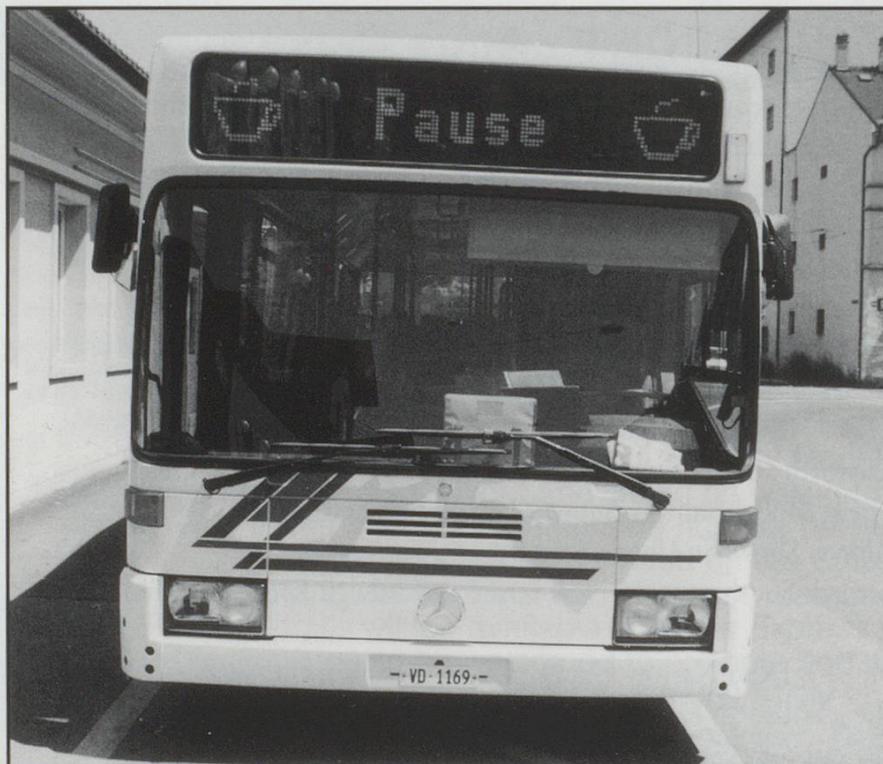
Having passed through Basel, that great crossroads at the entry to Switzerland, so often, it has been for many years a great regret that the Depot and stabling point, so tantalising, is always out of reach. Unfortunately, sadly, that situation may have become permanent.

Earlier this year, probably in April, a number of people arrived at the entrance to the Depot and, explaining that they were members of the Swiss Railways Society, asked for permission to pay an unofficial visit. This permission was granted. The group then entered the Depot and, having donned high-visibility clothing, proceeded to move around on railway lines which were clearly not part of the Depot. The Depot staff noticed this and, with some difficulty, rounded the group up and ensured that they left the railway premises before injury occurred. Relieved that no accident had happened, and determined not to put themselves at risk again, the Depot Management decided that no further speculative visits should be entertained.

Who these people were is not known. It is possible that they were not SRS members. If they are members and are reading this they will know who they are. Quite apart from the fact that a Society rule has been broken in the use of the Society's name for personal gain, those persons exposed themselves to unnecessary danger and in doing so antagonised railway staff, but to what end? The reputation of the Society has been in some way tarnished and if those concerned had been identified, and were members, their membership would almost certainly be withdrawn by the Committee.

Railway installations not normally accessible to members of the public are extremely hazardous places. Trains, especially electric ones, move silently and are merciless to those who do not treat them with respect. It is questionable whether requests should be made for speculative visits, but if they are and permission to enter is granted, then it is sound sense, quite apart from a common courtesy, to behave with great care and to advise and thank the staff when the premises are left. It should be unnecessary to add that if permission is not granted, then no attempt should be made to "get round" the premises. We have a most entertaining hobby which can be pursued in a great variety of ways. Let us not spoil it for each other.

Paul Russenberger, Chairman.



*Take a minute with this picture and look at the destination blind. A sense of humour has alleviated what is always a bone of contention between passengers and drivers. Any bus operators reading this in the UK should take note.
A great picture taken by Ron Smith at 1230 24/05/01 outside Nyon station.*