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THE EDITOR'S EDITORIAL

I would like first to extend the sympathies of all of us to those in the US who may have suffered after the September outrage in New York. SRS has a lot of members in the US and this tragedy may well have touched some of them either directly or indirectly. It is conceivable that there are members here in the UK and the other parts of the world we reach who may also have been affected and you too will be in our thoughts.

SWITZERLAND IN THE NEWS

Switzerland has been in the news recently for reasons that are quite out of the ordinary.

Firstly: the terrible shooting in the Zug Regional Parliament. Not something I would normally mention but it is appropriate to extend our sympathies to those who have died or suffered as a result.

Secondly: the collapse of Swissair. Although the company has been in difficulties for some time I am not convinced that this was expected to be the outcome. As many of you will know Crossair was partly owned by Swissair, fortunately it did not go down with its parent and has indeed taken over much of the network. A recent Press Release has clarified the situation in that the Federal Government and other corporations have provided funding until the end of March 2002 enabling Crossair to integrate planes, staff and services into an extended network. A new Swiss airline will be recreated and over the course of the next few months the situation will be made clearer. I know that many of you used Swissair in the past; it would appear you can continue with confidence. Frequent Flyer Qualiflyer miles will also be honoured - very different to what was originally envisaged. The scenes at airports around the world after the initial collapse were for the Swiss unusual to say the least. I do realise that Swiss Express is primarily a railway magazine but many of us, for reasons of cost and convenience, myself included, fly to Switzerland rather than travel by train.

Thirdly: the tragedy in the Gotthard Tunnel, so reminiscent of the Mont Blanc disaster, albeit far better handled. More on this in the next issue. Finally and fourthly: the terrible accident at Zürich Airport when a Crossair flight crashed while landing. Once again our sympathies go out to those who suffered.

I mention all this, as sometimes we are apt to look upon Switzerland as being some kind of Utopia. The point is that Switzerland has its share of difficulties, accidents and tragedies just as we do.

APOLOGIES

I have to apologise to Willie McKnight and Allan Mackie who organise the distribution of Swiss Express from Scotland. I didn't notice that the team box had excluded them until after printing. The copy had reflowed and their contribution had flowed away. Sorry!

IN CONCLUSION

I want to end on a happy note and so I would like to wish all members, readers, contributors, their families and just about everyone the compliments of the season. A very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and successful New Year to you all. See you next March.

IN THE NEXT SWISS EXPRESS

A report on the Gotthard accident, more about modules, some ideas for the summer, a report from Nürnberg, the final part of "Tooth by Tooth" and the usual mix of the eclectic and technical. Oh and colour too.

A reminder of last years AGM as Roy Dunglison, founder member and Joint President cuts the 21st Anniversary cake baked and iced by Jan Howsam I believe. I am also pretty sure she took the picture

