

Last minute information

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LAST MINUTE INFORMATION . . .

FEDERAL

The Swiss Foreign Minister, Federal Councillor Spuehler, was invited by the Rumanian Government to pay a visit on the occasion of the Swiss Industrial Exhibition in Bukarest. He was accompanied by his wife and a number of federal representatives. Various official and social events were organised during their visit. Federal Councillor Schaffner is in Buenos Aires for talks with the Argentine Minister of Economics. He is accompanied by Ambassador Raymond Probst.

The Swiss delegation to the International Labour Conference in Geneva from 4th to 26th June, will be headed by Federal Councillor Schaffner, seeing that the ILO will be celebrating its golden jubilee. The working delegation will consist of various departmental heads and technical advisers, and amongst the items on the agenda are work supervision in agriculture, sickness insurance, paid leave, wage minimum, special programmes for leisure and development of young people.

The Council of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) decided to form a working group to study the reservations Switzerland registered with regard to imports of agricultural products. They were made when Switzerland joined GATT as a full

member in 1966, and they have to be examined thoroughly every three years.

The Federal Council considers it a great honour that H.H. the Pope will be visiting Switzerland on the occasion of the golden Jubilee of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva in June. He will also visit the World Council of Churches, to which 234 Anglican, Protestant and Orthodox Churches belong. Pope Paul VI is the first Pope to visit Switzerland since Pope Martin V travelled through the country to the *Consilium* of Constance in 1418. Before him, Gregory X inaugurated Lausanne Cathedral in 1275. Pope Paul knows Switzerland, but this is his first visit since his enthronement.

THE DEATH OF A QUEEN

The former Queen of Spain Victoria Eugène Christine, Princess of Battenberg, known as Ena, was born at Balmoral on 24th October 1887, a grand-daughter of Queen Victoria. She had a difficult life. She gave birth to six children, and since 1933, she lived apart from her husband, King Alfonso, who died in 1941. Since 1948, the Ex-Queen has lived in Lausanne. In 1955, a decree was issued in Spain according to which the Spanish State paid her an annual allowance, back-dated to 1941.

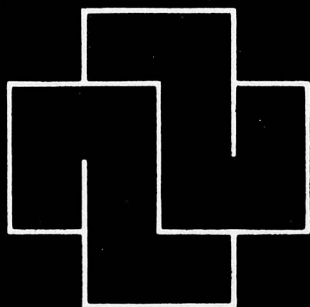
On 15th April, she died in her house at Ouchy at the age of 82, sur-

rounded by her family. The funeral took place at the Sacré Coeur Church at Ouchy, where the Queen had gone to Mass every Sunday for 27 years (on foot). Only invited guests could attend the funeral service, but vast crowds gathered nearby. Among the mourners were King and Queen-Mother of Greece, the Duke of Kent and Admiral Lord Mountbatten (representing the Queen and the Royal Family), Ex-King and Queen of Italy, and of Rumania, Prince Albert of Belgium and many royalties and aristocrats from all over Europe. The Spanish Government was represented by its Foreign Minister and the Swiss Confederation by Chief-of-Protocol Wetterwald. The Canton of Vaud and the Municipality of Lausanne had sent representatives, and many diplomats and other prominent personalities attended the funeral service.

HEART TRANSPLANT LATEST

As we announced on page 1 of this issue, the first Swiss heart transplant was made in Zurich. The name of the patient is Emil Hofmann from Adliswil, and the heart was that of a 27-year-old private detective Albert Gautschi who had been fatally injured in a fall from a roof at Lachen during a scuffle (a man has been arrested in this connection). The patient has been doing very well, with no complications. (A.T.S.)

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