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Mandela to visit Switzerland

The South African President, Nelson Mandela is to visit Switzerland early in September. Officials say Mr. Mandela would hold talks with the Swiss President, Arnold Koller in the Capital Bern focusing on trade and bilateral relations. Mr. Mandela will also go to Lausanne, the seat of the international Olympic Committee during the 3-day-visit. South Africa has applied to host the games in the year 2004.

Swiss Government against limiting foreigners in Switzerland

The Swiss Government has come out against a popular initiative aimed at limiting the number of foreigners living in Switzerland. A

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statement said the proposal was dubious and it's implementation highly problematic. The initiative launched three years ago by members of right-wing parties and the radical party proposes limiting the number of foreigners to 18 % of the population. Foreigners currently account for about 19 % of the population.

Illegal workers in Switzerland

The Sonntagsblick, tabloid newspaper says there are about 150,000 people working illegally in Switzerland. The Swiss trade union federation looks upon this as very serious, because Switzerland has about 200,000 unemployed. Most of the illegal workers are employed in the catering industry, construction and agricultural industry. It is said that the use of illegal workers is pushing the salaries down and there is the call for the authorities to do more to punish the illegal workers.

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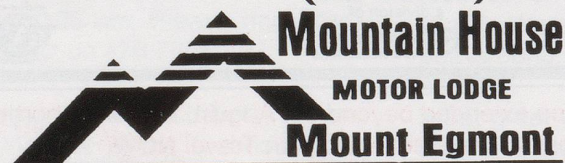
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