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The Swiss Observer

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NEWS AT RANDOM



Federal

The Swiss Government has asked for the recall of Jaroslav Jelinek, a member of the Czechoslovak Legation in Berne, after the sentencing on 17th April of three Czechoslovak citizens on charges of spying in Switzerland. The sentences ranged up to 12 years' imprisonment. It was stated in evidence that Jelinek received material from one agent and paid another agent 20,000.— frs.

The official statement says that for many years Czechoslovaks have abused their diplomatic privileges in Switzerland, and a strong protest has been made against their secret service activities.

At the same time it is announced that another Czechoslovak agent has been arrested in Basle, and will be charged with political and military spying and other offences. It is stated that he was trained by the secret service in Prague, and entered Switzerland on the pretence that he was the illegitimate son of a Swiss woman.

"The arrest of this man, who could have been extremely dangerous for Switzerland under his clever guise as a Swiss citizen has thus", the announcement adds, "stopped the activity of another illegal resident of the Czechoslovak secret service".

* * *

The Federal Council has raised the Swiss Legation in Dublin to the status of an Embassy. Monsieur Julian Rossat has been nominated Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary.

* * *

Customs receipts for the month of March 1962 total 122.8 million francs. Of this amount the Confederation (Bund) receives 97 million francs, or 2.9 million francs more than during the same period in 1961. The receipts for the first three months of the current year for the Confederation amount to 271.9 million francs, or 17.7 million francs more than in 1961.

* * *

Dr. jur. Cristoforo Motta of Airola has been elected Vice-Director of the "Bundesamt für Sozialversicherung". He is the son of the late Federal Councillor Dr. G. Motta.

* * *

Cantonal

A painting of the Kurfürsten Johann Friedrich des Grossmütigen von Sachsen, by Lukas Chanach, valued at 200,000.— frs., was stolen in October last from the Kunstmuseum in Basle. The thief, an employee of a chemical concern in Basle, at whose home the picture was found, has been arrested. He admitted having stolen seven other pictures from the museum. [A.T.S.]

870,000 (1961: 800,000) visitors went through the turnstiles of the 46th Basle Fair, which closed its doors on 10th April, after a duration of ten days. [A.T.S.]

* * *

To the memory of the recently deceased senior partner of the Kleiderfabrik ESCO in Amriswil, Mr. H. Hess-Weiss, his heirs, Mrs. Sequin-Hess and Mr. Hermann Hess-Wegmann, have donated an amount of half a million francs to the welfare fund of the firm. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Hermann Blass, of Zurich, has been elected Director of the Zurich municipal water works in succession to Mr. Ernst Bosshard, who has vacated his post for reasons of age. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A tax inspector of the Saane district has been arrested and charged with the embezzlement of 100,000.— frs.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The show-windows of Hediger's antique establishment in Schaffhausen were smashed and goods to the value of 10,000.— frs. were stolen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Josef Oberholzer, chief surgeon at the cantonal hospital in St. Gall, has tendered his resignation to take effect at the end of the current year. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of Grisons for 1961 close even with 104,662,939.— frs. receipts, and 104,662,939.— frs. expenses. The accounts of the canton of Thurgau show a credit balance of 4,058 million francs [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Jakob Müller, a former weaver, has celebrated his 100th birthday, in Azmos (Ct. St. Gall); of his ten children eight are still alive, and he has 26 nephews and 56 great nephews, altogether 90 direct descendants. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The following members of the government of the canton of Grisons have been elected: Dr. Huonder and Dr. Willi (Conservative Christian Party), Brosi (Democrat), Lardelli (Liberal), and H. Stiffler (Socialist). [A.T.S.]

* * *

An attempt to rob the Darlehungskasse in Niederbüren was unsuccessful; the man entering the Bank disappeared when the alarm was raised. He was later arrested at the moment when he tried to cross the French frontier. His name is Hansjürg Mühlematter (28), of Spiez. [A.T.S.]

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The textile works of Gugelmann & Cie, A.G., Langenthal, employing 1,000 workhands, have celebrated their 100th jubilee. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The commune of Pully (Ct. Vaud) has made a donation of 100,000.— frs. towards the costs of the Swiss

National Exhibition 1964, which will be held at Lausanne. [A.T.S.]

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On 30th March 1962 the population of the town of Lausanne numbered 130,652. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mr. Alberto Stefani (Conservative), a member of the government of the canton of Ticino, has resigned. He is succeeded by National Councillor Arturo Lanfranchi. Mr. Stefani, according to protocol, will have to give up his seat in the National Council, where he will be succeeded by Mr. Silvio Jolli, at present president of the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Mme. Anne-Marie Margueron-Wald, of Geneva, has celebrated her 100th birthday. M. Emil Dupont, president of the Geneva government, presented her with a watch, which the "Jubilarin" preferred to the traditional easy-chair. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. jur. Pierre Darbellay, for 32 years Director of the Valais Traffic Association, has tendered his resignation to take effect at the end of October 1962. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The oldest inhabitant of the town of Neuchâtel, Eugène Robert, has celebrated his 101st birthday. [A.T.S.]

* * *

DEATHS

The following deaths are reported from Switzerland: Johann Voegtle-Gebhard, from 1937 to 1939 a member of the National Council, in Zurich, at the age of 75.

Henri-Louis Mermod, in Lausanne, aged 71. The deceased was a well-known art publisher. He played an important role in the cultural life of the town of Lausanne.

Dr. Ludwig Achermann, eminent lawyer and a former member of the Grand Council of the canton of Lucerne, in Lucerne, at the age of 67.

Dr. Hermann Buetschli, in Basle, at the age of 61. The deceased was during the last war head of the political division of the Basle police department, and afterwards State Prosecutor and president of the penal court of the canton Basle-Town.

Karl Otto Lanz, in Baden, aged 75. He was from 1924 to 1955 a member of the superior court of the canton of Aargau, and later president of the criminal court. He was also for several years a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Aargau.

Edmund Heuberger, well-known film producer, in Zurich, aged 79.

Alfred Bieler-Butticaz, civil engineer, in Lausanne, at the age of 80. He is best known as one of the builders

of the Lötschberg and Simplon tunnels, and the Buttin bridge in Geneva.

Brigadier Dr. Paul Vollenweider, formerly principal medical officer (Oberfeldarzt) of the Swiss Army, and later Director of the Federal Health Department, in Basle, aged 74.

Colonel Ernst Haudenschild, from 1923 to 1958 commander of the police force of the canton of Thurgau, in Meilen (Zurich), at the age of 70.

Custos Carl Moser, founder of the "Heimatmuseum" Altstätten, in Altstätten, age 91.

Dr. Wilhelm Meyer, "Kantonsarzt" (Aargau), owing to a motoring accident, in Mägenswil.

Frau Dr. med. Frida Imboden-Kaiser, for 50 years a specialist in women's and children's diseases, in St. Gall, at the age of 85. [A.T.S.]

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DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. A. Adam-Buchwalder of Oberdorf, Solothurn, Mr. and Mrs. G. Fankhauser-Urwylter of Bienne, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bratschi of Geneva, Mr. and Mrs. Furter-Widmer of Staufen nr. Lenzburg, Mr. and Mrs. M. Beeler-Milz of Rheineck (St. Gall). [A.T.S.]

* * *

VARIOUS

Switzerland has been re-elected, for a further period of three years, a member of the Executive Council of the International Children's Aid Fund (UNICEF). Our country has been a member of UNICEF since its foundation in 1946, and has, up to now, contributed over 20 million francs.

* * *

According to figures published by the Federal Statistical Bureau in Berne, 53,500 traffic accidents have occurred in Switzerland during the year 1961. 1,404 persons were killed (8 per cent more than in 1960), and 36,250 persons were injured.

* * *

Switzerland exported in March 1962, 4,498,000 (March 1961: 3,654,100) watches to the value of 127 (March 1961: 103.9) million francs.

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The British Chamber of Commerce for Switzerland will soon make changes in its constitution which will give Swiss members equal rights and responsibilities with British members. It will be the first British Chamber in Europe to do this, while remaining a company incorporated under British law. The name will be changed to the "British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland".

[A.T.S.]

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