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VISIT OF BRITISH SCHOOL CHILDREN TO LUCERNE

A group of sixty British boys and girls are spending a fortnight in Lucerne, from 16th to 30th April, as guests of the city authorities and citizens of the famous Swiss lakeside resort.

The story of the visit begins in 1868, when Her Majesty Queen Victoria spent a holiday in Lucerne. The citizens were "deeply touched by this honour conferred on them", the present Mayor, Dr. H. R. Meyer said recently, "and expressed their affection for their royal guest and for the entire British nation by giving the name 'Victoria' to a pleasure steamer on the lake and an hotel in the town. Since then, the ties of friendship between the British people and our town have been close and abiding, particularly in the realm of culture and tourism".

The Mayor recently wrote to Her Majesty the Queen to say that it was intended to commemorate Queen Victoria's visit by unveiling a plaque, and that a British representative would perform the ceremony before an audience including a group of British schoolchildren aged 15 and 16. The group, which was selected by heads of school and education authorities at the invitation of the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges, includes a large number of participants in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, the other delegates being active in related activities such as scouting and guiding, social service, and outdoor pursuits.

The Swiss National Tourist Office and Swissair are co-operating in making travel and other arrangements, and the Lucerne Hotel Association has generously offered free accommodation in member hotels, and to cover all other costs. Everything was arranged in Lucerne for the accommodation of the party, and there is a committee which, besides the hoteliers, takes care of the children during their stay and arranges for excursions and entertainment.

The leaders of the delegation are Mr. V. V. Gee, headmaster of the Weald County School, Billingshurst, Sussex, and Mrs. A. M. Gee. Co-leaders are Mr. A. G. Pryce, formerly headmaster of a Surrey school and now the County's liaison officer on educational travel, and Miss J. Hopkins, of Mayfield School, Putney.

Their school uniforms will not be the only touch of British colour at the unveiling ceremony on 27th April. Two London policemen will be directing traffic in the town.

An act that perhaps best sums up Lucerne's generosity came at the start of the fortnight: Dr. Meyer and Mr. Krebs, President of Lucerne Hotel Association flew to London especially to greet the young delegates and to accompany them to Switzerland.

The photograph at the top of the next column shows the Swissair jet plane at Heathrow Airport. The two gentlemen from Lucerne are seen nearby the bottom of the steps and to the left (both in light-coloured raincoats). The other two gentlemen below the Mayor are Sir Percy Rugg, Chairman of the Greater London Council, and Mr. F. Abbott, Chairman of the Inner London Education Authority, both among the farewell delegation.

The Swiss National Tourist Office in London provided red "Sennechäppli" for the girls and black ones for the boys.



MONTREUX — INTERNATIONAL WOOL CONFERENCE 1968

Affiliated to the International Wool Textile Organisation are the national associations of the wool trade and the wool industry of 25 countries in all continents. An Assembly of Delegates, the International Wool Conference, takes place every year. The Association of Swiss Wool Manufacturers will be host again next year and is extending a cordial welcome to the several hundred delegates and their ladies at Montreux from 27th to 31st May.

[S.N.T.O.]

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