

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1971)

**Heft:** 1608

**Rubrik:** Swiss news

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

**Download PDF:** 01.04.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

# SWISS NEWS

## “LA SUISSE ET NOTRE TEMPS”: A FORMER FEDERAL COUNCILLOR WRITES A BOOK

Mr. Paul Chaudet, former federal councillor, has written an essay on his career and on his country which has stood prominently on Swiss bookstalls over Christmas time. The book is published in Paris by Robert Laffont.

It begins with the experience of family life and the atmosphere of home—and we get a glimpse on the joys, the hardships and the work of a Vaudois wine-grower.

Then the soldier appears, proclaiming each man's debt to his military training, to accepted discipline and to comradeship—all benefits accruing to society as a whole. But the main purpose of the author was not to be didactical. His descriptions are primarily anecdotic and glow with reminiscences on the perilous war years and on the great figures which studded this chapter of history, such as Petain, Montgomery and de Lattre.

Then comes the politician and his big climb from the modest role of municipal president to the leadership of the Confederation. The rise from Commune to Canton, and from Canton to Confederation. The spirit of these pages is that of a man reviewing his immediate past and attempting to derive a philosophy from his own active life, a life “imprisoned in the rigidity of society, in particular, of administration”.

Mr. Chaudet elaborates a very lucid analysis of this administration, whose weight he had felt for so long. He describes its weaknesses. They are not only due to the spirit of routine and bureaucracy, but also to an almost general inability by our political world to be open to the “perspective of a future charged with formidable problems”. It is like an overwhelming inertia to respond to the challenge of the modern world.

The great task thus remains to create a renewed political mentality, capable of drawing off in the interest of action and political thinking all the consequences of the technical revolution, while at the same time being ready to seize and respect the solid and time-proven legacy of the past.

The author then questions whether the institutions of the present and the methods by which they are made to operate are designed to facilitate such a change of mentality. It is in his attempt to answer this question that the former federal magistrate makes appropriate use of his former experience in government.

What does he think of proportional representation applied to executive authority? The answer is hardly flattering: “What we consider as a regime of co-operation leads in fact to the rule of

mediocrity and confusion”. Mr. Chaudet is of course fully competent to propose a reform in the working methods of the Federal Council. He advocates a system where each head of department would be assisted by a personal general staff composed in part by outsiders to the administration. These consultative bodies would help or deputise federal councillors in drafting documents, in establishing contacts, in organising consultations with the most varied circles and in assuming representative chores.

Without abandoning the essential values, Switzerland must now be concerned foremost with “mobility” if she wishes to present an image fitted to a continent in full evolution.

“In a planetary era”, writes Mr. Chaudet in the final page of his work, “a civilisation of management would disown itself if it could not achieve an exchange of minds and of intellectual and moral values transcending the boundaries of egoism and nationality”.

This book, transpiring with experience and life, leaves one regret. It is that a magistrate should first divest himself of his function before seeing clearly all that should be changed in order that the community that has put him in office may derive benefits in proportion with his efforts and his work.

*(Journal de Genève)*

## THE ATOM SMASHER THAT WOULD NOT BE

All those who were hoping that a decision to go ahead with the construction of a 300 GeV proton-synchrotron near the present site of the CERN in Geneva suffered a moment of disappointment on December 22nd, when the Council of CERN decided to postpone the decision until June.

The European high energy synchrotron has a long and troubled story. The CERN (Centre d'études et de recherches nucléaires) can rightfully be said to be one of the best successes of European co-operation. The present 28 GeV accelerator which was built over 10 years ago has given invaluable services to science. A more powerful machine, to probe yet more deeply into the secrets of matter, was needed however, and the first studies for a new and enlarged synchrotron were produced by the CERN as early as 1964. The project was submitted to the member states of the European Organisation for Nuclear Research in 1967 but was turned down by the British Government for essentially financial reasons. CERN revised the project, diminished its cost and arranged it in such a way that the share of the costs borne by each country would remain unchanged. But after the British refusal, the European synchrotron had to suffer a period of German bad mood. Germany, Austria, Belgium, France and Italy had all offered sites for the new centre, and the Germans had made their participation to the project conditional on its erection on their

own territory. The project was thus bogged down for over a year.

But the enterprising director of the CERN, an English physicist called John B. Adams, elaborated a new project which solved the problem of the site. He suggested that the new accelerator should be sited near to the CERN, on the Swiss-French border and built progressively in such a way that it could already be scientifically productive during its construction, planned to spread over eight years. The project also had the advantage of continuing the useful life of the present facilities at CERN, and in particular of the 28 GeV synchrotron, which would serve as a high-energy proton injector to the planned new synchrotron. The reason why a new site for the CERN had initially been proposed was a fear of making the Meyrin centre too important and difficult to administer. The initial plans for a new synchrotron and ancillary investments were budgetted at 1.9 billion francs. The plans revised after the British defection were cut down to 1.4 billion francs and the latest and hopefully final plans reckon with an expenditure of 1.15 billion francs, a figure finally acceptable to the British government.

“Super CERN” will cover an area of 480 hectares, seven-eighths of which will be in French territory. Two further plots of 500 hectares will be reserved for ulterior developments. It will employ 2,500 physicists and technicians, about 800 more than the present staff at CERN. This further influx of foreigners has not been without causing alarms in some Geneva circles. France is ready to supply the fantastic amount of electricity (35,000 kw) necessary for the magnets of the synchrotron and Switzerland will build a pipe-line carrying water from Lake Geneva to cool them. Both countries will assume the costs of buying the land necessary for the project. The synchrotron will have a 2.2 km radius and will thus straddle the French-Swiss border. It will be buried 30 metres under the ground because of the lethal radiations such installations produce. Its main and most interesting characteristic is that it will be “progressive”. Assuming that work gets started this year, the synchrotron should be operating at energies of 200 GeV by 1975. It will then be equipped with classical magnets. However, gaps will be maintained along the circumference for installing superconducting magnets producing far greater magnetic fields. These magnets are at present insufficiently developed. But it is assumed that by 1975 it will be possible to equip Super-CERN with banks of superconducting magnets and thereby attain proton energies of 1000 GeV. High-powered superconducting magnets already *do* exist, but they produce steady magnetic fields only. It has not so far been possible to build superconducting magnets producing the pulsed magnetic fields required to keep accelerated particles in a synchrotron in circular orbits.

The Council of the CERN held its 45th session on December 22nd. It had to decide whether to go ahead with the plan. Unfortunately the Scandinavians and the Dutch were unable to transmit any firm pledge to Super CERN from their governments, as they had not been given the time to make up their minds. These countries therefore called for a six week delay, which meant in fact that the final decision will not be taken before June. The British also caused minor difficulties in refusing to stake anything in the project until they were sure that each of the 13 member-countries were taking part in it. The Swiss position was to go ahead with it immediately and not to wait until the stragglers would join in. The countries that had already accepted the latest CERN proposals were contributing 87 per cent of the costs anyway, and that was considered as sufficient to get the works started.

There are very good reasons why work should indeed begin as soon as possible. The Americans have been building a 300 GeV accelerator at Batavia, near Chicago, since 1968. It should be ready by the end of this year and will be yielding scientific results four years in advance of Super CERN. By their indecision and haggling the Europeans have lost three years in building a machine which is indispensable to the progress of science. One thing seems sure however: Super CERN will be built at Meyrin or not at all.

#### PRIVATE SPYING IN GENEVA

Senior executives of the British Investment trust Gramco had suspicions against one of their officers operating from Geneva. They suspected that he was carrying out disloyal transactions with the rival IOS (or Overseas Development Bank Investment) group and, furthermore, that he was opposed to a planned Gramco-IOS merger.

They contacted a private detective in London, John Smith, who in turn approached a firm of private detectives in Geneva run by the brothers J. and L. F. They were commissioned to shadow the Gramco executive in question and find out what he was up to. They received the assistance of English electronics specialists who came especially from London.

The brother F. began by employing straightforward and legal methods, whatever these may be, but soon found it necessary to resort to telephone tapping. With the complicity of employees in the fire service, they broke in a small telephone exchange outside Geneva, picked out the telephone lead of their "customer", branched off a connection and linked it to a tiny radio transmitter. This conventional technique enabled them to tap all the relevant conversations of the suspect Gramco executive and the job was already accomplished when anonymous information channelled in by Interpol from Brussels brought the whole business to the

knowledge of the police. The brothers F. and their accomplices were immediately put under custody.

At the time the enquiry into this affair began, another similar affair had been brought to the attention of the Federal Police. A telephone lead connected to a transmitter was discovered in the home of the wife of a German millionaire living in Geneva. As the enquiry showed, the millionaire had commissioned the same brothers F. to spy on his wife in view of a divorce. He had in fact consciously expected them to use illegal means to achieve their ends. The brothers were betrayed by the shortcomings of their device, because the espied lady complained to the telephone services of unpleasant buzzing in her line. The telephone services having found nothing wrong with her telephone, eventually communicated the matter to the Federal Police.

This affair was intertwined with a series of bribes involving 9 people. Two former police inspectors were arrested. They had assisted the brothers F. and photocopied over 2,000 personal and confidential files in the police archives of Geneva. Two employees of the Debtors Office were also jailed for selling commercial information to the brothers F. without registering it and pocketing the proceeds.

The association of "Genevese Authorised Private Detectives", fearing that this affair would downgrade their profession, published an official communiqué condemning the deeds of their incriminated colleagues. They insisted that, as an association, they were pledged to abide by legal methods only. The brothers F. and their outfit, "Commercial Information", were not members of the Association. There were only 7 members out of some 40 "private detectives" listed in the Geneva telephone directory. Many of these private detectives were shady part-timers. The Association of "authorised" private detectives added in its communiqué that it was constantly solicited and asked to make use of illegal methods. Such methods were ruled out from the start, however, and all law-abiding private detectives remained by the proven practice of patience and observation. Most of their work was of civil nature, it sometimes involved company problems. If a firm suspected that some economic espionage was being made on its activities it would commission a firm of private detectives to carry out a discrete enquiry. But all this was very clean and legal.

The brothers F. had broken no less than six articles of law in installing telephone-tapping devices in a private home and in a public telephone exchange, in breaking the privacy of telephone conversations and in bribing public servants. The inquiry on the two cases may take as long as two years. In the meanwhile, the Swiss GPO may have to find means of preventing outsiders from fixing tap-leads and transmitters in its own telephone exchanges.

#### A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, 87,000 FRENCH SOLDIERS WERE INTERNED IN SWITZERLAND

At the beginning of February, it will be a hundred years since the French Army of the East took refuge in Switzerland to escape from a complete surrender to the German forces that had been pursuing it across Franche Comté. All in all, 87,000 men were unarmed at the border and interned in every canton except Ticino, requiring the installation of 187 depots and infirmaries.

This tragic incident of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71 took place on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd February on the Franco-Swiss border. More precisely, French troops entered Switzerland at Les Verrières, near Vallorbe and Ballaigues, along the Joux Valley and at Saint-Cergue. The convention authorising the passage of the bedraggled French Army into Switzerland was signed at Les Verrières on 1st February between General Herzog, commander in chief of the Swiss Army, and General Clinchant, commander in chief of the 1st French Army and successor to General Bourbaki, who had shot himself in a moment of despair. This convention laid down that the troops entering into Switzerland were to abandon their weapons, ammunition and equipment and that all this material would be handed back to France on the restoration of peace.

Exactly 87,847 men, including 2,467 officers, were counted. Added to this were 11,800 horses, 285 guns and 1,185 carriages and trucks of all sorts. Thirty-five thousand and some 4,000 horses passed the border at Les Verrières, 54,000 men and 8,000 horses crossed it along the Vaudois Jura. Sixty-four thousand rifles were laid down and thousands of other personal weapons. Committees to come in aid of the interned soldiers were set up across the country. Thousands of soldiers were suffering from wounds, starvation and cold. The 1970-71 winter was particularly cold and the temperature at Les Verrières on 1st February was  $-15^{\circ}$  C. Sixteen hundred and fifty men died during their internment and still rest on Swiss soil today.

The repatriation of the interned army began in the middle of March, as soon as preliminary peace discussions had begun. The last trains left Switzerland on the 22nd of the same month. Those that remained were the sick and the convalescing. They regained their country as they gradually recovered.

The last day of the repatriation was marred by a tragic railway accident at Colombier station. A train packed with internees coming from Solothurn was accidentally shunted on a line where a coal train was stationed. The accident caused the death of 22 men and wounded a further 64.

The internment costs added up to 12.2 million francs of the day and were settled by the French government. The National Assembly, then sitting at Bor-





## More branches in Continental Europe than any other British bank

Lloyds Bank Europe provides directly or through its wholly owned subsidiaries, a comprehensive domestic and international banking service in Belgium, Holland, France and Switzerland.

### Some of the services of Lloyds Bank Europe

Accepting deposits in Sterling, Eurodollars or other foreign currencies at fully competitive rates.

Issuing Negotiable Certificates of Deposit in Sterling and U.S. Dollars.

Short or medium term loans in London or on the Continent to finance expansion outside the U.K.

Discounting Foreign Currency Bills.

International Portfolio Management in Switzerland.

**HEAD OFFICE: 100 Pall Mall, London, S.W. 1.**

AMSTERDAM • ROTTERDAM  
THE HAGUE • GENEVA • ZURICH  
ANTWERP • BRUSSELS • PARIS  
BIARRITZ • BORDEAUX  
CALAIS • CANNES • LE HAVRE  
LILLE • NICE • ROUBAIX • ST.  
JEAN DE LUZ • MONTE CARLO

deaux, voted to send an address of acknowledgement and thanks to Switzerland.

Speaking to the Swiss National Assembly, Paul Césérole, the then President of the Confederation, said that the Federal Council had highly appraised the behaviour of the French Government and its envoy to Berne. The internment of the French Army of the East in Switzerland had created closer feelings of sympathy between the two countries.

(ATS)

### THE SOLIDARITY FUND OF THE SWISS ABROAD SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad was created out of a concern for the plight of the Swiss compatriots abroad who fell the victims of war. It was realised at the end of the Second World War that the Confederation was ill-equipped to give such an aid and that it was not compelled to do so by the Constitution.

Thus in 1958, a number of personalities concerned with the life of the Swiss Abroad took the initiative of creating a solidarity fund with the structure of a mutual society. In 1962, the Federal Chambers granted a Federal guarantee to the Fund in case it ran into a deficit.

This fund thus constituted a kind of savings bank. Its contributors are paid back at a certain date unless the money thus deposited has been used to help out Swiss abroad in difficulties. The members of the Solidarity Fund can naturally be Swiss residing abroad. But compatriots at home can also subscribe to this mutual fund and have a "savings account" devoid of interest in favour of a particular Swiss abroad. The amount will either be reimbursed on a fixed date, or it will serve to pay a contractual compensation, if needed, to the Swiss beneficiary abroad. There are thus two main types of members: the Swiss Abroad who contribute without security to express their solidarity with their fellow Swiss abroad, and the Swiss at home who pay in for the benefit of compatriots abroad.

The Fund will in principle always be able to carry out its task because, thanks to the Federal guarantee of 1962, it benefits from the solidarity of the whole Swiss people. Its possible losses would be covered by the Swiss at home by means of the Federal budget.

This recourse must naturally be used in extreme cases only and that is why the Solidarity Fund is seeking for new members. A few large economic organisations and companies have contributed moderate but non-repayable premiums so that their employees abroad could receive fixed indemnities in more serious cases.

The Solidarity Fund for the Swiss Abroad is an original and permanent act of solidarity. Its promoters would naturally wish to see a greater arrival

of original savers, both in Switzerland and abroad, inspired by a sense of solidarity with this "Fifth Switzerland" whose indissoluble ties with the motherland have now been proclaimed by the Constitution.

(*Journal de Genève*)

### CHRISTMAS WITH THE TROOPS

Switzerland suffered an air disaster and a skyjack last year and is determined to take the threat of such future possible catastrophes most seriously. The most important step that has been taken is to guard the two intercontinental airports of Geneva and Zurich by the Army.

Geneva's Cointrin airport requires a full batallion. The soldiers come from every part of Switzerland and their stint at the airport counts as a normal yearly repetition course. This thus shows that the Swiss institution of a regular repetition course is highly useful in levying manpower for emergency cases. If Switzerland had sewage workers' strikes, then their failing services would be accomplished by Swiss citizens performing their repetition course. Sewage strikes, as well as stoppages in the whole of the Swiss public service, are forbidden however.

It can't be said that the soldiers who have to spend three weeks on the outskirts of Cointrin airport have an enjoyable time. Cointrin is renowned for its icy gusts and the boys not actually on guard spend the night in Army tents on the proximity of the runway and have to suffer the scream of jets day and night.

The passenger, when he has walked along the gleaming tunnels and sliding conveyor-gangways leading to one of the three waiting islands (all of which are part of the brand new appendage of Geneva's modernised airport) will first have to submit to a rapid and not too fussy inspection of his luggage. The persons engaged for this task appear to be voluntary housewives. They and the passengers are supervised by a policeman who stands idly by. Passengers may then have the curiosity of reading notices ostensibly fixed on each of the glass exits of the waiting island. They make it quite plain in four languages that the space beyond the glass doors is out of bounds. No passenger is allowed to set foot onto it without authorisation. If he is called by a guard, he must answer at once. If he ignores the call, then he will be shot! No incident has been deplored so far, although running illegally onto the airliners' parking space seems to be as good a way of committing suicide as another — and there are always candidates for such a thing... It is doubtless for good reason that the soldiers guarding the airport are not recruits, but men who have a minimum of military experience. Young people are necessarily more edgy in critical circumstances. The Army had a grim experience with them in 1931, when a company of recruits



was sent in to tame a socialist demonstration on Plainpalais Green in Geneva and killed thirteen persons in the process. The English version of the order, incidentally, is written in "Federal English" and has no less than two spelling mistakes.

Not much is seen of military presence however. A lorry-load of troops dressed in camouflaged outfits passes by and drops a lonely trooper to stand guard in front of a mute Boeing. He has his *sturmgewehr* slung across his shoulder while he paces up and down to fight the cold. As the London-bound airline taxis for take-off, passengers can see a blob of light skim on the bushes bordering the runway. It is a projector making sure that no guerrilla can make a surprise attack on an airliner of the kind which cost the life of an El Al pilot at Kloten in 1969.

Mr. Rudolph Gnaegi, Head of the Military Department, and this year's President, paid a visit to Cointtrin's watchmen on Christmas Eve. They were the 16th Battalion of Mountain Infantry at the time. He arrived during the end of the afternoon and inspected the security arrangements at the airport. He then visited and greeted the various companies of the battalion celebrating Christmas in Versoix, Thonex, Meinier and Carouge. The State Council of Geneva had comforted the troop with an extra four francs pay, half a litre of wine per man and a commemorative ball-point pen on which the words "Geneva Airport—Christmas 1970" were inscribed. The State Council of Berne also wished to show its sympathy to the troops bound by duty to perform their ungrateful task, away from their families, at such a time of the year. It sent a thousand francs for the battalion's Christmas dinner. Other military societies in Geneva, the National Gift Fund for soldiers and their families, Swissair and many local firms also made concrete gestures of sympathy towards these soldiers.

The Argovian soldiers guarding Kloten airport weren't as lavishly treated. The Major in charge of security arrangements at Kloten, a man ironically nicknamed "Arabia" by his men, decided that special preparations for Christmas were undesirable. They would have created an "unnecessarily romantic and sentimental atmosphere". The troops nonetheless benefitted from an improved Christmas fare. They received a commemorative medal and were given three days' leave.

Most of the Swiss elite troops must be praying that commemorative medals won't have to be minted for 1971.

### POPULATION CENSUS

Thirty-five thousand enquirers counted the population of Switzerland during December. The provisional results show that the population of Switzerland is 6,257,000, an increase of 830,000, or 15 per cent on the results

on the last census of October 1st, 1960.

Here are the results broken up into cantonal figures:

Cantons	1.12.60	1.12.70	Inc. %
Zurich	952,304	1,104,400	16
Berne	889,523	979,600	10
Lucerne	253,446	295,700	17
Uri	32,021	33,900	6
Schwyz	78,043	91,600	17
Unterwald-Upper	23,135	24,700	7
Unterwald-Lower	22,188	25,800	16
Glaus	40,143	38,100	-5
Zug	52,489	67,700	29
Fribourg	159,194	179,800	13
Solothurn	200,816	224,100	12
Bâle-Town	225,588	233,000	3
Bâle-Land	148,282	204,300	38
Schaffhausen	65,981	72,900	10
Appenzell Rh-Ext.	48,920	49,000	0
Appenzell Rh-Int.	12,943	13,000	1
Saint-Gall	339,489	381,300	12
Graubunden	147,458	161,700	10
Aargau	360,940	432,700	20
Thurgau	166,420	182,800	10
Ticino	195,566	248,100	27
Vaud	429,512	512,400	19
Valais	177,783	207,600	17
Neuchâtel	147,633	166,800	13
Geneva	259,234	326,000	26
Switzerland	5,429,061	6,257,000	15.2

### THOUSANDS OF TONS OF CHEESE

Switzerland has produced 82,000 tons of cheese, the weight of the "Queen Elizabeth", in 1970. Emmental came way ahead with 47,800 tons, then Gruyere with 15,200 tons. Whereas the total production increased by 1.4 per cent, the share of Gruyere and Sbrinz diminished. Tilsit and Appenzell on the other hand made progress. The 2,000 cheesemongeries of the country processed a million tons of milk.

However impressive, these figures seem paltry compared to the two million tons of cheese produced last year in the Common Market.

### THE "YELLOW PAGES" COME TO SWITZERLAND

A two-volume directory of subscribers has been published in French-speaking Switzerland for the first time. It includes the traditional "a" alphabetical directory and a new "b" professional directory. The "1b" directory covering Lausanne and Geneva and the "2b" directory covering the remainder of French-speaking Switzerland have each been printed at 400,000 issues.

This new professional directory presents, under headings relating to jobs and professional branches, the totality of telephone subscribers employed in industry, business, craftsmanship and the liberal professions. It therefore contains more information than the "Yellow Pages" introduced in parts of Britain. Subscribers have two lines free, any additional lines being charged.

This publication was realised in record time. It is expected to present some teething troubles. The first volume distributed in German-speaking Switzerland was not without giving rise to criticism. There were many mistakes and a number of omissions. These were necessarily corrected in further editions and the same can be expected of the French-speaking editions.

(ATS)

### THE NEW ARCHBISHOP OF FRIBOURG, GENEVA AND LAUSANNE

Archbishop François Charrière has asked the Pope to be discharged from the responsibility of the dioceses of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg, invoking advanced age. He was replaced by His Eminence Pierre Mamie, his former suffragan, who in turn has been succeeded by Gabriel Bullet, theology professor at the Catholic Institute of Fribourg University. Pierre Mamie is known to be a conservative.

### THE FUTURE OF THE STEAMERS OF LAKE ZURICH GUARANTEED

The Board of the Navigation Company of Lake Zurich has decided at its last meeting to keep the two last remaining steamers on Lake Zurich, the *Stadt Zurich* and the *Stadt Rapperswil* provisionally in service. The two ships will be refitted at the cost of 600,000 francs. The money will be raised by an increase of capital. The overhaul of the *Stadt Rapperswil* will begin in the spring of 1972, announced Mr. Latscha, managing director of the Navigation Company of Lake Zurich, in a press conference.

(ATS)

### NEW GENERAL CONSUL IN BOMBAY

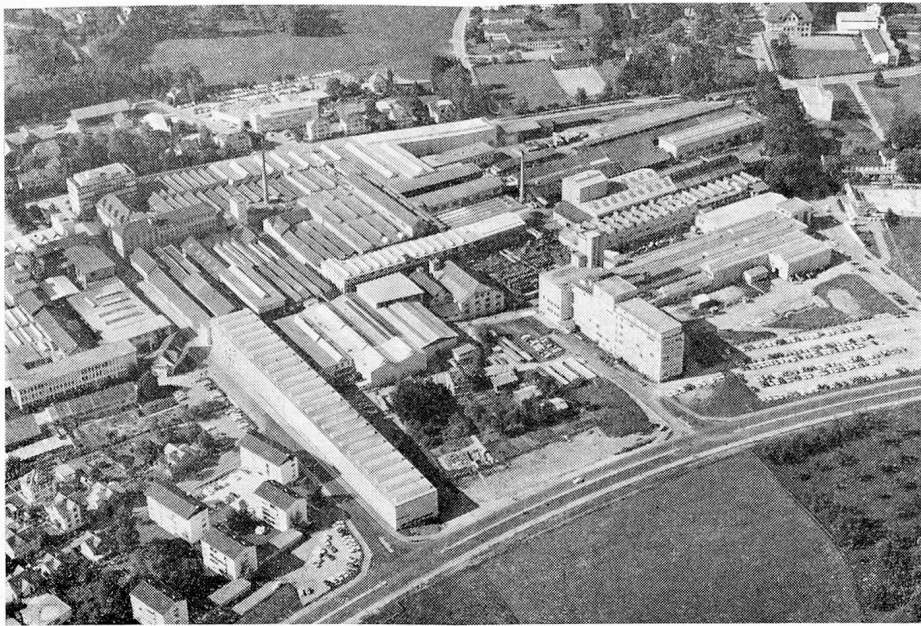
Although this news is over three months old, it deserves to be disclosed because it concerns Mr. Gustav Brunner, a friend of the Swiss of the North, who preceded Mr. Rolf Born as Consul in Manchester. Mr. Brunner has been appointed General Consul in Bombay, succeeding Mr. Othmar Rist, who has been called to take charge of the General Consulate in Hamburg.

Mr. Brunner was born in Zufikon (Ag) in 1916. He entered the Political Department in 1940 and was successively posted in Stuttgart, Madrid, Milan, Berne and Quito. He was appointed Consul in Manchester in 1964, following which he was in charge of the Consulate in Salisbury until its closure at the beginning of last year. For the latter part of the year he had been interim Consul at Lourenco-Marques.

(ATS)

### COURT BLOW TO SWISS TAX SECRETS

Switzerland's banking secrecy law lost some of its power this week with the announcement that officials would be required to supply information to



Throughout the world we design and build flour mills, feed mills, mechanical and pneumatic conveying systems, macaroni factories; installations for the oil industry, sugar industry, chemical engineering; for cocoa powder and chocolate plants, breweries, etc.

Buhler die casting and plastic injection moulding machines have gained a high reputation for economic production.

The versatile Buhler production programme is completed by the design and execution of modern refuse disposal plants.

**BUHLER**

**A Swiss firm, for generations serving the worldwide field of human nutrition**

Buhler Brothers Ltd.  
Engineering Works  
Uzwil/Switzerland

## ***Serve St. Gall Swiss Cannelloni***

St. Gall Cannelloni is prime beef wrapped in pasta and covered with a succulent meat and tomato sauce. It is simple to prepare—just heat for 15 minutes and serve.

St. Gall Cannelloni is only one of the many new St. Gall quality foods now available at your supermarket or grocer.

St. Gall products are also available at the Swiss Centre, Leicester Square, London, W.1.



***I've always had  
a straight  
answer  
from the  
Union Bank  
of Switzerland***



**UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND**

SCHWEIZERISCHE BANKGESELLSCHAFT  
UNION DE BANQUES SUISSES  
UNIONE DI BANCHE SVIZZERE

117 Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2



the American Government in future cases involving tax fraud.

The ruling was given by the Swiss Supreme Court in rejecting the appeal of an unidentified American against an earlier court decision permitting the Swiss Federal Tax Commission to supply data requested by the American internal revenue service on his dealings with a Swiss bank.

The obligation on the Swiss to supply the information is part of a treaty on double taxation signed with America in 1951, the Supreme Court said.

A similar convention dealing with double income tax payments was signed between Britain and Switzerland on September 30th, 1954.

The court decision to assist in American tax fraud investigations is seen in Geneva banking circles as a result of pressure to co-operate more closely with the country's principal trading partners, and is in line with Swiss policy to seek association with the Common Market.

Negotiations are continuing between America and Switzerland on an agreement which would permit the lifting of the 1934 Bank Secrecy Act to help fight organised crime.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in Mafia funds are believed to be lodged in secret Swiss accounts.

*(Daily Telegraph)*

### THE FALL OF THE "BUNKER REPUBLIC"

The municipal council of Zurich decided last year to try an experiment with the young. It offered them the old fort of Lindenhof. They could use it as a debating centre where they were the sole masters. The "bunker", as it came to be called, was entirely administered by the young. It could remain open all night without the interference of the police and the established authorities.

The experiment of this "autonomous centre for the young" was soon considered to have been a failure by these same authorities. Far from being a "debating centre", the place became a kind of beat club in which police found drugs and LSD. The permission to remain open all night was exploited abusively, so that up to a hundred youths, many of whom came from villages at the other end of the canton, used it as a free sleeping place. The mismanagement and disorder ruling at the bunker was in contradiction with regulations governing the good maintenance of hotels and hostels. Neither did the kind of philosophy for which the atmosphere of the bunker was an ideal ferment suit the authorities. The inmates of the Bunker marched down one night towards the luxurious "Baur Au Lac" hotel and shouted slogans against the rich. The furniture at the centre was not respected. Doors and equipment were destroyed. Furthermore, schoolchildren were found there late at night.

All this prompted the municipal council to curtail the life of total freedom at the Lindenhof bunker. They decided that from January 7th onward it was to be closed at midnight during the week, and at 2 a.m. on weekends. No schoolchildren were to be allowed in after 8 p.m. The date of January 7th was presented as an ultimatum.

The tenants of the Lindenhof, grouped in a "Bunker liberation committee", reacted most outspokenly. They held a congress in which 750 youths took part and proclaimed the "bunker republic". At an all-night session from 1st to 2nd January, they elaborated the new bunker "constitution". It was based on the tenets that the right to freedom and self-determination were smothered in a bourgeois society. The only protection against "oppression and exploitation" lay in adopting new forms of life and work in common. The "autonomous republic of the bunker" would ban every form of discrimination and racism and defend the interests of its people by acquiring or occupying centres in which they (the people) could live and work the way they wished.

There were rumours that the bunker army was going to storm and occupy the youth centre of Drahtwildi, and 139 liberal citizens—doctors, journalists and teachers—pleaded to the municipal council that the bunker should not be closed down.

It fortunately all ended very happily. On 6th January the bunker's "liberation committee" held a session and heard Dr. Sigmund Widmer, Mayor of Zurich, explain the authorities position. He told them that everything would be done to find a new formula and that the town council was on their side. He appealed to them not to make a break with the authorities and help them to seek a new solution. He was heckled and whistled, but in the end, the "republicans" voted 560 to 380 in favour of legality. The next day the bunker was closed at midnight. Fifty roofless youths found asylum in a dormitory improvised by the police, another batch found a haven at the parish of Alstetten. Only three dissidents had to be carried out. One artist staged a one-day hunger strike.

### SURPRISE PROPOSED MERGER OF NESTLÉ AND URSINA-FRANK

The respective boards of Nestlé and Ursina Frank AG have agreed to recommend a merger of their two companies to their shareholders. The details of the proposed merger have not yet been defined, but Nestlé will augment its capital by 20 per cent and issue one registered share for five registered or bearer shares. Nestlé introduced registered shares 12 years ago in order to maintain the Swiss ownership of the company. To keep Nestlé Swiss was one of the reasons why the group was interested in Ursina Frank in the first place. In the words of Mr. Jean-Con-

stant Corthésy, Chairman of the Board, it was imperative that Nestlé should maintain its present growth rate in order to survive in a continuous battle among the greats of the industrial world. There was a limited scope for takeovers abroad because it would have compromised the Swiss control of the group. Ursina Frank was one of the rare Swiss companies producing a similar range of products with which a merger would have been advantageous.

Mr. Corthésy added that his Board could not afford to allow such an opportunity to slip away. The only alternative was in fact to risk letting Ursina Frank to fall into the hands of a foreign group. The Nestlé empire, presently the 58th company in the world with a turnover of 9.2 million francs and a payroll of 90,000, will grow yet bigger by the absorption of a company with a turnover of 1.7 billion francs and 15,000 employees. Nestlé was the first Swiss company last year, and Ursina Frank the ninth.

This latter group was only created at the beginning of 1970 through the merger of Ursina and Inter Frank AG. Its best known groceries are Thomi and Frank products. The group also controlled the Commercial Bank in Zurich. Mr. Hans Schwarzenbac, Chairman of the company, said that Ursina had attained the limits of an independent expansion. It was necessary to seek a bigger partner with a wide sales organisation in order to penetrate the wider markets with which it could not dispense. Most of Ursina-Frank's turnover last year was achieved in West Germany. Ursina shareholders will receive a bonus of five francs above the 16 francs per share dividend planned for 1970.

Nestlé is such a giant that a breakdown of its subsidiaries is impossible here. The main companies it controls are Findus, Crosse and Blackwell and Maggi. The group furthermore holds a 30 per cent stake in Libby's, U.S.

---

### THE SWISS WHO SAVED 2,000 JEWS

*(continued from page 1)*

later, Paul Grüninger still firmly believes that he did the right thing and that if he were to relive it all he would act in the same way again. He is proud of the letters of gratitude he has received from individual Jews living in every part of the world. In 1953 he received a prize as a token of gratitude from Dr. Nahum Goldmann, President of the World Jewish Congress.

Paul Grüninger was not alone in suffering from the conflicts between duty and humanity during these crucial pre-war years. But he resolved this conflict more radically than any other Swiss of his time and thus will remain as a troubling reminder of a policy which, however well it can be rationalised, belongs to one of the uglier chapters of Swiss history.

*(Adapted from the Tages Anzeiger)*