

**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:** - (1973)  
**Heft:** 1672

**Artikel:** East German spies arrested in Zurich  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-691168>

### **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:** 16.02.2025

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

When a man leaves prison, the social worker steps in not only to help him to adapt psychologically to his new condition, but also to settle the innumerable personal and family problems which will beset him. While Switzerland's favourable economic set-up will provide a prisoner with a ready job, this is not as simple in the case of accommodation. Few are the landlords willing to have an ex-convict as a tenant. Ex-convicts are moreover likely to mix with the people they have met in prison and never free themselves entirely from the fringe situation which led them to break the law.

An ex-prisoner needs special social attention because the majority of those that are sentenced to jail come from strife-ridden homes. They were unstable from the outset and find it difficult to live within the prescriptions of organised society. However efficient and devoted, the "patronage" system in force in Switzerland and developed over the years will not prevent a relapse, but has proved vital in bringing many people at odds with the law back to a normal and useful life. Far from being an ancillary aspect of the prison system, the probation and patronage apparatus remains essential if the prison establishment is to fulfill its role of improving the individuals in custody and protecting society.

## **Retired Swiss writes book on education**

A compatriot and reader in Guernsey, Mr. C.A. Aeschmann, 81, has just published a series of essays under the title "*Oriana Book: Ultimate Education*". It is published by Hazely Ltd. rue des Fontelles, Forest, Guernsey, Channel Islands, and can be obtained for £1 including postage.

We should like to put our admiration on record that an eighty-year old Swiss, with a background completely unconnected with the writing game, should have endeavoured to enter his thoughts on a variety of subjects centering on education in a readable 103-page book. The endeavour was a remarkable one, considering that Mr. Aeschmann had to overcome the hurdle of the English language. Writing a short story, let alone a book, can hardly be improvised, even for an English-speaking person. That this should have been undertaken by a Swiss is all the more creditable. But Mr. Aeschmann's book also contains very true, simple and universal facts on life, behaviour, standards, faith, society, and mainly

education — the central theme of the work.

The author's main concern is that education today is completely deprived of a spiritual and moral component. The spiritual values of life, the reality of the invisible world, the teachings of the Gospels are not taught or not conferred with the importance which they deserve. As a result, youth are not only disorientated and brazenly reject the old beliefs in order to chase their own dreams, but they have lost all sense of discipline. Mr. Aeschmann illustrates his thesis with various examples taken from current affairs, such as Zurich's "Bunker Republic", violence at the LSE, and daily acts of vandalism at British summer resorts.

Mr. Aeschmann expresses his dismay at this state of things and offers solutions. They are basically a return to the values revealed to mankind in the Gospels and in the world's spiritual traditions. Mr. Aeschmann touches on such topical subjects as sex, industrial relations, family planning, law and order.

## **EAST GERMAN SPIES ARRESTED IN ZURICH**

An important espionage affair has broken out in Zurich. It is believed that a Sulzer engineer naming himself Hans Kaelin and established in Zurich since 1967 was the head of the East-German Espionage Services in Switzerland. Mr. Kaelin and his wife were arrested on 12th September in their home in Zurich where several sophisticated radio transmitters, secret documents, cameras and coding devices were also found. The Federal authorities have not yet disclosed how the two spies, whose real name was Wolf, had been arrested.

In a Press conference, Mr. Kurt Furgler, Head of the Justice and Police Department and the retiring Federal Attorney, Mr. Hans Walder, said that Mr. Wolf had come to Switzerland in 1967 as an officer for the East-German WFK Services. He settled in Zurich with the help of perfectly forged documents attesting to his origins in the village of Einsiedeln. In Zurich he met a "journalist", Ursula Meissner, who also turned out to be an East-German having illegally entered the country.

"Hans Kaelin" then 45, found a job as a machines engineer in the vast factories of Sulzer Brothers in Winterthur. Later he switched to the computer and production department. As far as one knows at this stage, his activities covered the whole of

Switzerland and a wide variety of political, economic and military matters the content of which was revealed among the documents found at his Zurich home. Among other devices, police found a modern transmitter hidden inside a wooden chest. It could transmit long coded messages in a matter of seconds making detection and localisation particularly difficult. "Kaelin" was in regular contact with Headquarters situated 30 miles from Berlin.

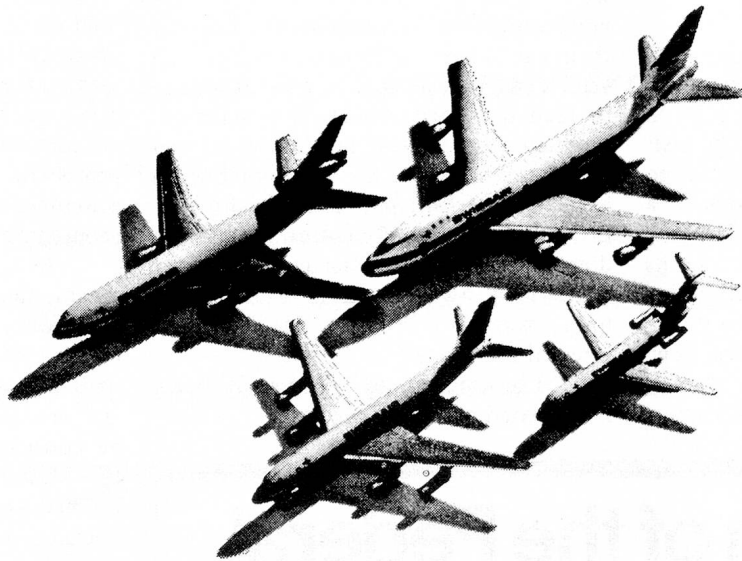
The Federal Council met in special session to discuss the case and sent a note of protest to the East German mission in Berne.

Ironically, one of the most important post-war espionage cases in Switzerland also involved Sulzer Brothers. Three years ago, an engineer working in the firm's Turbine Department sold plans of the Swiss-built "Mirage" fighter to Israel for over 800,000 francs. But Sulzer's Press chief announced that the "Kaelin Affair" wasn't as serious as the "Frauenknecht Affair". He said that "Kaelin" had not had access to any secret material which was not the case of Alfred Frauenknecht, who had been an executive of the company. The Press officer added that it was not practical to step up security at Sulzer's as a company of this size could not operate without a minimum of trust.

It is not known how the East-German couple came to be arrested, but Sulzer's have said that they had never suspected their engineer of delving in illegal activities.

## **Three Englishmen rob 2 million francs from Uganda**

Three Englishmen were arrested in Geneva at the beginning of the month on charges of attempting to rob 2 million Swiss francs from Uganda. The three adventurers, who were not named, learnt that a state-run textiles company called *Nianza* had ordered for about 2 million francs worth of linen and textiles in Britain. The money was to be transferred to a London bank and paid to the suppliers on delivery. The three men learnt of this deal and immediately asked the Ugandan officials concerned to have it postponed. By various devious means, they obtained the help of high-level officials who agreed to have the money deposited in a special fund in Kampala. The three men left for London, presented themselves as *Nianza* directors to a bank in the City, opened an account for the Ugandan company and had the money transferred to Britain. With the intention of swindling their Ugandan accomplices, they then had the money transferred again to a Geneva bank. They were on



# Only big countries have big airlines.

**S**O NATURALLY AN airline from a little country like Swissair confines itself to 78 destinations. Forty of those are in Europe, which after all means only the fourth closest-meshed European network.

True, Swissair does fly 24 times a week from Europe to North America, but it hasn't managed anything bigger than a Boeing 747B yet.

And the handful of African cities (17, to be exact) that Swissair serves can't obscure the fact that

the competing airline with the most destinations in Africa flies to a few cities more.

Not to mention the Far East, to which Swissair flies but once a day. (Even the exclusive nonstop flights between Geneva and Bombay and between Athens and Bangkok hardly make up

for this.) As you can see, it's no picnic being the airline of a small country; so we won't even talk about our flights to South America.

Why don't you just ask a Swissair office or an IATA travel agency for our time table, and you'll appreciate the pickle we're in.



**And here are the remaining handful of places where you'll find a Swissair representation.**

Abidjan	Boston	Firenze	Lagos	Montreal	Santiago
Accra	Bruxelles	Frankfurt	Lahore	Moskva	São Paulo
Albany	Bucuresti	Genève	Libreville	Mulhouse	Singapore
Alexandria	Budapest	Genova	Lima	München	Stockholm
Alger	Buenos Aires	Glasgow	Lisboa	Nagoya	Strasbourg
Amsterdam	Buffalo	Göteborg	London	Nairobi	Stuttgart
Ankara	Cairo	Grenoble	Los Angeles	Newark	Sydney
Antwerpen	Cape Town	Haifa	Lyon	New York	Teheran
Athinai	Caracas	Hamburg	Madras	Nice	Tel Aviv
Atlanta	Casablanca	Hannover	Madrid	Nicosia	Tokio
Auckland	Chicago	Hartford	Málaga	Nürnberg	Torino
Bagdad	Cincinnati	Helsinki	Malmö	Osaka	Toronto
Bangkok	Cleveland	Hongkong	Manchester	Oslo	Tripoli
Barcelona	Colombo	Houston	Manila	Palma de Mallorca	Tunis
Basel	Dakar	Innsbruck	Marseille	Paris	Warszawa
Beirut	Dallas	Istanbul	Melbourne	Philadelphia	Washington
Beograd	Dar es-Salaam	Jerusalem	Mexico City	Praha	Wien
Berlin	Delhi	Johannesburg	Miami	Rawalpindi	Zagreb
Bern	Detroit	Karachi	Milano	Rio de Janeiro	Zürich
Birmingham	Douala	Khartoum	Milwaukee	Roma	
Bogotá	Dublin	Kinshasa	Minneapolis	Rotterdam	
Bombay	Durban	København	Monrovia	St. Louis	
Bonn	Düsseldorf	Köln	Montevideo	San Francisco	



their way to cash it when they were arrested at Geneva airport on a warrant issued by Interpol. The London bank had in fact discovered that the documents shown by the three were forgeries. False documents had also been used in their dealings with the Geneva bank.

A Geneva court held charges of forgery against the three and kept them in custody pending a decision. F375.000 bail had been claimed but the three adventurers could not raise this sum. The 2 million francs belonging to Uganda were transferred back to London.

### Motobiking down the Montblanc

A young Frenchman working in Geneva staged a world premiere in descending a glacier rising 14,000 ft. high on the Montblanc on a motorbike. Alpinists scaling the Dome du Gouter were no little surprised to hear the bursts of a 125cc Honda piloted by Patrick Morand, 27, rolling down a 30 degree incline, its spiked-tyres gripping on the soft midday ice. This was not considered by the experts as a great exploit, but it was *new*. The next similar feat might be the descent of the Montblanc in a wheelbarrow.

### NEW DRUG RACKET DISMANTLED

A new drug ring responsible for introducing half a ton of cannabis into Switzerland has been dismantled. The organisation was led by a 34-year old shopkeeper from Aarau. The market value of the drug it had managed to bring in the country last year was over 2.5 million francs. Limited quantities of opium and cocaine were also dealt with by the racket, 67 members of which have been named and 12 arrested.

The Zurich police had been aware of this racket for some time but was not in a position to act until four compatriots were arrested in Beirut with 54 kilogrammes of hachisch in the boot of their car. They were about to ferry the vehicle to Europe in order to introduce its load into Switzerland. The racketeers supplied themselves in Lebanon and transferred much of the drug by plane via Syria. An Englishman, aged 45, who with his wife and four children and some domestic animals had managed to deliver drugs into Switzerland in a converted lorry, was also involved. He has been arrested in France.

The whole case is presently being investigated by the Zurich Police.

citizen's participation in the country's legislative process with the right of launching a legislative initiative. At present, it is only possible to launch an initiative leading to an alteration of the Constitution, but not to the inscription a new law on the Statute Book. Federalism would be preserved but the responsibility of Cantons would be outlined in more general terms. The Constitution would state that Cantons are free to exercise their "sovereignty" in all domains left open to them by the Confederation and its laws. Many view this formulation as a further increase in the Confederation's control.

The State would have a stronger hold on the economy. Although freedom of trade and industry would be guaranteed, the right of the State to break this rule under special circumstances would no longer be considered as exceptional provisions. This idea falls in line with proposals to sponsor an initiative for an economic article in the Constitutions.

As a result of pressures by Socialist circles, the new Constitution would alter the country's bicameral system. The Council of States — an Upper Chamber with only 44 seats, two from each canton and one from each half canton — would be considerably enlarged so as to allow for more Socialist representation. The Council of States has presently only four Socialist or left-wing members. The new Constitution would allot two State councillors to every half-Cantons; two, three, four or five to whole Cantons, depending on their population. On the other hand, the effectives of the Federal Council would be kept at seven members in order to preserve the collegiate system of decision-making. The work of the country's should be reduced by an adequate reorganisation of federal departments. Parliamentary procedure would also be simplified by substituting federal decrees by laws voted in the two houses.

It was initially planned to draft a new constitution by the end of next year, which will coincide with the centenary of the 1874 Constitution, but there is little chance that the new text will be ready by then.

### Money to combat Separatist demos

The Bernese Parliament voted to spend 430.000 francs on re-enforcing the Cantonal Police so as to deal with demonstrations by Jurassian Separatist. Following a series of demonstrations in Berne, Brussels and Saignelegier last August, the Executive announced that a special police "task force" would be set up. This poan was adopted despite strong opposition from delegates representing the three tendencies in the Jura: Separatism, anti-Separatism and the "Third Force". The funds will be used mainly to re-equip the forces.

## Revision of the Federal Constitution

Modern Switzerland celebrated its 125th anniversary early this month. The country's first Constitution, which gave birth to the federal state as we know it today, came into force on 12th September 1848. This Constitution, which was drafted less than a year after the end of the Sonderbund War, replaced the Federal Pact concluded by the Cantons in 1815 at the end of 17 years of French presence. It was designed to prevent the recurrence of internal conflicts such as the Sonderbund War by linking the 22 cantons more closely together. The 1848 Constitution was revised in 1874. Now, almost a hundred years later, it is planned to proceed with a total revision of this second Constitution.

The recommendation to overhaul the Constitution was first put to Parliament in 1965. A Commission chaired by former federal councillor Fritz Wahlen started work with circulating a very complete questionnaire to a wide spectrum of organisations and political groupings with the purpose of obtaining a representative answer to the question whether a revision of the Constitution was necessary. The study of the unnumerable replies and the Wahlen Commission's efforts in synthesizing them and drawing

practical conclusions involved considerable work. In a recent press conference, Dr. Wahlen reviewed this work and announced that a new commission with only one or two members from his own commission would be set up to draft concrete proposals on the basis of the work carried out so far.

Dr. Wahlen stressed that pruning unnecessary and outdated articles, adapting the Constitution to the situation prevailing today was what its revision was all about. But this enterprise should be understood as an accomplishment, an improvement of the nation's Charter, and not a break with the past prompted by dramatic developments of the kind embodied in the 1848 and 1874 constitutions.

The new Constitution would also contain a Preamble underlining the respect of human rights and human dignity. It would also preserve the call to God which most replies to the Wahlen Questionnaire wished to maintain.

One of the envisaged constitution's innovations would be a charter of "social rights" which would encompass education policy and environment.

In a chapter devoted to political rights, the Constitution would increase the