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The Zürich authorities did not, it seems, believe in Solzhenitzyn being threatened, but did, nevertheless, in a half-hearted way agree to give him some kind of police protection. It seems to be true that Solzhenitzyn received a number of threatening letters, some written in the Russian language and one particularly disquieting one showing a Berne (!) postmark. KGB agents in Zürich?

A written question has now been handed in to the Zürich town council, stressing that the public has a right to know the background of Solzhenitzyn's and his family's hasty departure. KGB agents in Zürich? The public has indeed a right to know and will, I expect, scrutinise the reply to the question with lively interest.

FLOWER POWER - GAUER POWER

Three members of Berne's Gauer family recently lined up for the launching of the 1976 Orchid Festival at the Gauer-owned and operated Schweizerhof Hotel in the Swiss capital.

The festival has become a popular annual attraction since Mrs. Anne-Marie Gauer first decided 12 years ago to decorate the 180-bed Schweizerhof with blooms donated from her own orchid garden. The 1,000 blooms and 50 varieties comprise the most extensive privately-owned orchid garden in Switzerland.

CULTURAL EVENTS

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Monday, 15th November - Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 pm - *Tamas Vasary* plays Mozart's Piano Concerto in G with the London Mozart Players, under Peter Susskind.

Saturday 20th November - Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 pm - *Frank Martin's* Chamber Cantata *Et la Vie l'emporta* is given its first British performance by the Thames Choir and the Thames Chamber Orchestra under Michael Dolson (also in the programme: works by Handel, Mozart and Haydn).

Sunday, 21st November - Royal Festival Hall, 7.30 pm - *Martha Argerich* plays Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the London Symphony Orchestra.

22nd November to 22nd December - Edinburgh College of Art - Exhibition of *Swiss Award-Winning Books and Posters*.

Tuesday, 23rd November - University of Sussex, Falmer-Brighton, 7.30 pm; Thursday, 25th November - University of Bristol; Thursday, 2nd December (provisional) - French Institute Theatre, London - The actress *Heddy Maria Wettstein* presents monodramas, in German.

Wednesday, 24th November - Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 pm - *Honnegger's Concerto for Flute* (Richard Adeney) and *Cor Anglais* (James Brown) is one of the works played by the English Chamber Orchestra.

Thursday 25th November - Royal Festival Hall, 8 pm - The soprano *Edith Mathis* sings Concert Arias by Mozart with the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Bernhard Klee.



This is Salina, an Italian girl I and my wife had the pleasure of meeting during our recent holiday in her country. But the story she had to tell was not pleasant - in fact it was downright disturbing. For details see the next edition of the Swiss Observer.

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