

Switzerland maintains diplomatic relations with Chile

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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.

Switzerland Maintains Diplomatic Relations with Chile

The Swiss Embassy in Chile appeared to have trouble interpreting and applying a call by the Federal Council for political hospitality. Shortly after the September 11th Coup, the Swiss Government said that Switzerland would continue recognising Chile and added that the Embassy in Santiago had been instructed to help all those that might be in serious physical danger. This promise applied in the first place to Swiss nationals, but one gathered from the Federal Council's indications that the Embassy in Santiago would have its doors wide open to people in trouble calling for help. A short while later, it was rumoured that Ambassador Masset had turned away many applicants for political asylum or a safe-conduct out of Chile. Several Swiss were reported to have been left in the lurch.

At the time of writing, it appeared that only a handful of Swiss had actually sought protection at the Embassy. One or two had actually been repatriated. In their immense majority, the many Swiss living in Chile lived through this political upheaval without risk to their lives and properties. On the other hand, the Embassy was flooded by calls from Chileans and other Latin Americans asking for protection and safe-conducts out of the country. There is a Latin-American agreement whereby anyone who seeks refuge in an Embassy may in principle receive a safe-conduct out of the country. The Swiss Embassy had to explain to its many callers that Switzerland was not a party to this agreement. It appears that Ambassador Masset interpreted recommendations from Berne in a restrictive way. The Swiss Embassy was by no means an open door to security and political asylum during the troubled days in Chile. But it is true that the Embassy could hardly have welcomed and processed the thousands of left-wingers tracked down by the military in Chile.

Switzerland was one of the first countries to recognise the new regime. The Government explained that Switzerland recognised other countries regardless of their political systems so that the recent events had not modified Berne's attitude towards Chile.