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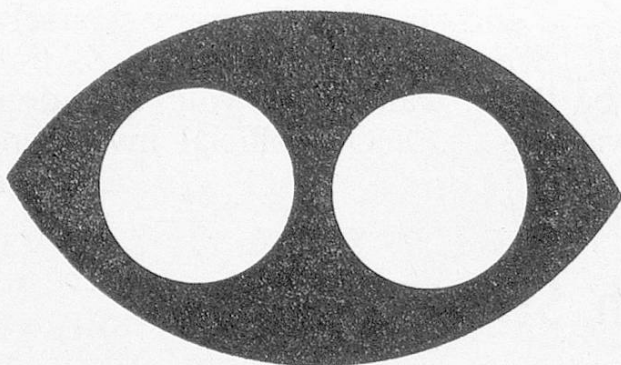
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## NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

### EUROPEAN GAS PIPELINE TO CROSS SWITZERLAND

A large diameter pipeline carrying natural gas from Holland to Italy will pass through the territory of the Swiss Confederation. In this connection, the Swiss gas economy has signed an agreement with its Italian counterpart regarding the supply of natural gas. This contract stipulates that, as from the end of 1973, Switzerland will possess a right to draw supplies of 500 million cu.m. of natural gas per year, a figure representing almost three times the country's present consumption. The construction and working of the Swiss section of this pipeline will be carried out by a firm in which the Swiss share of the capital will be a majority one.

The Swiss Federal Council has announced that it is ready to grant the Italian company the concession and expropriation rights for the acquisition of the necessary rights of passage. The Federal Council's decision was determined by the fact that natural gas constitutes a source of energy raising no problem for the protection of water and the hygiene of the air and at the same time makes it possible to broaden the base of Switzerland's power supplies. (osec)



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