

Beatles bid for "Golden Rose" of Montreux

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1966)**

Heft 1499

PDF erstellt am: **19.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693295>

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The Federation of Employees' Associations welcomed the further restrictions, though they maintain that foreign capital is as much of a danger as foreign labour. Swiss industry and trade, however, protested strongly, and the Central Federation of Swiss Employers' Organisations directed a letter of protest to the Federal Council. Many firms had got into difficulties, and the new measures would affect the same undertakings and many more in an adverse way. Some excellent and indispensable foreign workers would have to be dismissed, and production would suffer, costs would rise, affecting competition in foreign markets. The extra allowance for the PTT Services is criticised, and from many quarters censure has been passed on the Federal Council for agreeing at such a difficult time to a reduction in working hours (from 46 to 44 hours per week) for the federal administrative staff. This proposal has caused a great deal of dissatisfaction, and no doubt, more will be heard about it later; the relative message to Parliament was published on 8th March.

Those in favour of reducing the number of foreign workers further, include sociologists. Figures are quoted, for instance of Winterthur's births: In 1950, 13 foreign children were born in the first six months of the year and 520 Swiss babies. In 1965, 259 foreign children were born as against 562 of Swiss parents; figures which speak for themselves. More assimilation is urged, and special school classes are organised so that the foreign children can join their Swiss friends as soon as possible and are not kept in isolation. Housing, too, is a problem. Often, the homes of the foreign workers are of a higher standard than they would have in their own countries, but in some instances, accommodation is not satisfactory.

In December, a book was published "Siamo Italiani". It is based on the talks and discussions which were had with Italian workers in 1963 when the film of the same name was prepared. Max Frisch wrote the preface. *Man hat Arbeitskräfte gerufen, und es kommen Menschen*, he says, and that paints the true picture in a nutshell. The problem is a difficult one; it will require economists and sociologists to solve it and much goodwill and unselfish effort on all sides.

(Based on information received by Agence Télégraphique Suisse and "Basler Nachrichten".)

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS IN SWITZERLAND

After the end of the year had seen Emperor Haile Selassie as a private visitor in Switzerland, January began well with the American scientist Dr. R. B. Woodward, the latest Nobel Prize Winner for Physics, and his family spending a holiday at Zermatt. An American study group of sixteen lecturers and students from Illinois spent a fortnight in Switzerland, and three Ministers paid visits to the federal authorities, the Norwegian and Canadian Ministers of Trade and the Venezuelan Foreign Minister.

A Russian Trade Union delegation made a fortnight's study tour; they were members of the Russian Union of trade and commerce employees. The King of Burundi went for a holiday at Crans, and the Shah of Persia spent a few days privately in Zurich. The Swedish Minister of Trade visited Berne for talks on EFTA and European Integration, and Princess Grace of Monaco arrived in Geneva to take part in filming for Canadian TV on the work of the International Red Cross. The Prime Minister of British Guiana stayed with a friend of his at Unteraegeri, the Rabbi of Rumania was in Zurich where he gave a number of talks to the Jewish community, and at the end of the month, an Austrian military delegation visited Switzerland.

The Mayor of Montreal was the guest of the Swiss Watch Industry, and Germany's Foreign Minister spent his holidays at Pontresina and paid a courtesy visit to Berne. A group of young diplomats from developing countries of three continents have been invited to Switzerland by the Foundation "Pro Helvetia", and later in the month, King Constantine of Greece and his younger sister landed at Kloten for a short stay after the Royal Wedding in Amsterdam. The American gas-turbine engineers held their annual meeting in Zurich from 13th to 17th March, and the European brewers (EFTA countries) met for three days in Lucerne. A week's study tour of Danish educationalists arranged by the Danish Institute in Zurich, ended with a meeting at the Philipp-Albert-Stapfer-Haus at Castle Lenzburg.

The UNO High Commissioner for Refugees, Prince Sadruddin Khan, paid a visit to the federal authorities. The Archbishop of Canterbury spent a day in Geneva where he was officially received by Municipality and Canton and at the Cathedral, by the Church authorities; he visited the new building of the Ecumenical Council of Churches and led a Service at the Anglican Church in Geneva. Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, a keen skier, spent a holiday at Zermatt, and the Spanish Minister of Industry paid a week's visit to various parts of Switzerland.

The list of prominent visitors to Geneva's international organisations is too long to be published; from all parts of the world, politicians and representatives of various bodies come to permanent conferences and special meetings.

[A.T.S.]

BEATLES BID FOR "GOLDEN ROSE" OF MONTREUX

This year's battle for the coveted "Golden Rose of Montreux", the world's premier award for TV light entertainment, is expected to be the keenest ever — with more countries than ever before lining up their top stars as "ammunition". It is the sixth contest and is being held at Montreux from 22nd to 30th April.

First off the mark is Britain, with a decision by a selection committee of light entertainment chiefs that Granada's Beatles' spectacular, "The Music of Lennon and McCartney", should be the official ITV entry. It lasts for fifty minutes, and is made up of thirty Lennon-McCartney numbers. Apart from the Beatles, it includes a number of other stars of international appeal. American singer Esther Phillips flew from Miami, Florida, to the Manchester studios specially to be in the programme. French singer Dick Rivers flew from Paris at only a few hours' notice to replace Richard Anthony, who was injured in a car crash.

This will be the second time the Beatles have competed in the "Golden Rose of Montreux" contest. Two years ago they were featured in the ITV entry, "Thank Your Lucky Stars", submitted by ABC Television. On that occasion, fellow-stars Gerry and the Pacemakers travelled to Montreux to watch them make their "Golden Rose" debut.

The BBC, whose "Black and White Minstrel Show" started a new trend in TV light entertainment throughout the world after it won the first "Golden Rose of Montreux" six years ago, is to break new ground again at this year's contest.

The Corporation's entry — one of the episodes in "The World of Wooster" series — will be the first time a situation comedy show has made a bid for the coveted "Golden Rose".