

Swiss plane's flight round Africa

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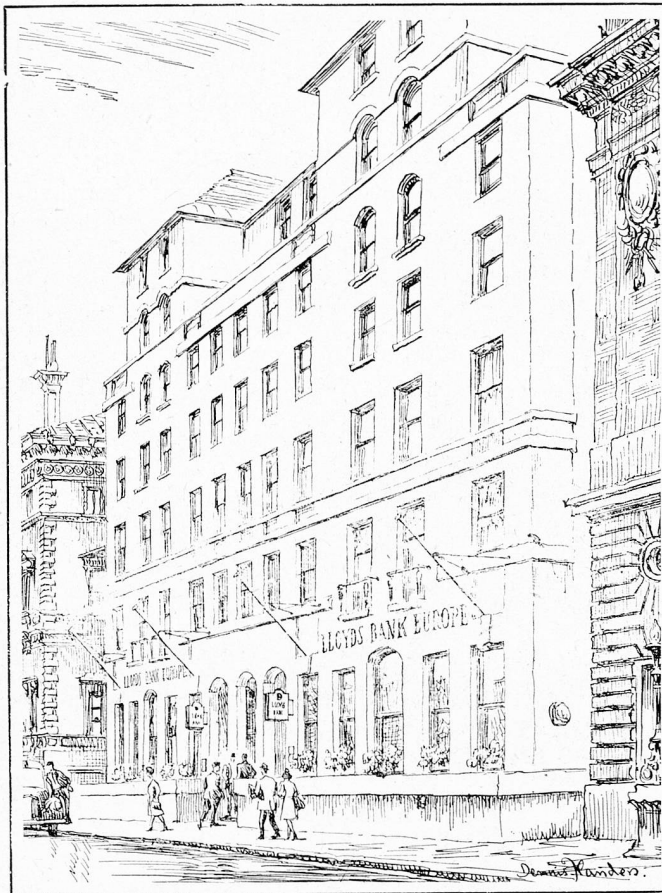
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SWISS PLANE'S FLIGHT ROUND AFRICA

After a thorough preparatory survey of the market carried out by the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade in Lausanne, a Pilatus-Turbo-Porter made by the Pilatus Aeronautical Construction Company at Stans started in mid-November 1967 on a flight of nearly 16,000 miles round the African continent. The purpose of this trip was to show governments and civilian users, in some twenty African countries, the many advantages of this aircraft specially designed for flying at low speeds and landing and taking off over short distances. These characteristics are particularly useful in Africa, where the lack of infrastructure, long distances and topographical conditions are obstacles to development. The Pilatus Porter, a versatile plane of Swiss design and make, is known and

appreciated all over the world, especially in the United States, where airline companies and government offices as well as firms and private owners make considerable use of it and where an aircraft factory makes it under licence, and also in Australia, New Guinea, Thailand, Laos, Nepal, North Africa and in various Eastern countries, not to mention Europe. The first model, with a traditional screw-propeller, was followed by one fitted with a turbo-prop, which was the type used for this particular flight and will shortly be followed by a twin-engine model with screw-propellers. Porter planes are used mainly in hilly or mountainous country, for the transport of passengers and equipment, rescue work, photogrammetry, the spraying of crops, and various other missions of public utility.

[O.S.E.C.]



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