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The General Staff announced that fortifications were being built in the interior of Switzerland. These works were not a consequence of current events but were being undertaken according to plans prepared some time ago for strengthening national defences.

Inundations in the Zurich Oberland produced damages estimated at ten million francs. Gestapo agents were arrested in Basle and convicted of spying.

In order to finance the cost of mobilisation, an amount of 200 million francs was being placed by the Confederation with the Swiss banks in treasury bills of one to three years at an average rate of 3¼%.

In mid-November, the Federal Council issued a circular to the cantonal authorities dealing with the behaviour of the population in case of an invasion. It contained various instructions and stressed the inexpediency of civilians offering resistance or taking any part in military operations.

Biel introduced a trolleybus service, starting with six vehicles costing half a million francs. The Zurich Exhibition officially closed its doors. Humbert-Droz, the secretary of the communist party was fined 500 francs and obliged to pay severe costs for having published an abusive article on the Federal Council in the Ticinese paper "Il Popolo".

The creation of a Swiss Legation in Ireland, which had been decided upon by the Federal Assembly in June, became effective in November. The Consular General in Dublin set up in 1935 was thus raised to Legation status. Dr. C. F. Benzinger, the first Swiss Consul General to Ireland also became the first Minister and offered his credentials to Mr. de Valera, who expressed his great satisfaction at the appointment as well as the hope that the many ideals common to both countries would result in a happy and fruitful co-operation.

The "Association des Intérêts de Genève" took steps to approach the Federal Council for holding the next National Exhibition in their city. The Swiss national football team scored a sensational football victory in beating the Italian team, consistently victorious for the past four years, by three goals to one. General Guisan was present at the match and shook hands with each of the Swiss players.

Geological indications in certain districts of Aargau and Vaud were encouraging the belief in the existence of deposits of mineral oil. Borings undertaken at Cuarny near Yverdon had however proved fruitless and been abandoned.

Offensive pamphlets attacking the government were circulating throughout the country and their origin traced back to a German subversive organisation based in Stuttgart. Federal Authorities had some difficulties in tracing all the foreigners who had still not left Swiss soil. A typical

case was that of a respectable German resident who turned into a burglar in the hope that his term in jail would give him a reprieve from extradition.

By the end of November, the war was well under way. Foreign planes were crossing her territory in sufficiently vast numbers not to be considered as isolated incidents any more. The Swiss were settling down to the routine of a country immersed in the centre of a war-torn continent.

THE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES OF THE SWISS CHURCHES

The French-speaking Church is organising the traditional *diner des doyens* at Endell Street at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday 20th December. On Christmas Day, there will be a communion service at 11 a.m. but no activities in the evening. On Boxing Day, Christmas will be celebrated with the youth of the Church at the vicarage, 7 Park View Road, in the evening. The fête for the children of the colony is foreseen for 3rd January at 2 p.m. at the YWCA, Queensmary Hall, Gt. Russell St.

* * *

The German-speaking church will have a first Christmas celebration on Thursday, 18th December, at 4 p.m. at the Stockwell family, Hyde Cottage, Cross Keys, Sevenoaks. On Sunday 21st at 5 p.m., there will be a family Christmas fête and because of this there will be no service, morning and evening. There will be a communion service at 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and a communion service at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day. No morning service is intended for the following Sunday, but evening service will take place as usual.

* * *

The Swiss Catholic Mission will celebrate Holy Mass at 8.15 a.m. on Christmas Eve. At 7 p.m. there will be a youth evening at the Westminster Ballroom. At 12 p.m., there will be a midnight Mass. No special service is foreseen for Christmas Day. The children's Christmas Party will take place at the Westminster Ballroom at 3 p.m. on Sunday 28th December. At 6.30 p.m. there will be a Mass with sermon, following which a dance will be organised for the young at the Westminster Ballroom and be highlighted by the Charlie Max band.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to thank the following subscribers for sending donations and/or taking out or renewing gift subscriptions for friends or old-age pensioners:

Miss J. Berlinger (Wil, SG), Mrs. S. Eisenegger, Mrs. G. Ellison, Miss H. Knobel (Bienne), Miss V. Knoblauch, Mrs. M. L. Meyer, Mrs. P.

Moehr, Mrs. F. M. C. Oliver, Mrs. A. Renou, Mrs. A. F. Suter (Troinex, GE), Mrs. L. Themans, Monsieur Ch. Abegglen, Monsieur T. Dudli, and Messrs. O. Béguin, H. Berger, R. W. Bosshard, Ch. L. Chapuis, O. Gasche, C. E. Geiser, F. Good, C. F. Illi, P. Jacomelli, F. Liniger, F. A. de Maria, H. Mock (Winterthur), A. L. Neyroud, J. Perrin, A. Rueff, J. M. Rueff, E. Schaerer, H. J. Senn, F. G. Sommer, F. Strittmatter, R. M. Suess, W. A. de Vigier, J. C. Wetter, W. T. Zuber.

We are most grateful for their kind and welcome support.

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Young Swiss family with two children is looking for a **FURNISHED APARTMENT** for the beginning or middle of 1970 for 2—4 months, in France, Spain or in an English-speaking country.

Possibly exchange of apartment with a Swiss family living abroad who would like to spend that time in Switzerland. Please apply to J. Dübendorfer—Vetsch, Bauing. HTL, Bachstr. 8, CH — 8303 Bassersdorf/ZH.

BIRTHDAYS

The following readers will be celebrating birthdays: Mrs. C. Renz (3.12), Mr. H. H. Baumann (82 on 6.12), Mr. H. Suter (81 on 10.12), Mr. M. Ehrsam (73 on 14.12), Mr. J. L. Guggenheim (90) and Mrs. E. Delaloye (82), both on 15th December.

Many happy returns to them as well as to any other readers who will be celebrating birthdays or anniversaries within the next couple of weeks!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER:

- Friday 5th. Christmas Dinner Schweizerbund. Glendower Hotel. 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.
- Wednesday 10th, 7 p.m. Monthly meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society.
- Friday 12th. "Soirée de l'Escalade" of the Cercle Genevois. 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Those interested please contact Mr. Metford-Sewel. 01-995 0083.
- Saturday 13th. Christmas Party of the Manchester Swiss Club. Midland Hotel, Manchester.
- Sunday 14th. Unione Ticinese. Christmas Dinner. (Swiss Hostel for Girls.)
- Sunday 14th. Fête de l'Arbre de Noël on Sunday 14th Dec., 3 p.m. Endell St.
- Tuesday 16th. Swiss Club Edinburgh. Clausabig, 8 p.m., at Mr. Hartmann's, 93 Dundas St.
- Tuesday 16th. City Swiss Club Christmas Dinner.
- Thursday 18th Nouvelle Société Helvétique. Christmas Meeting. Swiss Hostel for Girls, N.W.3.
- Thursday 18th. Nouvelle Société Helvétique. Christmas Celebration. Swiss Hostel for Girls.