

# Comment

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## ELEVEN YUGOSLAVS INVOLVED IN MINOR SPYING INCIDENTS

The Department of Justice and Police announced that legal action was being taken at federal level against a number of Yugoslav nationals charged with political and financial espionage. The Department's communique announced three distinct cases. Two of them were not infrequent among the working community of Yugoslavs in Switzerland: In the first instance, a Yugoslav was accused of spying on his compatriots on orders from the Yugoslav government; in the second, a man was charged with bringing pamphlets hostile to the Belgrade government into Switzerland and asking a compatriot to transport this literature to Yugoslavia. He was forbidden entry to the country for an unlimited period.

The third case could involve attempts at breaking Swiss banking secrecy. It is known that the Yugoslav authorities are concerned by the growing number of Yugoslav-held numbered accounts. This trend is due in particular to the presence in Switzerland of thousands of Yugoslav workers. The case reported by the Department refers to attempts by two Yugoslav civil servants to obtain information on a particular firm based in Switzerland, which a Yugoslav bank was interested in acquiring. Two Yugoslav executives of this firm and another person had broken into the Zurich flat of another Yugoslav employee in order to obtain certain confidential documents. These were handed to the Yugoslav civil servants. Eleven Yugoslav nationals have been involved in these cases, which were reported with considerable indignation by the Belgrade daily *Politika*. The paper complained over the total absence of evidence supplied for the Swiss move and at the fact that the Yugoslav Embassy had not been informed.

### Delicate workers

The Public Works Department of Canton Aarau resorted to flocks of sheep to trim the grass growing on the banks of the Motorways crossing the Canton. After two or three years, the experiment had to be abandoned. The sheep proved to be of precarious health and unable to live in the polluted atmosphere surrounding the motorway. They had to be moved to more salubrious pastures.

displays all of the Swiss cantonal shields as a permanent part of its exterior design. Towns called Geneva and Berne are sure reminders of the origins of their founders. Prosperous Swiss colonies were founded in the alpine valleys of northern Utah and southern Idaho. They have received an influx of new Swiss converts as recently as the immediate post-war years. Swiss dialects and tradition play an important role in the varied Mormon ethnic patchwork.

Polygamy was instituted by Brigham Young in 1852 but was banned in 1890. It appears that only a fraction of the Swiss Mormons availed themselves of this right during these thirty-eight years. One of them was the pioneer Henry Reiser, who had four wives, but left them to carry out his missionary calling in Europe. It appears on the other hand that the settlers had some difficulty in abiding by the teetotal rule imposed by the Mormon leader and were told to uproot the wine vines of Santa Clara. The Mormon ban on alcohol eventually

became so strict that the wine for Holy Communion was substituted by water.

Today, the Swiss National Day on 1st August is an important occasion in Salt Lake City and "Swiss Days" in the highlands of central Utah draw thousands of tourists to their annual fair. The traditions of Swiss folklore—native costumes and music—and of Swiss culinary arts have by no means been forgotten.

1st August celebrations traditionally feature a concert by the Swiss Edelweiss Chorus and a lively dance in one of the city's Mormon Wards. Salt Lake City's Peace Garden has a Swiss section in which a huge concrete replica Matterhorn stands amid ornamental flower beds with transplanted edelweiss dominated by a flag that flutters in the dry winds of Utah.

These displays are a sure sign of the impact of the Swiss in the heroic history of this area and of the bonds that still exist between its citizenry and the homeland of their forefathers.

smoke-bombs in the hall at Delemont where he was addressing a crowd attending the Jura's annual "*Marche Concours*".

Over the past three years the Beliers have made their existence felt with several other "pranks" such as lighting a bonfire in the heart of Berne, walling up the entrance of the capital's town hall, pouring asphalt over tram-lines and storming into the middle of a world-championship ice-hockey match. They have also sent delegations to the European Parliament in Strasburg. Surprisingly, they have had remarkably little trouble from the law. A highly-publicised trial following their occupation of Police headquarters in Delemont two years ago ended in a few trivial prison sentences.

The authorities have shown great restraint in an effort not to deteriorate the situation of the Jura, whose inhabitants have an identity distinct from Berne, but are prepared to work towards self-determination democratically and constitutionally.

However vocal and militant, the Beliers are a minority among their own people. Their attitude has brought increasingly more pressing calls for a firmer stand against them in the Jura.

P.M.B.

## COMMENT

### PROSPECT OF VIOLENCE IN THE JURA

The demonstrations of the *Belier Group*, or youth organisation of the Separatist movement of the Jura, is confronting modern Switzerland with the prospect of internal violence for the first time.

While many of the activities of the *Beliers* can be ascribed to their ebullient Latin temperament, and to a certain degree of gameness, the possibility of an outbreak of violence in the Jura and elsewhere cannot be ignored. The Separatist militants have been the first to talk of violence. Recalling that their struggle for independence from Berne has not reached its objectives 25 years after the creation of the "Rassemblement Jurassien", their spokesmen have often threatened to speed up proceedings by resorting to violence.

The Beliers have stepped up their activities during the past few weeks. Their main outburst was the occupation of the Belgian embassy in Berne, and of the Swiss embassy in Brussels. A few days later, they heckled the President of the Berne Executive Council, throwing bangers and