

Business news

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Remous dans le Jura

Le vingt-troisième canton suisse a connu quelques troubles ces derniers temps. Oh! rien de bien effrayant, mais tout de même un arrière-bruit rappelant que la création de ce nouveau canton n'en a pas résolu tous les problèmes et toutes les tensions. Au début de juillet, quelques deux cents jeunes du Groupe Béliet, l'organisation séparatiste radicale, déferlèrent sur Tramelan, localité restée dans le Canton de Berne, pour y organiser une manifestation à la mémoire d'un juriste du nom de Virgile Rossel, citoyen de Tramelan qui avait en son temps milité pour la cause de Jura.

Cette invasion de la paisible localité par les manifestants venus du nord ne manqua pas de déclencher des échauffourées au cours desquelles un certain nombre de personnes, dont le maire de Tramelan, furent légèrement blessées.

Cette action fut vivement dénoncée par l'organisation anti-séparatiste Unité Bernoise, qui fit état de son "indignation face aux agressions commises par le groupe Béliet contre la population de Tramelan". Dans un communiqué, Unité Bernoise exprima sa "sympathie à la population de Tramelan et du Jura Bernois". Elle demanda au Conseil exécutif bernois de réagir "avec fermeté" et de dénoncer les accords de coopération signés avec le canton du Jura.

Au cours d'un autre incident, des éléments anti-séparatistes ont agressé les buralistes chargés de la distribution du "Jura Libre", le porte-parole des jurassiens militants, dont la quasi-totalité d'une édition fut répandue sur la chaussée et détruite.

La situation du Jura pourrait même toucher les Suisses de l'étranger puisque ceux-ci ne savent pas encore, à l'heure où ces lignes sont écrites, s'ils pourront entendre les interventions de M. Roland Buéguelin, le grand patron du mouvement séparatiste, lors des assises des Suisses de l'étranger qui devaient avoir lieu à la fin août à Porrentruy.

M. Béguelin avait été invité à y prendre la parole, mais il avait exigé qu'au préalable, on lui présente des excuses pour un article anti-séparatiste paru dans le "Messager Suisse", mensuel des Suisses établis en France, sous la plume d'un ancien directeur du Secrétariat de Suisses de l'étranger.

L'article incriminé affirmait notamment: "Le Jura a son incorrigible en la personne de Roland Béguelin dont l'outrance dans les propos est connue. Il a son éminence grise dans la personne de

Roger Schaffter. Nous nourrissons personnellement les plus grandes craintes quant à l'action future de ces deux personnages".

Pierre-Michel Béguin

EXHIBITIONS 1979

ITMA AND EMO: BIG SWISS PARTICIPATION

For Swiss concerns in two important sectors of the machinery industry, October 1979 will be an important month with their participation in two big exhibitions in which they will present a whole series of novelties. The first of these exhibitions is the International Textile Machinery Exhibition, ITMA 79, which will be held in Hanover from 2nd to 11th October next. The hundred or so Swiss makers of textile machinery who will be exhibiting at ITMA have prepared actively for this four-yearly event, at which they will present many new models, the results of large and costly research and development projects.

As for the European Machine Tool Exhibition, EMO, which will be held in Milan from 10th to 18th October 1979, it will comprise 130 Swiss participants, including the 85 firms belonging to the "machine-tools" group of the Swiss Machinery Manufacturers Association. One has only to remember that the Swiss machine-tools industry exports 85 per cent of its output — a record proportion — to realise how important for it is an event like EMO, which covers a world market estimated at 19 billion dollars.

IGEHO 79 IN BASLE

The 8th International Exhibition for Industrial and Institutional Catering, Hotels and Restaurants, IGEHO 79, will be held in the halls of the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle from 21st to 27th November 1979. The exhibits of the 600 or so Swiss and foreign exhibitors will be divided into the following sectors: foodstuffs and beverages, installations for industrial and institutional kitchens, distribution of meals, dining rooms, hotel rooms, guest rooms and rooms for personnel, automatic vending and slot machines, technical installations (airconditioning, heating, lighting, mechanical handling, sanitary and electrical appliances, etc.), cleaning and maintenance, laundry and linens, organisation and management, planning and architecture, clothing and professional associations.

INELTEC 79, the International Exhibition for Industrial Electronics and Electrical Engineering, will be held from 9th to 13th October, 1979, and will be bigger, more important and more international than before. From 27th October to 11th November, 1979 the **Basle Autumn Market**, sales fair with special displays together with **SNOW 79**, the show for sports, winter and recreation, will be held simultaneously with the traditional Basle Autumn Fair in the usual setting and in the same place as last year, in the round court building of the Swiss Industries Fair. The last event of the 1979 trade fair year is the **8th Swiss Furniture Fair** from 29th November to 3rd December, 1979, admission to which is restricted to members of the trade.

BUSINESS NEWS

REVOLUTIONARY COLD WELDING PROCESS

Based on its research in the field of molecular reaction technique, a Swiss firm has developed a rapid and universal repair process. The new "Durmetall" makes it possible in fact to cold weld practically all materials: iron, steel, cast iron, copper, brass, zinc, lead, aluminium, concrete, eternit, glass, wood and plastics. The process is based on the molecular reaction between two paste-like elements — the base and the activator — each of which contains, in addition to different macromolecular substances, a high percentage of specially selected steel and other light metal particles. When the base and the activator are mixed, they combine into macromolecular chains, which form a completely new, durable and highly resistant metallic material. The molecular reactions take three to four hours for the "standard" product and three to four minutes only for the "rapid" product, which makes it possible to carry out repairs on pipes and tanks that are under pressure or contain explosive substances. As a result, in most cases, an installation can be repaired without having to put it out of operation. The "Durmetall" process, all of whose elements (base, activator, detergent, etc.) are packed in a small easily carried case, also makes it possible to repair parts or materials (engine-blocks, or special alloys, for example) not suitable for gluing or welding by traditional processes.

THE REAL GO-ANYWHERE VEHICLE WITH OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

Driving over rough or not easily accessible country will be greatly simplified by this ingenious vehicle of Swiss make: in addition to its good road-holding qualities in sand and mud, on rocks, snow and ice, the "Croco" can climb inclines of more than 100 per cent. Even water presents no obstacle since it is amphibious (effective load in water: 500 kg). Its very low centre of gravity and wide track make it extremely stable. The four-wheel drive vehicle consists of twin bodies fully jointed in the rolling axis. It is extremely reliable, being equipped not only with an electrical and a manual recoil starter, but also three fully interchangeable petrol tanks. The automatic clutch and the small overall dimensions of the vehicle (270 cm/210 cm/130 cm) help simplify driving. The vehicle has a very simple modular design, so that the various parts can be replaced on the spot, using only the standard tool kit. The manufacturer also offers clients the possibility of making or buying some of the parts themselves.

NEW SUCCESS FOR SWISS TIMEKEEPING

In spite of keen foreign competition, the Swiss company "Swiss Timing" was selected to time the 7th Spartakiades of the peoples of the Soviet Union, held in Moscow from 21st to 28th July this year. The specialists placed at the disposal of Swiss Timing by its three operational partners (Omega, Longines and Heuer) timed all events where the recording and checking of the time are of vital importance: athletics, rowing, road and track cycle races. In addition, the firm of Omega has signed a contract with the National Federation of Sports of the People's Republic of China, under the terms of which the Swiss firm has been appointed official timekeeper for the 4th National Games of the People's Republic of China to be held in Peking from 10th to 23rd September.

SWISS BISCUITS SET OUT TO CONQUER THE AMERICAN MARKET

Intensive market surveys having shown that Swiss biscuit manufacturers had considerable chance of success among North American consumers, the Swiss biscuit factory Kambly Co. Ltd. has signed a licencing contract for the United States and Canada; the licensee is Mars Inc., McLean (USA), the leading firm in the US confectionery sector, with activities extending all over the world.

COFFEE MACHINE WITH ELECTRONIC VOLUME REGULATOR

A Swiss firm, specialising in appliances for the hotel trade, has just brought out a new coffee machine satisfying the most exacting demands. Fitted with an electronic volume regulator, it makes possible the automatic dosage of any volume of coffee from the Italian "ristretto" to the 2 dl cup of coffee. The other advantages of the "Electronic Club" can be summarised as follows: stainless steel boiler and body, anti-vacuum valve, silent pump, ease of maintenance. The optional equipment includes a filter holder for making 1 litre of coffee at a time and a tank holding 3 litres of coffee.

LICENSING AND CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT WITH A JAPANESE FIRM

The Swiss company Digitron Co Ltd., affiliated to the Schindler group, recently signed a licensing and co-operation contract with the Japanese firm Murata Machinery Ltd., Kyoto/Japan. Under the terms of this agreement, Murata, one of the biggest Japanese manufacturers in the field of transport, stocking and distribution systems, acquires the exclusive production and sales rights for the Far East of the mechanical handling trolleys developed by Digitron. The Swiss firm's manufacturing programme depends very heavily on electronics, the trolleys being in fact robots controlled and monitored by micro-processor.

BIG CONTRACTS FOR A SWISS COMPANY IN SENEGAL AND PANAMA

SODAGRI (Senegal Agricultural and Industrial Development Company), a mixed economy company coming under the Ministry of Rural Development, has retained the services of the Swiss firm Electrowatt Engineering Services Ltd to help it put into effect a big agricultural development scheme consisting mainly in the setting up of irrigated rice fields over an area of some 61,750 acres at Casamance in the south of the country, the construction of a rice mill, a plant for the processing and stocking of cereals and a cattle feeding stuffs factory. Electrowatt Engineering Services has also signed an agreement with Cia Panamena Tecnipan SA and IRHE Consultants Co Ltd. (Instituto de Recursos Hidraulicos y Electrificación) for the study of the development of the Rio Chiriqui and Rio Chico basin in the province of Chiriqui (Panama). This contract worth almost half a million dollars covers the feasibility studies regard-

ing the use of the agricultural land, its expansion, the irrigation of the fields, the marketing of the products, industrialisation, agricultural loans, the settling of populations, the tourist possibilities and the production of hydro-electric power.

ENERGY PICTURE 1978

Oil and its by-products are by far the most important source of power in the statistics for energy supplied in Switzerland. In 1978, 75.3 per cent of the overall consumption of energy which totalled 160,939 Tcal (+5.4 per cent compared with 1977) was met by oil products. During the same year, imports of crude oil and distillates of oil totalled 13,181 million tonnes (+1.6 per cent), 46.9 per cent being accounted for by fuel oil and 13.2 per cent by petrol for automobiles. Crude oil comes mainly from the Middle East (51.3 per cent), in particular the Arab Emirates (33.4 per cent), while 64.2 per cent of all refined products are processed in EEC countries. Covering 17.3 per cent of the overall consumption, *electricity* comes second as a source of power in Switzerland. Its production is ensured above all by hydraulic power stations (76.8 per cent) but also by thermal power stations (4.4 per cent) and three nuclear power stations (18.8 per cent). The latter develop a little over 300 MW each. Gas, the third source of power in Switzerland, accounts for only a small part of the total consumption (4.2 per cent), although its share is constantly increasing. The gas industry is thus helping Switzerland in her determination to diversify energy sources within the country. Switzerland is connected to the Netherlands/Italy European gas network. The part played by *coal* in the overall consumption of power represents only 1.4 per cent (4.1 per cent in 1970), that of *wood* 1.2 per cent and that of household waste and industrial refuse 0.6 per cent.

THE NEXT DIDACTA TO BE HELD IN BASLE AGAIN

Under the terms of a contract signed by the Association of European Manufacturers of Educational Aids, Eurodidac and the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle, the latter will be holding for the fourth time the European Exhibition of Educational Aids, DIDACTA, from 24th to 28th May, 1981. In addition, on behalf of Eurodidac, the Swiss Industries Fair in 1980 will organise an international exhibition of educational aids, to be called "INTERDIDACTA"; this exhibition aimed specifically at the requirements of the Arab and African countries will be held in Cairo (Egypt) from 1st to 6th November, 1980.