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Farmer

in Berne



PRESIDENT Kurt Furgler has strongly condemned the recent wave of bomb attacks carried out in Swiss cities by the Armenian extremist "9th June Organisation."

More than 30 people were injured in one week in bomb explosions at Zurich airport, Geneva station, in a Lausanne department store and outside the Federal parliamentary buildings in Berne. But President Furgler, returning from holiday to attend a top level security meeting in Berne, said Switzerland would not be intimidated by "the blackmail demands of terrorist organisations."

The group claiming responsibility for the attacks has been demanding the release of an Armenian arrested in Geneva on June 9 and charged with killing a Turkish consular official.

The wave of attacks has also been condemned by a representative of the 3,000-member Armenian Union in Switzerland, which has denied any involvement in the bombings.

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BOOKINGS at Swiss hotels reached an all-time record during the first six months of this year. The January-to-June total of 17 million bookings was 6 per cent above the figure for the same period last year and 7 per cent above the 1972 record.

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SWISS Defence Minister Georges-André Chevallaz has issued a new order to the country's armed forces – to show more respect for the opposite sex.

The warning follows a series of widely-publicised incidents which, says the Minister, were "in bad taste, lacking in the most elementary respect, and resulted in a justified wave of protests and parliamentary questions."

In one case a Swiss women's rights group has already initiated

legal proceedings against a company of soldiers which used pictures of nude women for target practice.

Then the group uncovered what it termed "another unsavoury military activity" – the transmission in code of the vital statistics and other physical attributes of the waitresses in restaurants and bars frequented by army trainees.

But the matter really came to a head this summer when one company of troops decided to celebrate the completion of their annual refresher course in the Bemese Jura by organising a last-night striptease show in a local village tavern. As the evening

wore on – and the clothes came off – the girls brought in for the occasion descended from the stage and, baring all, mingled with their enthusiastic audience.

The enthusiasm, however, was not shared by the manager of the premises who – unfortunately for the celebrating soldiers – turned out to be a woman, and had not been informed in advance of the nature of the evening's entertainment.

She made an official complaint, and the naked truth soon reached the ears of Defence Minister Chevallaz and the pages of the popular Press.

Recalling the riotous evening, one widely-quoted waitress commented: "It was just like an orgy. The lads went wild."

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SWISS sausages aren't what they used to be. Or so claims one of the country's leading consumer protection organisations, reporting that it put some sausages to the test and found they contained only 8.5 per cent meat and 62 per cent water.

But the Swiss Federation of Butchers have rejected the findings and maintain that the meat content is around 45 per cent.

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SECURITY is being tightened at Swiss post offices following a dramatic increase in armed rob-

beries. There were 30 post office hold-ups in the first half of this year – equal to the total for the whole of 1980 – and 10 of these were in Canton Aargau.

In many cases the raiders escaped after seizing relatively small amounts of cash. One police theory is that the raids are being carried out not by organised professional gangs but by drug addicts in need of quick money.

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SWITZERLAND has a new political party – *Stimme der Frau* (Voice of the Woman). Aim of the new party is to win for women a more active role in Swiss politics and to combat the "hesitant and compromising attitudes" of established parties towards women's rights.

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THE Swiss Volksbank is suing a leading Saudi Arabian investor over alleged unpaid debts – and he is reportedly suing the Volksbank. The "who owes who" case has arisen out of heavy silver trading in 1978 and 1979.

Financier Mahmoud Fustok is reportedly claiming \$387 million from the bank over the way it handled silver investments for himself and others. "But it is he who owes us money and not the other way round," said a Volksbank spokesman.

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ONE hundred and fifty young demonstrators have protested in Zurich against the British government's Northern Ireland policy and against the British Royal Family. The demonstrators erected barricades, threw rubbish onto the streets and broke some windows. But a treat to occupy the British Consulate in the city was not carried out.

Colin Farmer



Chevallaz in charge (from Die Weltwoche)