

# [News]

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THE Swiss Broadcasting Corporation has joined the list of western broadcasting organisations, including the BBC, whose programmes to eastern Europe are being jammed, claims a senior Swiss government official.

Mr Eduard Brunner, head of the Swiss delegation to the Madrid Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, told a Berne press conference that SBC programmes to Czechoslovakia and Rumania in particular were being jammed.

A spokesman for SBC's overseas services, Swiss Radio International, said SRI had believed for some time that its broadcasts to eastern Europe were being jammed, but that it had no absolute proof.

He also said that since the declaration of martial law in Poland, some SRI programmes had suffered interference from Soviet transmissions being broadcast on the same frequency.

## Probe into arms leak

THE Swiss government has ordered an investigation into leaks to a Swiss newspaper about the Defence Ministry's planned purchase of new assault rifles.

The authoritative weekly, *Die Weltwoche*, has published confidential documents and information indicating that the Finance Ministry and some Swiss army chiefs were opposed to the projected purchase.

Defence Minister Georges-André Chevallaz said that some army chiefs had objected to the priority given to the new rifles over other weapons but had not

**Switzerland's press, radio and television not only report the news - they sometimes make it as well. This round-up by Colin Farmer spotlights some of the recent happenings back home in which the media made their own headlines.**

questioned the actual purchase as such.

## Protest to Israel

MEDIA unions in Switzerland have protested to the Israeli government over the arrest and conviction of a Palestinian journalist in Jerusalem.

Saman Khoury works for an Arab newspaper with a large readership among Palestinians on the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

He was sentenced to a one-year prison term by a military court after two Palestine Liberation Organisation newspapers were found in his home.

The Swiss unions have condemned his conviction as a violation of human rights and press freedom. They also allege that Mr Khoury was tortured and was denied a lawyer.

## Earthquake fund closed

A FOUNDATION set up 23 years ago by the Swiss media and the Red Cross to aid victims of the Agadir earthquake disaster in Morocco has been dissolved after raising Sfr. 1.6 million (about £500,000).

The foundation was spon-

sored jointly by the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, the *24 heures* newspaper of Lausanne and the Swiss National Red Cross Society.

The fund was used for a new settlement near Agadir, where an estimated 20,000 people died in the 1960 disaster.

## Parliament bomb scare

JOURNALISTS, members of parliament and administrative staff had to be evacuated from the Swiss parliamentary buildings in Berne after warnings that a bomb had been planted on the premises. But a police search revealed nothing.

The warnings, apparently from an anti-nuclear group, were received as parliament was debating a controversial nuclear power project.

