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Switzerland from Day to Day

4th April

Federal Councillor Brugger, Chief of the Federal Department of Public Economy, returned from his official visit to the Soviet Union. He had been in the USSR for a week, accompanied by Ambassador Raymond Probst, Delegate for Commercial Treaties. The Vice-President of the Federal Council had been invited by the Soviet Minister for Foreign Trade Mr. Patolichev. Trade with the USSR has doubled in four years. Federal Councillor Brugger predicted that most likely the same would repeat itself in the next four years.

8th April

The Swiss beat Luxemburg with a goal by Karl Odermatt in the World Cup qualifying round.

10th April

A Swiss military pilot, Lieutenant Colonel Hans Stauffer, crashed a Harrier jump-jet while testing the aircraft. He escaped uninjured.

11th April

North Vietnam's first ambassador in Switzerland was accredited in Berne.

A well-known campaigner for environmental causes, the journalist Franz Weber, announced that he would launch a cantonal initiative calling for the protection of the natural sites of Lavaux, above Lausanne.

14th April

Federal Councillor Ernst Brugger is lightly wounded in a car accident near Gstaad.

Britain accuses the Swiss pharmaceuticals firm Hoffman-La Roche of having set 500 per cent profit margins on its best-selling products "Librium" and "Valium". The firm was ordered to implement drastic cuts in the price of these products.

19th April

Solothurn opens the first public library with gramophone records on loan.

23rd April

Zurich wins against Basle by 2-0 in the Swiss football Cup Final.

24th April

According to figures just published, Switzerland exported 13,255 head of cattle during 1972, the highest figure since 1963.

25th April

The Federal Council introduced a bill on Military Service for the Swiss Abroad. Swiss nationals abroad would no longer have to pay military taxes for not submitting to military service after a period of three years.

The Federal Chancery invited cantonal governments and political parties to express their views on the reduction of the voting age from 20 to 18.

27th April

The students of Berne appealed against the Federal Court in Lausanne against a decision by the executive council of Berne to switch the management of student grants and funds from the students organisation to an official commission. This step had been taken by the authorities following a demonstration at the university.

29th April

Assembling for a Landgemeinde, the men of Appenzell Inner Rhoden rejected proposals granting their women the right to vote in cantonal and communal matters.

2nd May

The State Council of Fribourg has extended the furloughs of Professor Stephanus Pfürtner from his teaching activities at Fribourg University by the end of July. This Dominican had caused a controversy by his stand on sexual ethics.

After having vainly sought a place to live in Geneva for four months, two young men decided to camp on Plain-palais Green, in the heart of the city. A few years ago, a family man had resorted

to the same method, and found a roof that very day . . .

4th May

Hundreds of gallons exploded in a railway accident at Erstfeld (Uri). Twelve wagons caught fire and nine houses had to be evacuated. The incident fortunately caused no victims.

5th May

Federal Councillor Ernst Brugger, Head of the Department of Economics, accepts the invitation of the Swiss Society of New York to partake in their 90th Anniversary Celebration and leaves for New York. He took this opportunity to have trade and monetary talks with American leaders.

7th May

Ambassador Raymond Probst, former Delegate to Commercial Agreements at the Political Department, was elected as president of the governing body of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

9th May

The Federal Council introduces a bill to strengthen and extend the application of existing anti-drug laws.

The Federal Council appoints Dr. Albert Weitnauer, Ambassador in Great Britain, to lead the Swiss delegation in the final stages of Swiss-American negotiations towards a judicial assistance agreement.

Returning from a visit to Sweden, Federal Councillor Rudolf Gnaegi, Head of the Military Department, claimed that co-operation with Sweden in the development of ground to air missiles was possible. There were further possibilities of co-operation in the field of communications gear and light combat weapons.

Switzerland and Turkey drew 0-0 at the first leg of their qualifying match for the 1974 World Football Cup in West Germany. The game took place in Basle.