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Reduce the risks!

"Horror in the Gotthard tunnel", Mosaic, SR 6/2001

While I am no expert in road or bridge construction, permit me to suggest a solution to the relevant authorities which, in my modest opinion, could solve the problem of safety in tunnels at no great expense.

The dramas which unfolded in the Gotthard Tunnel in Switzerland, the Mont Blanc Tunnel in France and the Brenner Tunnel in Austria (...) provide sad proof of the risk of explosion and fire to which road traffic is exposed.

Even if one considers the (very costly) solution of a one-way tunnel, the risk still remains, albeit on a reduced scale. The same is true of roll-on/roll-off traffic – witness the fire in the Channel Tunnel. (...)

Technically and financially, however, it would be no problem to equip the existing tunnels with a form of conveyor belt that would be able to accommodate trucks and other vehicles and convey them at a lower speed – all engines would remain switched off and the danger of collision would be averted.

I imagine I am not the only one who has thought of this idea.

André Feodoroff, Boulogne (France)

Stop blaming us!

"Images of the home country", Editorial, SR 5/2001

(...) Not Nazi gold again! As far as I know, this gold, stamped with the German imperial eagle, was produced by German monsters, not by Swiss!

Switzerland was forced to accept this form of payment for the goods it supplied to Germany, because the D-mark was no longer worth anything and Switzerland was surrounded on

all sides by the menace of a beligerent Germany. And like the rest of the world, Switzerland had no idea of how far German barbarism would go. The Allies themselves only discovered this when they liberated the horrific concentration camps. (...)

Please stop blaming us!

*Jean-Claude Schneble,
Bayon (France)*

Flattened

"Images of the home country", Editorial, SR 5/2001

On reading the editorial in the French edition of the October 2001 Swiss Review I was amazed to discover that our beloved home country covers a surface area of only 41,284 m² – just over four hectares! A pretty small area in which to accommodate seven million inhabitants ... As a houseproud housewife I now understand the need to iron out our beautiful mountains in order to give all these people room to breathe! (...) Next time you publish a text for your Swiss friends abroad, try not to "mangle" our mountains!

*Frédéric Ammann
Rosières (Belgium)*

Karl Schweri and Denner

"Mosaic", SR 4/2001

In your obituary of Karl Schweri you mention that he was the founder of the Denner supermarket chain. For all his achievements he was not.

My great-grandfather, Julius Caesar Denner, was the founder of Denner & Co in 1883, which was transformed into Denner AG by my grandfather, Hans Denner, in 1935. Dr. Schweri acquired the firm after World War II.

Peter Schaad, Caracas (Venezuela)

A request to our readers

We continually receive lots of letters from our readers and enjoy reading them! However, since our space is limited we can only publish a few of the letters we receive. The editorial team also reserves the right to shorten the texts. If you write to us, please keep it concise, and don't forget to include your name and address. Many thanks!

Editorial team

"Something's wrong"

The UN Issue, Focus, SR 3/2001



I always look forward to the Swiss Review and would like to comment on your report on the "need for Switzerland to join the UN". It seems clear to me that the protagonists' interest in Switzerland's full membership is primarily a personal one which is to be financed by a well-meaning population which has no alternative but to swallow it. (...)

Even now the UN costs us a fortune – under what constitutional legality (...)? When you think that the AHV has been grumbled about for years and is

constantly being revised! Yet at least that affects our compatriots' daily struggle for survival. On the other hand the philosophy seems to be: "Long live empty words, like the FX-18s which cost a fortune to maintain and which are mouldering away in hangars, etc."

In the words of Fernand Reynod, "something's far wrong".

Joseph Nagy, Rojales (Spain)

Words of praise

My congratulations and praise for you and everyone who works on Swiss Review. I enjoy every number, which is always informative, interesting and realistic rather than smug and self-congratulatory.

David Gelzer, Swarthmore (USA)

The voice of Switzerland

Many thanks for the magazine. It's the only one I get with news of Switzerland.

Irmag Thomi, Hackettstown (USA)

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