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66TH SWISS COMPTOIR, IN LAUSANNE

The 66th Lausanne National Fair, known locally as the Swiss Comptoir, will be opening its gates in this town from September 7 to 22.

A trade fair, a meeting place for the exchange of ideas, the Swiss Comptoir this year welcomes as guests of honour Tunisia, Brittany, the cantons of Basle-Town and Basle-Country and the French-Swiss Television Company.

Tunisia has already taken part in the Swiss Comptoir, in the 54th edition in 1973, in fact.

In its second participation in the Lausanne National Fair, 12 years later, Tunisia wishes to emphasise other sectors of activity, mainly in the commercial field, and to promote an important branch of its economy: tourism.

Forty years after France - the Fair's first foreign guest of honour, in 1945 - Brittany, this year, will inaugurate a series of participations in the Swiss Comptoir by different regions of France.

A Switzerland at work, a Switzerland in the act of creation, a Switzerland in holiday mood, the Swiss Comptoir is getting ready to offer its visitors vivid glimpses of the Swiss microcosm through its commercial sectors, special exhibitions, guests of honour and entertainment, throughout the 16 days of the Fair.

SATISFACTORY PROSPECTS

The statistical surveys carried out by the Swiss Builders Association as on January 1, 1985 among 2600 member firms, confirm the stabilising function of housing construction. Owing to this positive trend, the quantity of work on the books of firms is no longer falling, for the first time in the last three years.

Estimated at some six billion francs' worth, the work on the books of firms in the main building sector (masonry and civil engineering) was seven per cent higher at the beginning of 1985 than the figure for the previous year. In 1984, this sector produced a volume of work valued at about 13 billion francs, i.e. an increase of one per cent in nominal value over the figure for 1983.

Whereas private building showed an increase of two per cent, public building recorded a slight drop (minus one per cent).

On average for the year, 142,000 people were employed in masonry and civil engineering, i.e. five per cent more than in 1983. The part played by both Swiss and foreign workers increased by five per cent. This increase in the number of employees - in spite of the overall stabilisation of building - is explained by the type of work carried out (more renovations and conversions).

CABLES FOR SOLAR ENERGY IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Swiss company Lasso Technik, in Basle, has carried out different schemes in the Philippines for the harnessing of solar energy.

One of these involves a system for the cross-country transportation of timber by special cableway for 11 small power stations. The total length of this cableway is approximately 100 miles.