

Postbag

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er contribution once the 25 per cent of the present budget now carried by USA fell away. Switzerland has no intention at the moment of leaving UNESCO, and is in full agreement with Britain on the subject.

The discussions with Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, centred on the Disarmament Conference in Geneva – Monsieur Aubert is not too optimistic – on human rights, on the meeting in Athens and the debts of some countries, especially Poland and Yugoslavia.

Sir Geoffrey expressed thanks for Switzerland's services representing Britain's interest in Argentina.

Thanks were also expressed most warmly by Mrs Thatcher when Monsieur Aubert paid a courtesy visit. Both the Prime Minister and Federal Councillor Aubert share anxieties over the situation between Iran and Iraq.

The Federal Councillor also visited the Opposition Spokesman on Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr Denis Healey. The latter was open and direct and said that in opposition he had far more liberty of speech than in office.

The outcome of the discussions with the British Ministers was satisfactory. The one thing where no agreement has yet been given by the British is regarding the employment of stagiaires (student trainees). Switzerland would welcome such an accord which it has already with some 15 countries.

On the first day of Federal Councillor and Madame Aubert's visit, they attended the Great British Music Festival at the Royal Festival Hall. The host was the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Lady Cockfield. It was followed by a supper at Admiralty House.

Sir Geoffrey and Lady Howe gave a luncheon, and there was a dinner party at the Swiss Embassy,

hosted by Federal Councillor and Madame Aubert. They resided at the Embassy during their stay in London.

A special programme was arranged for Madame Aubert, which included a visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

Mariann Meier

'An Englishman thanks Liestal'

THIS was the heading in the "Basellandschaftliche Zeitung" of March 8.

It told the story of an English guest from Bedford whose enjoyable holidays in Switzerland ended in Liestal in an unexpected way.

He was fined by the police for drinking after time after spending a jolly evening with some local people.

His Swiss as well as his English money had gone, and one of his Liestal companions paid his fine. Because he did not wish to give his name, the Englishman had no chance of returning the money from his homeland.

He was not beaten, however, and sent a cheque to the value of Sfr. 50 to the Swiss National Tourist Office in London with the request to pass the money to a charitable institution in Liestal, chosen by the local paper.

The former London

correspondent of the "Basellandschaftliche Zeitung", Mrs Mariann Meier, was entrusted with the task. She informed the paper and handed over the money on a recent visit to Liestal.

The paper gave the money to the "Heilpaedagogische Tageschule" (Charitable day hospital and school for therapeutic treatment) in Liestal.

The friendly visitor from England hoped that the Liestaler who so kindly helped him out of a predicament would read the item in the paper on March 8 and that he would know just how grateful the unknown Englishman is to him.

Mariann Meier

Rail convention

MANCHESTER'S Grand Hotel is the place to be on Saturday, June 16 when the Manchester branch of the Swiss Railway Enthusiasts Society hold their European Rail Convention.

There will be displays of model railways, books, a secondhand bargain stall where enthusiasts can sell or swop unwanted items, films and videos.

Society members from London, Manchester and Bristol will pit their wits against each other in a Swiss rail quiz, with members

of SNCF in attendance.

The cost of the day is just £2, making it a real bargain for all rail enthusiasts.

Further details of the event and of the society's activities are available from Dave Howsam, 3 Balmain Road, Davyhulme, Manchester. Tel: 061-748 7850.

Obituary

IT is with deep regret that we announce the death of two Ticinesi friends: Mr Aurelio Tomasin Polti, of 116 Castellain Mansiona, Castellain Road, London W9, died on March 2 at the age of 90. He came to England in 1916.

Mr Charles De Maria, of Flat 4, 190A Streatham High Road, London SW16 died on March 19 at the age of 76.

He was one of the longest-standing members of the Unione Ticinese and served on the committee.

We express our deep sympathy to the relatives of these two loyal friends and shall treasure their memory.

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WE have been informed by Mrs Lena Long of the death of her father, Mr Jakob H. Vogel.

Mr Vogel, who was 102, lived in Leominster in Herefordshire and was, as far as were are aware, our oldest reader.

POSTBAG

I AM writing on behalf of the London Young Members Group of the English-Speaking Union.

The English Speaking Union is an established educational charity and is known for its contribution to promoting friendship.

We are now very anxious to expand the Young Members Groups, especially in London and particularly want to appeal to young people from overseas to join us.

We would like to promote the

opportunity for overseas students to meet their contemporaries in this country and will be holding our commonwealth and international evenings on the second Monday of every month between 6 and 8pm in Dartmouth House, the international centre and club of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth.

It also gives us an opportunity to introduce them to Dartmouth House and hopefully to generate some interest in our many other

social and educational events and also offer membership to those who would like to become more involved.

Anyone wishing to find out more about the ESU Young Members should not hesitate to contact Alison Cropper, the ESU's National Youth Officer – Sarah Dobson, Publicity Officer, ESU London Young Members Group, Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, Berkeley Square, London W1X 8AB.