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Papal visit brings protests

THE Swiss Broadcasting Corporation has rejected criticisms from non-Roman Catholic organisations that its television coverage of the Pope's recent visit to Switzerland was "excessive".

An SBC spokesman described the criticism as unjustified and said the 30 hours of Swiss TV coverage was less than that provided by television in neighbouring West Germany and Austria when Pope John Paul visited those countries.

The protest campaign claimed Swiss TV coverage of the six-day Papal visit was "an affront to Switzerland's considerable non-Roman Catholic population".

Forty four per cent of Swiss are Roman Catholic and 50 per cent Protestant. But when foreign residents are taken into consideration, the population of Switzerland is nearly 48 per cent Roman Catholic and 44 per cent Protestant.

Coverage of the visit was the biggest outside broadcast operation in the history of Swiss television.

Weekly Euro honour

The Council of Europe has awarded an "honorary diploma" to the Swiss weekly magazine *Das*

Gelbe Heft for its coverage of environmental issues.

The magazine, which publishes a regular feature on protection of the environment, was praised by the Strasbourg-based council for its "special achievements" in this field.

Papers in legal battle

Switzerland's leading news weekly, *Die Weltwoche*, is taking legal action against another newspaper for alleging that its former editor-in-chief accepted an invitation to visit South Africa paid for by that country's secret service.

The allegations were published in *Die Wochenzeitung*, which accused ex chief editor Hans Staub – now publisher of *Die Weltwoche* – of supporting South Africa's apartheid policies.

In its denial, *Die Weltwoche* said Mr Staub had never accepted an invitation from South African authorities to visit the country.

The denial said Mr Staub had been to South Africa on a number of occasions – but on visits financed exclusively by *Die Weltwoche* "in the interests of objective reporting".

Crime...

SWISS journalists sat enthralled recently at a press briefing in Sion, in the Valais. The subject:

"Increasing crime".

When the police spokesman returned to his car afterwards, he found that someone had stolen his number plates.

Smuggled 'famine' film

A Swiss TV crew has left Brazil after having most of its film material confiscated by Brazilian police.

The five-man team had been filming a programme on drought famine conditions in the north-east of the country. But police twice called at the team's hotel, first confiscating about 30 rolls of film and then taking unexposed film as well.

But the team was able to smuggle back to Switzerland one roll of film, showing several hundred destitute peasants looting a state-owned food depot.

Found guilty again

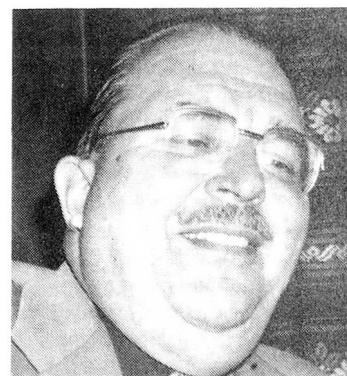
A Swiss journalist has received a second suspended jail sentence on charges arising from youth demonstrations in Zurich two years ago.

Martin Enkelmann – a reporter on the Zurich daily *Volksrecht*

(Right of the People) – has received a seven-day suspended sentence following an earlier 28-day term. He was found guilty of causing a breach of the peace and of obstructing the authorities.

Enkelmann (35), who claims he was covering the 1981 youth unrest for his newspaper, has taken the first case to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Popular radio man dies



Lance Tschannen, one of Switzerland's most popular international broadcasters, has died suddenly in Berne at the age of 62.

He had planned to retire next January on completion of 40 years' service with Swiss Radio International.

Lance Tschannen (pictured here) was formerly head of SRI's English Service, and for the past 14 years had directed the Transcription Service.

His monthly 'Jazz Panorama', introduced in 1957, was broadcast worldwide for more than 25 years and was one of the world's longest-running regular jazz programmes.

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.