

Many Separate Cases of Smuggling Between Switzerland and Greece

The Exchange Telegraph agency issued the following statement yesterday, dated Athens:

The investigation against the former secretary of the Dominican legation in Bern, **César Rubirosa**, and his secretary, a Swiss woman named **Yvonne Neury**, has been postponed to January 15. This is the case of smuggling of gold and Swiss watches into Greece, which was discovered when the plane piloted by Mr. **Gérard de Chambrier** of Neuchâtel had to make a forced landing in Greece, which enabled the discovery in the cabin of about 1,500 gold sovereigns and 4,500 Swiss watches.

This affair seems to have many more surprises in store. It is believed that the two accused will also be questioned by the Athenian courts as witnesses in order to continue the investigation in Switzerland and to determine the exact roles of a trader living in Switzerland, **Mr. Panos Petalos**; a Bolivian diplomat, **José Suarez**; and **Marine Lieutenant Bakopoulos** who appear to be involved in the same case.

The Swiss authorities are also pursuing their investigation into the director of the Swiss Navigation and Commerce [Trading?] Company* Efisa, **Mr. André Hirsch**. These authorities believe that they are dealing with a group of international smugglers of about twenty people, including several Greeks; some are likely in prison and others have fled.

**Société suisse de navigation et de commerce Efisa*

(Ed.) - As you can see, this news is quite confusing. In fact, there are several smuggling cases (seven, we were told) independent of each other. It was during the forced landing of the Neuchâtel pilot on the island of **Lefkada** [Leucade] that the Greek authorities made a whole series of arrests.

With regard to the case of André Hirsch, we are assured that he was in good standing with the customs authorities when he sent watches by air that a man named Nyad, a Greek national, had ordered from him. The latter was to take delivery of the merchandise in Athens, brought there by M. de Chambrier. Strange as it sounds, our authorities granted export permits without requiring payment [in foreign currency??] from the recipient.

A judgment will be made this month in Athens and, by casting greater clarity on these multiple cases, will determine who shares in the responsibility.