

## SWISS CIVIL DEFENSE

Recently Mr. Eberhard Gerth, engineering representative of the LUWA company, spoke to our combined southern Oregon civil defense groups. His presentation which includes 140 slides and a video tape is very informative.

If your group is building shelters, we recommend that you call Mr. Gerth. His office is LUWA Ltd., Suite 230, 4400 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. Telephone (301) 652-0884. LUWA has been manufacturing civil defense equipment for 40 years.

In keeping with the Swiss policy of neutrality combined with very strong homeland defenses (a policy that has kept them entirely out of war) the LUWA company and Mr. Gerth do not engage in political activities in America. They do, however, supply technical information and shelter equipment.

The Swiss system of homeland defense is remarkable.

Since 1962 every new building in Switzerland has been required by law to have a shelter under it for all of its occupants. Also, many of the pre-1962 buildings have been equipped with shelters.

By law, these shelters must protect against nuclear blast and radiation, conventional bombs, chemical warfare agents, and biological warfare agents. The chemical warfare filters must be suitable for 2,000 hours of continuous operation. All equipment must be shock resistant and must conform to strict public standards - standards which are identical throughout the country regardless of location.

Shelter equipment manufacture is carefully monitored with units pulled frequently and randomly from the assembly lines for testing. These tests in shock tubes and related devices test each item to and beyond the point of failure. Doors, blast valves, over-pressure valves, and all other items test generally to failure at 50% higher stresses than their design requirements.

The Swiss equipment designs are so good that the Soviets were able to adopt most of them as the standard for their own civil defense system even though Soviet protection standards are considerably higher than the Swiss.