

News from the colony

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

SWISS FORUM ASSURED

The establishment of the FORUM OF SWITZERLAND on the 3rd floor of the SWISS CENTRE in London may now be regarded as definitely assured. The total cost of 3.4 million francs as estimated last October will be financed as follows:

Federal Government	2,200,000*
Collection in Switzerland	520,000
Promise by one firm to pay in England	51,500
Collection in England (Ambassador's Appeal)	115,000
Swiss Societies in London	103,500
Bundesfeier-Spende	100,000
Swiss hotels in Switzerland	at least 100,000
Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Bank Corporation (together covering the final gap)	say 210,000**

GRAND TOTAL 3,400,000

Summary of the Project

As responsible body to receive the contributions and carry out the whole scheme a FOUNDATION FORUM OF SWITZERLAND will shortly be established in Berne under Swiss laws in which no doubt also our Colony as an important contributor will be duly represented.

According to the Federal Council's report to Parliament the FORUM shall represent Switzerland's manifold cultural, social and economic life in the British capital by means of exhibitions, lectures, concerts, filmshows, receptions, etc. It comprises a large main hall with additional rooms and a total area of some 8,000 sq. ft. holding up to 350 persons. The cultural programme will be mainly in the hands of the Foundation Pro Helvetia and other organisations in Switzerland. When not needed for Swiss purposes the rooms will be utilised commercially by Swiss Fair Ltd. so as to relieve the FORUM of all basic running costs.

Swiss Colony Room

While the general accommodation of the FORUM will be available also for special Swiss Colony functions at privileged terms, a separate Swiss Colony Room of some 620 sq. ft., seating up to 80 persons in comfort, is reserved permanently for the rent free use of our societies and all Swiss visitors. From 3 p.m. it may daily serve as a welcome pied-à-terre especially for the many young Swiss in London. In the evenings the societies can claim the room by reasonably early notice. Machines for hot and cold drinks are provided in an ante-room with lockers for the societies who can also make their own arrangements for refreshments or call on the restaurant service. These highly favourable conditions, visualised in the present plans will, it is hoped, soon be confirmed contractually in return for our considerable financial contribution.

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*half as a loan.

**form of contribution not yet known; may be partly as loans.

The decisive step was the approval by the Federal Parliament of a subsidy of 1.1 million francs and a loan of up to the same amount towards the end of 1969.

Since then the Central Committee of the "Bundesfeier-Spende" has agreed to donate 100,000 francs. The appeals to Swiss firms and organisations in Switzerland have yielded as per 20th March 1970 a total of 520,000 francs, while our Ambassador's personal letter to the Swiss in Southern England brought in, to the end of April 1970, over £11,000 (say 115,000 francs). In addition £5,000 in five yearly payments of £1,000 has been promised by a leading Swiss firm. Various Swiss societies and organisations in London have long since engaged themselves to contribute about £10,000 on conditions satisfactory to their trustees. These contributions and promises total about 3,090,000 francs. Various Swiss hoteliers have promised a total not yet definitely known, but probably amounting to at least 100,000 francs on condition that their names be inscribed as donors in a suitable place. Finally, the Swiss Bank Corporation and the Swiss National Tourist Office have undertaken to make up the remaining gap of 217,000 francs plus, if need be, a moderate margin for possible cost increases. Although the necessary finance is thus assured, *outright contributions will still be most welcome so as to reduce the loan element of the promised assistance.*

CITY SWISS CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Annual General Meeting was exceptionally well attended and lively. After a filling meal capped by a large slice of raw pineapple with caramel mousse, Mr. A. Kuhn initiated the proceedings of the evening by welcoming us all in such large numbers. Mr. L. F. Ackermann, the Secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting, which were duly approved and two new members were elected. Mr. Kuhn then reported on the activities of the past year. He said that he considered it to be both a pleasure and an honour to be President of the City Swiss Club, even though he sometimes said unamenable things on its members. The two highlights of the year had been a very successful Summer Dance which had been blessed by the weather and a very well attended and profitable Annual Dinner and Ball. The Christmas Dinner had also been a great success and the Club had enjoyed an exceptional after-dinner speaker. Mr. Kuhn thanked Messrs Walter Bion and Eddy Tobler for their help in making the Family Evening a success. Besides the card evenings there had been two monthly meetings with speakers, the first of which had been devoted to "Collisions at Sea" and the second to "Pollution". This second evening had unfortunately been very poorly attended and Mr. Kuhn urged us all to come in force at future monthly meetings and thus honour our invited speakers.

Mr. H. J. Keller, the Club's Treasurer then commented on the accounts. They looked very healthy in-

deed. Total income from membership fees, interest and dividends from the Club House Fund and Bank Account plus receipts from the Annual Banquet and Ball totalled £1,366 11s., an excess over expenditure of £711 10s. 8d. Mr. Keller thanked the members who had helped in making the Annual Ball such a financial success.

Mr. C. Natter raised the point that the £237 accruing from the Fund ought in fairness be devoted to or accounted to charity since the Fund was a charity fund. Mr. L. Chappuis said that he was greatly surprised to see that the money collected at the Tombola (£419, not counting the profit on Annual Ball tickets) which in former days was publicly known to be given to the Swiss Benevolent Society should just be engulfed in the Club's general account. He said that he and his guests at the Ball had willingly given money away on the understanding that it was to be given to the Swiss Benevolent Society. The Annual Banquet and Ball had always been considered as a charity ball in the past and there were no reasons why this practice should change. Mr. C. M. Suess enlarged on this point of view and said (noting that not much over a third of the proceeds of the Annual Ball had been allocated to charity this year) that we were made to give money "on false pretences" and that he was tempted to waive his usual contribution to the success of the Tombola. Mr. Kuhn pointed out that although the collected money was not explicitly allocated to charitable or religious institu-