

The work of the Secretariat for the Swiss abroad

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The financial position of the Solidarity Fund for the Swiss Abroad is satisfactory. Membership has increased and a favourable interest rate has pushed its assets to 6.1 million francs. There remains an important loan to be refunded to the Confederation and the fraternal insurance which the Solidarity Fund is cannot at present be ready to sustain heavy claims. The compensation fund presently stands at 450,000 francs, and 180,000 francs came in as welcome premiums to various Swiss living in Algeria, Kenya, Ghana and Morocco. The President of the Swiss Club of Lima had proposed in 1968 that each member should join the Solidarity Fund, which would receive payment for each member directly from the Club kitty. This was conceived as a gesture of support towards the fund and a protection of the members of the Club. The arrangement that finally prevailed consisted in the Fund's acceptance of yearly minimum and retrievable deposits of 25 francs and benefits to the Swiss Club of Lima for all newly enrolled Fund members giving more than the minimum contribution of 25 francs.

The care of the Swiss youth abroad

The Secretariat is intent on helping the younger Swiss across the world, relying in this on parently co-operation as parents are the only way in which 15-year-olds can come to the attention of the Secretariat. It distributes the *Weltschweizer*, a brochure on Swiss topics, to the young on its mailing list, five times a year. The Secretariat organised three well-attended ski holiday camps and a summer holiday camp during the year covered by the report. Efforts are made to keep in touch with Swiss youth organisations, of which examples can be found in Lyon, Strasbourg, Munich, Hanover and Braunschweig. A questionnaire seeking to establish guidelines for the Secretariat's youth policy revealed however that the need of a youth club was rarely felt as there were usually too few young Swiss to make it viable.

One of the 20 Swiss schools abroad, the Cairo Swiss School, had to close down. The Swiss School in Alexandria has been passing through difficulties and losing attendances. There are new projects on the way however, and work was begun on the new Swiss school in Sao Paulo last November. The Commission for the Swiss Abroad has approved expenditure of 280,840 francs in educational grants to some 186 young Swiss abroad wishing to get education in Switzerland.

Conclusion

These chapters have summed up the numerous activities of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad. We should have mentioned the Annual Assembly of the Swiss Abroad which took place in Montreux last year and was attended by a record 500. The theme of the conference was, as readers may re-

member, the contribution of the Swiss abroad to the national economy. National Councillor Hans Schaffner made the opening speech.

The life of the Swiss abroad is following the stormy evolution of the world today. It is getting harder in the Middle East and in Brazil, where a deteriorating political climate and a tendency to covet foreign capital have

made their livelihood increasingly precarious. They know however, that they can count on the unflinching support of an organisation whose very existence is the expression of the renewed concern of the nation for her children abroad.

(Adapted from the 1969 report of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad.)

SURVEY OF THE EFFECTIVES OF THE SWISS COLONIES ACROSS THE WORLD

EUROPE

1	Norway	628
2	Sweden	2,867
3	Finland	496
4	Ireland	263
5	Great Britain	14,480
6	Denmark	1,292
7	Russia	90
8	Holland	3,099
9	Belgium	5,587
10	West Germany	34,043
11	East Germany	3,236
12	Poland	238
13	Luxembourg	462
14	Czechoslovakia	117
15	France	92,882
16	Austria	5,804
17	Hungary	159
18	Rumania	118
19	Italy	18,490
20	Yugoslavia	125
21	Bulgaria	58
22	Portugal	722
23	Spain	4,903
24	Greece	526

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

1	Canada	18,432
2	USA	34,213
3	Mexico	1,888
4	Guatemala	254
5	Salvador	188
6	Honduras	105
7	Nicaragua	73
8	Costa Rica	195
9	Panama	195
10	Jamaica	118
11	Cuba	80
12	Haiti	61
13	Dominican Rep.	33

SOUTH AMERICA

14	Columbia	1,477
15	Venezuela	1,211
16	Ecuador	406
17	Peru	1,948
18	Brazil	7,958
19	Bolivia	252
20	Chile	1,703
21	Paraguay	365
22	Argentina	10,156
23	Uruguay	575

AFRICA

24	Morocco	1,153
25	Algeria	555
26	Tunisia	302
27	Libya	114
28	Egypt	392
29	Senegal	188

30	Mali	25
31	Upper Volta	58
32	Niger	37
33	Chad	80
34	Sudan	37
35	Liberia	227
36	Ivory Coast	333
37	Ghana	562
38	Dahomey	68
39	Nigeria	454
40	Cameroons	473
41	Central African Rep.	62
42	Ethiopia	125
43	Gabon	67
44	Congo (Brazzaville)	74
45	Congo (Kinshasa)	563
46	Ruanda	192
47	Uganda	31
48	Kenya	280
49	Angola	76
50	Rhodesia	492
51	Mozambique	190
52	S.W. Africa	115
53	Botswana	1
54	South Africa	5,601
55	Madagascar	292
56	Tanzania	572

ASIA

57	Turkey	486
58	Syria	53
59	Lebanon	458
60	Jordan	30
61	Iraq	57
62	Iran	302
63	Afghanistan	63
64	Pakistan	304
65	Saudi Arabia	58
66	Israel	1,068
67	India	615
68	Nepal	65
69	Burma	6
70	China	17
71	South Korea	35
72	Japan	726
73	Ceylon	58
74	Thailand	326
75	Laos	33
76	South Vietnam	96
77	Cambodia	21
78	Hong Kong	353
79	Formosa	96
80	Philippines	311
81	Malaysia	126
82	Singapore	191
83	Indonesia	143

AUSTRALASIA

84	Australia	7,046
85	New Zealand	1,291