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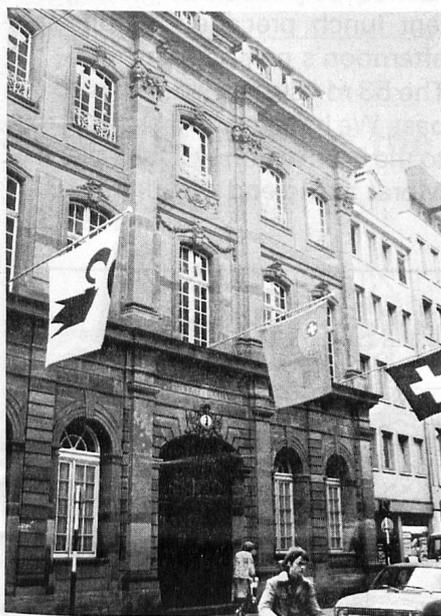
# 53<sup>rd</sup> Assembly of the Swiss Abroad



**in Basle – 28th to 31st August 1975 – President, Dr. Louis Guisan, Councillor of States – a large number of guests and participants – many meetings – main theme: «The Swiss abroad as Ambassadors of Culture».**

The four days of deliberations began with

- meeting of the Commission on Information for Swiss Abroad
- meeting to co-ordinate information (over 20 countries present)
- meeting of the executive board of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad
- at the beautiful «Hofgut Castle» at Augst
- meeting of the executive board of the Council of the Solidarity Fund.



Townhall Basle.

The next day, members of the various working groups, especially the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, well at work again and talked of political rights, sickness insurance, information, Swiss schools abroad, citizenship rights, of administrative problems and solidarity, whilst happy Swiss from abroad discovered wonderful works in Basle or visited the Zoo.

Official opening of the Assembly – Wildt'sches Haus – lovely surroundings – very pleasant atmo-



During the session of the Commission of the Swiss abroad.

sphere – a chance to expand – Dr. Edmund Wyss, member of the Cantonal Government of Basle, introduced his town and offered a «drink of honour». – Solidarity Fund, Annual General Meeting. – Participants taking part for the first time at an assembly, were lucky enough to be received by the Basle Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique at the aristocratic mansion «Seidenhof» – a pleasant evening.

## Plenary Session

Place: Sandoz AG

Participants: over 400

Decoration: outstanding

Speakers:

- Dr. L. Guisan, President of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad
- Mr E. Basler, Central President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique

– Mr M. Ney, Director of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad on the theme of «Is there a Swiss Culture?» The answer is yes, once one has tasted the «gâteau au vin» of the French-speaking part and the «Schnetz» of the German-speaking part of Switzerland. His final sentence: «Switzerland is a

country of contrasts, but also a land of wonderful union between the individual parts, ties which,

Mr. Georges-André Chevallaz, Federal Councillor.



without common culture, would never have become reality.»

– Dr. Spuehler, former Federal Councillor, President of «Pro Helvetia», introduces the activities of that organisation

– Mr E. Leuba, President of the Swiss Association of Painters, Sculptors and Architects in Paris, talked about the work of his colleagues, illustrated by slides

– next a discussion, led by Mr L. Paillard, Deputy Director of the Secretariat, which enabled one to learn something about Swiss culture in various parts of the world

– Mr P. Stauffer, Berne, introduced the activities of Swiss cultural attachés abroad

– Mrs I. Frei, Antwerp, gave a moving survey of Swiss culture in general and methods of displaying it

– Mr Ch. Adams, La Châtre, opened his heart and told of his helvetic activities in France

– Dr. M. Braendle, Brisbane, enlightened the audience on Swiss culture in Australia and

– Mr. M. Giss, Tampere, Finland, on his experiences

– Prof. A. Binder, Osaka, Japan,



Fernando Corena. (Photos Schnetz)

informed the listeners on Swiss culture and the Far East.

The surprise of the day was the sensational performance of the world-renowned singer from the Ticino, Fernando Corena (naturally not known in Switzerland, for the prophet has no honour in his own country). He was followed by

– Mr. J. Landolt, Paris, who sketched the lives of some of the famous Swiss abroad in the past

– Minister M. Jaccard, Berne, well-known to Swiss abroad, made a cross-cut through their problems before the speech of

– Federal Councillor Georges-André Chevallaz, Head of the Federal Department of Customs and Finance, who declared that the economic position of Switzerland would become normal again through the efforts of the Swiss people themselves.

Evening in Riehen: One really had to be there in order to imagine that the bonds which unite the Swiss abroad, are more than an empty expression. The performance of the costumed group «Schnooggerkerzli» with their fifes and drums was much appreciated by the Swiss coming from abroad.

The next day, after the ecumenical service at St. Leonard's, coaches took the participants through the outskirts of Basle and to the castle ruin of Dorneck, where an excellent lunch preceded an pleasant afternoon's companionship.

The 53rd Assembly belongs to the past. We look forward already now to the 54th which will take place at Morat at the end of August 1976.

Lucien Paillard

## Compulsory for Swiss abroad



If you send in the slip, you will receive FREE OF CHARGE a series of eight art postcards by the famous rustic painter from the Appenzell Albert Manser. Latest application: 28th November, 1975.

... it should be to subscribe to the periodical «ECHO» which is produced especially for you by the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad in Berne eleven times a year. Today, the «ECHO» appears in a new and more modern garb. It is even more topical and brings you even more comprehensive information on all matters of importance to the Swiss abroad, and that in the three official languages of Switzerland. And the price of the «ECHO» is only 23 francs a year, including postage. Why don't you give it a trial – it costs you nothing!

Please send the attached slip to the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Administration «ECHO», P.O. Box, CH-3000 Berne 16.

Please send me without obligation three specimen copies of the «echo»

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## 1975: Holidays in Switzerland for 450 Swiss children from abroad



(Photo Urs Ochsenbein)

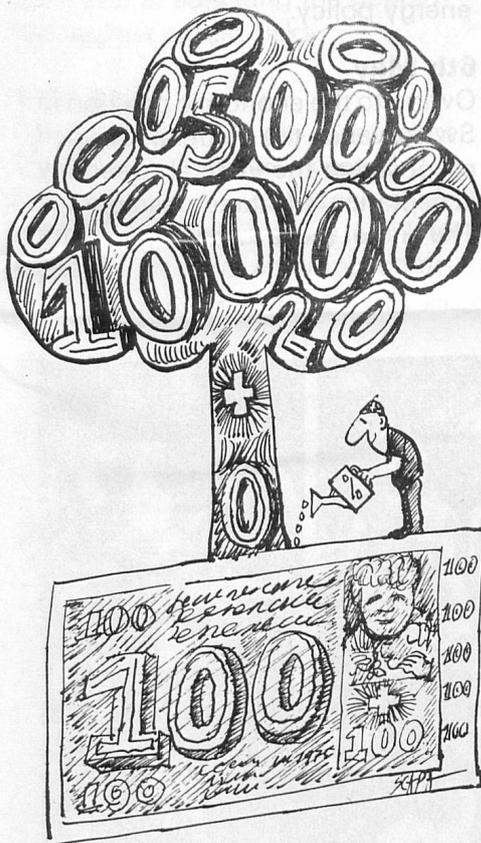
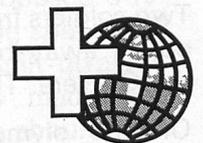
They began with a warm welcome at the station by the Swiss holiday family. Then followed five weeks of a getting-to-know-you period

in Switzerland, the country of which one talks at home ever and again.

«Schweizerhilfe», Foundation for

Young Swiss Abroad, use their annual holiday scheme in order to promote patriotic and civic knowledge. Their appeal for holiday places always finds a gratifying echo. Good bonds become established between Swiss at home and Swiss abroad. Such holiday experiences ensure that the young generation will one day be Swiss not only «according to passport». As from 1st January, 1976, application forms and detailed information will be available from Swiss Consulates. Eligible are all Swiss children abroad from 7 to 14 years, who would like to spend a holiday in Switzerland. Places will be allocated according to income in holiday families, children's homes or holiday camps.

## Solidarity Fund of the Swiss abroad



### Are you aware of the facts?

### Do you really know what may become of 100 francs a year?

- Lumpsum compensation** on loss of livelihood abroad due to war, interior upheavals or general political coercive measures
 

in risk category I	SFr. 10,000.—
II	5,000.—
III	2,500.—
- Repayment of savings deposits** in Switzerland for instance on withdrawal after 30 years
 

in risk category I	116%
II	155%
III	175%

### Do you prefer another solution?

- Annual savings deposits from SFr. 25.— to 2,000.—
- Single deposits from SFr. 450.— to 36,000.— at 2-3½% compound interest (no withholding tax).

Brochures and application forms from all Embassies and Consulates or direct from Solidarity Fund of the Swiss abroad, Gutenbergstrasse 6, CH-3011 Berne.

# AHV/IV and sickness insurance

## Your questions – our answers

*An employee who has become self-employed, asks if he has to declare all his income to the AHV, even though this insurance is voluntary?*

This question has to be answered in the affirmative. From the moment of the adhering the voluntari-

ly insured person is submitted to the same regulations as those who are insured compulsorily. After deduction of expenses, contributions are levied on the *whole of the earned income*. This rule applies to the employee as well as to the self-employed. All persons insured

voluntarily pay contributions based on their whole earned income at the rate fixed for the self-employed in the regulations governing the compulsory insurance (with an annual income of 20,000 francs and over, the rate for the AHV is since 1st July, 1975, 7,3% and 1,0% for the invalidity insurance (IV). With an income below 20,000 francs, the rate is on a gliding lower scale).

## Swiss events in retrospect

### 12th April

Barbara, Karin, Daniela, Adrian and Beat are the Christian names of the quintuplets born in Berne to a woman from Brienz. It was the second similar event in Switzerland.

### 16th April

Two soldiers from Neuchâtel were pulled away by an avalanche in the Gruyère. They lost their lives.

On the olympic bicycle racing track in Mexico, a 24 year-old Swiss weighing more than 170 kg beat the world record in losing weight on a bicycle. He lost 6.260 kg in one hour.

### 19th April

In connection with the 59th Swiss

Industries Fair, the 5th International Inventors' Exhibition took place. The first prize was awarded to two Swiss for a system allowing deaf and blind people to use the telephone.

### 24th April

The French Ministry of Health in Paris awarded the Galien Prize to two drugs to be used against Parkinson's disease, produced by the Roche company in Basle. Since 1970, this distinction has been awarded annually in France to a medicament showing important medical progress, and which is marked by particular therapeutic qualities.

During a six-hour conflict between security forces and auto-

nomists, at Mautier (Jura), 60 people were injured, and damage amounted to several hundred thousand francs.

### 1st May

305 members of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) sent a letter to the Chief of the Federal Department of Communications and Energy, demanding an immediate stop to the construction of atomic power works in Switzerland and a reappraisal of Swiss energy policy.

### 6th May

Owing to the economic position in Switzerland, the Federal Council proposed to the Federal Assembly acceptance of three resolutions. The end of these measures was the

Michel Moos, the new champion, with Roland Collombin (Photo Pascal Thurre).



The tradition of the «Landsgemeinde» of Obwalden has been respected (Keystone).

