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Communications of the Secretariate of the Swiss abroad



A big day for the Swiss abroad

On 24th September, 1975, the National Council considered the political rights for the Swiss abroad. After a debate lasting about 4 hours, the Chamber accepted the draft law with 88 against 4 votes. The discussion was mainly concerned with two proposals, namely:

1. the place where the Swiss abroad can exercise their voting rights (the draft law proposes Switzerland).
2. the request by many National Councillors to introduce voting by post for all Swiss abroad.

The draft law will be considered by the Council of States during the next session of Parliament in December, 1975.

Should the Chamber of Cantons also accept the proposals, the Swiss abroad will get their chance of taking part in federal plebiscites. We shall then give details of the law and its application.

Skiing in spring

Dear Friends,
You still have a chance of skiing by taking part in one of the two spring camps organized for your benefit by the Youth Service of the Secretariat of the Swiss abroad.

In case you were unable to take part in winter or if you prefer the milder spring temperature, please join us for skiing at Les Crosets in the Valais (Val d'Illeiez). Les Crosets is a small place, 1600 m high, which offers you sunshine and a variety of skiing possibilities.

Whether you are a beginner or a «big bug», the camp leaders are looking forward to teaching you the finesses of the sport! The cost of skilifts will be borne individu-



ally. Every participant is insured against accident. Those who don't own any skiing equipment will be lent skis and sticks (please mark the relevant part on the application form). The evenings will be spent with films, discussions and games. See you soon!

Skiing Camp at Les Crosets

Date of the first camp: 6.-15.4.76

Date of the second camp: 15.-24.4.76

House: Chalet Rey-Bellet
Place: Les Crosets (Valais)
Number of places: 40
Price: SFr. 160.—
Latest application: 29.2.76

Application form

I should like to apply for the skiing camp at Les Crosets:

☐ first camp ☐ second camp

Name: _____

Christian name(s): _____

Date of birth: _____

Place of origin in CH: _____

Exact address: _____

Occupation: _____

Skis and sticks required: yes/no*

Country and consular district: _____

* if yes, my height is _____ cm.

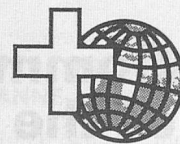
I am

☐ a beginner

☐ a good skier

☐ a very good skier

**Directors and staff
of the Secretariat
of the Swiss abroad
of the NSH
wish all compatriots
abroad
all the best
for the new year**



Solidarity Fund of the Swiss abroad

A look into the files

We have in front of us a few sheets with extracts from the Fund's files, 35 cases in 1974, short summaries, and yet how informative!

Here are a few *examples*:

- Mr. A. emigrated to Africa in 1930. In 1937, he acquired an agricultural estate of 100 ha, which was nationalized in 1973.
- Mr. B. got the planter's diploma at the Tropical Institute in Basle and emigrated to Asia with his wife. He lost his job there because his employer's firm was liquidated. With his wife he then worked as agricultural consultant and agent. By and by, the political circumstances became more and more uncertain: Attacks by armed groups, looting and strikes by the workers on the land induced more and more of Mr. B.'s clients to leave the country. For this reason he sent his family back to Switzerland where he hopes to join them later; he is trying to sell his business.
- Mr. C. ran a grocery business with his son in South America. As a result of political upheaval they had to close it, for food rationing and abnormal price rises had ruined them.

These short factual reports give an insight into a surprising variety of personal destinies. Certainly, at first it is always the loss of basic livelihood due to political events; for the reason of the *Solidarity Fund's* creation was to check such misfortune. But let us look at these *positions* and *events* in detail:

First, one notices no doubt that most of these positions are the result of many years' effort: 10, 20, 30, even 50 years were needed,

often a whole *lifetime* and often the lives of several generations. And not infrequently *several members of a family* were involved in the effort: wives as well as children.

Next it is the extraordinary variety of occupations followed by these members of the Fund, some as self-employed, some as employees. They were secretaries, administrators, farmers, technicians, barbers, butchers, grocers, jewellers, chemists, brewers, hotel keepers (all these according to the 35 examples from the files!).

All of them took the risk at one time to face the unknown and consciously accepted more or fewer risks which were to be expected more or less. And all of them had to suffer damage eventually.

And what kind of events? First of all one can recognise the great historic changes which have shaken the world during the last years: wars and revolutions, abolishment of colonies and economic crises which resulted.

Yet how different the effect was in every case of political events: Withdrawal of residential and working permit, replacement of foreign labour by natives, claims of striking trade unions, tax demands, quotas of raw materials, reduction of imports, emigration of customers, confiscation of bank balances – *all that we find in the 35 extracts!*

And after the catastrophe?

Our reports give practically no information as to how the payments to the injured members affected them; we learn nothing about their relief and the new means of livelihood they built up in Switzerland

or elsewhere. But it would be most interesting to have the answer to certain questions:

1. *Was the paid out lump sum compensation sufficient*, in other words, had one considered all important aspects of means of livelihood when joining the Fund?
2. Were *all individuals* who had been affected by the damage *members* of the Fund? e.g. wives and children? (The Constitution explicitly provides for their enrolment in the same way as for head of the family!) —

In any case, two facts throw a favourable light on the future of those affected by damage: the Fund's tasks are by no means finished once it has paid out the lump sum compensation.

Its Constitution provides that every member is entitled to a second and even further compensation, should another case of damage arise (always, of course, after expiration of the qualifying period).

Above all, his *savings balance* remains secure at all times. That is where the basic concept of the Fund comes in: *Solidarity* of all co-operative members who make a small sacrifice in respect of the returns of their savings. For even if our public-spirited attitude does not always stand in the centre of our interests, it still makes itself felt secretly today as for the founders in 1959.

For information and pamphlets please apply to Swiss Embassies and Consulates, or direct to Solidarity Fund of the Swiss abroad, Gutenbergstrasse 6, CH-3011 Berne.

Pro Juventute News

Dear Swiss families abroad, «Schweizerhilfe», Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad, and «Pro Juventute» would like to put their activities at the disposal of the young Swiss living abroad by enabling as many children as possible to get to know and love their homeland. Our holiday scheme once again offers this opportunity.

Entitled to take part:

Children of Swiss nationality or children of a Swiss mother who has to look after her children on her own.

Ages: born 1962–1969 (those with an invitation 1960–1969).

Duration of the holidays:

Approximately 5 weeks during July and August, according to holiday periods in the country of residence.

Possibilities:

In Swiss families, in children's homes or in camps.

The meeting (photo Karl Schweizer)



Journey:

In Europe by rail in accompanied groups. In cases where the journey has to be made by air, meeting at the airport in Switzerland.

Cost of journey to be borne by parents, or by special arrangement.

Application forms:

Available at all Swiss official representations.

Date of application:

At your Swiss official representation not later than 15th, March 1976.

Applications received after that date cannot be accepted.

Registration fee:

Per child SFr. 12.—, payable on application.

Further information:

At your Swiss official representation.

Already now we send your children best wishes for happy holi-

days in Switzerland and kind regards to you all.

PRO JUVENTUTE

Abteilung

Auslandschweizerkinder

Seefeldstrasse 8, CH-8022 Zurich



I don't see any obstacles
(photo Ochsenbein.)

Summer Holidays 1976

To be sent to you your Swiss official representation

Please send us application form(s) with all relevant information regarding the Holiday Scheme «Pro Juventute» 1976 for Swiss children abroad.

Name: _____

Christian name: _____

Road: _____

Place of residence: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Possible questions: _____

(Swiss Holiday Card, continuation)

What changes, besides the name, does this striking offer for 1976 onward entail?

- The reduced-rate area. Reduced-rate tickets are offered by some additional transport undertakings in the mountains, among which the Pilatus Railway and Cableway System may be particularly worth mentioning.
- The sales organisation. The Swiss Holiday Card is issued:
 - In Europe, by the Swiss National Tourist Offices (except those in Copenhagen and Madrid) and all important Travel Agencies entrusted with the sale of rail tickets. In Germany it is also obtainable at several main stations of the DB.
 - In America, by the Swiss National Tourist Offices in New York and Toronto, by Kuoni Mexico and all other Travel agencies.
 - In South Africa, by Kuoni Johannesburg.
 - In Japan, by the Japan Travel Bureau.
 - Throughout the world (except Europe and North America), by all Swissair Agencies. The vouchers obtained from them will be exchanged for the actual Holiday Cards at the Swiss Federal Railways Inquiry Offices at the airports of Zurich and Geneva.
 - For clients from countries without sales offices or with currency restrictions, by the following Railway Inquiry Offices in Switzerland: Zurich Airport and Main Station, Geneva Airport and Station, Basel SBB, Berne, Buchs SG, Interlaken West, Lugano Città, Lucerne, Montreux, St. Margrethen, Schaffhausen.
- The publicity material. A new folder for distribution in coun-

tries abroad will be printed. It contains a large tourist map, a synoptical map showing the area of validity and the reduced-rate area covered by the Swiss Holiday Card, all useful particulars, a Holiday Card order form as well as some information about the remaining tourist tickets offered in Switzerland to the guests from abroad. You are kindly invited to ask for this folder at your nearest Travel Agency or Swiss

National Tourist Office, but it may also be obtained from any Swiss Consulate.

And what about the price of the Swiss Holiday Card?

You will be pleased to hear that it remains as low as before, i.e.:

	2nd class	1st class
	Swiss Francs	
for 8 days	100.—	140.—
for 15 days	140.—	195.—
for 1 month	195.—	275.—

Children of 6–16 years pay even only half these amounts.

Book Review

Alois Muri:

Schön ist die Schweiz

Picture book. 32 pages of text, 96 pages of colour photographs, 96 pages of black-and-white pictures, DM 56.—/SFr. 59.—. Schweizer Verlagshaus AG, 8008 Zurich, Klausstrasse 33. (For Germany: Franz Mueller-Rodenberger, Frankfurt a.M.)

This beautiful picture book takes the spectator on the loveliest and most eventful journey through Switzerland. What we have almost forgotten how to see, is presented to our eyes in the most impressive manner: Mountains and plains, town and country in their unmistakable beauty and harmony.

A wealth of masterly photographs have been compiled to a striking panorama of our country. The photographs capture us by their extraordinary appeal and make us realise that we have to take care of our piece of land so that it will be preserved also for future generations.

A splendid book of photos, to which one refers again and again, and which is also most suitable as a present.

Sergius Golowin:

«Menschen und Mächte»

Sagen zwischen Jura und Alpen. 416 pages with drawings by Kobi

Baumgartner, 14×21.8 cm, SFr. 21.80. Schweizer Verlagshaus AG, 8008 Zurich, Klausstrasse 33. (For Germany: Carl Meyer, Buch- und Zeitschriftenvertrieb, Frankfurt a.M.)

A most topical book – however paradoxical this may sound when talking about a book of sagas. But not only that; it is also a fascinating, a sinister and yet cheerful book which contains an almost inexhaustible abundance of sagas, fairy-tales and stories.

Its topicality arises above all from the striking discrepancy between our present time and the past of our ancestors. Especially in these days of moon landings this contrast seems so sharp, so gaping in our daily lives that one doubts sometimes whether we, the people of today, have anything in common any more at all with our forefathers. And then one reads these sagas and fairy-tales, hears of witches and fairies, giants, monsters and ghosts, and discovers more or less bewildered that in these creatures of primitive imagination the same powers are embodied which affect also our super-modern epoch – only in different garb.