

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 5 (1978)
Heft: 2

Rubrik: Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad

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To say Good-bye



To preside over the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique is not a simple exercise in enjoyment. It means translating indeed and spirit the programme which people and Cantons indicated on 16th October 1966 when they adopted the new Article 45bis of the Federal Constitution: the strengthening of the bonds which unite the Swiss abroad with their homeland.

In the spring of 1967, at the beginning of a presidency of eleven years, it was necessary to strengthen the machinery in order to accomplish the mission. The efforts made in this direction at the time allow one the statement today that the Secretariat under the leadership of Mr Marcel Ney, the Executive Committee and the Commission of the Swiss Abroad constitute an effective instrument in the service of our compatriots resident outside our national frontiers.

In this lies the reason why the hearing the Swiss abroad have found inside Switzerland has gone on increasing. Thus the conditions for joining the AHV/AVS have been improved, social welfare to Swiss abroad has been introduced on a federal basis, the carrying out of military duties has been facilitated, exercising political rights has become possible. Certainly, much remains to be realized, but the Swiss abroad may face the future with confidence, for their Organisation is now being consulted by the federal authorities in any decisions which concern them.

But what would such results mean if they were not animated by people! During the eleven years, my wife and I had the privilege of meeting Swiss men and women who, everywhere in five continents, are a credit to their homeland. We returned from every

journey full of pride of our compatriots and full of confidence in our small country whose virtues are even more marked when shown outside our frontiers. At the end of my term of office, these memories have become a treasure. The succession is taking place in the best federal tradition. After a *Romand* and a Protestant representing a large Canton, comes a German-speaking Swiss, a Catholic and public figure of a small Canton in Central Switzerland. The friendship which has tied me to my successor for a long time, allows me to express the assurance that, in the person of Mr Alfred Weber, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad will have the President it deserves.

Louis Guisan
President 1967–1978

Our new President

Dr iur Alfred Weber, Altdorf



He was born on 19th November 1923, a citizen of Rothrist AG and Altdorf. He went to the **Gymnasium** in Altdorf and Zug, and he studied at the universities of Zurich and Berne, graduating with a doctorate in law in Berne. He has had his own legal practice in Altdorf since 1951. From 1955 to 1958 he was Vice-President of the Altdorf Commune Council and Chairman of the Altdorf Building Commission. From 1952 to 1958 he was a member of the **Landrat** (Cantonal Council), and a member of the Education Council for 11 years from 1952. In 1958 he joined the Cantonal Government (Director of Finances), an office he held till 1976. Since 1963, he has been a member of the National Council and its President for 1970/71. He was President of the Radical-Democratic Party from 1967 to 1970. He became President of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad on 1st May 1978.

Solution and Winners of the Syllable Puzzle Competition

We are very pleased to have received so many answers from our readers. Most of them were excellent. You will find the solution of the syllable puzzle below.

I	S ion	VIII	I n August
II	O verseas	IX	T ransmissions
III	L ucien Paillard	X	Y outh service
IV	I nterests	XI	F ellowship
V	D r Louis Guisan	XII	U ri
VI	A lpenstrasse	XIII	N ey Marcel
VII	R eturn	XIV	D evotion

Answer: Solidarity Fund

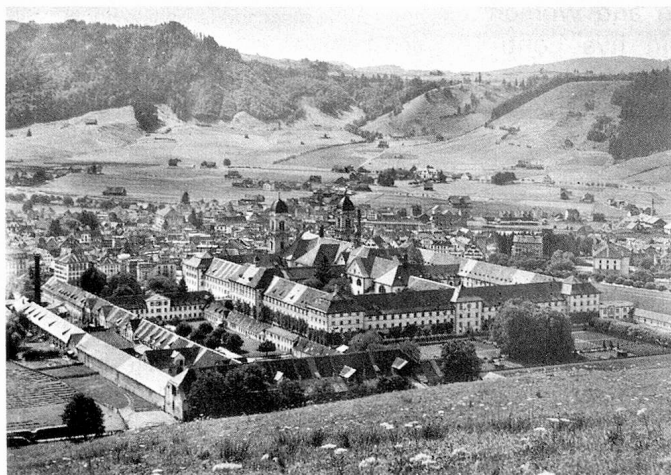
We are convinced that you have played the game with enthusiasm and wish to congratulate everyone of you for his or her perspicacity.

The following winners have been drawn:

1. André Vannotti, Neuilly-sur-Seine, France
2. Walter Widmer, Hong-Kong
3. Milla and Verena Schuster, Mogi Mirim, Brazil
4. M. Hunziker, Paris, France
5. Alois Horlacher, Athens, Greece
6. Gabrielle Gremaud, La Roche sur Foron, France
7. Jack J. Thomas, Aravaca Madrid, Spain
8. Gonsalve Emery, Victoria, Seychelles
9. Elzo and Béatrice Hommes, Naarden, Holland
10. Armand Crausaz, Courcelles-Frémoy, France

Einsiedeln, the Capital of the Swiss Abroad from 24th to 27th August 1978

The 56th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad will take place in the lovely town of Einsiedeln in the Canton of Schwyz. All of you are warmly invited to take part.



56th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad at Einsiedeln

Please send me _____ programme(s) and application form(s)

Name and first name: _____

Full address: _____

Country: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

The world-famous Monastery at an altitude of 914 m was built in stages, the first going back to near the end of the 17th century. You will have a chance of visiting the Monastery and of admiring its beautiful Library. For this alone our Assembly will be an experience of a special kind, and the main theme is:

Information of the Swiss Abroad

We are expecting many enquiries and messages from our readers, so that we can satisfy them better and better.

The official opening of the Assembly will take place in the forecourt of the Monastery, provided weather conditions are favourable. The plenary sessions will be held in the fine new hall of Einsiedeln.

We shan't forget the entertainment side, and we should like to ask you to return the form below as quickly as possible, so that we can send the full programme to you.

«See you soon at Einsiedeln» should be your slogan which you will confirm by coming. We should be happy to welcome you.

In order to facilitate our work and to avoid delays, please fill in the form in block letters and return it speedily to the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne 16, Switzerland.

**Address by Mr Adolf Ehrensam, President of the
Foundation Bundesfeierspende
(Swiss National Day Collection),
given at the meeting of the Commission
of the Swiss Abroad on 25th February 1978.**

The Swiss Confederation can look back on a long historic development. The sources of its origins are scarce, and there is no proof of much of the story of the liberation of the three Primitive Cantons as it is recorded in the White Book of Sarnen.

One document, however, has been preserved, the Federal Charter of 1291, in which the Forest Cantons promise mutual help and assistance. It was not a creation of a state in a modern sense, yet it was definitely the starting-point of a development which went on for centuries and finally led to the Federal State of 1848.

As in neighbouring countries, in Switzerland, too, the idea took root to introduce a national day. Little by little modest celebrations were organised. The old custom of lighting bonfires was revived. In 1891, on the 600th anniversary of the Federal Charter, the Federal Chambers decided to organize a sixcentenary celebration.

A St. Gall trader, Albert Schuster, was to work out a scheme which would enable the Swiss citizen to express solidarity with the whole people on the national day by making a common, if small, sacrifice.

In 1909, he founded the National Day Committee together with a few friends. In 1910, franked postcards were sold for the first time, the proceeds of which (29 000 francs) were used in aid of the flood victims.

These were modest beginnings, but they were followed by a creditable development of the idea. In 1923, the National Day Badge was created which has kept



its place right to the present. In 1938, the Federal Council consented to the issue of National Day stamps «Pro Patria».

At an early stage, the relationship with the Swiss abroad was established. The needy Swiss abroad were assisted in 1924, the Swiss schools in 1930. Six more times – the last occasion was in 1972 – the proceeds were donated to the Foundation for the Swiss Abroad which uses the funds for the Swiss schools abroad, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad of the NSH and similar purposes.

I should like to take this opportunity and state that our appeal to purchase National Day Badges has always been well received by our compatriots abroad. Year after year, badges to the value of over 80 000 francs are sold abroad; this corresponds roughly to the result of the Canton of Aargau.

Large sections of the public in Switzerland are aware of what we owe to our compatriots abroad. They wish that the relations between them and the home country are fostered. That is the reason why thousands of collaborators, together with pupils and young people, will sell badges this year all over the country in aid of the Foundation for the Swiss Abroad. By this gesture, the country would like to express respect for their activities and to thank them for their work.



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auch im Ausland
nicht allein.**

Tages-Anzeiger

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	Gew. Postzustellung		
	3 Mt.	6 Mt.	12 Mt.
Europa			
Bundesrepublik, Italien, Oesterreich	14.—	27.—	53.—
Belgien, Frankreich, Luxemburg, Niederlande	16.—	31.—	60.—
Europa			
Übrige europäische Länder sowie ganze UdSSR, Island, Grönland und Türkei	17.50	34.—	67.—

Afrika			
Nordafrika: Algerien, Libyen, Marokko, Tunesien, Übrige Länder in Afrika	17.50	34.—	67.—
	20.—	39.—	77.—

Amerika			
USA, Kanada und Zentralamerika, Antillen, Costa Rica, Dominikanische Republik, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaika, Kuba, Mexiko, Nicaragua, Panama	20.—	39.—	77.—
Südamerika	22.50	44.—	87.—

Asien			
Naher Osten: Libanon, Jordanien, Israel, Syrien, Aden, Jemen, Irak, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi-Arabien, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Indien, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka	17.50	34.—	67.—
Ferner Osten	20.—	39.—	77.—
Übrige asiatische Länder	22.50	44.—	87.—

Australien			
Neuseeland, Ozeanien	31.—	60.—	119.—

Youth Service, in retrospect

The main occupation of the Youth Service is no doubt the preparation and carrying out of the camp for young Swiss from abroad. This task requires considerable expenditure of work which, however, one always finds worthwhile during the camp; the many happy memories are more than adequate compensation. It is with pleasure that we look at them once more with you.

Les Crosets

A little-known name which, however, denotes a beautiful skiing area. The first camp took place shortly before Easter, from 29th March to 7th April 1977, and the second one immediately afterwards, from 12th to 21st April. A total of 34 girls and 38 boys took part. Although the camps were held comparatively late, all could enjoy good snow conditions. Under the direction of group leaders, the beginners gradually became acquainted with the narrow boards, whilst the advanced participants were able to learn new skiing techniques and happily crossed the frontier between Switzerland and France. The ski pistes of the two countries are so inter-connected that everybody could ski with the same season-ticket in the one or the other without ever having to produce a passport. Les Crosets filled all camp participants with enthusiasm.

Summer Camp

On 19th July, 3 female and 5 male leaders and the Youth Service team welcomed a happy band of 80 young people at Altdorf station. For the first two days, the Altdorf military huts served as accommodation. During that time, there were two excursions on the programme. One took the party to the Maderanertal, the other to the famous Tell's Chapel. On the fifth day, travel excitement again. Four groups each went to Goeschenen and Schwyz where one made arrangements for a stay of four days. Unfortunately, the Goeschenen billets were underground which did not agree with everybody. Fortunately, there was an indoor swimming pool which made the participants forget the dull and rainy days.

In Schwyz, though, there were no problems. Accommodation was ample and provided a beautiful view in the direction of Brunnen and the Lake of Lauerz. The programme was well filled. First day: Trip by train to the Rigi, descent to Vitznau and back to Brunnen by boat. The second day was devoted to history: Visit to the Federal Archives in Schwyz and an excursion to the Ruetli. The last day was used for a visit to the Transport Museum in Lucerne.

The programme at Goeschenen was much more «alpine». An excursion by train to

Disentis in the Grisons was planned as a first event. From there, one went to Caischedra by cable-way. The father of two of the participants had given free travel vouchers for this trip. A big thank you for this generosity!

The following day, the Goeschenen Valley was explored. The goal of this excursion was a reservoir lake at the end of the valley. Unfortunately, the continuous rainfalls prevented the groups of Schwyz and Goeschenen from carrying out all the planned excursions.

Fortunately, though, one was not dependent on weather conditions everywhere. The rain could not spoil anything during the visit to the future Gotthard road tunnel.

They all met again in Sarnen on 31st July, where they were invited to the television programme of the Swiss National Day. Accommodation was put at our disposal free of charge by the Commune. Once again the weather refused to cooperate, and the TV programme was literally drowned. In spite of the mobile kitchens which served liberal helpings of risotto, and in spite of generous supplies of wine, the good spirits of the camp participants finally gave way under the ever-lasting rain.

On 2nd August, one returned to Altdorf where floods had created considerable damage during our absence. It was very lucky that nothing was damaged in our huts. At last the terrible rainfalls stopped and it began to clear. There was a chance for experts of a two-day mountain excursion. The night was spent at the SAC hut of Kroenten. The others had the choice between trips to the Eggberge, to Seedorf and a visit to the Fluelen beach. This small but pleasant bathing beach was also the venue of the farewell party on 5th August. Delicious chops were grilled, and there was much song and laughter under clear and starlit skies. What a pity one had to wait such a long time for good weather!

Film

«La Fête dont les Princes sont Vignerons»

This is the official film on the «Fête des Vignerons», the vinegrowers' festival at Vevey. It reproduces the unforgettable spectacle which managed to fill with enthusiasm hundreds of thousands of onlookers. Magnificent and stirring colourful scenes allow everyone to recognize and relive the most beautiful moments of this great festival. Anyone who would like to see this film should get in touch with the president of the competent organisation, so that a performance may be arranged. Agency: Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad in Berne. It is a 16mm colour film, optical sound. It lasts 90 minutes, and the commentary is in French. There is music for nearly 80 minutes. The film producer is Pierre Bovey.

Reading Service of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad

This branch of our activities allows our compatriots abroad who are not in a position to subscribe to a paper or magazine from Switzerland, to keep in touch with the homeland and to be informed about what happens in Switzerland.

If you are one of those compatriots, please fill in the form below and send it back. We shall then send you the address of a compatriot in

Switzerland who is willing to send you his papers after perusal. We shall try and consider your personal wishes as far as possible.

Our address:

Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad
Reading Service
Alpenstrasse 26
Post Box
3000 Berne 16
Switzerland

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Place and postal code:	Country:
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Special interest:	
Date:	Signature: