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Resolutions

25th August 1978

On the occasion of the 56th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad, two important resolutions were passed of which you will find the text below.

Citizenship of children of Swiss mothers and foreign fathers

According to today's law, citizenship is treated unequally. The present ruling is looked upon as discrimination by Swiss women abroad. This applies to the treatment of children of Swiss fathers and originally foreign mothers, as well as of children of Swiss mothers and foreign fathers, who had the privilege of their parents being resident in Switzerland at the time of their birth.

A group of experts was appointed by the Commission of the Swiss Abroad. Their findings, based on legal advice, clearly show that a change in the Constitution is necessary in order to reach the desired aim.

The Commission of the Swiss Abroad considers it its duty to look after the rights of the Swiss abroad, at the same time putting its trust in the sense of justice of the Swiss authorities and the Swiss people.

A relevant proposal for a change in the Constitutional Article 44, Par. 3, will be submitted shortly to all Swiss societies for consideration. The President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad will announce a Parliamentary Initiative to the Swiss Chambers, provided the result of the consultation is positive.

By this, the unequivocal determination will be demonstrated to work for a solution of this problem immediately, and that the Swiss authorities should take the matter in hand and not wait until the Constitutional Proposal for «Equal treatment of man and woman» is being dealt with, nor until the total revision of the Federal Constitution is tackled.

Draft of a new Federal Constitution

The Commission of the Swiss Abroad, at its meeting of 25th August 1978 at Einsiedeln, and after taking note of the draft of a new Federal Constitution as prepared by a group of experts, has realised with consternation that the Swiss abroad are mentioned only once in a single Article, 58, Par. 1, and that only in connection with the use of their voting rights. This implies that the acknowledged rights of the Swiss abroad as guaranteed in the Constitution will be curtailed in the new Constitution. The Commission of the Swiss Abroad states emphatically that the Swiss abroad can only accept a new Constitution which does not include any worsening of their position, and that the guarantees should be expressly mentioned in the Constitution.

The Commission of the Swiss Abroad, after consulting all Swiss organisations abroad, will submit their demands to the authorities in a separate declaration.

The result of this consultation of the Swiss abroad will be the main theme of the 57th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad at the end of August 1979. It will then be introduced to the Swiss public.