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Operation Nationality

The appeal which appeared in our December number 1978 has provoked lively interest. We should like to thank warmly all those who have given us their comments or their suggestions. The Swiss societies generally have been very active in the matter, which is also most gratifying. We should also like to express our thanks and appreciation to the ad hoc groups which were formed and worked with admirable zeal. We are thinking above all of the groups in Belgium, Columbia, Spain and Singapore.

Some Swiss papers abroad published a questionnaire, so for instance «Le Messager Suisse» (France), the «Swiss American Review» (USA) and the «Gazzetta Svizzera» (Italy), which contributed considerably in stimulating the interest of our compatriots living abroad. The societies strengthened their discussion meetings by an appeal to all members, so that everyone could express an opinion on the subject.

We received nearly 2500 letters. Although the time limit has passed, we still receive comments every day. It is therefore not possible to answer everyone individually, and we trust that you will understand.

The evaluation has been started. In one of the next issues of this paper, you will be given the final results. It is certain already that they will be in favour of our initiative.

We should like to stress that the flood of letters motivated our President, National Councillor Dr. Alfred Weber, to intervene in Parliament in order that Swiss nationality should also be accorded to children of Swiss mothers and foreign fathers, born abroad. This was the fourth effort in this matter within two years, and a Motion has already found agreement in the Federal Council.

The legislative machinery has thus been set in motion, and we can assure you that we shall follow carefully all further developments.

Many thanks for your kind assistance in the matter and your valuable co-operation.

Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad

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