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Citizenship Campaign

ius soli / ius sanguinis

Following a judgment by the Federal Tribunal on the meaning of «*Abstammung*»/«*filiation*» (descent or parentage), Parliament has considered the question which is closely tied to our Citizenship Campaign. On page 11 of this issue, you will find an article which will give you more detailed information and an explanation of the limited scope of this modification. For it only affects children of Swiss women married to foreigners and who have not acquired Swiss nationality by descent from a Swiss father, but by *naturalization*.

This needs qualifying in the sense that the decision mentioned above

refers only to cases where the person concerned, i.e. the now Swiss woman who was originally naturalized on the basis of her mother's Swiss descent or, together with her parents in the ordinary manner, when she was still under age, so that the element of «*descent*» was still considered albeit in a mild form.

By this parliamentary decree the question of discrimination against the children born outside Switzerland of a Swiss woman and a foreign father, is by no means resolved. We should like, therefore, to present here the juridical considerations relevant to acquiring a nationality.

In a number of countries, above all in the Anglo-Saxon States, the principle of «*ius soli*» is applied, i.e. whoever is born in such a country automatically obtains the nationality of the country and is free also to acquire the nationality of his parents.

In Switzerland, the principle of «*ius sanguinis*» is in force, i.e. the children receive the nationality of the father (in certain circumstances that of the mother). Thus if a foreign couple have a child in Switzerland, that infant gets the nationality of his parents.

It goes without saying that we deal here simply with general basic principles which every country has supplemented by its own additional regulations.

One could say, for instance, of Art. 44, Par. 3 of the Federal Constitution that it is derived from the principle of «*ius sanguinis*» but allows in a limited way the application of «*ius soli*», for a Swiss woman married to a foreigner can pass on her Swiss citizenship to her children, on condition that the parents were resident in Switzerland at the time of the birth. This means applying Swiss descent on the basis of «*ius sanguinis*» and necessity of residence in Switzerland on the principle of «*ius soli*».

The studies in connection with our Citizenship Campaign are being continued in the Federal Administration. As Federal Councillor Furgler announced in Parliament, the results will be submitted to the Cantons in the course of the consultative procedure, for one can become Swiss citizen only via the citizenship of a Commune and consequently of a Canton.

Lucien Paillard

Summer Camp

As every year, the Youth Service of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad is planning the Summer Camp 1980.

Taking into account holiday periods in various countries, the following dates have been fixed for the camp:

22nd July to 9th August 1980

The aim of the organizers is to arrange hikes and marches across mountains and valleys, to organize cultural and sports events in chosen places, and above all to foster contact between the inhabitants and the participants in the

camp, and to create a good atmosphere amongst the camping community.

From the middle of May, young Swiss from abroad, both male and female, will be able to obtain full details and application forms from the following address:

NSH

Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad
Youth Service

Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16
Switzerland

Last date for applying:
20th June 1980



**It is in your own interest
to join the voluntary
OAI/DI.**