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Editorial Dr. Weber



(Photo Rodo)

Information of our compatriots living abroad is becoming increasingly important. The proportion of short-term emigrants from Switzerland to any community is gradually increasing. Those who know that they will return to Switzerland again after a

certain time, are specially interested in being kept abreast of affairs and happenings at home.

In addition, the possibility of being able to take part in federal plebiscites – even though for the moment they still require a stay in Switzerland – has awakened further need for information. The Swiss abroad now wish to be able to follow closely developments at home as fully responsible voting citizens.

The Organization of the Swiss Abroad is pleased to put its service increasingly towards such information by means of this quarterly publication.

*Alfred Weber
President of the Organization
of the Swiss Abroad*



Information for the Swiss abroad

At the end of 1980 and the beginning of the new year, a change has come in the service of information for the Swiss abroad. Their Secretariat in Berne was obliged to cease publication of the periodical «echo» with the December issue. This decision was not taken lightly. After all, this publication could look back over 61 full years and enjoyed great popularity with readers in Europe and overseas. The «echo», in three Swiss languages, with its richly illustrated articles, its carefully selected coloured covers and its topical summaries of internal problems and events, formed a welcome bridge to the home country; old and young subscribers affirmed this again and again. For us as publishers it was a valuable visiting card for the activities

and the existence of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad. At the same time, it represented serious involvement in the political life of the Swiss abroad and also a contribution to the presence of Switzerland abroad of which we were proud and – as we were assured from competent quarters again and again – had every reason to be so. Yet, the reasons which were the cause of ceasing publication of our monthly magazine were compelling:

Firstly, the increasing cost of production which could not be passed on to the rate of subscription due to the high exchange rate of the Swiss Franc, the deterioration of postal services near and far and the ever increasing administrative work