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Communications from the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



Where do the Swiss Live Abroad?

Every three years, a survey is made of the Swiss resident abroad. The information from official representations abroad is classified and statistics are published. The figures and details collected by the **Federal Office for foreigners** give an interesting picture, although such figures must be treated with a certain reserve. Compared with the figures of 1977, the total of Swiss resident abroad has again risen by 4% to 354 232. This increase is due to the rise in the number of dual nationals, whose numbers have gone up by 9% to 194 158, whilst there was a decline by 2% in Swiss-only nationals.

This development, however, is by no means evenly spread. If one analyses the position from country to country, one finds considerable differences. The total of Swiss-only nationals increased in 91 countries; in 64 countries there was a decrease, and in ten countries the figures showed no change. In Great Britain there was a considerable

increase in Swiss-only nationals of 15%, of 8% in Liechtenstein, 6% in Spain and 4% in USA. In France there was a decrease of 5%, in Belgium of 35%, in South Africa 23%, in Italy 7%, and in New Zealand, the decline amounted to 20%. A record was registered in Iran where the Swiss community lost 86% of its Swiss-only members over the past three years.

The falling-off in numbers of Swiss-only nationals does not in every case mean the same thing as a decline in the number of Swiss resident abroad. In many countries, such as in New Zealand, but also in France and Italy, the number of Swiss-only nationals went down, yet the total of Swiss resident there increased. The explanation for this phenomenon lies mostly in the nationality policy of the various states, where the acquisition of dual nationality is furthered by legislation, although most countries are officially opposed to multiple nationality.

Another reason for the uneven development in Swiss emigration lies in the change from classical emigration countries to new territories. This trend is noticeable in the strong growth of Swiss communities in Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Thailand. Yet not all the classical emigration countries have lost their appeal. This applies in particular to the United States, Canada, and to a lesser degree to Australia. These countries attract immigrants now as much as ever.

The published figures underline once again the importance the «Fifth Switzerland» has for the homeland. The total of over 350 000 roughly equals the population of the Canton of Geneva. What valuable capital of human endeavour and spirit is thus at the disposal of Switzerland!

Jörg Kistler

Citizenship Campaign

Good news

In the autumn session of the Swiss Parliament, the National Council treated the initiative launched by the President of the Organisation of Swiss Resident Abroad, former National Councillor Dr Alfred Weber. It decided to grant Swiss mothers the right of handing down Swiss nationality to their children wherever they reside, by way of a partial revision of the Federal Constitution.

The result, naturally, is gratifying, but nothing has as yet been decided definitely. For Switzerland's two Chambers have equal rights, and therefore the Council of States still has to debate the initiative. In all probability, this will take place in the December session. **If** the Council of States decides the same way as the National Council, the proposal will then have to go to the electorate and the Cantons; the final decision lies with them.

An important step has been taken, let us hope that the remaining ones will soon lead to the goal.

Lucien Paillard

From our readers:

All Swiss living abroad can profit from the «Swiss Review»

The Swiss Review is no yellow journal. Rather it is a valuable source of information regarding Swiss federal laws and government decisions as well as the necessary steps to remain a Swiss citizen. By fulfilling this function the «Swiss Review» helps to maintain the links with the fatherland.

Unfortunately one does not always read the «Swiss Review» with the necessary care. This can have consequences. The following happened in our family. On first of December 1972 my daughter married Norbert Buchholzer, an Argentinian national. Neither my daughter nor I thought of the possible consequences. A few weeks later I went on business to Linea Cuchilla. By accident I met a friend. He asked me whether my daughter had mentioned to the Swiss Embassy that she had married. I answered in the negative and asked him why that mattered. He said that he had read in the «Swiss Review» that this step was crucial in order to keep the Swiss citizenship.

We did not let matters lie. Inquiries with the Swiss Embassy proved my friend to be right. My daughter had lost her citizenship. We hadn't read the «Swiss Review» carefully enough.

Some time ago we read in the «Swiss Review» that one could regain Swiss citizenship by making a formal request. My daughter immediately started getting all the necessary documents together, and now at last she is Swiss again.

How many worries could we have spared ourselves and the Swiss authorities concerned if we had read the «Swiss Review» more attentively.

Oscar Minder, Misiones, Argentina



«Spotlight on Sport» – a new SBC service

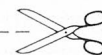
The Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) is launching international sales to the non-broadcasting sector of video-cassette recordings of major sporting events in Switzerland. And it is planned to extend the service in early 1982 to cover non-sporting Swiss news and current affairs.

SBC is currently producing a colour cassette every two weeks, containing an up-to-date summary of selected national and international sporting highlights in Switzerland.

Within Switzerland the cassettes are already available from specialist dealers.

The experimental new service will enable Swiss companies, clubs and communities abroad and other interested sectors to keep informed of developments on the Swiss sporting scene. More than 350 000 Swiss citizens live outside their own country.

The «Spotlight on Sport» cassettes – which are also available directly to individual members of the public – are currently being produced with a German commentary only. The production of cassettes in French and Italian is under consideration. A one-month subscription to «Spotlight on Sport» (two cassettes) costs approximately Sfr. 250.–. A precise offer will be submitted to you upon receipt by the SBC of your specific requirements.



Form

Swiss TV «Spotlight on Sport»

The Swiss Broadcasting Corporation is producing on video-cassette every 14 days a summary of selected sporting highlights in Switzerland. Each summary is of at least 45 minutes' duration. Details of this new service are contained on the enclosed sheet.

The Swiss Broadcasting Corporation operates the PAL 625 TV System.

«Spotlight on Sport» is being supplied on U-matic, VHS or Betamax system cassettes.

Please advise us:

– can you use PAL 625? yes/no

– if not, which system (e.g. NTSC, SECAM, etc.)? _____

– which cassette system (U-matic, VHS, Betamax)? _____

– does your club possess a videorecorder? yes/no

– are individual members of your club interested in purchasing video-cassettes? yes/no

Do you wish to receive our conditions of sale? yes/no

Do you wish to receive a PAL 625/Betamax sample cassette (price Sfr. 65.–, incl. post and packing)? yes/no

Address: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please return completed form to: Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, programme sales, 3000 Berne 15, telephone 031 43 91 11, telex 33161.

Note: In early 1982 it is planned to extend this service to include a summary of non-sporting Swiss news and current affairs. Please advise if this is also of interest to you. yes/no