

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 9 (1982)
Heft: 1

Rubrik: Official communications

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Official Communications

The Federal Authorities 1982:

President of the National Council:
Hedi Lang

President of the Council of States:
Jost Dillier

President of the Confederation:
Fritz Honegger (photo: P. Zingg)

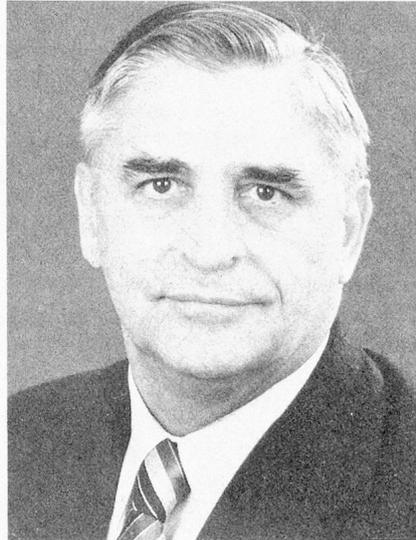
Vice-President of the Federal Council:
Pierre Aubert

Chancellor of the Confederation:
Walter Buser

President of the Federal Court:
Rolando Forni

President of the Federal Insurance Court:
Eduard Amstad

Composition of the Federal Council and allocation of Departments:



Department of Foreign Affairs:
Pierre Aubert

Department of the Interior:
Hans Hürlimann

Department of Justice and Police:
Kurt Furgler

Military Department:
Georges-André Chevallaz

Department of Finance:
Willi Ritschard

Department of Public Economy:
Fritz Honegger

Department of Transport, Communications and Energy:
Léon Schlumpf

Parliament

Activities

Legislation

Constitution, laws, federal decisions, international treaties

Launching of initiatives

Initiatives and proposals through motions, postulates and parliamentary initiatives.

Financial power

Approval of expenditures through the budget and through individual decisions, supervision of the accounts of the Confederation.

Supervision

Supervision of administration and judicial system (courts), financial supervision of the state budget.

Elections

The joint Federal Assembly elect

the members of the Federal Council, Supreme Court, Court of Insurance, Military Court of Appeals as well as the Federal Chancellor and the General.

Working Procedure

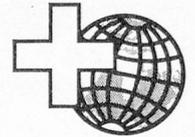
Most of the business to be handled by the Federal Assembly (federal laws, federal decisions, acknowledgment of reports of the Federal Council) is dealt with by the two houses separately. The presidents of the two chambers distribute the business to be dealt with by one or the other house first. Both houses appoint committees which deal with the business at hand in preliminary discussions. After completing their work the committees issue a report to their house, and make recommendations.

The business, which has been

prepared by the committees, is discussed and dealt with by the whole chamber during the session. The result of these deliberations is then presented to the other house to deal with and make a decision. If the second house comes to a different conclusion then the issue is brought up again in the first house. The business is transferred from one chamber to the other, back and forth, until an agreement is reached.

Sessions

Four regular sessions a year (March, June, September, December), each lasting three weeks from Monday (evening) to Thursday/Friday (mid-morning). The sessions are open to the public; balconies are available for journalists and visitors.



Information from the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad

The call of the President to join the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad, published in the 2/1981 issue of the Swiss Review, was directed to all Swiss and dual nationals living abroad. Once again there was a lot of response, and many new members joined in 1981.

The purpose and the aim of the Solidarity Fund is probably familiar to you: It is the joining together of the Swiss and double citizens living abroad to create personal savings in Switzerland and to offer aid to one another in the case of loss of livelihood abroad, whether caused by war, internal unrest or general political measures, but not self-inflicted. Any substantial and not just temporary loss of economic position abroad, in particular considerable and not immediately compensable reduction of income and earning potential counts as loss of livelihood.

For those of you who do not know anything about us yet:

Our information material is available to you free of charge at all embassies and consulates of Switzerland abroad or from our office in Berne. The wide range of services offered by our organization, however, is also open to Swiss resident at home.

An information campaign, therefore, tells your relatives, acquaintances, and friends in Switzerland about insurance possibilities, sponsorships and the other services of the Fund. The campaign originated as a result of a representative opinion poll, conducted among 700 people in German-speaking and French-speaking Switzerland in October 1981. The aim of this poll was to determine the degree to which the Solidarity Fund was known among the Swiss population. The result: the Solidarity Fund was practically unheard of. Only 0,4% of those polled were able to name the Solidarity Fund when asked the question «Do you know of organizations which aid the Swiss abroad?»

Publicity work in Switzerland for the Solidarity Fund is therefore urgently needed. Not only can Swiss and double citizens living abroad insure themselves through the Solidarity Fund, but Swiss residing in Switzerland (as well as firms, associations and clubs) can assume one or several sponsorships and so a general information campaign has been carried out in the past few months to make the Solidarity Fund and the sponsorships better known. Through press articles and special contributions on the Solidarity Fund (e.g. in the widely circulated «Schweizerischer Beobachter» with 470 000 copies), in daily newspapers, weeklies and illustrated magazines the interest of the Swiss population, especially relatives and friends of Swiss and double citizens li-

ving abroad, in assuming a sponsorship is supposed to be awakened. Sponsorships are very meaningful. Inform your relatives, friends and acquaintances in Switzerland about this possibility. Even if there are oceans separating you, the dialogue is worth it. And your relatives in Switzerland will be happy to be able to help you or your children in this way.

With best wishes

A. Matter, President

B. Invernizzi, Manager

Who can Become a Member?

The Fund is open to all Swiss citizens (minors too) who are registered at a Swiss embassy or consulate abroad. This also applies to Swiss women, married to foreigners, who have maintained their Swiss citizenship, and to all dual nationals. Wives and children can join the Fund, and it does not matter whether they have an income of their own, or are dependent on the income of their spouse or their father.

The Sponsorships

For Swiss citizens resident in Switzerland (as well as for Swiss firms, associations and clubs) there is the possibility of assuming one or several sponsorships. The sponsor becomes a member of the Solidarity Fund, and names the person living abroad who should benefit in the case of loss of livelihood. For example, parents and grandparents can name their children or grandchildren. An uncle or aunt can name his or her nieces or nephews, and other people other family members or their friends as beneficiary. A firm can insure its employees against the risks covered by the Solidarity Fund.

Coupon

Please send me complete forms:

and/or send forms to my relatives/friends in Switzerland

Send in to:
Solidarity Fund of the Swiss abroad
Gutenbergstrasse 6, CH-3011 Bern