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## The Youth Service Reports on the Hiking Camp at Heiden

This year's summer hiking camp, too, was to prove its popularity. More than 80 young Swiss from all over the world had turned up for this 3-week camp in the Canton of Appenzell, and they were to spend a pleasant time together, having fun with sports and games, and finding lots of opportunities of getting to know one an-

other and learning about Switzerland.

We had chosen Heiden as our base camp, a health resort in «Biedermeier» style (800 meters altitude). Slumbering in the lovely rolling hills of the Appenzell, untouched by urban stress, it woke up to become a bustling vacation center for a couple of days.

On their first excursion, hiking by daily stages of some 4 to six hours, the youngsters first headed for the St. Gall Oberland, then crossed the Principality of Liechtenstein, and finally arrived at Bad Ragaz, the famous health resort in St. Gall. Despite the persistent heat wave, which was quite unusual for Switzerland, the tough hikers went on «conquering» new villages and regions day by day. As far as eating was

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### Boarding-School for Young Swiss Abroad

At the request of the Secretariat for the Swiss abroad, a co-educational private school in the Bernese Oberland with 35 years of experience provides board, lodging and attentive care; primary-, secondary- and commercial school education, as well as grammar-school education (leading to the diploma, i. e. 'Matura') at adjacent **state schools**.



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concerned, they snatched snacks from their backpacks or, when relaxing by a brook or in the cool shade of a wood, ate square meals served by the kitchen personnel. The vacation program did not only include views of gorgeous landscapes, but also insights into cultural life and sports. Thus, after getting back to Heiden, the hikers – still high-spirited although some of them had blistered feet – had to get ready to split up into groups of seven, each group dedicating itself to one specific field of interest, either physical education or the arts. Physical education covered swimming, hiking, cycling and volleyball, the arts photography – the works were later displayed at an exhibition –, architecture and drama. In staging their own play, the drama group could profit a lot from professional assistance rendered by a married couple. The initial problems – 6 actors, 4 different

languages – were solved successfully, and the participants were very pleased with the result. The youngsters then went on a 3-day excursion, hiking in the region near Lake Constance; a cruise on the lake from Rorschach to Lindau, which was favored by splendid weather, rounded off this trip.

August was to bring with it a change of weather, though. The drought had in the meantime become so alarming that bonfires had to be prohibited on August 1, the Swiss National Day; in the course of the afternoon, however, the skies graciously refreshed us with heavy thundershowers. During the last week, the weather was often rainy; yet this could neither discourage group activities nor spoil anyone's pleasure.

Many participants and members of the staff found it hard, after three weeks of enhancing experiences and impressions, to

take leave of their newly-won friends, and we of the Youth Service hope to see some of them again next year. *Therese Messerli*

## Congress '83 Speeches and Results of UN Questionnaire

You can now obtain a copy of the speeches made at the 1983 Congress of Swiss abroad and of the results of the questionnaire about Switzerland's entry into the United Nations Organization. Sfr. 14.–(Switzerland: Sfr. 10.–) (postage included) are to be paid in advance to the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad Account no. 16.129.446.0.98, Kantonalbank von Bern, Berne or Postal account no. 30–6768 Berne. Please make sure you do not forget to write your address and the key word «UN questionnaire».

# Ragt seit 50 Jahren aus dem europäischen Blätterwald.

Seit dem 8. September 1983 mit verändertem Gesicht, aber gleichem Profil.

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# 61st Congress of Swiss Abroad in Zurich

## A Social Get-together



Federal Councillor Alphons Egli.

An estimated 480 Swiss people from abroad, among them a number of recruits, came together in Zurich from August 26 to 28 in order to meet and exchange views on questions of mutual interest. Friday's question time and the following opening reception were well attended. The program went on with a general discussion about Switzerland's entry into the UNO, which was held in the auditorium of the university on Saturday; in the evening, at a dinner and dance, participants enjoyed Elsie Attenhofer's revue – her name reminds us of the group called «Cor-nichon», and still symbolizes the Swiss spirit of resistance of the World War II era. The meeting was pleasantly rounded off on

Mr and Mrs Walther Hofer, president of the OSA; in the middle the famous artist, Mrs Elsie Attenhofer.



Sunday with a cruise on the lake of Zurich and lunch on the Au peninsula, which was favored by splendid weather.

Authoritative Plenary Discussions about Switzerland's Accession to the UNO.

After René Retornaz, president of the NSH, had greeted the audience, Professor Walther Hofer, president of the Organization of Swiss Abroad, explained the results of a questionnaire regarding Switzerland's full membership in the UNO that had been launched by the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad prior to the Congress. This poll yielded a total of 3852 votes: 1368 for, 2262 against Switzerland in the UNO, and 222 abstentions. Supporting membership in the UNO are mainly Swiss citizens who reside in France, Germany and Scandinavia, whereas those in North America and South Africa are vehemently against it.

Opponents reason, for example, that «Switzerland is of much better service when remaining outside the UNO», which is one of their key arguments; other important arguments draw attention to possible infringement of Swiss neutrality, and to deadlocked state of the UN. Supporters of Swiss membership in the UNO chiefly argue that Switzerland should avoid getting into isolationism. Interesting, too, are remarks for which additional space was provided on the form. A lady, for example, said: «I, born of ancient Swiss stock in Altdorf, am against it»; someone else referred to the fact that so far the UNO had been able to prevent another world war; «Switzerland shows arrogance if she remains outside the only existing international

organization», was another argument.

Secretary of State Raymond Probst summed up the reasons of the Federal Council for joining the UNO. He said that Switzerland, if a member of the UNO – which would not contradict the principle of her neutrality – would be able to make contributions to the fundamentals of international co-operation; she could take her stand, for example, in questions of international law and human rights at the seat of the UNO in Geneva.

Former Councillor of States Louis Guisan (Lausanne), honorary president of the Organization of Swiss Abroad, compared the nature of the UNO to the principles which determine our internal politics. He said the suggestion of the Federal Council was incompatible with our democracy, our neutrality, and especially with our concept of solidarity.

Professor Josua Werner (Stuttgart) supported the argument for membership in the UNO saying that Switzerland, in case she remained outside the UNO, might be reproached with claiming a vantage-point in the world. Mr. Alberto Wirth (Rome) eloquently expressed his deep contempt for

Mr Marcel Gehrig, Marseille and Louis Guisan, Lausanne, our president of honour.





Secretary of State, Raymond Probst.  
(Photos Rodo)

the «weakness of the UNO». According to former Red Cross deputy and previous director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA), Raymond Courvoisier (Malaga), Switzerland must be unique and different from any other nation, if she is to do humanitarian work, as is expected of her. After Pierre Jonneret (President of the Union of Swiss Associations in Paris) had described, from past experience, the decline of a number of international associations, Ambassador Emanuel Diez, visibly upset by the previous speeches, took the floor, demanding calmness. He compared the global forum to a local assembly trying to establish law and order in their community. It was not entry into the UNO that would be decisive in the matter of Swiss neutrality, but far more the efforts we would put into our army, he said.

Despite the extreme diversity of opinions, the impression remained in the end that all voters were loyal to our national principles.

Federal Councillor Alphons Egli, head of the Department of the Interior, concluded his speech by emphasizing the importance of cultural exchange as an element, in the widest sense, of international relations, and he underlined solidarity between Swiss people at home and abroad with regard to the social insurance system.

Harold Stromeyer

## Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad



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**Please, mail this slip to:** Secretariat Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad, Gutenbergstrasse 6, CH-3011 Berne

# Spring Skiing Camps 1984

In spring 1984, there will again be two skiing camps taking place in Les Crosets (Canton of Valais). Does your dad or mum have a Swiss passport? Are you between 15 and 25 years old? Do you like skiing and meeting people of your age? Then feel free to register for one of the camps indicated below:

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**Camp no. 2 April 17 to 28,  
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**Charges** S.Fr. 360.– plus  
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S.Fr. 130.–

**Application form** (please print or  
type)

**Application deadline:**  
February 25, 1984

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Last name	Birthdate		
Mailing address			
Nationality of your father			
Nationality of your mother			
Your nationality			
Place of citizenship			
I would like to apply for:		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>camp no. 1</b>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>camp no. 2</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to hire skis		my height: .....	
<input type="checkbox"/> and ski boots		my shoe size: .....	
My standard of skiing is:			
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Please, mail your application form to: <b>Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Youth Service</b> <b>Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Bern 16 – Switzerland</b>			

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