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Book reviews

The Passwang Panorama 1204 m

by Fritz Duerrenberger

Published by Max Bider, Basle 1983, third edition. Format: 10.5 x 15.5 cm, folded. Price: in paper-back Fr. 8.50, bound Sfr. 14.50. Language: German only.

This third edition of «Panorama» is an unchanged new publication of the first edition of 1906.

The «Panorama» shows in a clear and distinctive manner one of the finest views of Switzerland, from the Bavarian Alps in the East to the Savoyan Alps in the West. With the aid of complete captions, one is able to discover all the beautiful mountains of Switzerland.

«Cent Suisses»

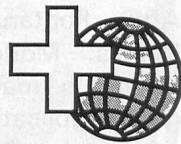
by Jean-Claude Curchod

Edition de l'Aire, Lausanne 1983. 216 pages, bound, 100 photos in black and

white. Format: 22.5 x 25.5 cm. Price: Sfr. 45.-. Language: French only.

This attractive volume presents for the first time over 100 personalities from all stratas of society, all occupations and linguistic regions of Switzerland: politicians, sportsmen, tradesmen, entrepreneurs, authors...

One hundred women and men thus show the readers their homeland, well-known and yet ever new.



Information from the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad

What about those qualifying periods?

It always pays to join early

15 years ago, Mr and Mrs K. decided to leave their homeland with their two children under age and to settle abroad. Their choice was the Lebanon, at that time still praised as «Switzerland of the Near East». With his Swiss savings, Mr K., a master carpenter, was very soon able to establish a successful business of his own in Beirut.

In the second half of the 'seventies, the former oasis of peace and security developed into one of the most terrible theatres of war in the world. The K. Family, who had never thought that their flourishing life could ever be threatened, were surprised by the cruel events. Their business fell a victim to the war. They had no hope of ever being compensated for their sad loss in Beirut and returned to Switzerland.

The fate of the K. Family is not unique. Although the Ks had joined the Solidarity Fund when the disturbances started, in order to be insured against loss of livelihood, they were not able to receive

lump-sum compensation because they lost their business six months after joining the Fund. The constitution of the Solidarity Fund clearly states that there must be a qualifying period of two years on joining. If, however, a Swiss abroad joins the Fund within five years after emigrating, the qualifying period is only one year.

Form

Please send me all necessary information and documentation regarding membership of the Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad:

Name: _____

Christian name: _____

Exact address: _____

Registered with the Swiss Embassy/Consulate in: _____

Please send to:
Secretariat Solidarity Fund
for Swiss Abroad,
Gutenbergstrasse 6, CH-3011 Berne

It would have paid the K. Family in any case to join the Fund earlier, not only with regard to a possible loss of livelihood, but also because of building up some savings in Switzerland. Interest rates are attractive, and the right of withdrawal of the paid-in contributions at any time, makes the Fund a feasible proposition for all Swiss abroad and dual nationals, whether they live in a politically stable country or in one threatened by unrest and worse. Savings and compound interest remain the property of the member, even if lump-sum compensation had to be paid out more than once. For their new start in their homeland, the Ks would not only have had the lump-sum compensation, but their savings, too, would have been at their disposal.

The example of the K. Family shows that political situations can change very rapidly, and that it is imperative to join the Fund in good time. Nobody can insure the house once it has started to burn.