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We have won!



Citizenship Campaign



In view of the decision by the Swiss people and the Cantons on **4th December 1983**, we feel extremely gratified; it is now possible that Swiss women abroad will be put on an equal footing with Swiss women in Switzerland with regard to passing on Swiss citizenship to their children. The Organization of the Swiss Abroad and its Secretariat have contributed considerably to this development, first in the initial phase before the parliamentary consultation, and then by providing information continuously in the course of these years, and finally during the plebiscite campaign.

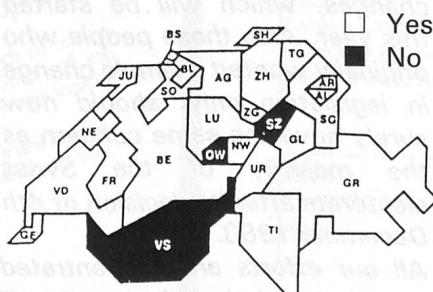
Those particularly interested already know the result of the voting, but we wish to give you hereby a few more details:

a) Voting participation was much the same as during the past few years, viz **35,3%**. In view of the preceding elections to the National Council, participation could really be called satisfactory.

b) Results according to Cantons where the introduction of equality in citizenship is concerned:

	YES	NO	YES in %
Zurich	195920	114534	63
Berne	145343	95744	60
Lucerne	34323	25935	57
Uri	3778	3397	53
Schwyz	10401	10982	49
Obwalden	2556	2614	49
Nidwalden	3503	2847	55
Glarus	4034	3338	55
Zug	11544	7158	62
Fribourg	19285	14482	57
Solothurn	34719	26377	57
Basle-Town	31565	16102	66
Basle-Country	26649	13537	66
Schaffhausen	18121	10630	63
Appenzell A.Rh.	6106	4335	59
Appenzell I.Rh.	1383	1328	51
St. Gall	44513	24670	64
Grisons	20963	11222	65
Aargau	47954	35573	57
Thurgau	26997	14525	65
Ticino	30427	23058	57
Vaud	52177	34206	60
Valais	27767	28136	49
Neuchâtel	22054	13377	62
Geneva	44448	21213	68
Jura	6361	3348	66
Switzerland	872891	562668	61

c) Geographical presentation of the results:



The plebiscite was concerned with several changes in the Constitution; Art. 44, par. 1 reads:

«The Confederation regulates acquisition and loss of citizenship rights by origin, marriage and adoption, as well as loss of Swiss citizenship and its reinstatement.»

On the basis of these changes, commissions will be formed which will work out the applicable legislation. As a first subject, the transmission of Swiss citizenship by a Swiss mother married to a foreigner will be considered; this was affirmed on the evening of the plebiscite by Federal Councillor Friedrich, Head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police. We shall follow the progress of these preparations with great interest and shall keep you informed on the progress and on possible steps to be undertaken. We may count on the law coming into force in 1985. Until this is the case, Swiss authorities are in no position to make any changes in the citizenship regulations, and it is therefore useless to approach them regarding this question.

Legislation concerning acquisition of Swiss citizenship by a foreign spouse of a Swiss woman or man will probably take more time, as fundamental questions have to be solved in this matter.

On 4th December 1983, a second constitutional change was proposed to the Swiss electorate: facilitated naturalization of young foreigners grown up in Switzerland, as well as refugees and stateless persons. The voters rejected this proposal with 793045 against and 644537 for (55,2% against). We regret this decision, specially because Swiss abroad are very often foreigners in their

country of residence, and sometimes reciprocal rights can be of great importance.

We are greatly indebted particularly to those compatriots abroad,

men and women, whose support during all these years has helped us and thus contributed to the success.

ASS/SSA/L. Paillard

Commentary

The revision of a Constitutional Article is a lengthy undertaking which requires ideas, studies, inquiries, definition of needs, editorial work and press campaigns; the Message has to be defined. Our efforts began as soon as the relevant modalities concerning Swiss women in Switzerland were published in 1976. They go back to the initiative of a Swiss lecturer resident in Great Britain, who collaborated closely with the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad. An appeal as well as an extensive inquiry in 1979 brought us confirmation that we were on the right track; for of the 2700 answers received, 95% were in favour of Swiss women living abroad to be able to pass on Swiss nationality to their children. In the course of the following years, no fundamental opposition to this attitude came to our ears; only with reference to procedure with the revision, different opinions were voiced. Basically, the most important point was to get the change as quickly as possible and with the least chance of failure, and that was why eventually a simple change in the legislation was proposed rather than a constitutional revision.

The wish for a simple legislative change was thwarted by Article 44 of the Federal Constitution. The Organization of Swiss Abroad, therefore, decided to launch a Parliamentary Initiative which, as we now know, has led to success.

In order to further these interests of Swiss women abroad, that Swiss lecturer resident in Great

Britain formed a number of groups with the interested people who had expressed a favourable opinion in the inquiry. In this manner, a widely-cast net of contacts by correspondence with the Secretariat was established, which also resulted in a rich source of ideas and general agreement with the activities of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad. Unfortunately, someone in France openly declared himself «heir» to the lecturer in Britain, now dead for two years, and sent a number of articles to several Swiss dailies during the plebiscite campaign of November 1983, in which he demanded the rejection of the constitutional revision and with it the exact opposite of what the campaign intended. As he was unsuccessful in the plebiscite of 4th December last, he subsequently approached the cantonal Governments and demanded an annulment of the federal plebiscite on the revision of the citizenship laws.

This action is hardly understandable, for after the constitutional revision, we now have to make the necessary legislative changes, which will be started this year. Also those people who originally wanted a simple change in legislation only, should now surely have the same concern as the majority of the Swiss electorate after its decision of 4th December 1983.

All our efforts are concentrated on this legislative change. It will need our full attention so that no new discriminations will emerge.

Lucien Paillard

12th Summer Course for Rhaeto-Romanche

The «Fundazion Planta Samedan» is again organizing its successful introductory course on culture and idiom of our fourth national language:

Introductory course of two weeks in the Engadine (3 levels of knowledge) and Rhaeto-Romanche culture (seminars, lectures, excursions).

At the same time, one can take part in the Engadine Music Weeks and enjoy various sports (tennis, golf, sailing, swimming...)

All information from
Sekretariat des
Rätoromanischen Sommerkurses
7503 Samedan
Switzerland
Telephone: 082 65351



Hiking Camp 1984

Place: In the Canton of Neuchâtel, at the foot of the Jura

Date: from 16th July to 4th August 1984.

Price: Sfr. 440.- all inclusive

Conditions: Age from 15 to 25
Your father or mother must have a Swiss passport

Deadline for application: 1st June 1984

I should like to receive an application form and detailed information.

Name and Christian name:

Date of birth:

Exact address:

Country:

Please send to:
Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16
Switzerland

National Exhibition 1991

The next National Exhibition will take place at the time of the 700th anniversary of the Confederation. On that occasion, decentralised events are to take

place in Central Switzerland with the theme of «Reflecting on our Origins and our Sources».

It goes without saying that the Swiss from abroad are invited to take part. In fact, it would be particularly gratifying if the initiative

were to come from Swiss compatriots abroad, possibly for an exhibition stand or some kind of entertainment or other presentation.

Would you please send any suggestion or observation to the Secretariat in Berne, which will examine the possibility of realizing any project.

Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16
Switzerland

Support for the Citizenship Campaign

On 4th December 1983, the Swiss people have accepted the change in the constitution, which will be the basis for the revision of the citizenship legislation. Our task now is to defend the questions of detail of the revision, both to the public and to the authorities.

Anyone who would like to support the efforts of the Organization of Swiss Abroad (ASO) in this particular field of action or in any other sphere, could do this as a member of the Society of Friends of the ASO. The subscription is a modest one, and application forms may be had from

Verein der Freunde der ASO
c/o Auslandschweizersekretariat
Alpenstrasse 26
3000 Berne 16
Switzerland

Corporations Real Estate

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Competition question:

How many km (as the crow flies) are there between Switzerland (seat of Retep Memory Thalwil) and the competitor furthest away?

Please write your answer on the form below or on a postcard. Last date (postmark): 1st August 1984.

Conditions:

Everyone is entitled to one entry. No correspondence accepted. The competition prizes may not be exchanged for cash.

Prizes:

The closest estimate carries an air ticket from your place of residence to Switzerland. The second to tenth-best result will each bring a Retep Memory goods voucher to the value of Sfr. 250.-. A further 500 vouchers Sfr. 10.- will be drawn from amongst all the participants. In addition, every participant will receive documentary material on our unique Swiss Gift Service Retep Memory.

Talon:

My estimate is _____ km (as the crow flies)

My address:

To be sent to: Retep Memory
P.O. Box 3315
8800 Thalwil Switzerland



Appeal: 11th to 13th May 1984

62nd Assembly of the Swiss Abroad

At the time of the MUBA (Swiss Industries Fair) in Basle

Main theme: «The Swiss Abroad and Swiss Foreign Trade»

Would anyone interested who has not yet sent in the application form (December issue of the «Review») please do so immediately to the following address:

NHS Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26
3000 Bern 16
Switzerland

The Swiss Abroad and the United Nations

With the Assembly of Swiss Abroad in 1983 in view, the Secretariat of Swiss Abroad in Berne distributed a questionnaire to their compatriots abroad, in order to stimulate them to think more intensely about the question of Switzerland's full membership of the United Nations.

860 Swiss institutions abroad and official Swiss representations were approached,

and 207 of them replied. With this publication (with a world-wide circulation of 208000 copies) the questionnaire reached basically all registered Swiss abroad in June 1983.

By the 15th August, the Secretariat had received 3852 answers, 2262 no, 1368 yes and 222 abstentions. This means a rejecting majority among the Swiss abroad

of 58.7% against to 35.5% for. The answers from the institutions with 52% against and 35% for are much the same proportion.

(An opinion poll amongst the Swiss at home in the «Weltwoche» of 10th August 1983 showed a majority against of 41% and 33% for).

From 33 countries, more than ten votes each were received. Of these, 21 countries were mostly against joining, above all USA, Canada, Italy, Great Britain and Australia. The results from Austria and Finland were indecisive. Ten countries showed a majority in favour: France, Western Germany, Norway and Sweden at the head.

The reasons for rejecting the proposal were above all the faulty system in the United Nations and the worry about Swiss neutrality. Those in favour gave as their main reasons the maintenance of an effective Swiss foreign policy and solidarity.

Many letters demonstrate the loyalty to the principles of Switzerland's democracy of our compatriots abroad, and that goes for those for as well as against Switzerland's accession. It is a loyalty not to be underestimated. The degree of information regarding the UNO question still needs improvement, although almost all Swiss abroad live in countries which are already members of the United Nations Organization.

*Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad
Harold Stromeyer*

Numerical Presentation of the Answers (State on the 15th Aug. 1983)	Europe	Africa	USA and Canada	Central- and South America	Near and Middle East	Far East	Australia and New Zealand	Total of all Continents
NO	920	123	907	99	26	93	94	2262
YES	898	23	323	53	9	34	28	1368
Abstentions	136	8	44	17	1	3	13	222
Against:								
– impotence of UNO	560	53	235	48	21	46	27	990
– UNO too political	553	61	169	40	17	34	25	899
– accession unnecessary	489	61	224	46	16	46	33	915
– «good services» better given outside UNO	594	46	304	55	17	54	42	1112
– danger to neutrality	602	60	262	53	10	30	47	1064
Abstentions:								
– the reasons for and against are balanced	74	1	30	14	0	3	4	126
For:								
– diplomatic opening	647	16	108	35	8	22	21	857
– interdependence	576	11	116	29	6	16	20	774
– influence on the General Assembly	457	8	88	24	3	13	13	588
– solidarity and more «good services»	585	9	97	26	5	12	19	753
– economic advantages	445	9	82	17	4	13	5	575