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Liebe Landsleute,

As usual our first number of the Review in 1986 due to the holiday season did not receive as many contributions as for the rest of the year. We look forward to hear from you, the reader, during this year and will be pleased to publish your news.

It gives us pleasure to welcome Christine Siegrist the new Vice-Consul in Johannesburg, origin from St. Gallen Ms. Siegrist spent the last 3½ years at the Swiss Embassy in Warsaw, Poland and we wish her a pleasant stay in S. Africa.

A note for your Diary: The next Auslandschweizertag takes place 5-7 Sept. in Morges VD. Please note in this issue also the new Programme of the Swiss Radio International, pleasant listening! Arrivederci, The Editor.

We are very pleased to publish a Message received from our Ambassador of Switzerland in Pretoria Mr. J.O. Quinche:

The Ambassador of Switzerland

Dear Compatriots,

My wife and I wish to convey to you our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We have been now over one year in this beautiful country. We have spent six months in Cape Town from January to June and we shall go down again to the Cape for the next Session of Parliament.

Both in Cape Town and in Pretoria-Johannesburg we have had the pleasure of meeting many of you, business men, journalists, clergymen and others. During our travels to other parts of the country we have also met our compatriots as well as those of Swaziland and Lesotho where I am also accredited. We have therefore had the opportunity of getting informed of their views and problems. We shall continue to do so and we are planning a visit to Durban to meet the Swiss of Natal in the course of 1986.

In the present circumstances I think that a close relationship between the Swiss citizens and the Embassy and Consulates of Switzerland is not only desirable but necessary. Please do not hesitate to come and see us or to write to us if you feel the need to do so.

We hope that the coming year will bring you, Swiss people of South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho, and the countries of which we are guests, peace and prosperity.

The Ambassador of Switzerland

J.O. Quinche
J.O. Quinche

CAPE TOWN

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There were certainly a lot of activities in the Swiss Community during the last few weeks in 1985.

The arrival of UBS Switzerland as the first Yacht in the Whitbread Round the World Race was one of the highlights! Thanks again to all sponsors. The Crew of UBS took part in a shooting Match against the Swiss Rifle Club Capetown. The Skipper Pierre Fehlmann with 39 points and Jaques Henri with 44 points had good results but overall the Capetown-Swiss came out the winners with P. Giot, E. Jordan, K. Smejkal in the first places.

In October Ernst Blaser celebrated his 90th Birthday and belated congratulations also from the Swiss Review.

The results of the 1985 Jassmeisterschaft were announced and the "Jasskoenig" is Hs. Baertschi with Paul Enderli, Peter Landert the runners up, a Baenze Jass concluded the Jass "Season" and the "Baenze-Beck" Werner Kauer was in action again a few days later when the Swiss Male Choir has its Year End social evening, with plenty of traditional food and drinks.

But there is of course also the Tennis section, Soccer Club, and Swiss Cycling Club, so lots of activities to take part-in. Chess is played every Wednesday evening.

On 1/2 February the Waldfest/Schuetzenchilbi will be held at Jonkershoek, and then very important Thursday 20 Febr. the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Social & Sports Club, Capetown.

On Wed. 26 Febr. there is a Frauentreffen with Demonstration of Golden Products.

ZIMBABWE

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Best wishes to all the compatriots for a successful and prosperous 1986!

The Jassmeisterschaft 1985/Swiss Club Harare had good participation and the winner and "King of Jassen" is Urs Strausack, with runner up H. Koller. We hope to repeat the competition also this year.

The Video of the Ski Championships was seen by many members and as soon as further Videos from Switzerland are available another evening will be organised. The Annual General Meeting will be held during the last weekend of February, please show your support and come along.

**OFS / KIMBERLEY
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EASTERN CAPE
PRETORIA**

News from the above centres in the next issue of the Review, in the meantime "Best wishes for 1986"!

JOHANNESBURG

SWISS CONSULATE GENERAL 838-5102
SWISS CLUB Le Roux Ave., Halfway House
(011) 805-3039 (office) 805-3040 (restaurant)

The first Swiss Business Luncheon took place in December at the Swiss Club, and our Ambassador Mr. J.O. Quinche was the guest speaker. It was a success and an invitation is extended to all Swiss, not only Club members, to attend these luncheons which will be held monthly during 1986 the dates for the coming luncheons are as follows: January 31st Febr. 28th, March 28th, April 25th.

Amongst the first "big" events planned for 1986 is the first Swiss Wine Festival, Fête des Vendanges, Winzerfest organised jointly by the Wine Circle and Amical Suisse Romande, it will take place on 1st March at the Swiss Club.

Carnival time will be celebrated with the Guggefest on Friday 11th April, this time at the Roodepoort City Hall.

The Swiss Male Choir Concert at the Carlton Hotel will take place on Sat. 3rd May.

In an "international" Golf Tournament in Johannesburg with 13 nationalities taking part, the Swiss Team under Captain Max Schmieder finished in third place.

The AGM of the Swiss Society Helvetia takes place on Friday evening 28th of February, and of course most of the sub-section AGM at some date prior to this, your chance to show interest and support in the activities of the Swiss Community on the Witwatersrand.

NATAL

SWISS CLUB NATAL BOX 1220, DURBAN
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The president and his family were enjoying a "white Xmas" in Switzerland and we hope for some interesting report back in the next Review. A very happy 1986 to all the Swiss in Natal.

The Rifle Club has two bookings at the Hammarsdale Shooting Range already and on Sat. 1st Febr. we meet for the Obligatoire Schiessen and on 1st March for the Feldschiessen.

The AGM will probably take place on Sat. 15 March, date and place to be confirmed.

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Der Samichlaus Abend vom 6. Dezember war ein guter Erfolg, und der Samichlaus hatte fuer alle Anwesenden ein Versli mitgebracht, aber fuer einige auch die Rute. "Halt besser folge in 1986 und noch mehr im Schweizerclub SWA mitmache!"

Ende Januar, am Samstag 25., haben wir etwas besonderes geplant:

Es ist Vollmond und wir machen einen Mondschein Spaziergang mit anschliessendem Kaese Imbiss und einen Tropfen guten Wein beim Vizepraes. Willy Peter. (Der Redaktor wuenscht eiene wolkenlosen Himmel, aber das ist ja in SWA meistens der Fall!)

An Familie Kuebli moechten wir nochmals unser tiefstes Beileid zum Hinschied des jungen Mario=Wilko aussprechen.

LESOTHO

ULRICH GRAF P.O. BOX 708, MASERU
TEL: (0501) 2-2978

In the last Bulletin of the "Freunde von Lesotho" we read a very interesting report on the activities of Swiss Doctors and Missionaries in Ma Mohau. There are also details of the AGM held of the "Verein der Freunde von Lesotho", R. Vogt, Gebenstorf is the new President and T. Merlo also Gebenstorf, Secretary.

In 1986 from the 17-19 May there will again be a Lesotho Weekend in Switzerland.

SWAZILAND

While in S. Africa Johannesburg celebrates its Centenary in a big way, there was also an event which took place 100 years ago in the History of Swaziland. In 1886 the "Little Free State" which was started by J. Ferreira and F. Maritz was recognised by the Swazi King.

Northeast of present day Piet Retief at the Source of the Ndlotane River a group of Boers settled to farm the land.

However this little state did not last long and was soon incorporated into the Z.A.R. (Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek).

Also in the same year, 1886, King Mbandzeni appointed T. Shepstone as an Advisor to his Court.

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