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Citizenship Campaign

A report on a full success and on age limits.

22, 30, 32 years or no age limit at all!

The principle of passing on Swiss citizenship by the mother, even if she is resident abroad, has now been accepted by both Federal Chambers. After the National Council had already debated the matter in the autumn, the Council of States discussed it in the December session.

It must be stated that these positive decisions are based on the political line anchored in the Federal Constitution on 14th June 1981, when the principle of equality between men and women was accepted and after the electorate and the Cantons had accepted transmission of Swiss citizenship by mothers.

Now it is legally possible for children of Swiss mothers and foreign fathers to receive Swiss citizenship without having to give up their present, i. e. their fathers' nationality. They can become dual nationals. All children born to a married couple with mixed nationalities can from now on benefit from the new regulations, by applying to the nearest Swiss authorities. The regulations will come into force probably by the middle of 1985. This equally applies to a large number of persons from such marriages, born previously. For one has also considered a retrospective age limit. The Federal Council, based on the practice up to now, decided on the 22nd year as age limit, and it submitted this proposal to Parliament.

A commission of the Council of States, which considered the matter a few weeks later, surprisingly proposed a retrospective age limit of 32, referring to the fact that Swiss women married to foreigners have been able to keep Swiss nationality since 1st January 1953. And the commission was of opinion that logically therefore, their children, too, should be able to acquire Swiss nationality from the same date.

A minority in the Commission even considered no age limit at all, which would have enabled men and women of advanced age to become Swiss citizens. This very generous proposal was, however, defeated in the Council of States by 27 votes against 13, which nevertheless represents a success for the minority of the commission. Dr. Elizabeth Kopp, Federal Councillor, who incidentally appeared in Parliament in her new office for the first time on that very day, supported the majority decision of the commission of the Council of States and pleaded for an age limit of 32. We hope that this positive attitude towards Swiss abroad, for which we are very grateful, will also mark the activities of our first woman Federal Councillor in the future.

In the final vote in the Council of States, the revision of the law was accepted without opposition by 37 votes and the retrospective age limit was fixed at 32.

In the subsequent debate in the National Council, this Chamber, too, accepted the more generous solution proposed by the Council of States.

*Accordingly, all children of Swiss mothers married to a foreigner, can make use of the new regulations provided they were born after **1st January 1953**.*

Nobody must resent if the new law has not yet come into force. Like in every new legislation, the normal Referendum period has to be observed. We shall inform you of the details regarding acquisition of Swiss nationality by the new young Swiss abroad in one of the coming issues when the date is known of when the law comes into force.

It is useless to do anything about it before that time.

SSA/Lucien Paillard

Assembly of the Swiss Abroad 1985 in Interlaken

Time: Friday, 23rd to Sunday, 25th August 1985

Theme: General Problems of the Swiss Abroad

The plenary session of the Assembly 1985 will not be devoted to a single theme as has been the custom, but it will be put at the disposal of general problems facing Swiss resident abroad. It will be open to all Swiss compatriots living outside their homeland, and it shall be a lively free discussion on questions you yourselves will put. In order to have a well-run and successful assembly, the questions must be put into some sort of order beforehand. We therefore invite you to tell us

the problems facing you and which you would like to have brought up on this occasion, and at the same time to inform us whether you will be able to come to Interlaken and to speak personally on the subject. In order to answer your queries, we shall, if and when necessary, invite experts from many spheres who can deal with them. Your questions should be of a general and not a personal character and not refer to an individual country, but rather on the

whole of Swiss communities abroad. As examples we give here: proposals for the structure of the Organization of Swiss Abroad; what do you expect of the Organization? What importance do you attach to our information?

Questions of a personal nature can be treated as usual during the traditional question time of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad. Very likely we shall not be able to treat all the problems which are brought up, and we shall have to give preference to those which are presented most frequently. If you want to present your problem personally at the assembly, a maximum of 3 minutes will have to be fixed for reasons of organization; this is roughly 1½

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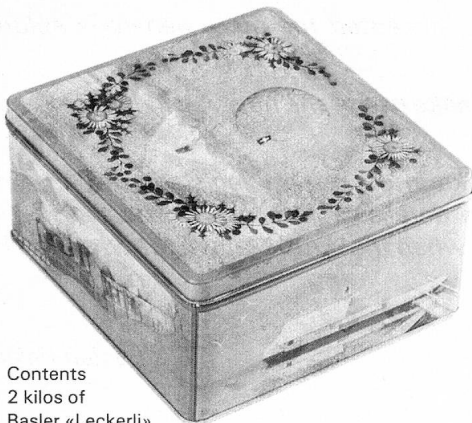
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pages of text (format A4) and line distance 1½.

Please let us have your questions by **June 15th, 1985**, together with the slip below:

NHS Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad

Questions for the Assembly 1985
Alpenstrasse 26
3000 Berne 16, Switzerland

Book reviews

All the books reviewed below can be ordered either from the publishing house mentioned or from the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3016 Bern, Switzerland.

Assembly of Swiss Abroad 1985, Interlaken, 23rd to 25th August 1985

The undersigned wishes to propose the following subjects to be discussed at the plenary session. He (she) is prepared to present them personally to the assembly and will adhere to the conditions laid down by the Organization of the Swiss Abroad.

Question(s) Yes No

Since I am unable to take part in the assembly, I am enclosing the text concerning my question(s). I have kept to your conditions regarding the length of the text.

(In block letters, please) Yes No

Name: _____

Christian Name: _____

Exact Address: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

«Geschichte des Landes um die Furka»

(The History of the Land around the Furka)
by Ferdinand Kreuzer

Published by Boss-Druck, Kleve (BRD), 1982

Price in Swiss Francs: 27.50

In German

The author describes the history of the Upper Valais on the basis of the various stages in the construction of the Furka railway.

«Land der Innerschweiz»

(The Land of Central Switzerland)

by Edmond van Hoorick

Published by Huber, Frauenfeld, 1984

110 coloured illustrations

In German

Price in Swiss Francs: 69.-

Presenting the Cantons of Zug, Lucerne, Ob- and Nidwalden, Uri and Schwyz by means of excellent text and pictures.

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«Leben 1991: Hoffnung oder Herausforderung?»

«Vivre 1991: Une chance ou un défi?»

(Life in 1991: An opportunity or a challenge?)

Annuary of the New Helvetic Society

Published by Sauerlaender, Aarau 1984

Price in Swiss Francs: 25.-

Texts in German and French according to the language of the author.

It is a collection of various articles on the planning and organization of the National

Exhibition «CH91» on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation. A number of well-known Swiss personalities from Swiss cultural life express their considered opinion and at times also controversial ideas.

Hiking Camp 1985

Place: In the Canton of Wallis
Date: From 13th July to 3rd August 1985
Price: Swiss francs 440.-
all inclusive
Conditions: Age from 15 to 25
Your father or mother must have a Swiss passport

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE ASKED AT THE
Secretariat of the Swiss abroad
Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16

«Ticino degli uomini»

(The Ticino of the people)

by Guido Calgari

Published by Pedrazzini, Locarno, 1982

604 pages

Price in Swiss Francs: 26.-

In Italian

The author, a passionate writer on his homeland, presents nature and history of the Ticino, the problems of the inhabitants and their relations with the other Swiss compatriots, as well as various descriptions of personalities of the Canton. It is a book easy to read, as much of a novel as a source of information.

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Gemeinnützige Genossenschaft; Telefon 036 71 15 15; B.O., 1050 m ü. M.

Internat: familiäre Kleingruppen, Knaben und Mädchen, Primar-, Sekundar-, Realschule, Gymnasium. Flexible Kursorganisation (Fähigkeitsgruppen, nicht Jahrgangsklassen) ermöglicht u. a. Umschulung auf Schweizerische Schulverhältnisse.

English-speaking school system: CEEB and GCE preparation

Gründer: Paul und Edith Geheb. 150 Schüler, 34 Lehrer. Leitung: Natalie und Armin Lüthi-Peterson.

Boarding school for Young Swiss living abroad

At the request of the Secretariate for Swiss living abroad, a well-established private school (35 years) in the Bernese Oberland offers a many-faceted education in the boarding school (and up to the Matura in local state schools). Sunny Dale offers language courses in German, French and English (internationally recognised diplomas) as well as personal care.

TOURISM AND HOTEL COURSES, vocational guidance and sport. - Best references.

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Auskünfte erteilt: Rektor Dr. E. Bolliger,
Telefon: 083/35236

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