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Consultation procedure instituted

Citizenship of the foreign marriage partner

After long debate by an interdepartmental working group of the Federal administration, the draft of the future citizenship provisions for the foreign marriage-partner of a Swiss (man or woman) is now available. For many, the innovations which – we would like to emphasize – are not yet law and which must still be discussed by, *inter alia*, the Organization of the Swiss Abroad may have come as a shock.

For one thing, a break is to be made in the long tradition of automatic transfer of citizenship on marriage, and fairly long periods of time (in so far as the duration of the marriage is concerned) are to be introduced before anyone, in any case, can submit a petition for naturalization. Then, several years residence in Switzerland will also be required; it is just here that the provisions for Swiss living abroad are almost unrealizable.

It is true that, thanks to the efforts of the representatives of the Department for Foreign Affairs in the aforementioned working group, success in establishing at least a slight possibility of the transfer of Swiss citizenship in marriage with

residence abroad, has been achieved: the criteria are that the marriage shall have lasted twelve years and that there is a close connection with Switzerland. But this will appear unreasonable to many of those affected.

Before anyone reacts accordingly, however, it must be remembered that today Switzerland is anyway one of the very few countries which grant automatic transfer of citizenship on marriage.

The Organization for the Swiss Abroad will be having to concern itself very seriously with the draft now presented, and we shall continue to keep our readers informed of developments. *M. N.* ●

Françoise Jaggi

Our «francophone conscience»

Despite her surname, which comes from the Berne area, Françoise Jaggi, a fully-qualified lawyer, is a dyed-in-the-wool Neuchâteloise. She joined the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad (SSA) two years ago; among her many and varied jobs, she numbers the administrative care of our Review, arranging newspaper and magazine subscriptions for Swiss abroad, and the handling of applications from Swiss students to join the *Maison Suisse* of the *Cité universitaire* in Paris.



In the last few months, M^{me} Jaggi has been charged with a special and exacting task: that of holding together all the strings of the preparation work for the 64th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad, in Morges. For us, she is indispensable, above all as a French-speaking author and translator; thanks to her language fluency and expert knowledge, M^{me} Jaggi is not only our adviser and «court of last instance» in all things French but also nothing less than the «francophone conscience» of the SSA, which she has become.

SLC ●

Society of Friends of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad

This Society has now been in existence for more than ten years. It has set itself the aim of easing the fulfilment of certain tasks of the Secretariat, for the benefit of Swiss living abroad, through the raising of additional resources. This is extremely important if we are to maintain the private character of our work.

We should therefore be most

grateful if our readers would draw the attention of their connections in the homeland, be these private persons or firms, to the Society of Friends of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad, to arrange, if possible, a donation. The address of the Society is the same as that of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad and the Postcheck Account is 30-6768-9. *M. N.* ●