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Front page

The Place of the Swiss Abroad is to arise on this picturesque piece of land in the bay of Brunnen (photo: CH91).

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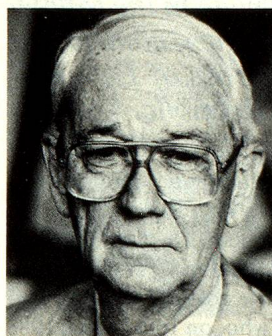
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Editorial

Place of the Swiss Abroad



In 1991 the Swiss Confederation will be 700 years old. That the Fifth Switzerland wishes to be present in this Jubilee Year is self evident. The showpiece of this presence of the Swiss Abroad is going to be something quite special and unique: a meeting place of the Fifth Switzerland, a meadow lying on the Lake Lucerne, in Brunnen, where, after the Battle of Morgarten, the Old Confederacy was renewed and consolidated. Thus, the «Place of the Swiss Abroad»

is to be created in the cradle of the Old Confederation, directly opposite the Rütli of 1291. And, from the beginning, it was the intention of the motivators to complete and connect the Place of the Swiss Abroad symbolically with the «Path of Switzerland» – an abiding sign that the Swiss Abroad form an integrated part of the Swiss Confederation.

Despite a general feeling of uncertainty after the rejection by the voters of the five central-Swiss cantons in April 1987 of the so-called «principal events» of CH91, and thus to a main part of the jubilee celebrations, the Commission of the Swiss Abroad was not among those who believed in the «long taking of counsel». It was and is determined to give a clear signal and, come what may, to realise the Place of the Swiss Abroad.

To be able to acquire such a plot of soil in this historical precinct is truly a unique chance. It is a gift in a twofold sense: a present that we give to our beloved homeland for the 700-year jubilee and a present we give ourselves for the 75 years of existence of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, which we likewise celebrate in 1991. The Place of the Swiss Abroad remains – beyond 1991 – as a place of encounter of all Swiss living abroad and the place which shall remind every Swiss, wherever he or she may be, that the Swiss Abroad also form an integral part of Switzerland.

Presents cost money. I therefore call upon all fellow-citizens throughout the world to take an active part in this unique effort of co-operation and to ensure its success through the early remittance of your contribution – as an avowal of faith and loyalty to the homeland and to the Fifth Switzerland.

Prof. Dr. Walther Hofer, President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad of the NHS.