

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 15 (1988)
Heft: 4

Rubrik: Communications from the SSA

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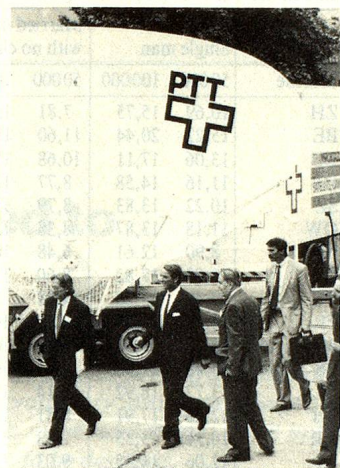


66th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in Näfels (1-4 September 1988)

Setting out into the future

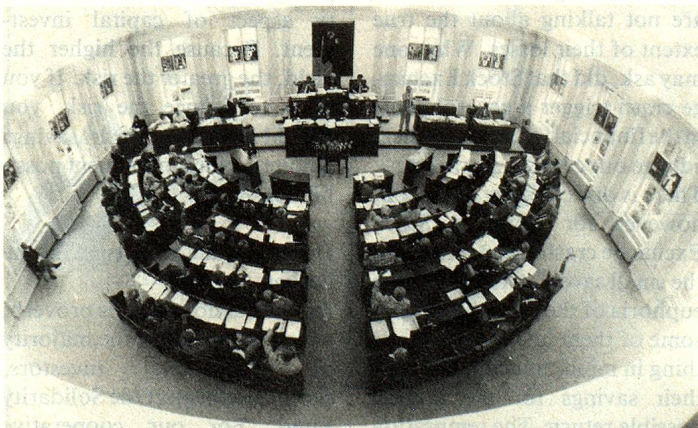
The future was the main theme of this years Assembly in Glarnerland: The Plenary Assembly discussed the theme «Switzerland in the Europe of tomorrow» and asked the question whether the Swiss abroad could be made outsiders with the foundation of the EEC-Domestic Market in 1992. The Commission of the Swiss Abroad concerned itself with the future structure of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad and passed a new set of statutes.

Authoritative speakers from home and abroad threw light on the EEC problematic from various viewpoints. Jacques Pilet, Editor-in-Chief of «l'Hebdo» and emphatic french Swiss analyst of the european question, called on the Swiss abroad in his engaged presentation to shake their home compatriots out of their apathy towards european integration. Minister Fetscherin, Head of the Service for the Swiss Abroad in the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, dealt chiefly with the already existant problems confronting the Swiss in EEC countries and diagnosed an ever increasing «passive discrimination». It must be generally assumed that the increasing improvement in the position of EEC individuals abroad could lead to a subjective worsening in the position of the Swiss abroad – albeit an unconscious one. The areas which Fetscherin mentioned in particular were work permits, temporary and permanent residence permits as well as education and further education. (A brochure containing the conference pres-



The «ear» to the world: Federal Councillor Ogi (centre) in front of the transportable satellite ground station in Näfels.

entations in full can be sent on request by the SSA as long as available.) The speech made by Federal Councillor Adolf Ogi ended as an international television spectacle: The Minister for Transport, Communication and Energy spoke with Swiss abroad in Canada's Toronto in a live satellite transmission.



The Commission of the Swiss Abroad, the Parliament of the Fifth Switzerland, at its meeting in the Glarus town hall.

New Statutes

The future was also prominently evident on the agenda of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, which met for its regular session in the Glarus town hall with Professor Walther Hofer in the chair. Beside the theme «The Place of the Swiss Abroad» (see page 16), the Parliament of the Fifth Switzerland concerned itself with the structure of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) and passed a new set of statutes for the OSA. The major new introduction is that the OSA will in future be an independent legal entity in the form of a Foundation. Outdated regulations can now be adjusted to suit present day practice and the OSA will be in a position to handle legal matters independently. The new by-laws were drawn up in agreement with the Mother Organisation – New Helvetic Society – which is to be the sole founding member of the «new» OSA and which also approved the new statutes at its Delegates Assembly of 17 September 1988. The new statutes have practically no effect on the internal organisation of the OSA and will come into force in winter 1988/89. The Swiss associations and institutions will be informed of the individual details of the statutes in the near future.

New Faces

National Councillor Jean-Jacques Cevey was elected as new Vice-President of the OSA to replace Jean Heer. Advocate Peter Wüthrich is to succeed Advocate Philippe Garraux as treasurer. The next Assembly of the Swiss Abroad will take place in Locarno from 24-27 August

Skiing Camp 1989

Our Youth Service will organize a ski-camp in spring 1989.

Place: Morgins VS

Date: 28.03.89-12.04.89

Price for the camp:

SFr. 560.-, ski-tickets incl.

Number of participants:
max. 58

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

Application forms can be requested from the:

Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Youth Service
Alpenstrasse 26

CH-3000 Berne 16

Deadline for enrolment:

February 28, 1989

1989. It will have as its theme «Switzerland in tomorrow's media world». This was to have been the theme of this years Assembly, but was postponed for topicality reasons.

The meeting in Glarnerland will go down in the history of the OSA as being a rainy affair – the sun only put in an appearance for the Sunday outing to Braunwald – however it was by no means «rained-off». On the contrary: The warm-hearted welcome in Näfels, the many meetings with familiar faces and the well-varied programme were widely praised by the participants. JM

Small Anniversary

The Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad celebrates 60 years of residency in the federal capital, on 2nd November 1988 to be precise. It was first located in the Wallgasse. 1957 saw the move to its present site in the Alpenstrasse in Berne. – With this the SSA completed its move eastwards for the time being: The Secretariat first resided in Geneva from 1919 to 1923 and then in Fribourg before its above-mentioned move to Berne on 2nd November 1928. JM