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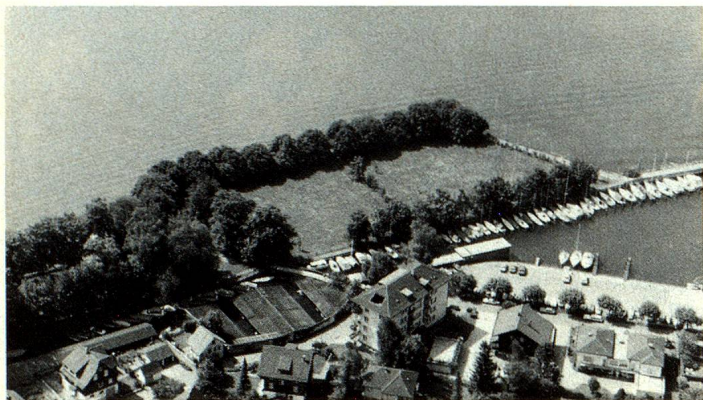
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The Place of the Swiss Abroad

Please help!

The «Place of the Swiss Abroad» is to be created in Brunnen, in the heart of the old, original Switzerland as a contribution by all expatriate Swiss to the 700-year celebrations of the Swiss Confederation in 1991. It will remain in existence beyond 1991, the jubilee year, as a meeting place for the Fifth Switzerland and as an enduring symbol of the attachment of the Swiss Abroad to the homeland.

To start with, there was the wish of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad for an outstanding presence of the Fifth Switzerland in the context of the 700-year jubilee of the Confederation. Out of this wish there emerged a project with an aim that goes far beyond 1991: the Place of the Swiss Abroad in Brunnen, an abiding precinct of encounter to be created in a most beautiful position on the Lake Lucerne and to be kept for coming generations.

Prizes for winners

Donors of SFr. 100.- or more (natural persons) automatically take part in a draw for one of five weekends for two people in 1991, offered by the Seehotel Waldstätterhof in Brunnen – a hotel in a splendid position next to the Place of the Swiss Abroad. Donations of SFr. 500.- and more are acknowledged by means of a certificate, and those of SFr. 10000.- and upwards by means of an inscription on a donor's tablet at the Place of the Swiss Abroad.

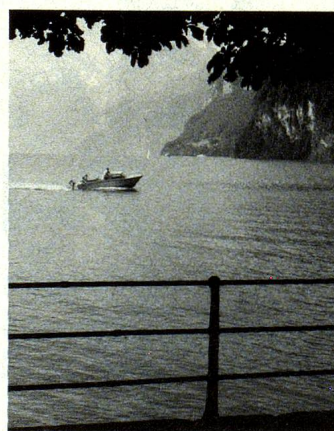
The Place shall symbolise, in enduring manner, the affection of the Swiss abroad for the Old Country, and serve as a place of resort for all Swiss from all corners of the world – a point of convergence between Switzerland and the world.

The ideal place for the «Auslandschweizerplatz» could be found in the shape of a little plot of land jutting into the bay of Brunnen right opposite the Rütli – a picturesque meadow, fringed with trees, which forms a natural continuation of the lake promenade of Brunnen, the well-known holiday resort. It affords the visitor a uniquely open view over the lake of Lucerne to the south and the west.

Enthusiastic accord

The idea, first mooted at the 64th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in Morges, has been greeted with enthusiasm not only by Swiss people living abroad but also in Switzerland itself. The Commission of the Swiss

Abroad of the NHS unanimously approved the plan on 5th September 1986. However, with the rejection on 26th April 1987 by popular vote of the five cantons of Central Switzerland of the so-called «basic events» (a main part of the proposed Jubilee celebrations), there has been not only considerable uncertainty but also much delay in the preparation work. Although another feature proposed for CH91, the «Path of Switzerland», a joint venture by the cantons – but always regarded as a fitting culmination of the Place of the Swiss Abroad – was not directly affected by the referendum, here too the generally negative mood also left its mark. But then on 21th August 1987 at the 65th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad, the Commission resolved, in an impressive declaration of faith, to realise the «Place» come what may – in the last instance, alone, if need be. The local commune where the Place is to be – Ingenbohl-Brunnen – as well as the district, the Cantonal Bank and the canton of Schwyz have given assurance of their active support, as has also the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs – representing the Swiss Confederation. Together with the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad of the NHS, they are among the charter mem-



View from the future Place of the Swiss Abroad over the lake of Uri to the Rütli (photos: CH91).

Appeal

Some three million Swiss francs are needed for the purchase and development of the future Place of the Swiss Abroad. You, dear fellow-citizens, who live scattered throughout the world, are called upon to contribute, according to your possibilities, to the realisation of this great project. Wherever possible, a collection point, in the shape of a donation account, will be opened in the different countries. Some of these accounts are to be found in the local pages of this issue of «Swiss Review». If you do not see a note of your nearest account, please apply to your local Swiss club or remit your donation direct to the central collecting-point donation account: **Stiftung Auslandschweizerplatz Brunnen, Kantonbank, CH-6430 Schwyz,**

Acc. No. 203982 – 1951

A heartfelt thank-you for your contribution.

bers of the Foundation which serves as the sponsoring body.

World-wide solidarity drive

According to the will and intention of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, a world-wide fund-raising campaign should be mounted among Swiss living abroad to procure the financial means needed for the acquisition, design and creation of the Place of the Swiss Abroad. Just as, 130 years ago, Swiss schoolchildren saved the Rütli Meadow from being built over, by a house-to-house collection, and thus helped to preserve one of the most important national places of pilgrimage for future generations, so, today, our Swiss people living abroad are being called upon to secure, through a world-wide solidarity drive, a plot of homeland soil in the heart of old Switzerland and to create a «Meeting Place of the Fifth Switzerland» to celebrate the occasion of the 700th birthday of the Confederation. The cornerstone of a great and abiding work has been laid. Its completion requires the support of all Swiss abroad. Please help us to achieve this! SSA