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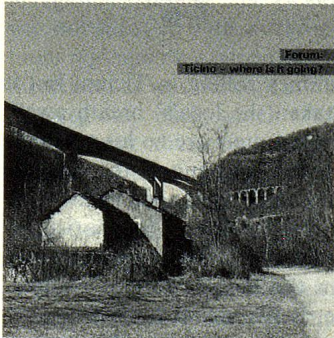
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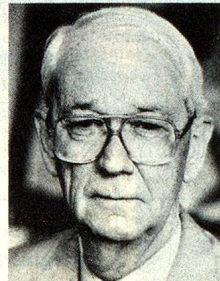
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Ticino is a transit land par excellence. Our photo (near Giornico, Leventina Valley) shows on the left the motorway N2 Basle-Chiasso, in the background a Gotthard-railway viaduct and below the old main road. (Photo: Luca Martignoni)

Editorial

With a New Look in Ticino



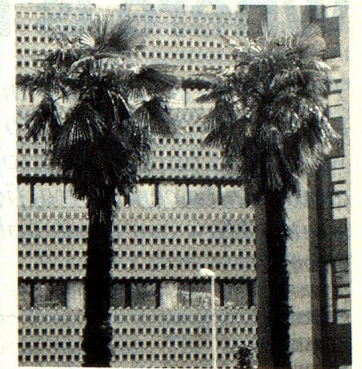
Ticino artists, architects, craftsmen and tradesmen have always been well-known throughout the world. Master craftsmen from the Ticino even proved their abilities in the construction of the Kremlin in Moscow and in the planning of St. Petersburg. Francesco Borromini from Bissone, whose portrait appeared on our 100 franc note for many years, had a considerable say in Italy's baroque architecture. As you will see on the following pages, this edition of 'Forum' is mainly devoted to present-day problems of this southern canton.

This year's Congress of the Swiss Abroad, taking place from 24-27 August in Locarno, is to be held in a canton in the history of which emigration has always played an important role. I cordially invite you to participate in this Congress, the subject of which is 'Switzerland in the Media World of tomorrow'. Registration deadline is 15 July 1989. You will find a registration form in the March issue. These forms can also be obtained directly from the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad.

This Congress is already the 67th of its kind, and at the same time a première. For the first time since the foundation of our Organisation by the New Helvetic Society during the first World War, the Congress is to be held under greatly altered legal conditions. Since March 4th 1989 the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad has had its own legal structure in the form of a Foundation which strengthens its independence. The historic foundation ceremony was part of a celebratory meeting held in Berne by the 'Parliament of the Fifth Switzerland', the Council of the Swiss Abroad. Federal Councillor René Felber, as well as numerous personalities from public life, were amongst the participants. For details see page 17. Also take note of the new graphical emblem to which the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad has treated itself in celebration of the occasion, and which will accompany all its future activities.

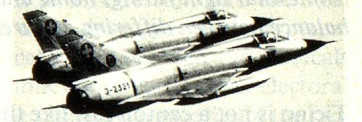
Professor Dr. Walther Hofer, President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

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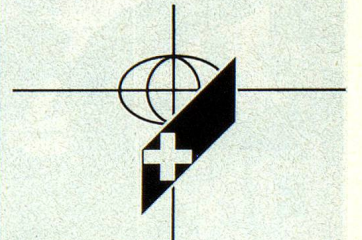
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