

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 17 (1990)  
**Heft:** 1

**Vorwort:** Not only curing symptoms  
**Autor:** Willumat, Heidi

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 20.02.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**



# Impressum

## Swiss Review

Magazine for the Swiss Abroad  
17th year of issue

Published quarterly in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish, in about 30 regional editions.  
Printing: Berne, Paris, Lugano, New York, Johannesburg, Buenos Aires  
Total circulation: 254 900

### Editorial staff:

Jürg Müller, Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Berne  
Heidi Willumat, Service for the Swiss Abroad, Department of Foreign Affairs, Berne  
Marc Savary, journalist, Lausanne

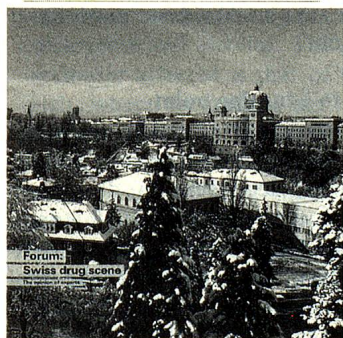
### Translation:

George Alexander

### Publisher, central editorial offices and advertising administration:

Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad  
Alpenstrasse 26  
CH-3000 Berne 16  
Telephone 031 44 66 25  
Telex 912 118 assech  
Telefax 031 44 21 58  
Postcheck (Swiss national giro) account: 30-6768-9

## Swiss Review



The picture of an intact world. Behind this façade lies a problem that gives the Swiss more cause to worry than do problems of the environment and of refugees seeking asylum: namely the ever increasing number of drug addicts.

(Photo: Michael v. Graffenried)

## Editorial

# Not only curing symptoms



*It is the same scene day after day. If it is not too cold, the drug addicts congregate at the same times on the "Kleine Schanze" in Berne, located right outside the portals of the Federal Government building, in order to forget themselves and the world as well.*

*The effect is similar to that when somebody throws a bag of paint all over a freshly renovated façade. The annoyance cannot be ignored, but the reactions vary. All stem from a deep-seated feeling of perplexity and helplessness. Two inter-related questions come at once to mind: how could such a crisis arise, and what must now be done about it?*

*Nowadays it is by means of narcotics that one can make most money (apart from the tourist industry – though perhaps that is a drug too?). Without doubt one solution – maybe the only one – is to smash the cynical activities of the narcotic barons, the wholesalers. But should the consumers – the fixers – also be punished by law, or would it be wiser to legalise the use of "soft" drugs or to supply addicts with "hard" drugs under strict control? The former solution has not proved successful anywhere so far, quite the contrary, but it would be a mistake to dismiss the latter one as equivalent to capitulation. That latter course could even be more helpful in preventing the worst development of all, namely the spread of criminality and the pauperization and degradation of the addicts (not to mention the problem of AIDS), and in the long run turn out to be the lesser of two evils. In the German-speaking regions of Switzerland there is evidence of a trend towards the adoption of a more liberal narcotics policy finding favour in all the political parties.*

*But, to get back to our question: how could it happen to such an extent? Critical experts as well as observers in the general public have no doubt about the cause. They see it in the rapid improvement in the technical means of communication (above all, television) over the past couple of decades. This has just as rapidly led to the destruction of the possibilities for communication within the family, which would be of vital interest to growing youngsters. It used to be called "family warmth". Its absence leads to a flight from feelings of hollow futility into depressions, alcohol, drugs and pointless but frenzied rushing around. Or perhaps it is the ever wider range of subtly sophisticated narcotics itself that in fact leads to what has been called the "atrophy of thought", and to a mentality with "painless living" as its motto. It is up to us now to restore the healthy capacity for suffering that we admire in other nations.*

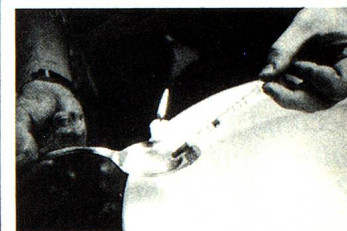
\*\*\*

*Finally, to turn to two changes in our own establishment. Mr. Walter Fetscherin, Minister, who has for three years headed the Service for the Swiss Abroad in the Department of Foreign Affairs with great ability, humour and charm, has been appointed Ambassador to South Korea with effect from January 1990. We congratulate Ambassador Fetscherin warmly on his new post, and wish him and his family happiness in their future sphere of activity. May I in conclusion introduce myself to you as the successor of Mr. Marco Zaugg? I am very happy to follow in his footsteps as a member of the editorial team of "Swiss Review" and I look forward to the privilege of remaining in friendly contact with you.*

*Heidi Willumat*

Heidi Willumat, Editress

# Contents



Forum:  
Switzerland's Drug  
Addiction Scene

4

Mosaic

10

Green pages:  
Local News



Looking back  
on 1989

13



Solar Energy  
on the Upswing

17

An Exhibition  
of Pre-Historic  
Lake Dwellings

19

700 years

20

Communications  
from the SSA

21

Official  
Communications

22