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Information needed from Swiss living abroad

Dear Readers,

Swiss Radio International (SRI) intends to do more in future for Swiss living abroad, and in particular to act more in line with their wishes and needs. With this objective in mind, a small-scale investigation was made earlier this year by sending a questionnaire to subscribers to the SRI programme leaflets. The response made it evident that a further inquiry should be made, among the widest possible sector of Swiss communities abroad.

May we ask you to be good enough to reply as fully as possible to the following questions, and to send your reply to the undermentioned address:

Schweizer Radio International, Postfach (P. O. Box), CH-3000 Berne 15
P.S. Programme leaflets can be ordered from the above address.

Your address (optional to state your name) _____

Your profession: _____

Year of birth: _____ Living abroad for _____ years

1. How important for you are the following elements in the programmes of Swiss Radio International?

1 2 3

1 = unimportant / 2 = more or less / 3 = very important

- Swiss news
- International news
- Comments on happenings in Switzerland
- Comments on international happenings
- Information about referendums and similar in Switzerland
- Swiss sports
- International sports
- Swiss economy
- Report on weather in Switzerland

Other elements that are important for you: _____

2. What do you miss mostly today in the SRI programmes?

3. What other international radio stations do you listen to more or less regularly?

4. In the country where you are now living have you ever heard a broadcast specially designed for Swiss listeners and transmitted by a local station?

yes no

5. In the country where you are now living can you receive Swiss television programmes, direct or via cable?

no yes, in the following languages: _____

6. In the country where you are now living do you use video cassettes with recordings of transmissions of Swiss TV?

yes no

7. In the country where you are now living do you read Swiss newspapers and/or special periodicals for Swiss living abroad?

regularly occasionally never

If you do, which ones: _____

8. Have you a Telefax installation at your disposal?

yes no

If you do, do you receive news, commentaries, press extracts etc. via Telefax?

regularly occasionally never

9. Does the expression "Radio Tele-Typing (RTTY)" mean anything to you?

yes no

If it does, do you yourself own an apparatus which enables you to receive news via RTTY?

yes no

Remarks: _____

Programme Changes

Swiss Radio International made two important changes to its programmes in October 1990, when it began re-broadcasting local news programmes produced by Radio DRS (the German-language domestic radio) for Swiss living in Europe, and introduced special programmes for listeners in Eastern Europe.

Since SRI began exchanging air time with Radio Beijing in order to use Chinese transmitters to broadcast to Asia, SRI's German-language programmes to Eastern Europe have been two hours shorter. Swiss-Germans living in European countries have repeatedly complained about this cut over the last three years. In October this year, however, transmissions for German-speaking listeners were extended by one hour by re-broadcasting the Radio DRS main local news programmes. This move also cater-

ed for an increasing interest in local news.

Since October, SRI has also been broadcasting trial programmes in German, French, Italian and English to Eastern Europe on a directional transmission frequency. In addition, SRI is inviting journalists from Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union to produce programmes in Switzerland with its assistance, for broadcasting by SRI itself and stations in the partner countries.

This change is directly linked to the reform process in Eastern Europe which is profoundly affecting attitudes there towards foreign international stations. In 1986 SRI received a total of 377 letters from listeners in Eastern Europe. The number for 1990 was already 778 by August, and it is expected to reach about 1,200 by the end of the year.



The number of foreigners has never been so high

The Federal Aliens Office (BFA) informs us that there have never been so many foreigners living in Switzerland as at the end of August. Whereas last year they formed 15.5 per cent of the permanent resident population, a year later they amounted to 16 per cent, excluding, among others, international officials, seasonal workers and applicants for asy-

lum. The increase, according to the BFA, is due above all to greater immigration and the excessive number of births. Of the 954,940 foreigners gainfully employed, about 79 per cent come from EC and EFTA countries and from the Principality of Liechtenstein.

BEA/Service of the Swiss Abroad

The stream of persons seeking asylum

The influx of seekers for asylum continues without any diminution. In August, the level of new arrivals reached for the first time a figure of 4000 – but this record was broken in September.

The situation has meanwhile been exacerbated by the fact that many cantons and communes have reached the limit of their capacity for accepting new arrivals, some of whom have already been obliged to spend the night outside locked doors.

Accommodation takes the form of huts, containers, caravans, refuges built by the asylum seekers themselves, and civil defence shelters. In the Canton of Zurich, which has to cope with accommodating almost 18% of all applicants, a short-term project for the erection of large-scale shel-

ters (like the old Nissen and Quonset huts) is currently under discussion.

The situation is becoming evermore critical because more and more seekers for asylum arrive with their families.

A new head for SRI

On October 1, 1990, Roy Oppenheim, until then Chief of Staff in the General Management of the SRG ("Swiss Radio and Television Corporation") assumed his new post as the General Manager of SRI ("Swiss Radio International"). He took over from Joel Curchod, who had retired on grounds of ill health. Curchod can look back on a 25-year tenure of office as General Manager of SRI, during which he always did valiant service in the best possible diffusion of information aimed at expatriate Swiss.

Curchod's successor will *inter alia* be faced with the problem of how the listening audience for "The Voice of Switzerland" can be expanded. The choice of a new location for a powerful shortwave transmitter will continue to give rise to many headaches.

Oppenheim had been active in SRG ever since 1971, his posts having included those of Head of Cultural Programmes with the DRS Swiss TV service and Departmental Chief for National Programme Coordination of Radio and Television with the General Management of the SRG.



Hoping for a better future. (Photo: Keystone)

The "affaire" of the "fiches"

The announcements by the Federal Council in the Spring, according to which the number of "fiches" was 900 000 and the number of Swiss citizens that had been "registered" was 200 000 need to be adjusted downwards. Statements by Dr. Walter Gut, the Special Delegate for Filing of Documents relating to State Security indicate that the index cards or "fiches" can be estimated as amounting to 731 000 for persons (86%) and 119 000 for organisations, firms and "happenings" (14%).

Of the individuals who have been "registered" 78% were

foreigners and 22% were Swiss. The proportion of the total Swiss population, including foreigners, represented by "registered" Swiss citizens was only 2.4%. It is expected that the despatch of copies of the index cards will be completed by the end of October 1991, according to information from the office of the above-mentioned Delegate. Insofar as the personal rights of third parties, State security and currently ongoing legal proceedings are not affected, the copies of the index cards should as far as possible be submitted without the entries being masked or blocked out.

Rolf Knie's Art Book (1949) Circus – The Basis

Autobiography with brush and palette

On 244 art paper pages, size 34x26 cm, the multi-talented Rolf Knie offers a fascinating survey of his artistic development to date. In so doing he dispenses with grandiose explanations and profound observations: the richly-illustrated work, with more than 204 colour plates and pictures, speaks for itself. For the vast majority who have only known his lithographs and art calendars featuring popular subjects, this colourful book will reveal a new dimension of painter Rolf Knie. And one is almost inclined to think – when confronted with the artist's enormous creativity – that in his paintings Rolf's circus past and theatrical present finally achieve their full flowering. Thus, his painted circus subjects, clowns, horses, wild animals, elephants, erotic pictures and collages make a colourful collection. His sketches, his abstract paintings and the documentation of inspiring encounters in the distinguished world in which he moves give us an intimate glimpse of the eventful life of an artist.

In this book, Rolf Knie offers us an opportunity to form our own opinion about the work he has done so far. After 12 years of in-



Rolf Knie. (Archive photo)

tensive activity as a painter he finds it difficult to have to explain himself. "I think I have laid the foundations – now it's time to really get going" says Rolf Knie, who has no intention of taking it easy. After very successful shows in Berne, Hamburg and Stuttgart, exhibitions are planned for the coming year in New York, Paris and Moscow.

This book can be ordered from: Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-Berne 16. No charge for postage.