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The 1991 Congress of Swiss from abroad

Welcome to Lucerne

Preparations are already well under way for the 69th Congress of Swiss from abroad. This is scheduled to take place from July 26-28 in Lucerne. It will be devoted to the theme of "The Fifth Switzerland - Past, Present, Future". Incorporated in the 700th anniversary celebrations, the meeting will provide an opportunity for a portrayal of the due importance of the "Fifth Switzerland". Lectures and discussions will aim at bringing out the contribution made by the Swiss abroad to the international presence, prosperity and self-conception of Switzerland. Four forums will be held for wide-ranging discussions on fundamental questions relating to the "Fifth Switzerland" and its future perspectives.

Because of the celebrations in connection with the 700th anniversary, one reckons on a record-breaking number of participants at the Congress. The Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad asks you therefore to announce your intention to attend this event in very good time. Appli-

cations will be dealt with in the order in which they arrive. The organisers of the Congress will be grateful if you fill out the application coupon on page 19 of this issue.

We draw your attention to the fact that in the first days of August a number of events will be taking place in Central Switzerland, including a reception for members of the Federal Council to meet Swiss from abroad, on August 1 1991, the celebration of that National Day in Schwyz, the popular festival in Brunnen and the performance of the "Mythenspiel" in Schwyz. May we request you to indicate your wishes in respect of hotel reservations on the above-mentioned registration coupon, bearing in mind your intentions in connection with these events.

It is hoped to offer marksmen an opportunity to take part in a programme of shooting events. The place and date for this are being worked out at the time of our going to press.

Your Secretariat for the
Swiss Abroad

Summer holidays for Swiss children living abroad

CH 91 / 700th anniversary of the Confederation - a very special year for a holiday in Switzerland

The Foundation for Young Swiss Living Abroad is again offering holidays in Switzerland for expatriate Swiss children in summer 1991.

When? Three-week stay between 1 July and 17 August 1991

Where? - With a Swiss family
- In a holiday colony organised by us
- In a Swiss children's home

Who? Children who are Swiss nationals or whose mothers are Swiss-born
Age: 7 to 15

Closing date for applications: End of March 1991

Application forms and further details can be obtained from Swiss diplomatic missions abroad or direct from the Holiday Organisation for Swiss Children Living Abroad in Zurich. Applications must be forwarded through the appropriate Swiss mission abroad.

Foundation for Young Swiss Living Abroad, Holiday Campaign,
Wattstrasse 3, CH-8050 Zurich, Phone 01 313 17 17

69th Congress of the Swiss Abroad

26-28 July 1991 in Lucerne

Theme for the plenary assembly:
The Fifth Switzerland - Past, Present, Future.

(Please write in capital letters) Closing date for applications: **31 May 1991**

Name/first name: _____

Address: _____

Post code/locality: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Telex: _____ Fax: _____

Name/first name of accompanying person(s): _____

Contact address in Switzerland: _____

Valid from: _____

I am not over 25 and am entitled to a 50% reduction for all events.

I am not over 25 and would like free accommodation in a hostel, organised by the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad.

Accommodation in Lucerne (please place a cross next to the desired category)

Single room Sfr. 225-320.- Sfr. 140-180.- Sfr. 90-130.-

Double room Sfr. 400.- Sfr. 230.- Sfr. 160.-

Arrival date: _____ Departure date: _____

Prices are per night and room, including breakfast, service and taxes. Guarantee of accommodation in the chosen category depends on the number of reservations received.

Also, no reservations can be guaranteed after 31 May 1991.

Applications will be dealt with in the order of receipt.

Should you be unable to come but fail to cancel your reservation, we will be obliged to charge you the full hotel and participation costs.

Admission Ticket (the price of a ticket covering all events is Sfr. 150.-)

I wish to attend the following events (please indicate number of participants for each event):

_____ Visiting industrial firms in Lucerne on Friday morning, 26/7/91 (free)

_____ Official opening on Friday afternoon, 26/7/91 (free)

_____ Gathering of young Swiss living abroad on Friday evening, 26/7/91 (free up to age of 25)

_____ Plenary assembly and lunch on Saturday, 27/7/91 (Sfr. 50.-)

Discussion forums I - IV on Saturday morning, 27/7/91:

_____ Forum I = Emigration Past, Present, Future

_____ Forum II = Integration in the New Country

_____ Forum III = Swiss Living Abroad as Citizens of Switzerland

_____ Forum IV = Swiss Living Abroad and Switzerland's Presence in the World

_____ Banquet and evening entertainment on Saturday, 27/7/91 (Sfr. 80.-)

_____ Excursion and lunch on Sunday, 28/7/91 (Sfr. 70.-)

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please send the completed form to the following address **by 31 May 1991 at latest:** Auslandschweizer-Sekretariat, Postfach, CH-3000 Bern 16, Tel. 031 44 66 25, Fax: 031 44 21 58



The 68th Congress for Swiss from abroad

Some 500 Swiss from 26 foreign countries attended the 68th Congress for Swiss residents abroad, held from August 16–19, 1990 in Fribourg. This year's congress was devoted to the theme of "Training of young Swiss from abroad".

It is hardly surprising that the questions of such matters dominated the proceedings. Many Swiss living abroad would like to get vocational training in our country, the grounds for this desire often being the economic and political problems in their countries, as well as the poor prospects for professional or other occupational success there. In recent years, there has been a considerable increase in the numbers of young Swiss from abroad undergoing training in Switzerland.

The degree to which the Organisation for Swiss Abroad attaches importance to matters of vocational training is evident from the incorporation on July 1, 1989, into the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, of the Association for furthering the Training of Young Swiss from Abroad, a title which is usually abbreviated to AJAS as an acronym of the original German name. The numerous inquiries received by AJAS show that many young Swiss from abroad are very interested in the possibilities for getting occupational training or apprenticeship, of attending a technical college or even a university, as well as for obtaining a scholarship.

The Congress – which was attended by a considerable number of young people – comprised three segments, for expert talks, for working groups, and a final round of discussions at a plenary meeting. Experts from all over Switzerland had been invited, chosen so as to cover the entire field of education. Thus among speakers, parliamentarian Jean Cavadini, Chairman of the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Directors of Education, gave a lecture to illustrate the multifarious character of the Swiss educational system: he spoke of the many

problems regarding the mutual and reciprocal international recognition of diplomas.

At the Congress it became evident that young Swiss from abroad will need to have certain pre-requisite qualifications for getting full benefit from a course of training in Switzerland. We feel it necessary to warn young people from abroad to find out in good time what the pre-requisites would be needed for getting training in Switzerland. They could get help and advice by writing to: AJAS, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16.

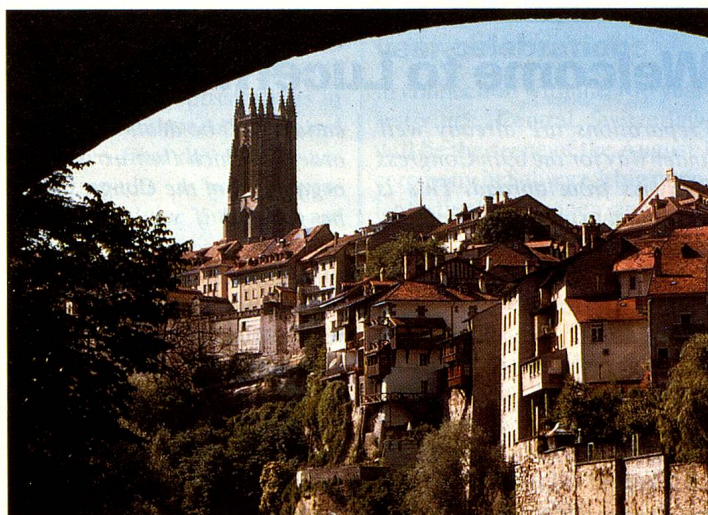
The persons attending the Congress in Fribourg pleaded on behalf of the young Swiss from abroad for the conditions for access to Swiss educational bodies to be eased, and also for the conclusion of cultural agreements for promoting greater mobility in the fields of education and vocational training.

Needless to say, we made sure that this resolution received the widest possible diffusion. Thus it was sent to all of the country's Cantonal Education Directors.

That even the Federal Council itself does not turn a deaf ear to our concerns is borne out by its recommendation to Parliament regarding measures that should be taken to encourage international cooperation in the field of higher education. An objective would be the adhesion of Switzerland to the Conventions concerning Universities, prepared by the Council of Europe and Unesco, aimed at realising freedom of movement for academics through all Europe.

From this account, you will see that something beneficial is being done in the field of education. We will of course keep you posted with developments.

SM



Fribourg's old town formed a dignified setting for the 68th Congress of the Swiss Abroad. (Photo: ONST)

The spring Skiing Camp

In our "Jubilee" year young Swiss living abroad will have a chance to attend the traditional Easter ski camp, which will on this occasion stand under the sign of the 700th anniversary celebrations. The programme will be devised to offer variety, and special care will be taken to ensure that the strength and ability of less experienced participants will not be over-taxed. So this camp will be enjoyed not only by skilled skiers but by beginners as well.

Date and Place: From Wednesday evening to Friday morning, April 03 to 12.04.91. Hotel

Le Bouquetin, Grimentz, Valais. **Cost:** Approximately 580 Swiss francs, including ski subscription ticket.

Camp Management: Edith Locher, teacher for sports and gymnastics and head of the SSA "Jugenddienst"

Conditions: Age from 15 to 25. Mother or father must be a Swiss citizen.

Registration: Deadline for applications is 18-02-91. Forms are obtainable from: Auslandschweizer-Sekretariat, Jugenddienst, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16. The number of participants will be limited to 60.



Attractive offers introduce participants to the art of skiing – and it's fun, too. (Photo: SSA)