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Communications from the SSA



The Die is Cast!

In December last year, the jury appointed by the "Foundation for the Place of the Swiss Abroad" selected the six winning candidates in the above-mentioned competition, which was open to Swiss architects resident abroad.

The first prize, amounting to SFr. 15,000.– was awarded to Mr. Cuino Brüllmann, an architect with a diploma from the Zurich ETH (Institute of Advanced Technology), now resident in Paris. Prizes 2 to 6 went to expatriate Swiss architects living in the USA, England, Australia, Canada and Germany.

The jury met on December 5 and 6 in Brunnen under the chairmanship of former Federal Judge Eduard Amstad. The candidates taking part in the competition were Swiss architects numbering one hundred, resident abroad, and their rather difficult task was – bearing in mind the very exposed location of the projected "Place" – that of "translating a given theme into tri-dimensional language".

SSA

The prize-awarding jury expressed its satisfaction and appreciation at the high level of the entries.

It has requested the Foundation for the Place of the Swiss Abroad, who organised the competition, to entrust to the winner of the first prize the task of starting the processing of his successful project.

There are plans for all the project designs submitted for consideration to be shown to the public in the summer of 1991 in conjunction with the celebrations of the Federation's 700th anniversary. In any case, however, as pointed out above, the definitive design and formation of the Place of the Swiss Abroad will not be possible until after the end of 1991.

SSA

Political Rights: the OSA is satisfied

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad ("OSA") has cognizance of the recommendations of the Federal Council, dated August 15, 1990, regarding a revision of the Federal Law on the Political Rights of Swiss Abroad, and has expressed its satisfaction with the proposed provisions. With the introduction now planned for postal voting rights in polls and elections to be granted to expatriate Swiss, one of the earliest and most fundamental objectives of the OSA will have been attained.

Among our compatriots living abroad the desire for participation in Swiss political life has in recent years become considerably more marked. The OSA has emphasised this in its submission to the pre-advisory committee of the Upper House. This submission was drafted by the working group of the Council of the Swiss

Abroad commissioned to do so, and it confirmed furthermore its view that an extension of the possibilities for expatriate Swiss to participate in Swiss politics must be seen as of interest and value to the Confederation.

On the other hand, the OSA is somewhat sceptical about the usefulness of the provision for a periodical renewal of the entries in the electoral register. With the aim of reducing the burden of administrative work for the consulates outside Switzerland, and for the domestic authorities concerned, the OSA suggests that this special rule should be waived for Swiss citizens resident abroad, or that at least, there should be a substantial extension of the prescribed period for renewal of an entry in the electoral register.

The OSA knows that very grave disappointment to numerous communities of our fellow-citizens abroad would result if their expectations in this matter were not fulfilled, and hopes therefore that the proposed extension of

the possibilities for them to collaborate in Swiss politics will become a reality in the course of "Jubilee Year" 1991.

SSA

A camp for hikes and rambles and all sorts of sports

Arrangements are being made to enable as many young Swiss, resident abroad, to have an opportunity in 1991.

The Youth Service of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad is organising for this occasion two summer camps, with activities related to the Jubilee celebrations. Rambles and excursions will be arranged to give participants a chance to visit places of historical and cultural interest which are likely to be of special appeal to young people. A programme of varied and regular sporting activities will be devised to further the feelings of "togetherness" among the participants, but contacts with the local population will also be facilitated and encouraged.

The dates:

1st camp: Tuesday evening to Saturday morning, July 30 to August 10, 1991

2nd camp: Monday evening to Friday morning, August 12 to August 23, 1991

Location of camps: Freiämter Ferienhaus, Rigi-Klösterli, Canton of Schwyz

Cost: approximately 460 Swiss Francs.

Management of camps: Edith Locher, qualified teacher of gymnastics and sports, head of the Secretariat's Youth Service

Conditions for participation: Ages 15 to 25 years. The mother and/or the father of the participant must be in possession of Swiss civil rights,

Applications: to be made not later than June 15, 1991. Application forms can be obtained from: Auslandschweizer-Sekretariat, Jugenddienst, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16.

The number of participants per camp will be limited to 50.

Youth Exchanges 1991

Young Swiss (male and female) resident abroad will have an opportunity during "Jubilee Year 1991" to take part in a programme of exchange visits between teenagers from foreign countries and those living in Switzerland itself.

The programme aims at enabling youngsters from abroad to spend a 6-week holiday with Swiss families living in Switzerland while youngsters from Switzerland would be invited to pay a corresponding visit of the same duration to a Swiss family in some other country.

This scheme is offered to youngsters and their families from the following countries:

Argentina, Denmark, Germany, England, France, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain or South Africa.

The dates: from July 6 to August 12, 1991

Conditions: Ages between 14 and 20 years (approximately) for participants from Europe. For those from overseas countries: 16 to 20 years of age. The mother and/or the father must have Swiss citizenship.

Cost: about 400 Swiss francs, exclusive of travel.

Registration and application: not later than end of March, 1991. Auslandschweizer-Sekretariat, Jugenddienst, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16.

Communications from the SSA



The «Jubilee Year» Congress in Lucerne

Record Attendance Forecast

This year's Congress of the Swiss Abroad, to be held in Lucerne from July 26–28 is expected to attract a record number of participants. This event, which forms part of the programme for celebrating the 700th anniversary of Switzerland's foundation, will provide a platform for a broad general discussion about fundamental questions and future outlook, of importance to the «Fifth Switzerland». The meeting will serve to increase the interest of the public and of the authorities in the importance of this «Fifth Switzerland» and of its contribution to the history, self-image, prosperity and international «presence» of our country. In the lectures and discussions emphasis will be laid first and foremost on the formulation of the basic and decisive problems important for ensuring the long-term existence and expansion of the «Fifth Switzerland», and on the development of proposals for finding solutions to them.

Festivities and conviviality will of course not be neglected. At a

special ceremony the 75th anniversary of the foundation in 1916 by the Neue Helvetische Gesellschaft (New Helvetic Society) of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad will be commemorated. The traditional Sunday excursion will take place by steamer to the «Place of the Swiss Abroad» in Brunnen, where it is planned to arrange a luncheon for all participants in Mario Botta's by now already legendary «Jubilee Festival Tent».

Because of the 700-year celebrations, we reckon on a record-breaking attendance at this year's Congress of the Swiss Abroad, so we urge you to send off your notification of your wish to attend the Congress as soon as possible. Such notification will be dealt with strictly in the order in which they arrive. The organisers of the Congress will be very grateful if you will fill out the attached coupon carefully. Please let us know the exact dates for arrival and departure, so that we can effect the relevant hotel reservations. SSA

«Jubilee» Camp in Tenero

15 young Swiss from abroad – both boys and girls – will be able to attend the camp in Tenero (in the Ticino), planned by the Swiss National Olympic Committee and its associates for 600 youngsters from all over the world.

A varied programme of sporting and other, contrasting, events will be the main attraction of this Camp, attendance at which will be free of charge to the par-

ticipants (except for their air travel fares).

The Dates: September 22 – 28, 1991

Conditions: Age limits: 16 – 20 years.

Registration: Not later than May 1, 1991. Application forms and programmes are obtainable from: Auslandschweizer-Sekretariat Alpenstrasse 26 CH 3000 Berne 16

An invitation of Berne

20 Swiss teenagers from abroad will be enabled to take part in the activities at the holiday camp currently being planned by the City of Berne authorities to accommodate 800 youngsters at Fiesch in the Canton of the Valais in the autumn of 1991.

Dates: September 22 to 28, 1991.

Conditions: Age for participants to be 15–16 years.

Registration and application: not later than May 1, 1991. Application forms and detailed programmes can be obtained from: Auslandschweizer-Sekretariat, Jugenddienst, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16.

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 <input type="checkbox"/> Sfr. 225–320.–	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sfr. 140–180.–	<input type="checkbox"/> Sfr. 90–130.–
Double room <input type="checkbox"/> Sfr. 400.–	<input type="checkbox"/> Sfr. 230.–	<input type="checkbox"/> 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