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Switzerland and the Maastricht summit

At the EC summit in Maastricht held on December 9/10, 1991, a number of pathbreaking decisions were taken which are certain to affect the future of Switzerland. On February 7, 1992, the Treaty of European Union was finally signed in the Dutch city, which meant the opening of a new era in the history of the Community. The EC heads of state and government have agreed that a common EC currency should come into being by 1999 at the latest. Six months before this currency – to be known as the Ecu – is introduced a central bank will be set up. The location of this has not yet been decided upon. In view of the fact that the United Kingdom totally rejected the

idea of the common social charter, the remaining eleven EC countries accepted a proposal by Commission President Jacques Delors to go it alone in adopting the document outside the formal EC framework. Unofficial talks also took place at Maastricht on the question of enlarging the EC. Negotiations to this end are due to be taken up with Austria and Sweden at the beginning of 1993, and perhaps also with Finland. There is a possibility that Switzerland would be able to join the EFTA group of candidates if it should submit its application before June of this year. But no decision has yet been made on this either by Switzerland or by the European Community.

Powerful farmers' demonstrations

At the beginning of January tens of thousands of Swiss farmers demonstrated in the towns of Berne, Weinfelden and Lucerne to protest against the current GATT proposals. Their intention was to express strong objection to the expected fall in agricultural subsidies. However, the combative attitude of the Swiss farmers' representa-

tives cannot conceal the fact that restructuring is bound to take place in Swiss agriculture, as in that of other European countries. This is due not only to the hoped-for GATT agreement but also to the opening up to the rest of Europe which is bound to take place in the long run in the framework of the European Economic Area.



Swiss farmers protest the growing threat to their subsidies.

Swiss Radio International: the new short-wave timetable

From March 29, 1992, the Swiss Abroad will receive from SRI something for which they have long stood in need: a programme whose content caters specifically to them. This new «Swiss Programme» will be quite different from the international programmes, which are intended mainly for non-Swiss. Please note that the broadcasting times are new as well as the content. You will find below the latest intercontinental programme timetable using universal time. Programmes specifically intended for the Swiss Abroad are in the three national languages and are designated as follows: FR-CH, IT-CH, GE-CH.

Target Area	ENG	FRE	ITA	GER	SPA	ARA	FR-ch	IT-ch	GE-ch
Africa	06.00	06.30	07.00	07.15			07.00	07.15	07.30
Austr. / NZ	09.00	09.30	10.00	10.15			10.00	10.15	10.30
East Asia	11.00	11.30	12.00	12.15			12.00	12.15	12.30
Cen. Asia	13.00	13.30	14.00	14.15			14.00	14.15	14.30
Cen. Asia	15.00	15.30	16.00	16.15			16.00	16.15	16.30
M. / N. East	17.00	17.30	18.00	18.15			18.00	18.15	18.30
Arab world						19.00			
Africa	20.00	20.30	21.00	21.15			21.00	21.15	21.30
South America	22.00	22.30	23.00	23.15	22.30		23.00	23.15	23.30
South America	24.00	00.30	01.00	01.15	00.30		01.00	01.15	01.30
Central America	02.00	02.30	03.00	03.15	02.30		03.00	03.15	03.30
North America	04.00	04.30	05.00	05.15			05.00	05.15	05.30
EUROPE	ENGLISH		GERMAN		FRENCH		ITALIAN		
Central European Time	06.00–06.30		07.00–07.15		06.30–07.00		07.15–07.30		
	08.00–08.30		14.15–14.30		08.30–13.00		14.00–14.15		
	13.00–13.30		17.00–19.30		13.30–14.00		15.00–17.00		
			21.00–22.00		19.30–20.15		20.15–20.30		

Apply for your comprehensive programme booklet to the following address: Radio Swiss International, Customer Service, P. O. Box, CH-3000 Berne 15.

Special representative to the Vatican

The Federal Council has appointed Jenö Staehelin as ambassador on special mission to the Vatican. But the appointment does not imply the opening of a Swiss embassy at the Vatican in the near future. Ambassador Staehelin will continue his work as head of Political Affairs Division I at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne. Diplomatic relations between Switzerland and the Holy See were broken off in 1874 and then formally re-established in 1920. However, for reasons of internal politics Switzerland did not open

an embassy at the Vatican and normal diplomatic relations have not existed in recent times. Contacts in both directions have taken place exclusively through the Apostolic Nuncio in Berne. The appointment of Ambassador Staehelin means that the very rare bilateral contacts of the past between Switzerland and the Vatican may now be expected to be intensified by means of more frequent meetings. It also means that the Swiss point of view can be more easily expressed in matters of common interest. *BOD*

Important additions to the World Cultural Heritage

Berne's medieval city, together with the area surrounding the abbey church of St. Gall and the monastery of Münstair in the Canton of Grisons, have been added to the component list of the World Cultural Heritage established by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation). The old city of the Zähringens at the centre of Berne is made up of

many alleys and small streets, mainly in the area of the "Zytglogge" (or clock tower), the minster and the city hall. The area surrounding the abbey church of St. Gall comprises one of the most remarkable baroque ensembles in the world, while the monastery of Münstair lays claim to the greatest collection of Carolingian monumental paintings in existence.

Telegrams

■ The death penalty has finally disappeared from Swiss military law.

■ A credit of Sfr. 14.85 billion is planned for construction of the new Trans-Alpine railway.

■ A popular initiative known as "Farmers and consumers for a near-to-nature agriculture" has obtained a sufficient number of signatures to provoke a referendum.

■ The federal budget for 1992 recently approved by Parliament provides for a deficit of Sfr. 1,328 billion.

■ The Federal Council intends to set up a legal frame-

work in which 600 Swiss servicemen can be sent to join United Nations troops at crisis points throughout the world.

■ Appenzell State Councillor Carlo Schmid has been elected to succeed Eva Segmüller, who recently retired as president of the Christian Democratic People's Party.

■ The Basle chemical company, Ciba-Geigy, has decided to locate its planned Biotechnikum (Research Centre for Biologically Manufactured Substances) in Alsace (France) rather than in Basle.

■ The Federal Council has proposed to Parliament the purchase of 34 FA-18 fighter aircraft at a price of Sfr. 3.5 billion.

New books

Schweizer Lexikon 91

(Swiss Encyclopaedia 91)

With the appearance of the first volume of "Schweizer Lexikon 91" this ambitious project of providing an up-to-date inventory of our country has now started to take concrete form. The publisher is certainly taking a considerable risk in his attempt to provide a comprehensive overview of Switzerland in the space of a mere six volumes. But truly encyclopaedic articles will cast light on oceans of fact, 85,000 entries will provide an incredible profundity of knowledge, 20-30% of which may be described as universal and 70-80% as pure Helvetica.

The initial volume of "Schweizer Lexikon 91" contains detailed descriptions of all municipalities in Switzerland, as well as comprehensive articles devoted to each canton. Additional features are a discussion on bilateral relationships between Switzerland and all foreign countries, together with biographies of the most important Swiss citizens

who have made their lives abroad. It has also been considered important to include detailed items on many other subjects of special interest to the Swiss Abroad. These include "Schools for the Swiss Abroad", "Media for the Swiss Abroad", "Council for the Swiss Abroad", "Social Security for the Swiss Abroad", amongst many others. This alone makes the "Schweizer Lexikon 91" an absolutely indispensable reference work. There is no doubt that it fills a real gap in knowledge, particularly since the last Swiss encyclopaedia which was published between 1944 and 1948 has no longer been brought up to date in recent years. The first volume of the new encyclopaedia has 850 pages, containing numerous illustrations, tables, maps and bibliographical material. It can be taken as a model for the five remaining volumes which are to be published at intervals of three to four months.

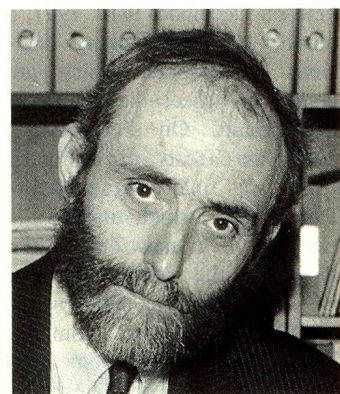
"Schweizer Lexikon 91" in six volumes, Verlag Schweizer Lexikon, Lucerne 1991/1993. Subscription price (until the end of April 1992): Sfr. 213.50; later Sfr. 266.50. Until further notice available in German only. Orders to: Verlag Schweizer Lexikon 91, Stutzstrasse 19, CH-6005 Lucerne. Fax: 41 41 44 99 39.

New State Secretary at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

The Federal Council has appointed Jakob Kellenberger as successor to Klaus Jacobi as state secretary at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Jacobi has handed in his resignation with effect from the end of February. Mr. Kellenberger is 48 and comes from the Canton of Appenzell.

The relative youth of the new state secretary has surprised many Swiss political observers. But in the last few years Mr. Kellenberger has made an excellent name for himself as deputy head of the Swiss EEA (European Economic Area) negotiating term.

Mr. Kellenberger was born in Heiden (Appenzell Outer Rhodes) in 1944. After studying Romance languages and literature at the University of Zurich, where he obtained his doctorate, he entered the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in 1974. He began as a trainee in Berne and later Madrid. In 1976 he joined the Swiss mission to the Euro-



Jakob Kellenberger. (Photos: Keystone).

pean Community in Brussels, and in 1981 he was transferred to London, where he was appointed head of the Swiss embassy's trade and economic department. From 1984 he was head of the Integration Office in Berne (which coordinates the operations of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Economic Affairs), first with the rank of minister and later with that of ambassador.

Switzerland will soon have 7 million inhabitants

On December 4, 1990, Switzerland had 6,850,000 inhabitants – or 483,000 more than ten years earlier. This represents a rate of population growth of 7.6%. In comparison, the population rose by a rate of only 1.5% between 1970 and 1980. Two-thirds of the strong growth registered in the

last decade stems from immigration. This growth rate is higher than in any EC or EFTA state with the exception of Iceland. During the current year Switzerland's population is expected to overstep the seven million mark for the first time.

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