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Swiss Review 4/93

Foreigners in Switzerland

Congratulations on your cover picture for 4/93. Good photography – disgracing the Swiss flag (symbol of the state) perfect. Would this be possible anywhere else but Switzerland? No-where – in no other country. And even if the picture is meant mainly to draw attention to the report within, the plain and simple fact is that it's a scandal. The Swiss flag torn apart and a foreign face at the centre of the cross – I ask you: is there no respect for our country and its native inhabitants?

Anita Schoch, Chesterville, Canada

If foreigners don't want to integrate, then they shouldn't be surprised if they are rejected and mistrusted in exchange. They don't like us or our culture, but they want to live with us. I see a danger for Switzerland if the Federal Supreme Court gives in to such stupid demands for special treatment as in the case of the Muslim girl.

L. Meierhofer, Schaan, Liechtenstein

I receive the Swiss Review, from which one might expect as true as possible a reflection of Switzerland in all its diversity – or at least an attempt at such. It is disgraceful to note that this is not the case – and that the editors have turned a review whose main task ought to be to maintain this diversity into a left-wing propaganda weapon. The last number (4/93) brought clear evidence of this. Lack of patriotism and a sense of national identity were shown clearly on every page.

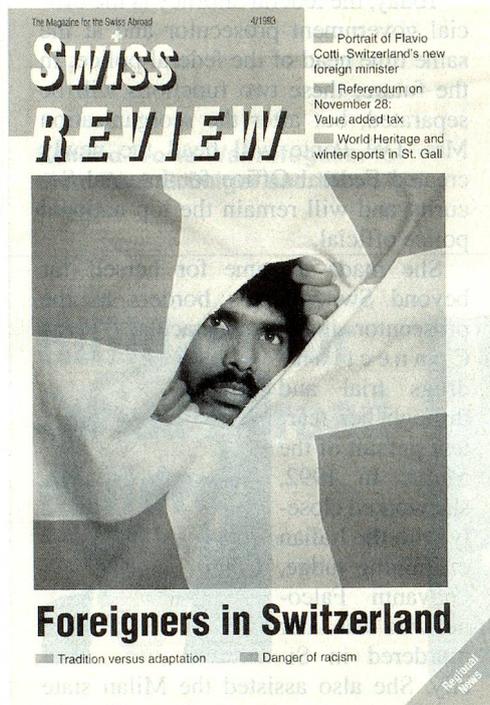
J. Delachaux, Landunvez, France

With the influx of ever more people from foreign regions, with their cultures unknown to us (we can't really delve into each of them), cohesion gets lost in the blending process – or else ghettos are created for the immigrants. In such a multi-culture, we will soon have to ask ourselves: What is still Swiss? What is the sense of local and national history-teaching in these circumstances? I'm convinced that such a multi-culture is not pleasant to an average Swiss of sound mind who still has some attachment to his traditional way of life.

He will soon feel a stranger in his own country. And I don't believe that the Swiss are afraid of foreigners. At most they feel that their freedom to be what they are is being restricted. It's something more than just workplaces!

Guido Dreier, Colima, Mexico

Mr. Tschanz points out that it is thanks to our foreign workers that Switzerland has achieved such a high GNP and is one of the richest countries in the world. But at what moral and so-



The subject "Foreigners in Switzerland", and particularly the front page of Swiss Review 4/93, provoked much reader reaction.

cial cost? The rents are exorbitant, the educational services are overloaded so is the health service, land prices are unaffordable except for the rich. Our politicians have done nothing in the past decades to stabilise the influx of foreign workers and their dependants... indeed they have done so little that one must suspect that they did not want a stabilisation.

E. Tober-Duss, London, UK

Readers' letters

In every second number, we publish a selection of readers' reactions. The editors reserve the right to choose and to shorten where necessary. Anonymous letters are ignored. The shorter the letter, the more chance it has of being published.

Why that choice of a cover for your SR 4/1993? Why choose a Tamil immigrant peeping through a torn Swiss flag to make a point about the danger of racism in Switzerland? Why did you have to say the person is of Tamil descent anyway? Do Tamils represent a bigger threat? Couldn't the picture have shown an anonymous white foreigner? Aren't there any other (more appropriate) ways of illustrating the fear of the Swiss people? Something more anonymous, less subject to controversy?

Marc Pichard, Nepean, Canada

It is an insult to Switzerland, that you print on the front cover a Tamil, who is looking through a new torn Swiss national flag.

W.J. Torpy-Ackermann, Jersey, Channel Islands

I know that in the majority of nationals abroad, the main sentiment is a conservative one. Your magazine as such-aimed at the Swiss away from "home" had for its 4/1993 cover a very disturbing picture. A torn national symbol wrings one's heart to the depth and leaves one wondering if the self-guilt of the European Swiss has not overreached its limit?

M. Milaras-Weber, Parkhurst, South Africa

The photograph on the cover of your 4/1993 issue is provocative and the description of it, is misleading. What you show, in fact, is a sinister face peering through a torn Swiss flag implying danger to the very core of our Swiss social fabric. Surely you are aware that this picture can only stir hatred! This photo really belongs on the cover of a racist magazine and is in direct contrast to your well balanced editorial and articles (particularly by René Lenzin).

Marcelle Rosenfeld, New City, USA