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Education and training of young Swiss Abroad

## Must save; will save

Education and training are amongst the most important things Swiss Abroad want from Switzerland. With its Law on the Training of Swiss Abroad (AAG), the federal government has taken legislative account of this.

The AAG is the legal basis for providing advice to young Swiss Abroad wishing to complete their education or training in Switzerland. This is mainly the task of AJAS, the Association for the Training of Young Swiss Abroad. The AAG also contains provisions for the education of Swiss citizens in other countries, mainly at the 17 recognised Swiss schools in various parts of the world.

This item has not been spared from the general pressure for budget cuts. Although the Federal Council has rejected the proposal to cancel the subsidies altogether which was under consideration in the Department of Home Affairs – which is responsible – it has nevertheless mandated it to consider how they may be reduced, especially for schools in Europe.

The schools themselves have not been slow to react, and they have already undertaken savings measures. In addition, a series of 'summit' conferences was held last spring at which the heads of schools in Europe

and Latin America discussed in detail closer cooperation and further savings potential.

But it is clear that these institutions could not survive as Swiss schools without some support from Berne, and if they were abolished or ceased to be Swiss this would have serious consequences not only for the Swiss communities in the countries concerned but also for the presence of Switzerland in general terms. Particularly in today's circumstances, the effect of these schools in promoting Switzerland's image – which is mentioned in the article of the AAG explaining its purpose – is something in which the Swiss government has the greatest possible interest.

RL

### E. O. Kilcher has died

Swiss Abroad E. O. Kilcher has died. The Organisation for the Swiss Abroad owes to this eminent compatriot the Kilcher Fund, which since 1988 has enabled many Swiss Abroad to travel to Switzerland, has provided assistance for Swiss Abroad returning home and has awarded education and training grants to young Swiss Abroad.

last date for registration is October 1. Lots will be drawn by the Swiss Ski Federation to select those to take part.

### Ski and snowboard camp in Zweisimmen (age 15–25)

**Organised by:** The Youth Service of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad (SSA)

**Dates:** December 27, 1997–January 4, 1998

**Price:** Sfr. 650.–

**May take part:** Young Swiss Abroad aged between 15 and 25. Skiing and snowboard ability not required. Beginners warmly welcome.

**Motto:** Snow sports all the way

Besides skiing and snowboarding instruction, participants will also be able to choose from attractive side programmes including sledging, swimming, cross-country skiing, skating, climbing, badminton, other games, discussion groups, etc.

### Easter camp 1998

April 10–19, 1998, in Grimentz, Canton Valais.

Further information and registration at:

*Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad*

*Alpenstrasse 26*

*CH-3000 Berne 16*

*Tel: 41 31 351 61 00*

*Fax: 41 31 351 61 50*

Winter sports camps 1997/98

## Skiing, snow, good fun

**Skiing, sports, snow, good fun and sun with new friends aged from 8 to 25 from all over the world – this is what the winter sports camps of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad are offering. So come to Switzerland!**

These New Year camps offer children from 8 to 15 and young people from 15 to 25 an unforgettable visit to Switzerland, your second homeland. The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad and the Youth Service of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad are

preparing an attractive winter sports programme for the next New Year holiday period.

### Ski camp in Splügen (age 8–15)

**Organised by:** The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad

**Dates:** December 27, 1997–January 3, 1998

**Price:** Sfr. 500.–

(Supplement for additional week January 3–10, 1998: Sfr. 300.–)

**May take part:** Swiss Abroad children from 8 to 15, no special sporting ability required.

**Motto:** Winter Adventure Switzerland.

Skiing will have priority. There will also be sledging, skating, snowboarding or curling, quiz racing, games, igloo building and much else – so plenty of variety.

Further information and registration at:

*Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad*

*Alpenstrasse 26*

*CH-3000 Berne 16*

*Tel: 41 31 351 61 60*

*Fax: 41 31 351 61 50*

There is a special offer for Swiss Abroad children born in 1983 and 1984. Eight to ten of them are being invited to participate free of charge in the Swiss Ski Federation's youth ski camp in Lenk. Those interested should also apply to the Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad, and the



**Fun in the snow – the promise of the SSA winter sports camps.**