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A smiling Paul Grüninger

Swiss Review 4/03, Session



That face was very familiar to me. Paul Grüninger was my 4th-year teacher at the "Hasli" school. At that time (ca. 1954) there were four classes in one classroom. What a wonderful atmosphere that small school had: cosmopolitan and motivational, Paul Grüninger gave every child the feeling that he or she had very special talents and the potential to develop them. Although his eyes remained sad, we always managed to conjure a smile to his lips.

*Elisabeth Goeltenboth-Semle
Regina, Canada*

Bona fide application of the law

Swiss Review 4/03, Session

The article states: "these judgements were then in compliance with the applicable law."

Viewed from a modern perspective, that is a purely escapist argument, since from a formal legal standpoint the

Nuremberg laws were at that time also "the applicable law". One may be able to regard what happened in the 1930s and 1940s as a bone fide application of the law then in force. But the fact that it took fifty years to pardon the "violators" and that pardons were not granted in the late 1950s or 1960s, makes the legal and political authorities themselves suitable candidates for "rehabilitation".

*Amo Fuchs
Raanana, Israel*

Privileged

Swiss Review 4/03, GfS survey



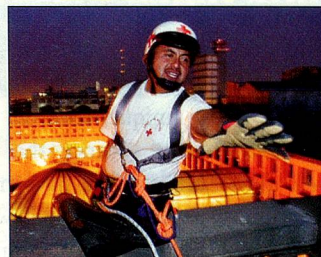
The fact that we Swiss Abroad live outside Switzerland, in many cases with a partner of another nationality, highlights the advantages and drawbacks of belonging to our small country (something, by the way, that is often envied). Further to your highly interesting article on the survey, I'd like to add something that underpins the left-right polarity you mention. On the one hand, we Swiss Abroad would like to see Swiss at home

behaving a little less egotistically. After all, in terms of job opportunities and living conditions they are privileged compared to other countries. On the other hand, we are aware that the pragmatism, not to mention a certain degree of political caution, that is manifested in Swiss decision-making processes, together with the direct democracy system, represent a major opportunity for our small country.

*C. Kiehl
Lyon, France*

Star of David as the official emblem

Swiss Review 3/03, Focus



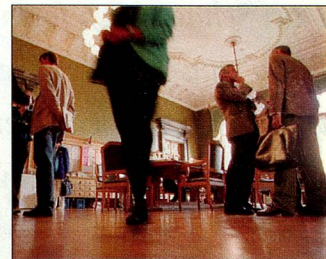
I read with interest your article on the ICRC.

I would like to point out that the ICRC refuses nowadays to recognise the red Star of David as an official emblem. The red cross as well as the red crescent are regarded as official emblems. To date, all attempts on the part of Israel (with the support of the USA) to resolve this matter have fallen foul of Arab and Moslem states. It is high time that the ICRC dispensed with this clearly anti-Semitic attitude.

*Dr Alexander Avidan
Jerusalem, Israel*

A lot of peanuts also adds up

Swiss Review 4/03 Focus



You write that Remo Gysin is concerned about the fate of Swiss living in Argentina. He is on the right track, but the AHV/IV contribution in all countries with weak currencies should be re-evaluated. When I left Switzerland 11 years ago to live in South Africa, I was determined to continue my contribution to the AHV/IV, and even thought this meant for me paying between one and two monthly salaries a year, it was worth the sacrifice. However, when the change was introduced, my contribution doubled, and the South African Rand lost about 40% of its value. From just over one monthly salary in 2000, I was now supposed to pay four monthly salaries. Unfortunately this meant for me that I had to cancel my AHV/IV membership. The Rand has strengthened again in the meantime, but my contribution would still add up to two and a half monthly salaries, and there is no way I can pay this kind of money. I would like to be a member and continue to contribute, but it is simply not possible for me under these circumstances. So it might be peanuts what we residents of countries with weak currencies can contribute, but a lot of peanuts also adds up.

*Barbara Boast-Blättler
Johannesburg, South Africa*

Corrigenda

In our previous issue, this section featured an article about swissinfo/Schweizer Radio International. The Internet addresses contained several errors, for which we apologise. The correct Internet addresses are as follows:

www.swissinfo.org
www.swisspolitics.org
<http://swissmusic.swissinfo.org>
<http://www.swissgeo.org>