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## News from Switzerland

### AIM OF THE 1970 CONFERENCE OF SWISS LIVING ABROAD

This year's gathering of Swiss subjects living abroad will be held from 28th-30th August in the quaint little town of Zofingen in the Canton of Aargau. This meeting — the 48th of its kind — is dedicated to the planned total revision of the Federal Constitution. The fate of the basic laws of our State is also of interest to those citizens who live beyond its boundaries. Former Federal Councillor Dr T. Wahlen, head of the federal working group designated to prepare the total revision of the Constitution, will hold the opening address. Besides treating this subject, the Swiss emigrants will have ample opportunities of discussing other topical themes.

The meaning of such a gathering in the homeland lies especially in the opportunity it gives all the inhabitants of the so-called "Fünfte Schweiz" to air their views on problems concerning the Swiss nation as a whole. Federal Councillor Pierre Graber, the new Swiss Foreign Minister, will follow the talks closely and will himself give a speech. Also on the agenda is a session of the Committee of Swiss Living Abroad, a discussion on Swiss schools in foreign countries, plus the problems of educating the young Swiss living abroad as a whole.

A significant attraction with all kinds of surprises will be the "Städtlifest" on 29th August in the old part of the town of Zofingen for the participants and townsfolk in honour of the Swiss who live abroad. According to Marcel Ney, Director of the Secretariat of the Swiss Living Abroad Organisation in Berne, a visit is proposed to a working centre for the retarded in Strehelbach as well as to a home for Swiss living abroad in nearby Dürrenesch.

Towards the conclusion of the Conference a tour will be arranged through the picturesque old part of Zofingen for the art lovers, plus a visit to the Abbey of St. Urban with its famous choir pews where an ecumenical service, by now a worthy tradition of this special Swiss gathering, will be held. In conclusion a Sunday drive is foreseen to Hallwylersee and the Castle of Lenzburg, where the closing festivities of the meeting will take place. (snto)

### NEWS IN BRIEF . . .

**Up until 29th August** many performances of "Ils Duos Travers" will be carried out on the village square of Zuoz in the Engadine.

**In August** the Graphic Collection of the Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, present an exhibition of late Gothic copper plate engravings.