

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 61 (1995)
Heft: [3]

Rubrik: News from the Swiss Embassy

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NEWS FROM THE SWISS EMBASSY

NEW ZEALAND AND SWITZERLAND SIGN ANTARCTIC COOPERATION STATEMENT.

On March 28, 1995, New Zealand and Switzerland agreed to develop closer scientific links in Antarctica when Foreign Affairs Minister DON McKINNON and the Swiss Ambassador ERNST THURNHEER signed a Joint Statement on Antarctic Cooperation between their two countries.

The Ross Dependency Research Committee and the Swiss National Science Foundation will now consider joint scientific projects in the Ross Sea region, particularly projects involving research on the impact of human activities on the Antarctic environment.

"We are delighted that we now have the opportunity to show Switzerland the facilities available through Christchurch as an Antarctic Gateway for research in the Ross Sea region", Mr McKinnon said.

"I am pleased to see New Zealand develop its international Antarctic science links" Mr. McKinnon continued. "It is important that Antarctic Treaty nations commit themselves to programmes of international cooperation in Antarctica. This is a central element of the Environmental Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty which New Zealand recently ratified", Mr. McKinnon concluded.



Mr. Thurnheer and Mr. McKinnon having a little chat just before signing the joint statement.

EDUCATIONAL TRUST

AFS (formerly the American Field Service) began during World War I, with a group of American volunteers operating an ambulance service in Europe. The American Field Service were active again in World War II. After World War II those involved made a dedicated commitment to furthering world peace and understanding, and in 1947 (nearly 50 years ago) the student exchange programme was set up to realise this vision.

There are currently 10,000 participants in the world throughout 55 AFS countries, with the international headquarters in New York. The work of AFS has been recognised by the United Nations in a special citation for services to the youth of the world.

AFS New Zealand send approximately 600 students away each year on the long programme and hosts about 700 students. Currently AFS New Zealand have 17 Swiss students being hosted in New Zealand, and 20 New Zealand students are away in Switzerland.

AFS New Zealand's National Director, Lyndsay Osborne, has asked to pass on to you that the Swiss students are exemplary students and are most sought after in AFS New Zealand's hosting programme. Lyndsay Osborne also advises that AFS Switzerland is a pleasure to deal with.

(How about that for a pat on the back?).

UNMARRIED MOTHERS

Unmarried mothers are very common in the northern parts of Europe whilst the South still remains very conservative in this respect as the statistics below demonstrate.

Island 57%	Germany 15%
Sweden 50%	Spain 10%
Denmark 46%	Italy 7%
Norway 44%	Greece 3%
Switzerland 16%	

FULL SPEED AHEAD IN GENEVA

Geneva is to introduce a 30km per hour speed limit for its inner city traffic. However, this is a bit of a laugh, as traffic is most of the time so congested that it is not often you can travel at that new lower maximum speed limit anyway. In fact the joke goes around that if you are in hurry, go by foot, you will get there faster. Who says the Swiss have no sense of humour?



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