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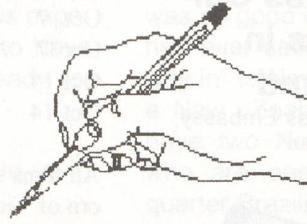
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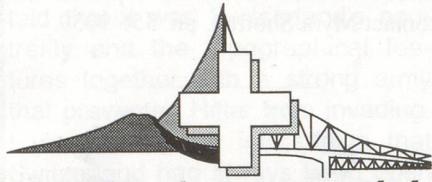
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New Zealand Swiss Club

News & Happenings



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Auckland Swiss Club

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swissclub@hotmail.com

Forthcoming Events

Card evenings: every 3rd Friday of the month at Oski's, 224 Hobsonstr. 7.30 start.

19. Sept. 98 Fondue evening at the Holland house, 123 Rockfield Rd., Penrose, 7 pm. - Bookings essential, ring Rita Brändli, 444 3020. Please bring your own "Pfännli" and forks.

Adults \$ 15.- Children 5 - 14 years

\$ 7.-

28./29. Nov. 98, Workingbee on Swiss farm.

6. Dec. 98 - Samichlaus

14. Feb. 99 - Picnic

7. March 99 - Jassen/Kegeln.

Reports...

Results from Preisjassen 17.7.98

1. Marie -Th. Melville	4,042
2. Hans Wolf	3,968
3. Hans Fitzi	3,949
4. Annegret Wolf	3,937
5. Louis Wallimann	3,850
6. Dominic Hess	3,847
7. Tony Mathis	3,808
8. Molly Gianotti	3,647
9. Sid Melville	3,639
10. Markus Stutz	3,558
11. Toni Manser	3,557
12. Arthur Wyss	3,454

Again there were only 12 players (and one extra) present. Many thanks to all those people who have donated one or more prizes. *Bon voyage and have a good time in Switzerland* is what we say to our Jass-co-ordinator **Hans Iten and his Wife**. - See you at the next Jass-occasion, 21. August, same time.

Toni Manser.



Entertainment provided, including young and old.

Reports...

1st August Celebration at the (Swiss) Farm, Kaukapakapa

This year, for the first time in a long while, many of our members found themselves at home celebrating our National Day as they used to: Up on a hill, around a big fire....

It was a bit of a gamble for the committee to decide on the farm venue for the first time, and looked more so while doing a very wet and muddy working bee the weekend before - spreading 2 truckloads of gravel to soak it all up, digging drains, gib-stopping, wiring up the lights, connecting the chimney, cleaning and tidying, racking their brains on how to pile up a decent bonfire, generally working out the logistics of the event.

- At this point I think it is only fair to make a special mention of the key people and their families who have been instrumental in building the extensions to the hut on the farm, namely Willy and Vreni Pfenninger with Thomas; Markus and Yvonne Buehler with Claudia and Stefan; Heinz and Ursula Matysik with

Thomas. Henry Werffeli with Orlando and Isobel. They dedicate endless hours of their free time to the steady improvements of our farm facilities. And the people who joined them during a very wet working bee weekend prior to the past event, a very big thank you to Chris Hochueli for the working bee lunch on Saturday 25.7.98.

With that kind of effort and contribution in our club, I am assured we can look forward to many a happy gathering on the farm.

- An overcast, windy, rainy day showed little promise of a winning number, and by 2, only a few families had strolled up. But, surprise! More and more arrived, until by 5 o'clock our new 'hall', including the adjoining "Säli" were bubbling with chatter and laughter of people.

As soon as everyone had arrived and settled down to a drink and snack, Henry, the Riflemaster, gave out the shooting medals.

A duo of sharp rolling drums called us all to the table for a hearty meal of Soup, Speck & Bohnen/Sauerkraut with potatoes, followed by the famous Swiss pastries with coffee.

Nightfall offered the setting for the lampion lit entrance of our youngsters who performed some endearing traditional Swiss folk dances. They were followed by a lovely set of songs by the Yodel group. And finally, the bonfire, having gobbled up most of the diesel intended for the generators, caught on. It immediately diverted our attention to the five alphorn blowers who were softly reflected by its light and whose magnificent sound echoed from the surrounding hills a melody which transformed us for a brief moment to our very homeland, and made us forget just how far we are from home. This very special moment made a mere mechanical sound of the National Anthem and Speech by the President of the Swiss Confederation relayed to us by the Embassy. Sorry, Mr. Cotti, we promise we will read it in the August issue of the *Helvetia*. These wonderful contributions concluded at around 8.30, and with all the fires stoked up and the dishes nearly done, it was time to settle down for a chat, a round of Schieber, and with a glass of wine enjoy each other's company long into the night.

We would like to thank all the people for coming and I'm almost sure you all agree that the newly extended indoor/outdoor facility on our piece of land is proving more and more welcoming to all sorts of events, no matter what the weather, and that our country on its special day deserves this kind of homage.

A hearty thanks of course is extended to all those who made their special contributions, Walter Mueller and Aaron Pollock for the drum roll, the Yodel group, the Alphorn blowers, Julia Moors with the Dance group, Yvonne Buehler for the lovely window picture which now decorates our "Säli", and thank you Chris Hochuli for the generous donation of Schnapps.

For the Committee;
Trudi Fill.

Shooting on Farm at Kaukapakapa

One further shooting competition for 1998 is being organised by the Riflemaster, Henry Werffeli:

- Any sights, any rifle, 300 meters

1st November, at 9.00 am sharp

Any shooters wanting to take part in this competition are requested to contact Henry, phone 09 410 3476 (home, after hours) regarding access and use of equipment.



The excitement of the bonfire...



Junior dance group performing.



Music to the old Swiss hearts delight.



Walter Müller and companion drumming.

Note from the President...

I would like to thank every one for the support on the first of August. I was surprised how many people came. The committee expected 180 people as we had 140 bookings. By the end more than 210 turned up. While we were very pleased it also put a strain on our food supply. I would therefore like to apologize to the people who felt they didn't get enough to eat. This shows how important it is to book ahead!!!

- Anyway, every one I spoke to was very pleased with the evening.
- Next year we hope to have a few more fire works to get things 'cracking'.
- A lot of work has gone into the house on the farm, but to finish, improve and maintain it we need money. The funds raised by functions such as the 1. August, the fondue night etc. are being put to good use to improve the facilities at the farm.

Thanks again and see you all next time.

Ernst Gfeller.



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Forthcoming Events

FONDUE EVENING

If you haven't already marked Saturday 10 October on your calendar as the Fondue Evening, do so now! Tasting the Fondue will be just one of the attractions – others include being present for the medal presentation, and dancing to the music of Peter Arnold's band from Auckland. This band, "Sound of Switzerland", has not previously played at any of our functions, and promises to be very entertaining. If you wish to bring your Fondue sets, we would appreciate the use of them. The evening begins at 8pm, so see you then!

PROPOSED MOUNTAIN TRIP

In last month's Helvetia the idea of spending a day at the snow (??!!) was mentioned. We are still keen to gauge the club's interest at this idea. We have had several replies, but at this stage there are still not enough people to fill a bus and thus make the day viable. If you think you're at all interested, please let the following committee members know as soon as possible:

Heidi Fransen
(07) 847-1353

Or
Beatrice Leuenberger
(07) 843-7971

An approximate cost for such a venture would be \$60 per person. This would include \$15 for the bus trip and \$45 for a ski package. The bus would leave early on the morning of Saturday 17 October and arrive back in Hamilton some time in the evening. This is a day for young and old alike, so give it some thought.

1st AUGUST CELEBRATION

For the first time in many years the celebration of Switzerland's National Day actually took place in the Eureka hall on 1st August. The date seemed to suit many people, as numbers exceeded 100.

The evening began at 8pm and by 9pm a smorgasbord dinner of Wienerli, ham and a huge variety of

tasty salads was served.

When all appetites were appeased, it was time to sit back and enjoy the music of the Auckland Woodchopper band. People dancing most of the evening indicated the enjoyment and approval of the music. Thanks to Emil Tellenbach and others for travelling from Auckland to provide us with such lively music.

During the course of the evening, coffee was served with a tasty selection of cake and biscuits made by the committee. As always, the variety and taste was superb.

The evening was successful due to the help of many. Much work was done on the part of the committee with the preparation of food, working in the kitchen on the night, setting up the hall and again tidying up afterwards. As well as committee members, others also offered their help on the evening. Many thanks go to all these people. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work".

HF



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REMAINING 1998 CARD RESULTS

4th Card Evening, 20 June

1 Ruth Waldvogel	4167
2 Margarete Poppe	4152
3 Adolf Imlig	4149
4 Eileen Hickey	4141
5 Michael Fitzi	4065
6 Hans Peter Burch	4059
7 Hanna Frischknecht	4053
8 Hans Vetsch	4046
Booby Prize: Anna Blättler	3289

5th Card Evening, 4 July

1 Julia Meyer	4208
2 Rosli Schürmann	4142
3 Werner Fässler	4071
4 Anna Blättler	4054
5 Joe Kennel	4048
6 Eileen Hickey	4042
7 Sery Odermatt	4038
8 Hanna Frischknecht	4022
Booby Prize: Peter Rust	3378

6th Card Evening, 18 July

1 Robert Blättler	4410
2 Hans Peter Burch	4148
3 Michael Fitzi	4106
4 Max Nussberger	4066
5 Arthur Matti	4049
6 Julia Meyer	4043
7 Erica Clarkin	4033
8 Hanna Frischknecht	3972
9 Rosli Schürmann	3956
10 Beatrice Leuenberger	3956
Booby Prize: Karin Klingler	3213

OVERALL RESULTS

Prize Winners:

1 Hanna Frischknecht	20,423
2 Margarete Poppe	20,114
3 Werner Fässler	19,887
4 Michael Fitzi	19,864
5 Julia Meyer	19,800
6 Adolf Imlig	19,794
7 Hans Vetsch	19,735
8 Rosli Schürmann	19,607
9 Heinz Leuenberger	19,565

Further Placings:

10 Beatrice Leuenberger	19,537
11 Ling Matti	19,447
12 Heidi Leuenberger	19,427
13 Ruth Waldvogel	19,395
14 Arthur Matti	19,345
15 Karl Waldvogel	19,289
16 Theresa Fitzi	19,231
17 Margaret Hayward	19,064
18 Adrian Frei	19,061
19 Robert Blättler	19,033
20 Joe Kennel	18,959
21 Patricia Gillon	18,951
22 Richard Wehrle	18,905
23 Martha Schefer	18,871
24 Theresa Kennel	18,803
25 Max Nussberger	18,793
26 Bert Steiner	18,745
27 Fritz Häslig	18,744
28 Anna Blättler	18,713
29 Isabelle Schwitzer	18,708
30 Hilda Schicker	18,639
31 Robert Frischknecht	18,495
32 Erika Bolli	18,330
33 Helen Staheli	18,205
34 Joe Staheli	17,813
35 Peter Weiss	17,577

All of our six card evenings were very well attended with between 42 and 54 players. Sometimes it was

hard to know whether people came for the game or the wonderful suppers which were always served! Our thanks go to all the ladies who provided us with all that delicious baking and worked in the kitchen, as well as to those who helped run each of the evenings smoothly, and clean up afterwards.

At the end of each evening, several lucky players were always able to take home one of a selection of excellent prizes. Our thanks go to everyone who donated prizes for the card evenings, and especially to Paul and Tania Betschart of Royal Heights Butchery in Auckland for the many generous meat prizes we were given. These kind gestures are always very much appreciated by the Club.

The final evening came around all too soon, and when the card playing was done, the overall scores were tallied, with Hanna Frischknecht winning the trophy for 1998 by over 300 points. Congratulations to a great result!!

It is always pleasing to see our card evenings so well attended, and very encouraging to see so many people come along regularly, as this helps to make all of our card evenings so successful. Many thanks to everyone for taking part, and we look forward to seeing all of you again next winter.

Humour

"Are you sure there are no sharks in this water" asks the tourist ready for a swim. "Of course not says the Australian host, wherever there is crocodiles there sure aren't any sharks."

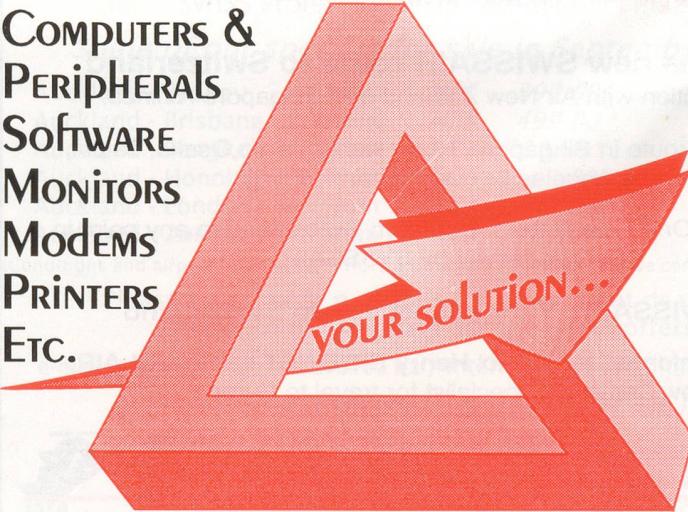


Once again, we held the First of August celebrations on 1st August. Approximately 110 people arrived at the hall to enjoy the celebrations. We listened to the message of the President of the Confederation, and also to a well-written message from Beatrice, our President of the Swiss Society.

Entertainment was provided by the Swiss singing group; our Trachtengruppe; Ruedi Dudli on the Alphorn; and Remigi throwing the flag. It was a great program and enjoyed by everyone. We were then entertained by five piano accordionists and pianists, all of whom were talented and played well together. It was also great to have Jennifer and Aaron Bösch at our evening and we certainly hope to see you again often.

Tombola tickets were then sold... and went like wildfire!! Some people had to be content to be entertained by the quotes...while others were more fortunate and won prizes. We would like to thank all those who donated prizes, especially Campbell's World Travel and the Mountain House...Lou Butler had many offers to accompany him!! Once again, thanks to Sepp Kiser, who religiously provides the Club with Schnapps, which so many people appreciate. Great music was pro-

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vided, with many people dancing or just listening. Charlie even got Josie for a dance - something she hasn't done for ten years - and apparently she did not even stand on his toes!! Many stayed until the wee hours of the morning ... and all too soon, clean up time came along. Many hands made light work, and then everyone stayed on to savour the leftovers of supper for lunch and a relaxed chat. Many thanks go to all the helpers and also our loyal supporters, as without these people an evening like this wouldn't be any fun to organise!!

Marianne



Carl Louis Kuriger
1926 - 1998

Born in Opunake in 1926, Lou was the fifth of eight Children.

Lou and his brother Johny sharemilked in partnership and later went on to buy the family farm at Oanui.

- In 1970 Johny shifted to Manaia and Lou and his mother looked after the farm and each other until her death in 1987.

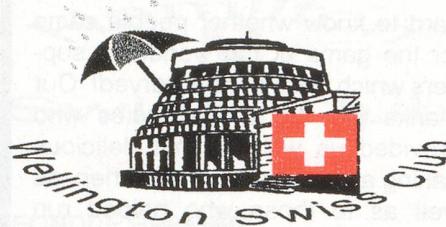
- Lou was a very active and loyal member of our Club. He served as a member of the executive for many years.

- For 25 years he has written all the Obituaries for our Club.

May He rest in peace!

- To all the Families we offer our deepest Sympathy.

R.D



Forthcoming Events

Don't forget the August walk, which will take place in typical Bernese fashion, on the first weekend in September. The visit to the Marine Laboratory will be most interesting too; meet seahorses, starfish, octopus and many more inhabitants of Wellington Harbour & Cook Strait! - For details, see the August issue of *Helvetia*.

Our **next events** are the Jass Competition on 17 October and a great Family Fun Day on Sunday, 8th November. You'll get your personal invitation closer to the dates.

Past Events...

1st August, Bonfire at Petone Beach

The weather forecast for the last few days in July had our undivided attention: Will it or won't it rain on 1st August?

Will we or won't we be able to have our traditional fire on Petone Beach? The tides were just right: low tide at

6 pm, which meant that, as we had to have our fire between the high tide and the low tide mark, the next tide would come in and wash all embers away shortly after eight. Well - it didn't rain - it only blew a gale, which meant our fire offered an additional impressive firework display as a bonus. The fire was about three metres high and twenty metres long - fortunately parallel to the shore line or slightly out towards the sea.

The firewood was a bit slow in arriving no doubt due to the rugby match in the afternoon, but it was a great opportunity for everybody to join in and participate in the stacking. Young and old enjoyed the warmth (you certainly knew which side not to stand on!). Some little feet got wet - all part of our Wellington 1st August. The seventy sausages were appreciated and sold quickly. The singing came from the heart, and if it wasn't very impressive, let's blame the wind.

All in all we enjoyed our adapted "Höhenfeuer" and we hope for many more in future years.



8th August - Bernese Evening...

The evening opened on a sad note: After the president's welcome Max Fuhrer spoke of the untimely death of Margrit Buess, one of our most faithful, longstanding club members, and we observed a minute's silence.

No, it wasn't spaghetti what we served, although we had considered it as a surprise option. Thanks to Roland Schütz's many late night shifts and Monika Sörensen's expertise we were able to serve a "Berner Platte" which found favour with Bernese, Swiss and New Zealand guests alike: The almost 70 guests only left a few potatoes over. And even a less traditional dessert than the classic meringue went down well - or at least we haven't heard of any complaints. Thank you, Trix, for your big boxes full of "Brezeli"; they were all in style again! And thank you, Henry Limmacher, for your bottle of Schnaps!!



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- Half way through the evening, Ruth Glauser drew the lucky winner of a beautiful table lamp, donated by Ruth and Hans Glauser - that's what the mysterious number in the calendar was all about!

- Hans Glauser, rifle master, distributed the medals of the Swiss competition and congratulated the winners.

- Heinz Jäggi entertained Bernese and Swiss alike with the "Totemügerli" - and the New Zealanders had fun watching the Swiss, no doubt.

- The evening went on till late (or till early, rather) - most enjoyable, it seems. Many thanks to all the helpers; guests and friends, club members and committee members contributed and made work light.

T.(G.B.)



Margrit Buess 1929 - 1998

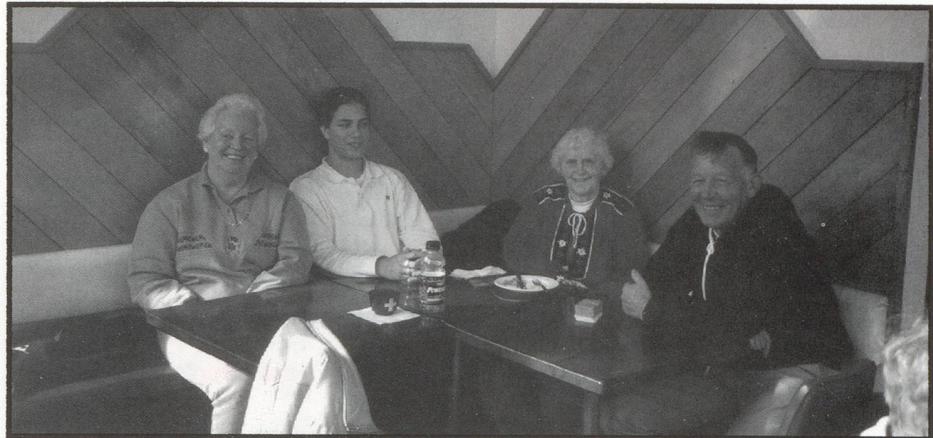
Margrit was born in Altstätten, SG, and grew up in a large family. Margrit came to New Zealand in the late fifties and worked for her brother Joe Hangartner in the candle factory. She met Hans Buess at the wedding of Lutz and Bruno Keller. Hans went to Ghana, West-africa, shortly afterwards, but they kept in contact. Towards the mid sixties they both went to Switzerland and got married there. After coming back to New Zealand they lived in Ngaio, in Khandallah and the last few years in Waikanae. They had three daughters; Margrit and Christine have been in Switzerland for many years, and the youngest, Kathrin, lives in Dunedin.

Margrit, with her husband Hans, were strong supporters of the Wellington Swiss Club, participating in most of the events over many, many years.

In June, Margrit and Hans went for a holiday to Switzerland, where Margrit passed away in her sleep on 30 July.

Margrit will be sorely missed by her family and by many Swiss Club members.

T.(G.B.)



Margrit Suter, her sister and family.

1st of August Celebration in Palmerston North

Contribution by Maya Beddie-Geiser, Wellington. From the Newspapers and the Radio we heard that the Aquarius Restaurant in Palmerston North was inviting the Swiss Community of the Manawatu to celebrate Switzerland's 707th birthday there. And as our children live in Palmy we decided to take part in the commemorations.

- We didn't have to look far, as flowers, flags and lampions guided us to the Aquarius where we were welcomed by Theres Halford and her team. We enjoyed the Rösti, the Bratwursts and the Wurstsalat! We even learnt the secret how to make the Rösti nice and fluffy. It was lovely to meet old and new friends, including some Exchange students who seemed happy to speak some "Schwyzerdütsch".

- The entertainment was extraordinary. Theres and a friend gave us some sensational yodels. Congratulations, Theres!

- Then we tasted the Lebkuchen, Bir-

rewege and Nussgipfel à la Grossmutti Margrit.

- A special 1st of August to remember! And should you ever be in Palmerston North, go and try the lovely cuisine and hospitality in the Aquarius Restaurant close to the Square.



Theres Halford and friend entertaining the guests.

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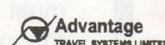
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Forthcoming Events

Playgroup Friday 4th Sept. 9.30 am

Contact: Nicki Demm
45 Ramahana Road, St. Martins
Ph. 03 332 8520

Stammtisch Every first Tuesday of the month, at Rene's in Cass Bay. A chance for everyone with any sort of Swiss connection to come and meet others.

Starts at 6.00 pm.

Carnival Party, Saturday

17th October from 8.00 pm. at the Huntsbury Community Centre. Tickets \$ 15.00. Complimentary champagne cocktails. Supper available. Prizes for "most daring" and "best" costumes. Tickets available for sale at HAMCO, Tuam Street, Chch. ph. 366 3667; and Rene's Restaurant, 15 Governors Bay Road, Lyttleton, ph. 328 9493.

Groynes John Road, Area A, Sunday, 8th November, from 10 am to 5 pm.

Walks, fishing etc, BBQ afterwards.

BYO food and drinks. Contact Gwyneth Schibli, ph. 332 5525.

Samichlaus Sunday, 6th December, at Ernst and Renate Frei's, Cashmere Road, Co-ordinators and contacts:

Lesley Browne, Secretary, ph. 328 9478, fax 328 9491; and Nicki Damm, ph. 332 8520.

Past Events

Fondue Evening - 4th July

The evening was a great success with fondue pots steaming, swiss background music, and the clinking of glasses. You would never have thought you were in New Zealand at all, as the Chalet-look of Rene's restaurant in Cass Bay was more like somewhere in the Berner Oberland!

A good night was enjoyed by all.

First August Celebration

Another enjoyable event which went very well and people seemed quite reluctant to go home. Herr Franz Schneider from the Wellington Embassy joined our celebrations, proving to the rest of New Zealand that we are part of the country. The traditional menu consisted of Basler Mehlsuppe, Raclette with potato and salads, followed by pavlova (very Swiss!) and fruit salad, finishing with tea, and coffee with home-made Schnapps. Thank you to all those who made the evening run smoothly.

resident outside of New Zealand, so it was a delight to read that the First of August was also being celebrated in Samoa, complete with the traditional bonfire!!

Marco also wrote in his letter that a visit or correspondence from any Society members would be most welcome. (Don't all go at once!!) For anyone who wishes to contact him, call me for further information.

Beatrice Leuenberger

If any of our Society-Only members would like to insert a short article or news of interest (non-"advertising"), please feel free to contact or write to myself or the Editor. We would really like to hear from you.

Second Attempt at UN Membership

Article provided by Heinz Leuenberger

Twelve years after Swiss voters overwhelmingly rejected joining the UN, the timing now seems to be on cue for trying again.

The Blockade between East and West, with its associated conflicts, is now over. Today, the Security Council is primarily involved in prevention; imposition of sanctions; and occasionally, limited military actions. And with the problems of globalisation in economic, political, environmental and social areas, it is felt that many matters can no longer be dealt with entirely at a national level.

According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Flavio Cotti, Switzerland's foreign policies of the 1990's are close to being identical with those of the UN. The goals in the peace, human rights, and environment policies, as well as in humanitarian aid, would be much better served by a world encompassing organisation, rather than by continuing alone.

The question of neutrality, the main barrier for the 76% NO vote in 1986, now seems to be "agreeable". And as a full member, apart from the compulsory dues, Switzerland would, under certain circumstances, have to provide its armed forces to re-establish democracy and to safeguard humanitarian help. It would also be required to uphold any economic sanctions imposed by the Security Council; and all these actions are already presently being fulfilled on a voluntary basis. The country



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