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## MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION OF THE SWISS ABROAD MEET FEDERAL COUNCILLOR WAHLEN

At the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in Solothurn in August 1965, the theme was "the Image of Switzerland in the World". Considerable criticism and concern was voiced by delegates from several countries. The six main speakers from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain (Mrs. Mariann Meier) and Sweden were invited to come to a special meeting in Berne in December. The President of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, Dr. G. Schuerch, the Director of the Secretariat in Berne, Dr. E. Mueller, and the six speakers met on 13th December to discuss ways and means of how the image of Switzerland in the world could be improved and of how better co-operation with the authorities and organisations in Switzerland could be achieved. The next day, the deputation was received by Federal Councillor Wahlen at the *Palais Fédéral*. The Secretary-General of the Federal Political Department, Ambassador Micheli, and Monsieur M. Jaccard who is in charge of questions affecting the Swiss abroad, were present. In a meeting lasting well over two hours, problems were discussed and wishes expressed, and the general feeling was that it had been a most fruitful discussion. The representatives from abroad were grateful to the Federal Councillor and his collaborators for putting time at their disposal.

After an interview on the Swiss radio, the visitors from abroad were invited to attend the annual dinner of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad with parliamentarians interested in "Auslandschweizer" problems. The main topic was the proposed Constitutional Article for the Swiss Abroad, but the meeting with about forty National Councillors and Councillors of States afforded an excellent opportunity to discuss various questions of concern to the Swiss abroad.

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### OUR NEXT ISSUE

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 28th January. We shall be glad to receive reports and articles not later than Wednesday, 19th January. Short news items only can be accepted later.

### A NEW SWISS TEACHING AID

A Lausanne schoolmistress has invented and perfected a new device for teaching languages, which will render invaluable service for classwork. It consists of a board on which an ingenious system enables the student very simply, by means of symbols in different colours and shapes, to render the syntax of sentences given to him by the teacher. When an exercise is finished, the master can see at a glance from the boards shown him by the students those who have understood and those who have not understood the construction of the sentence. While amusing and interesting for the students to manipulate, this board simplifies checking and makes it possible to detect a student's weak points right away. The simplicity of use of this new inexpensive equipment known as "Loup" (Regt. Trade Mark), which can be adapted to the teaching of French, German, Italian, Spanish and Latin, will undoubtedly contribute to the wide use of this new teaching aid.

(S.N.T.O.)

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