

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

**Band:** - (1970)

**Heft:** 1599

**Artikel:** The work of the Secretariat for the Swiss abroad

**Autor:** [s.n.]

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690537>

#### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

#### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

#### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 20.02.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

The financial position of the Solidarity Fund for the Swiss Abroad is satisfactory. Membership has increased and a favourable interest rate has pushed its assets to 6.1 million francs. There remains an important loan to be refunded to the Confederation and the fraternal insurance which the Solidarity Fund is cannot at present be ready to sustain heavy claims. The compensation fund presently stands at 450,000 francs, and 180,000 francs came in as welcome premiums to various Swiss living in Algeria, Kenya, Ghana and Morocco. The President of the Swiss Club of Lima had proposed in 1968 that each member should join the Solidarity Fund, which would receive payment for each member directly from the Club kitty. This was conceived as a gesture of support towards the fund and a protection of the members of the Club. The arrangement that finally prevailed consisted in the Fund's acceptance of yearly minimum and retrievable deposits of 25 francs and benefits to the Swiss Club of Lima for all newly enrolled Fund members giving more than the minimum contribution of 25 francs.

#### The care of the Swiss youth abroad

The Secretariat is intent on helping the younger Swiss across the world, relying in this on parentally co-operation as parents are the only way in which 15-year-olds can come to the attention of the Secretariat. It distributes the *Weltenschweizer*, a brochure on Swiss topics, to the young on its mailing list, five times a year. The Secretariat organised three well-attended ski holiday camps and a summer holiday camp during the year covered by the report. Efforts are made to keep in touch with Swiss youth organisations, of which examples can be found in Lyon, Strasbourg, Munich, Hanover and Braunschweig. A questionnaire seeking to establish guidelines for the Secretariat's youth policy revealed however that the need of a youth club was rarely felt as there were usually too few young Swiss to make it viable.

One of the 20 Swiss schools abroad, the Cairo Swiss School, had to close down. The Swiss School in Alexandria has been passing through difficulties and losing attendances. There are new projects on the way however, and work was begun on the new Swiss school in Sao Paulo last November. The Commission for the Swiss Abroad has approved expenditure of 280,840 francs in educational grants to some 186 young Swiss abroad wishing to get education in Switzerland.

#### Conclusion

These chapters have summed up the numerous activities of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad. We should have mentioned the Annual Assembly of the Swiss Abroad which took place in Montreux last year and was attended by a record 500. The theme of the conference was, as readers may re-

member, the contribution of the Swiss abroad to the national economy. National Councillor Hans Schaffner made the opening speech.

The life of the Swiss abroad is following the stormy evolution of the world today. It is getting harder in the Middle East and in Brazil, where a deteriorating political climate and a tendency to covet foreign capital have

made their livelihood increasingly precarious. They know however, that they can count on the unflinching support of an organisation whose very existence is the expression of the renewed concern of the nation for her children abroad.

(Adapted from the 1969 report of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad.)

## SURVEY OF THE EFFECTIVES OF THE SWISS COLONIES ACROSS THE WORLD

### EUROPE

1 Norway	628	30 Mali	25
2 Sweden	2,867	31 Upper Volta	58
3 Finland	496	32 Niger	37
4 Ireland	263	33 Chad	80
5 Great Britain	14,480	34 Sudan	37
6 Denmark	1,292	35 Liberia	227
7 Russia	90	36 Ivory Coast	333
8 Holland	3,099	37 Ghana	562
9 Belgium	5,587	38 Dahomey	68
10 West Germany	34,043	39 Nigeria	454
11 East Germany	3,236	40 Cameroons	473
12 Poland	238	41 Central African Rep.	62
13 Luxembourg	462	42 Ethiopia	125
14 Czechoslovakia	117	43 Gabon	67
15 France	92,882	44 Congo (Brazzaville)	74
16 Austria	5,804	45 Congo (Kinshasa)	563
17 Hungary	159	46 Ruanda	192
18 Rumania	118	47 Uganda	31
19 Italy	18,490	48 Kenya	280
20 Yugoslavia	125	49 Angola	76
21 Bulgaria	58	50 Rhodesia	492
22 Portugal	722	51 Mozambique	190
23 Spain	4,903	52 S.W. Africa	115
24 Greece	526	53 Botswana	1
		54 South Africa	5,601
		55 Madagascar	292
		56 Tanzania	572

### NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

1 Canada	18,432	ASIA	
2 USA	34,213	57 Turkey	486
3 Mexico	1,888	58 Syria	53
4 Guatemala	254	59 Lebanon	458
5 Salvador	188	60 Jordan	30
6 Honduras	105	61 Iraq	57
7 Nicaragua	73	62 Iran	302
8 Costa Rica	195	63 Afghanistan	63
9 Panama	195	64 Pakistan	304
10 Jamaica	118	65 Saudi Arabia	58
11 Cuba	80	66 Israel	1,068
12 Haiti	61	67 India	615
13 Dominican Rep.	33	68 Nepal	65
		69 Burma	6

### SOUTH AMERICA

14 Columbia	1,477	70 China	17
15 Venezuela	1,211	71 South Korea	35
16 Ecuador	406	72 Japan	726
17 Peru	1,948	73 Ceylon	58
18 Brazil	7,958	74 Thailand	326
19 Bolivia	252	75 Laos	33
20 Chile	1,703	76 South Vietnam	96
21 Paraguay	365	77 Cambodia	21
22 Argentina	10,156	78 Hong Kong	353
23 Uruguay	575	79 Formosa	96
		80 Philippines	311

### AFRICA

24 Morocco	1,153	82 Singapore	191
25 Algeria	555	83 Indonesia	143
26 Tunisia	302		
27 Libya	114		
28 Egypt	392	84 Australia	7,046
29 Senegal	188	85 New Zealand	1,291