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A QUESTION OF CONSCIENCE

of vital concern to all

Why should we make no provision now for uncertain times in the future; it may never happen. But are we sure? Are they pessimists, those who give more than a vague thought to what might happen in years to come? If we are honest, we must admit that they are really wise, for they won't run the risk of being taken unawares by misfortune.

Occasionally, one can see a poster in Switzerland, representing a globe hemmed in by two buffers. It is a warning issued by the federal delegate for economic wartime provisioning, which is to remind the public of the various tensions in the world and to encourage it to keep a well-stocked larder in preparation for an emergency.

To make provision is at all times long-term planning, and this is the reason why the *Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad* approaches in the first place all those whose livelihood seems in no way threatened at the moment. There is no question of doubting their security, but a sincere wish to strengthen it by helping them to carry risks.

We don't have to think of a world war as the only reason for losing one's livelihood. That would seem unrealistic and too extreme. But the administrators of the Fund can give innumerable examples of fellow countrymen and women who lost their means of earning a living through more or less concealed coercive political measures, rather than through any armed conflict. Let us think of protectionism in trade relationships, of the kind which is seriously being discussed in the USA at the moment. This, for example, could easily lead to loss of livelihood for an importer, if he is deprived of the import license in the wake of such restrictions. Let us also consider losses by mostly unconcerned and innocent people. Last, but not least, let us remember political kidnapping. All these are risks covered by the Solidarity Fund under the statutory provisions of war, internal upheaval and coercive political measures.

One's livelihood—and that goes for every single one of our compatriots

— is important enough, not to pursue a policy of wait and see, to hope for the best without preparing for the worst. Television, radio and newspapers tell us every day of events which make us sit up. States like, for instance, Canada, feel obliged to proclaim martial law. Who would have considered this even remotely possible a few years ago? The Solidarity Fund helps every Swiss living abroad to make provisions just in case . . . The saving deposits which one makes in good times may one day prove a godsend. They have thus a dual purpose and double value: On one hand, they entitle one to a one-time payment if one's livelihood is lost due to war, internal upheaval and coercive political measures. On the other hand, the deposits form a small nest-egg in the home country, which will always be available.

There is the additional aspect of solidarity, a moral obligation to give support to a scheme which was created by Swiss abroad for Swiss abroad, and to help in good times those who live already in uncertain or bad times. One for all, all for one.

Many are already members of the Solidarity Fund. They would do well to examine whether the category of compensation originally chosen is still adequate and in accordance with present economic circumstances. The compensatory sum should represent at least the annual income in order to be adequately insured. We are quoting the various categories once more as a reminder: 2,500, 5,000, 7,500, 10,000, 15,000, 20,000, 30,000, and 40,000 Swiss Francs.

This is also an invitation to members to try and encourage fellow countrymen to join. Personal efforts still bear fruit.

All of you who have not yet joined the Solidarity Fund are hereby invited to apply for information and application form by using the slip below. Please do not put off till tomorrow what is in your interest to do today.

(MM)

Please cut out and post to:

Mrs. Mariann Meier, (Member of the Council of the Solidarity Fund)
53 Priory Road, London NW6 3NE

Exact Address:

Surname and First Name (please use block letters)

.....

Registered at the Swiss Embassy or Consulate in

I am interested in the Solidarity Fund and shall be glad to receive all relevant information and application form.

I shall be obliged if you will kindly elucidate the following points:

.....

Date Signature

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following readers have just had or will be celebrating their birthdays shortly: Captain T. D. Richardson, O.B.E., 84 on 16th January, Mrs. Helene Tschuy, 70 on the same day. Mrs. Alice Chappuis and Mrs. Kathleen Grob will celebrate their birthdays on 24th January, and Mr. H. Reymond will be 85 on 25th. Mr. E. Luterbacher will be 84 on 26th January, and on 1st February Mr. A. Schmid (Norfolk Court Hotel) will be 85. Mr. A. Bleiker, who spends the winter in Spain, will be 74 on 11th February, and Mr. E. Weber, at the moment in California as far as we know, will be 79 on 12th February, Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Eusebio will celebrate their 31st wedding anniversary on 27th January.

Best wishes to all!

OBITUARY

We are very sorry to announce the passing away of no less than six readers and friends.

Miss Clara Streit, of 5 Holland Park, W.11, died suddenly at St. Mary Abbots Hospital on December 30th. Readers may remember that I wrote of her unfortunate adventure in the hands of a confidence trickster last October. Another member of the London Colony to disappear was Miss Josephine Keller of Danvers Road, Chelsea. She was, like Miss Streit, well known among the older parishioners of the Swiss Church.

We also have to mourn the death of Mr. Leon Joseph Faivre, who died in Porrentruy on December 13th. He was one time Vice-Consul in Liverpool and Manchester. He was born in Porrentruy in 1893 and first came to England to work in the Volksbank in 1916. He returned to Switzerland a few years later and joined the Foreign Service. He was first sent to the Legation in London and then to Glasgow and finally, in 1925, to Liverpool, where he eventually became Vice-Consul. He was at one time President of the Swiss Club in Liverpool. He left that city in 1954. After the death of his wife in 1956 and the death of his crippled daughter in 1965, he came to live in Malvern and then in Brighton. He kept a home in Porrentruy.

Also in the South of England, we deplore the death of Mr. J. A. Reiber, who died at his home at 1 Exeter Close, Westmeads, Bognor Regis, on 28th December.

He was born in 1888 and served an apprenticeship as a pastry cook. At the age of 20, the spirit of adventure drove him to Manchester and England, where he worked in the Swiss firm of confectioners Meng and Ecker. He lived in the towns of Leeds, Southport, Brighton and Margate until he left for Buenos Aires in 1912. He returned after a year to work in Edinburgh and Otan. He was called back to Switzerland at the outbreak of the war and

served as an Infantry Corporal until November 1914, following which he entered the Argyll and Southern Highlanders with the special permission of Lord Kitchener. He ended the war as a sergeant and was awarded the Military Medal. His son attained a similar rank and achieved identical distinction in the following war. On his release from the forces, Mr. Reiber came to Jarrow in County Durham and met a lady of Swiss descent whom he married in 1919. Mr. Reiber had been a member of the Union Helvetia Club from the age of twenty.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Mrs. Helene Burkhalter, late of 104 Allison Road, N.8. After a long illness Mrs. Burkhalter passed away in the Hostel of

God Nursing Home, Clapham Common, on 9th January, 1971. She was 73. She leaves one son. Her husband who died 12 years ago will be well remembered for his work with the Schweizerbund.

Finally, it is our sad duty to announce the death in Leysin at the age of 93 of Mr. Maurice Roethlisberger's mother, Mrs. Emma Roethlisberger. Our most sincere sympathy goes to Mr. and Mrs. Roethlisberger. We also wish to express our sorrow to all the families bereaved by these sad losses.

DR. ALBERT WEITNAUER OUR NEW AMBASSADOR

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Albert Weitnauer as the new Swiss Ambassador to the United Kingdom. He will replace, as readers know, Monsieur René Keller, who will take up his new function as Head of the Division for International Organisations at the Political Department on February 1st. Dr. Weitnauer must be well remembered by the Swiss of London. He was Counsellor of Legation for economic and commercial affairs in 1953-54, in the days of Monsieur de Torrenté. We shall have the opportunity of welcoming Dr. Weitnauer in our next issue.

PROMOTIONS IN THE BANKING WORLD

Among the various promotions within the Swiss Bank Corporation which became effective on 1st January, we are happy to mention those of Mr. L. F. Ackerman and Mr. H. Grüninger. Both have been promoted to the rank of Sub Manager. Mr. Ackerman will remain as Manager at the West End Branch. One of his outside interests is, of course, the City Swiss Club, of which he has for some years acted as Secretary. Mr. Grüninger remains the Swiss Bank's principal dealer in sterling and Euro-dollar fixed deposits and certificates of deposit.

We are also happy to inform those of our London readers who may not have heard it already that Mr. E. Tanguemann has been appointed General Manager of the Union Bank of Switzerland's London branch in succession to Mr. Riess.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 30th January. Annual Dinner and Dance of the S.M.S. Dorchester Hotel, 6.30 for 7 p.m.

Monday, 8th February, Dorchester Hotel, 6.30 for 7 p.m. The Institute for Swiss Promotion. Dinner followed by an address given by Prof. Charles Iffland on the "Infrastructure of the developing countries".

Wednesday, 17th February. Annual General Meeting of the S.M.S.

Tuesday, 23rd February. Soirée Familiale of the City Swiss Club.

Tuesday, 23rd February. Skittle Evening of the Swiss Club Edinburgh.

Friday, 26th February. Annual Dinner of the Swiss Philatelic Society, Dorchester Hotel.

The Institute for Swiss Trade Promotion

Swiss Centre
10 Wardour Street
London, W1V 3HG
Tel: 01-734 5889

Dinner, Monday, 8th February, Dorchester Hotel, Orchid Room, 6.30 for 7 p.m.
Followed by a talk in English by Prof Charles Iffland of Lausanne University on "The developing nations—Switzerland and Europe".
Tickets at £3.5.0. available from the Institute

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENT

Australian Gent would like female Swiss pen-friend. Must be able to speak English. Age group 35 to 50. Please reply to: Mr. A. Cox, 19 Glen Ave., Ashford, Middx.

Antiques

FINE PERIOD FURNITURE
PORCELAIN — RUGS
OBJETS D'ART
ANTIQUE — MODERNE

Le Centre

(L. JACOMELLI)

20 KING STREET
THE GREEN
RICHMOND, SURREY
01-948 1505

SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches a 11h15 et 19h00.

SAINTE-CENE: le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER: huit veillées en automne et au printemps: voir "Le Messager".

CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNION DE COUTURE: le 2e mardi du mois.

LUNCH: tous les dimanches a 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

* * *

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, at 10 a.m. At St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. at 7.30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUPS (W.4 and S.E.21) and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Gemeindebote".

SERVICES IN ENGLISH: every fourth Sunday at 7.30 p.m.

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 6.30 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

SWISS Y.M.C.A.: see Forthcoming Events.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the Month.

MOTHERS' REUNION: 1st Wednesday in the Month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTER: Pfr. M. Dietler, 1. Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 01-340 6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off No. 25 Victoria Street), S.W.1.

SATURDAYS: Ecumenical Service at 6.30 p.m.

SUNDAYS: Holy Mass at 9 and 11 a.m. (in English). At 6.30 p.m. (mostly in German).

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: preferably on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in the afternoon or by appointment.

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2. on Suns. at 9, 10, 11 a.m. 12.15, 6, 7 p.m.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB — Meeting every Sunday after Evening Mass (8-11 p.m.) at Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

CHAPLAIN: Paul Bossard, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel.: 01-222 2895.