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COMMENT

This third Special Issue has been sent like the earlier ones to all the Swiss in this country to keep them informed of political and official developments concerning them. We are also publishing features of general interest in accordance with the Confederation's new policy of maintaining and strengthening its ties with the Swiss community abroad. The most simple way to do this is through Information and Communication. The Special Reviews sent to Swiss Nationals across the world represent perhaps the most concrete step that has been taken since Switzerland's new concern for its expatriates was embodied in the Constitution in 1966.

We are a little behind schedule with this Special Issue. Our old and new subscribers are used to these delays because our production and mailing problems have not improved in the past months. We wish to apologize to those readers who have written to us on this matter. The situation is partly due to the present high work-load on the printing trade, on the necessity to keep costs down, coupled to the fact that Editorial work is carried out by a single part-timer. We are considering possible new methods of production as we are aware that readers and advertisers have a right to get our publication on time. We shall also endeavour to publish Forthcoming Events sufficiently long in advance so that they are not over by the time of publication.

We hope nevertheless that those old

and new subscribers whose subscriptions have expired will continue to support us. Our renewal slips are enclosed inside the issues corresponding to the date of expiry. We would be grateful for speedy remittance or a note notifying us of eventual cancellations. Our experience is that renewing one's subscription to the Swiss Observer is about the easiest thing to forget in the world. That is why we prefer to wait some time before altering our mailing list. A confirmation of cancellation will however help to save postage. Our normal rates of £2.40 per

annum are reduced to £1.10 for Old Age Pensioners or people living in material difficulties. The Swiss Observer is an independent publication. It is happy to accept new advertisements and is grateful for donations. We always welcome new subscribers and have printed a subscription form in this issue. This replaces the detached slips which should have been inserted in our last Special Issue but were not, owing to last-minute technical problems.

P.M.B.

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