

**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:** - (1974)

**Heft:** 1696

**Rubrik:** Welfare Office for Swiss girls

### **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:** 03.02.2026

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

overvalued for quite some time, which can help to limit the effects of imported inflation.

Experts say that lately inflation has again become rather more home-grown, reflecting among other things the continuing boom in the export industry and increased budgetary deficits at all levels of government. But, whatever the source, we are still — just — in the two-figure league and our highly cartelised home market will not react quickly to a weakening in demand.

### Foreign labour, a political problem

The problem of *foreign workers* remains one of Switzerland's main worries. It is primarily a political problem, since there are still three initiatives on the table which, if they were successful, would lead to a drastic reduction in foreign labour. But it is also an economic headache, since the stabilisation measures which the government had to take to strike a balance between the militant anti-foreigners and a manpower-hungry economy are putting a very strong brake on further expansion.

So far the government has succeeded fairly well in sticking to the "magic figure" of 603,000 foreign workers with either a yearly or a permanent permit. However, the very strict limitation of yearly permits has led to a sharp increase over the last few years in seasonal workers and also in frontier workers.

This has caused the Federal Council

to introduce a quota system even for these two categories. Furthermore, categories of workers which have hitherto been exempt, like hospital or farm workers, are now subject to restrictions too. The system should, therefore, now be almost totally watertight and it seems quite certain that we shall have to live with this policy — which is in many ways unpleasant — for quite a number of years, even if on the 20th October the Swiss voters reject, as I am confident they will, the utterly irresponsible initiative of the National Action movement.

### What is the outlook for our economy?

We most certainly have to learn to live with very little real growth, with continuing inflation, dear food, high interest rates, chilly houses, a continuing shortage of manual labour. On the other hand, we may have a better chance to find a flat in Switzerland, to find a hotel room or a qualified white-collar employee. We are on the way to higher taxes, more government involvement in the economy but also better social security and fewer road accidents etc. I could go on, but I don't know whether these educated guesses about tendencies can really answer the question of how our country will fare in the future.

In spite of the many unpleasant things that have to be said when analysing our present and future problems, I believe we can remain basically confident that we shall not only cope with them but also get on somewhat better than a number of other countries. In declaring this strong

faith in our capacity to manage the difficulties, I am deliberately taking the risk of being accused of chauvinism. Yet when we see how many European governments have got into trouble these last few months as a consequence of the worsening of the economic situation, I feel that the Swiss people have so far kept a cool head, they have not blamed their government for the unpleasant statistics but have tried to find out what they personally could do to adapt. To me, this seems to be the key to an answer: being prepared to change old habits in investment, production, marketing, labour relations and so on, cutting down on waste of all kinds, trying to find new ways of staying competitive, accepting structural changes and, as always, working a little harder still. I sincerely hope this attitude will prevail, even if things get worse, because I am convinced that this is the right answer.

### WELFARE OFFICE for SWISS GIRLS IN GREAT BRITAIN

(For Information, Advice or Help)

31 Conway Street, London, W.1

(Nearest Underground Station:  
Warren Street)

Telephone: 01-387 3608

#### RECEPTION HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
2 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment

# When you lunch out, lunch inn



Our beautiful Four Seasons Restaurant offers a superb à la carte Menu, impeccable service and a wonderful view over the Park; which, like our food, reflects the changing attractions of each season.

On the other hand, you may prefer an all-inclusive luncheon, with as much wine as you wish to drink, in the relaxed and informal surroundings of our Vintage Room.

(After dark, you dine and dance in our Vintage Room from 8.30 p.m. until 2 a.m. — except Sundays.)

## *Inn on the Park*

Hamilton Place, Park Lane, London, W.1. Tel: 01-499 0888