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Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad

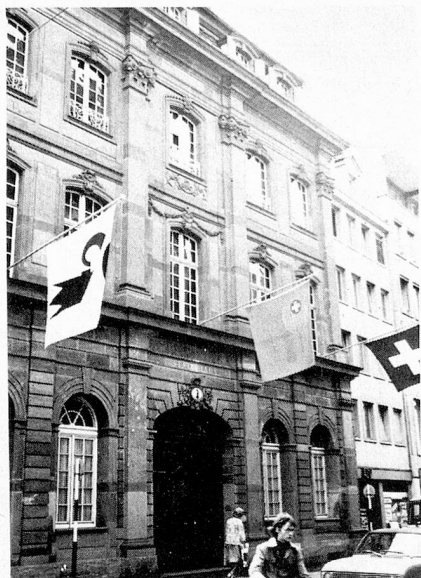


53rd Assembly of the Swiss Abroad

in Basle – 28th to 31st August 1975 – President, Dr. Louis Guisan, Councillor of States – a large number of guests and participants – many meetings – main theme: «The Swiss abroad as Ambassadors of Culture».

The four days of deliberations began with

- meeting of the Commission on Information for Swiss Abroad
- meeting to co-ordinate information (over 20 countries present)
- meeting of the executive board of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad
- at the beautiful «Hofgut Castle» at Augst
- meeting of the executive board of the Council of the Solidarity Fund.



Townhall Basle.

The next day, members of the various working groups, especially the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, well at work again and talked of political rights, sickness insurance, information, Swiss schools abroad, citizenship rights, of administrative problems and solidarity, whilst happy Swiss from abroad discovered wonderful works in Basle or visited the Zoo.

Official opening of the Assembly – Wildt'sches Haus – lovely surroundings – very pleasant atmo-



During the session of the Commission of the Swiss abroad.

sphere – a chance to expand – Dr. Edmund Wyss, member of the Cantonal Government of Basle, introduced his town and offered a «drink of honour». – Solidarity Fund, Annual General Meeting. – Participants taking part for the first time at an assembly, were lucky enough to be received by the Basle Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique at the aristocratic mansion «Seidenhof» – a pleasant evening.

Plenary Session

Place: Sandoz AG

Participants: over 400

Decoration: outstanding

Speakers:

- Dr. L. Guisan, President of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad
- Mr E. Basler, Central President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique

– Mr M. Ney, Director of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad on the theme of «Is there a Swiss Culture?» The answer is yes, once one has tasted the «gâteau au vin» of the French-speaking part and the «Schnetz» of the German-speaking part of Switzerland. His final sentence: «Switzerland is a

country of contrasts, but also a land of wonderful unison between the individual parts, ties which,

Mr Georges-André Chevallaz, Federal Councillor.



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without common culture, would never have become reality.»

– Dr. Spuehler, former Federal Councillor, President of «Pro Helvetia», introduces the activities of that organisation

– Mr E. Leuba, President of the Swiss Association of Painters, Sculptors and Architects in Paris, talked about the work of his colleagues, illustrated by slides

– next a discussion, led by Mr L. Paillard, Deputy Director of the Secretariat, which enabled one to learn something about Swiss culture in various parts of the world

– Mr P. Stauffer, Berne, introduced the activities of Swiss cultural attachés abroad

– Mrs I. Frei, Antwerp, gave a moving survey of Swiss culture in general and methods of displaying it

– Mr Ch. Adams, La Châtre, opened his heart and told of his helvetic activities in France

– Dr. M. Braendle, Brisbane, enlightened the audience on Swiss culture in Australia and

– Mr. M. Giss, Tampere, Finland, on his experiences

– Prof. A. Binder, Osaka, Japan,



Fernando Corena. (Photos Schnetz)

informed the listeners on Swiss culture and the Far East.

The surprise of the day was the sensational performance of the world-renowned singer from the Ticino, Fernando Corena (naturally not known in Switzerland, for the prophet has no honour in his own country). He was followed by

– Mr. J. Landolt, Paris, who sketched the lives of some of the famous Swiss abroad in the past

– Minister M. Jaccard, Berne, well-known to Swiss abroad, made a cross-cut through their problems before the speech of

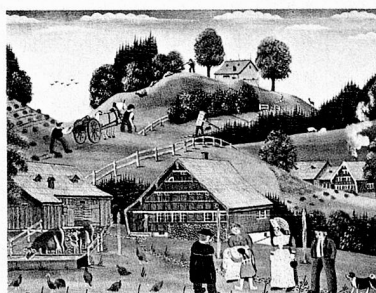
– Federal Councillor Georges-André Chevallaz, Head of the Federal Department of Customs and Finance, who declared that the economic position of Switzerland would become normal again through the efforts of the Swiss people themselves.

Evening in Riehen: One really had to be there in order to imagine that the bonds which unite the Swiss abroad, are more than an empty expression. The performance of the costumed group «Schnooggerzli» with their fifes and drums was much appreciated by the Swiss coming from abroad.

The next day, after the ecumenical service at St. Leonard's, coaches took the participants through the outskirts of Basle and to the castle ruin of Dorneck, where an excellent lunch preceded an pleasant afternoon's companionship.

The 53rd Assembly belongs to the past. We look forward already now to the 54th which will take place at Morat at the end of August 1976.

Lucien Paillard



If you send in the slip, you will receive **FREE OF CHARGE** a series of eight art postcards by the famous rustic painter from the Appenzell Albert Manser. Latest application: 28th November, 1975.

Compulsory for Swiss abroad

... it should be to subscribe to the periodical «ECHO» which is produced especially for you by the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad in Berne eleven times a year. Today, the «ECHO» appears in a new and more modern garb. It is even more topical and brings you even more comprehensive information on all matters of importance to the Swiss abroad, and that in the three official languages of Switzerland. And the price of the «ECHO» is only 23 francs a year, including postage. Why don't you give it a trial – it costs you nothing!

Please send the attached slip to the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Administration «ECHO», P.O. Box, CH-3000 Berne 16.

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1975: Holidays in Switzerland for 450 Swiss children from abroad



(Photo Urs Ochsenbein)

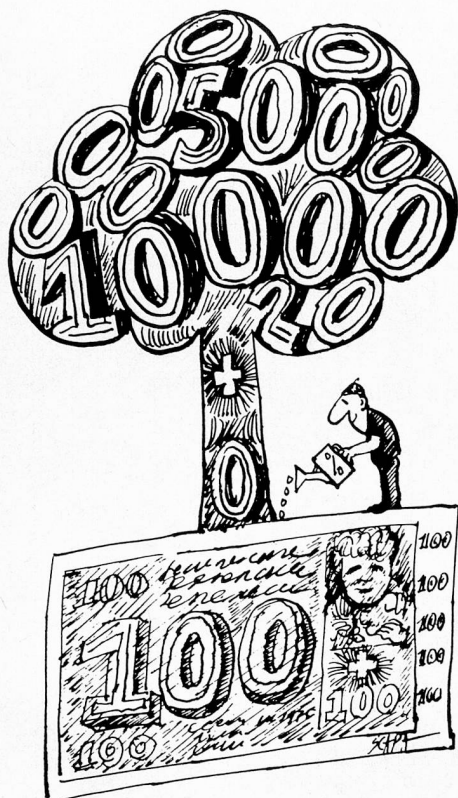
They began with a warm welcome at the station by the Swiss holiday family. Then followed five weeks of a getting-to-know-you period

in Switzerland, the country of which one talks at home ever and again.

«Schweizerhilfe», Foundation for

Young Swiss Abroad, use their annual holiday scheme in order to promote patriotic and civic knowledge. Their appeal for holiday places always finds a gratifying echo. Good bonds become established between Swiss at home and Swiss abroad. Such holiday experiences ensure that the young generation will one day be Swiss not only «according to passport». As from 1st January, 1976, application forms and detailed information will be available from Swiss Consulates. Eligible are all Swiss children abroad from 7 to 14 years, who would like to spend a holiday in Switzerland. Places will be allocated according to income in holiday families, children's homes or holiday camps.

Solidarity Fund of the Swiss abroad



Are you aware of the facts?

Do you really know what may become of 100 francs a year?

- Lumpsum compensation** on loss of livelihood abroad due to war, interior upheavals or general political coercive measures

in risk category I	SFr. 10,000.—
II	5,000.—
III	2,500.—
- Repayment of savings deposits** in Switzerland for instance on withdrawal after 30 years

in risk category I	116%
II	155%
III	175%

Do you prefer another solution?

- Annual savings deposits from SFr. 25.— to 2,000.—
- Single deposits from SFr. 450.— to 36,000.— at 2-3½% compound interest (no withholding tax).

Brochures and application forms from all Embassies and Consulates or direct from Solidarity Fund of the Swiss abroad, Gutenbergstrasse 6, CH-3011 Berne.

Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



AHV/IV and sickness insurance

Your questions – our answers

An employee who has become self-employed, asks if he has to declare all his income to the AHV, even though this insurance is voluntary?

This question has to be answered in the affirmative. From the moment of the adhering the voluntari-

ly insured person is submitted to the same regulations as those who are insured compulsorily. After deduction of expenses, contributions are levied on the *whole of the earned income*. This rule applies to the employee as well as to the self-employed. All persons insured

voluntarily pay contributions based on their whole earned income at the rate fixed for the self-employed in the regulations governing the compulsory insurance (with an annual income of 20,000 francs and over, the rate for the AHV is since 1st July, 1975, 7,3% and 1,0% for the invalidity insurance (IV). With an income below 20,000 francs, the rate is on a gliding lower scale).

Swiss events in retrospect

12th April

Barbara, Karin, Daniela, Adrian and Beat are the Christian names of the quintuplets born in Berne to a woman from Brienz. It was the second similar event in Switzerland.

16th April

Two soldiers from Neuchâtel were pulled away by an avalanche in the Gruyère. They lost their lives.

On the olympic bicycle racing track in Mexico, a 24 year-old Swiss weighing more than 170 kg beat the world record in losing weight on a bicycle. He lost 6.260 kg in one hour.

19th April

In connection with the 59th Swiss

Industries Fair, the 5th International Inventors' Exhibition took place. The first prize was awarded to two Swiss for a system allowing deaf and blind people to use the telephone.

24th April

The French Ministry of Health in Paris awarded the Galien Prize to two drugs to be used against Parkinson's disease, produced by the Roche company in Basle. Since 1970, this distinction has been awarded annually in France to a medicament showing important medical progress, and which is marked by particular therapeutic qualities.

During a six-hour conflict between security forces and auto-

nomists, at Mautier (Jura), 60 people were injured, and damage amounted to several hundred thousand francs.

1st May

305 members of the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) sent a letter to the Chief of the Federal Department of Communications and Energy, demanding an immediate stop to the construction of atomic power works in Switzerland and a reappraisal of Swiss energy policy.

6th May

Owing to the economic position in Switzerland, the Federal Council proposed to the Federal Assembly acceptance of three resolutions. The end of these measures was the

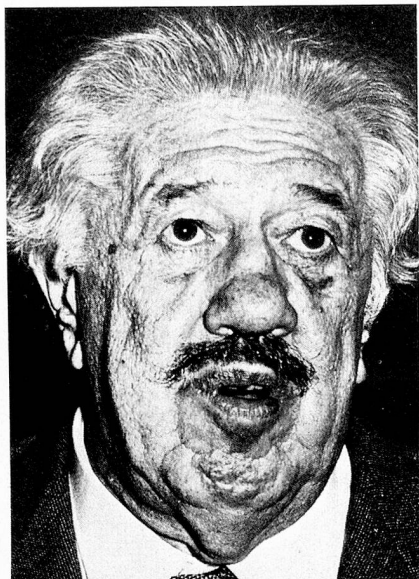
Michel Moos, the new champion, with Roland Collombin (Photo Pascal Thurre).



The tradition of the «Landsgemeinde» of Obwalden has been respected (Keystone).



Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



† Michel Simon (Keystone).



Railway accident near Davos (Keystone).

fight against the decrease in personal income and the number of jobs. They aimed at preventing the production capacity of the building industry from falling to a lower level, and, in the long run, at regulating unemployment insurance and at adjusting the guarantee against export risks.

11th May

The electorate of the Canton of Obwalden decisively voted for keeping the *Landsgemeinde* (open air parliament) by 5351 to 4094 votes, thus showing confidence in this old tradition.

21st May

The Swiss football team scored its first victory in the European championship by beating Ireland 1:0.

30th May

The Federal Tribunal in Lausanne celebrated its centenary. Representatives of all existing federal authorities met at the Mon Repos Palace for the official celebration.

The committee of the «Burgdorfer Initiative» handed in its Initiative in Berne. It had collected 117 119 signatures and proposes to have

12 Sundays a year in Switzerland without any motor vehicles and aircraft.

1st June

The Italian boxer Franco Udella and the Swiss Fritz Chervet were disqualified before the end of the second round for repeatedly violating the rules. The contest took place at the *Hallenstadion* in Zurich with 4000 spectators present.

5th June

A huge crowd attended the funeral of the famous actor Michel Simon at the Geneva suburb of Grand-Lancy. He had died in Paris on 30th May.

8th June

A day of federal plebiscites. Nearly all proposals were accepted by people and Cantons, which allows the Confederation to carry out its tasks with the financial means available.

15th June

6000 experts at yodelling, tossing the flag and blowing the Alphorn met in Aarau for the 16th Federal Yodelling Festival.

18th June

The Swiss Office for the Prevention of Accidents proposed a reduction of the guiding speed limit from 60 to 50 km in built-up areas. According to tests made, the number of accidents should then fall by about 5%, and that of injured and killed people by between 5 and 10%.

20th June

Roger de Vlaeminck won the Tour de Suisse cycling race ahead of Eddy Merckx and Pfenninger (Switzerland).

23rd June

Violent downpours in North-Western Switzerland caused damage to the value of several million francs.

3rd July

The 9th International Jazz Festival was opened at Montreux.

400 Swiss children from abroad arrived in Geneva, Basle, Schaffhausen and Chiasso. They were to spend some time with Swiss families in order to get to know their homeland.

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20th July

There was a serious railway accident between Landquart and Davos. A train of the Rhaetian Railways plunged into the river Landquart swollen heavily by the unusually dense rainfalls. One man was killed.

Sport

Finals in the junior world bicycle racing championships The Swiss Dill-Bundi's victory

Successor to Kurmann?

At 17 years of age, Robert Dill-Bundi has once again won a world championship title for Switzerland. It is the one which caused pride amongst the amateurs already at the time of Xaver Kurmann from Lucerne. The latter has retired from championship competition, but it seems as if his successor were chosen on the cycling track of Pontaise where the young Valaisan could count on the spectators' sympathy.

Without tension

The contest between Dill-Bundi and José Palma took place without any tension, as the Swiss showed undoubted superiority over his unfortunate opponent. In the final combat he remained true to himself, and his racing was marked by regularity. As soon as he felt Palma was near him, he accelerated and pushed forward without restraint as the final pistol shot sounded.

Without any doubt, Robert Dill-Bundi's achievement marked that contest. He was the only one able to catch up with three of his opponents after the quarter, the semi-final and the final round. His performance showed just how much physical ability our rising generation has at its disposal.

1st August

For the first time in the history of the Swiss army, a woman, Mrs. Elisabeth Jutzler, began her duties as military *Sektionschefin* at Erlenbach in the Simmental.

After the Valaisan's triumph

At a time when one talked about discontinuing the Swiss cycling championships for lack of competitors, the discovery of Robert Dill-Bundi means a sure guarantee for the future. The 17 year-old youngster from Sierre, originating from the Grisons, has greatly impressed all specialists. His fair tuft of hair and youthful face represent a strange contrast to his powerful physique.

«It is like a dream», exclaimed Robert Ochsner in surprise. He had forced his «protégé» to renounce the road championship. At first this order had been very hard for the young Valaisan. Obviously, Robert Ochsner wanted to save

this new prodigy for the racing track. That decision had meant a risk, but today nobody regrets it, for he has left an incredible impression of capacity.

With true natural talent (1.83 m, 78 kg), Robert Dill-Bundi, who is doing a mechanic's apprenticeship in a large company at Riddes, follows in the footsteps of Xaver Kurmann. «One must avoid jumping grades», announced Oscar Plattner. The former world speed champion who makes use of his tutoring abilities in the Lausanne Region, knows what he is talking about when he advises moderation to all those who are apt to exaggerate their performances.

At his age, Robert Dill-Bundi has yet to develop a real personality. Yet, yesterday evening, in the glare of the floodlights, this promising sportsman of the younger generation knew how to animate a meeting which was dragging. The mechanic Fritz Bruhlmann had prepared for him a bicycle with wheels of 24 spokes and tyres at 110 gr. Extremely well-trained and coached like no other competitor, Robert Dill-Bundi showed himself worthy of the great hopes put in him.

From «L'Impartial»

From left to right: the Argentinian José Palma, the Swiss Robert Dill-Bundi and the Russian Igor Pelitenko (Keystone).



Wie geht es eigentlich der Schweiz? Und wie geht es Zürich?

Die Tages-Anzeiger-Fernaussgabe schreibt es Ihnen jede Woche.

Wenn es Sie wundert, was die Schweizer und besonders die Zürcher so Tag für Tag machen, ob es an einem Stimmtag mehr Ja oder mehr Nein gegeben hat und wofür, ob es mit der Wirtschaft eher aufwärts oder abwärts geht, ob die Fussballresultate mit Ihren Prognosen übereinstimmen, ob durch den Benzinaufschlag die Stadtluft besser geworden ist, ob die Theateraufführungen ausser dem Publikum nun auch den Kritikern gefallen, aber auch wie man hierzulande über andere Länder denkt – wenn Sie das und verschiedenes andere wundert, sollten Sie die Fernaussgabe des Tages-Anzeigers abonnieren.

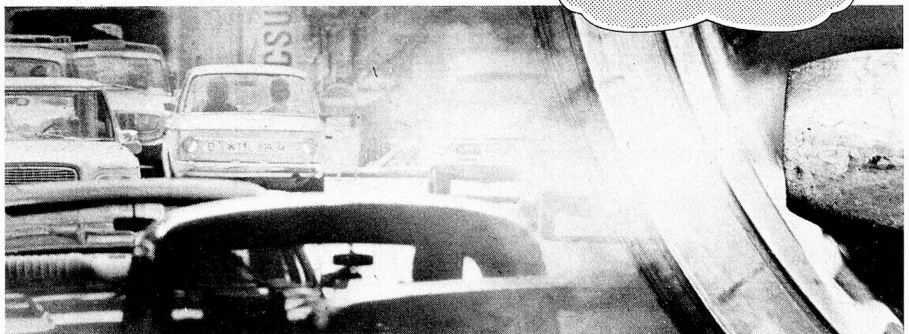
Sie bekommen dann 52mal im Jahr das Beste aus einer guten Zeitung. Auf 16 Dünndruckseiten konzentriert. Und damit ein unverfälschtes Bild der Schweiz. Ohne friedlich grasende Kühe und ohne schneeglitzerndes Matterhorn.

Die Tages-Anzeiger Fernaussgabe könnte höchstens einen Nachteil mit sich bringen: Ihre Verwandten aus der Schweiz haben Ihnen beim nächsten Besuch nicht mehr so viel Neues zu erzählen.

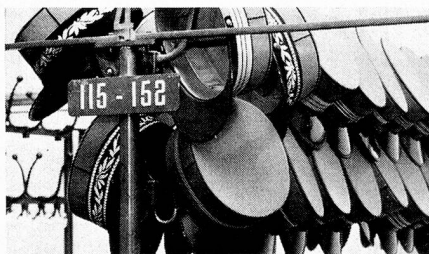
Tages-Anzeiger

Wir wollen niemanden vergessen.

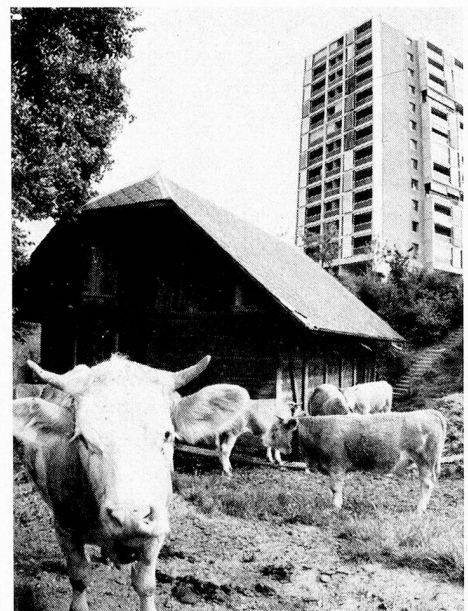
FERNAUSGABE



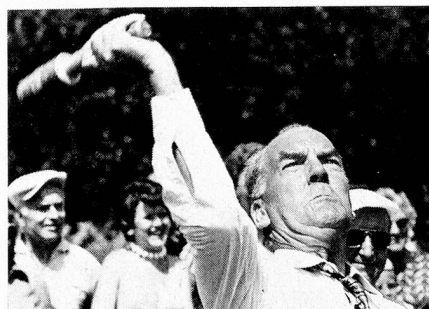
Der Zürcher Stadtluft geht es ziemlich schlecht.



In der Armee ist immer noch manche Frage hängig.



Immer mehr Landwirte in Stadtnähe haben ausgesorgt.



Der EMD-Chef verteidigt sich erfolgreich.



Der Schweizer Fussball wird bald wieder auf die Beine kommen.

Coupon

9004

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Ich kenne jemanden, der sich viel-
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Europa			
Bundesrepublik, Italien, Österreich	13.60	26.50	51.60
Belgien, Frankreich, Luxemburg, Niederlande	14.60	28.50	55.80

	Luftpost-Zustellung		
	3Mt.	6 Mt.	12 Mt.
Europa			
Übrige europäische Länder sowie ganze UdSSR, Island, Grönland und Türkei	15.30	29.80	58.40
Afrika			
Nordafrika: Algerien, Libyen, Marokko, Spanisch-Westafrika, Tunesien, VAR	16.60	32.40	63.60
Übrige Länder in Afrika	19.20	37.60	74.—

Amerika			
USA, Kanada und Zentralamerika, Antillen, Costa Rica, Dominikanische Republik, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaika, Kuba, Mexiko, Nicaragua, Panama	19.20	37.60	74.—
Südamerika	21.80	42.80	84.40

Asien			
Naher Osten: Libanon, Jordanien, Israel, Syrien	16.60	32.40	63.60
Aden, Jemen, Irak, Iran, Kuwait, Saudiarabien, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Indien, Nepal, Pakistan, Ceylon	19.20	37.60	74.—
Farner Osten	21.80	42.80	84.40
Übersee-Asiatische Länder	21.80	42.80	84.40
Australien	29.60	58.40	115.50
Neuseeland, Ozeanien			