

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: - (1978)

Heft: 1743

Rubrik: Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss abroad

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: 22.02.2026

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

Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



To say Good-bye



To preside over the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique is not a simple exercise in enjoyment. It means translating indeed and spirit the programme which people and Cantons indicated on 16th October 1966 when they adopted the new Article 45bis of the Federal Constitution: the strengthening of the bonds which unite the Swiss abroad with their homeland.

In the spring of 1967, at the beginning of a presidency of eleven years, it was necessary to strengthen the machinery in order to accomplish the mission. The efforts made in this direction at the time allow one the statement today that the Secretariat under the leadership of Mr Marcel Ney, the Executive Committee and the Commission of the Swiss Abroad constitute an effective instrument in the service of our compatriots resident outside our national frontiers.

In this lies the reason why the hearing the Swiss abroad have found inside Switzerland has gone on increasing. Thus the conditions for joining the AHV/AVS have been improved, social welfare to Swiss abroad has been introduced on a federal basis, the carrying out of military duties has been facilitated, exercising political rights has become possible. Certainly, much remains to be realized, but the Swiss abroad may face the future with confidence, for their Organisation is now being consulted by the federal authorities in any decisions which concern them.

But what would such results mean if they were not animated by people! During the eleven years, my wife and I had the privilege of meeting Swiss men and women who, everywhere in five continents, are a credit to their homeland. We returned from every

journey full of pride of our compatriots and full of confidence in our small country whose virtues are even more marked when shown outside our frontiers. At the end of my term of office, these memories have become a treasure. The succession is taking place in the best federal tradition. After a *Romand* and a Protestant representing a large Canton, comes a German-speaking Swiss, a Catholic and public figure of a small Canton in Central Switzerland. The friendship which has tied me to my successor for a long time, allows me to express the assurance that, in the person of Mr Alfred Weber, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad will have the President it deserves.

*Louis Guisan
President 1967-1978*

Our new President

Dr iur Alfred Weber, Altdorf



He was born on 19th November 1923, a citizen of Rothrist AG and Altdorf. He went to the **Gymnasium** in Altdorf and Zug, and he studied at the universities of Zurich and Berne, graduating with a doctorate in law in Berne. He has had his own legal practice in Altdorf since 1951. From 1955 to 1958 he was Vice-President of the Altdorf Commune Council and Chairman of the Altdorf Building Commission. From 1952 to 1958 he was a member of the **Landrat** (Cantonal Council), and a member of the Education Council for 11 years from 1952. In 1958 he joined the Cantonal Government (Director of Finances), an office he held till 1976. Since 1963, he has been a member of the National Council and its President for 1970/71. He was President of the Radical-Democratic Party from 1967 to 1970. He became President of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad on 1st May 1978.

Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



Address by Mr Adolf Ehrsam, President of the Foundation Bundesfeierspende (Swiss National Day Collection), given at the meeting of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad on 25th February 1978.

The Swiss Confederation can look back on a long historic development. The sources of its origins are scarce, and there is no proof of much of the story of the liberation of the three Primitive Cantons as it is recorded in the White Book of Sarnen.

One document, however, has been preserved, the Federal Charter of 1291, in which the Forest Cantons promise mutual help and assistance. It was not a creation of a state in a modern sense, yet it was definitely the starting-point of a development which went on for centuries and finally led to the Federal State of 1848.

As in neighbouring countries, in Switzerland, too, the idea took root to introduce a national day. Little by little modest celebrations were organised. The old custom of lighting bonfires was revived. In 1891, on the 600th anniversary of the Federal Charter, the Federal Chambers decided to organize a sixcentenary celebration.

A St. Gall trader, Albert Schuster, was to work out a scheme which would enable the Swiss citizen to express solidarity with the whole people on the national day by making a common, if small, sacrifice.

In 1909, he founded the National Day Committee together with a few friends. In 1910, franked postcards were sold for the first time, the proceeds of which (29 000 francs) were used in aid of the flood victims.

These were modest beginnings, but they were followed by a creditable development of the idea. In 1923, the National Day Badge was created which has kept



its place right to the present. In 1938, the Federal Council consented to the issue of National Day stamps «Pro Patria».

At an early stage, the relationship with the Swiss abroad was established. The needy Swiss abroad were assisted in 1924, the Swiss schools in 1930. Six more times – the last occasion was in 1972 – the proceeds were donated to the Foundation for the Swiss Abroad which uses the funds for the Swiss schools abroad, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad of the NSH and similar purposes.

I should like to take this opportunity and state that our appeal to purchase National Day Badges has always been well received by our compatriots abroad. Year after year, badges to the value of over 80 000 francs are sold abroad; this corresponds roughly to the result of the Canton of Aargau.

Large sections of the public in Switzerland are aware of what we owe to our compatriots abroad. They wish that the relations between them and the home country are fostered. That is the reason why thousands of collaborators, together with pupils and young people, will sell badges this year all over the country in aid of the Foundation for the Swiss Abroad. By this gesture, the country would like to express respect for their activities and to thank them for their work.



*Der
Tages-Anzeiger
lässt Sie
auch im Ausland
nicht allein.*

Tages-Anzeiger
FERNAUFGABE

Ich möchte die Tages-Anzeiger-Fernausgabe jetzt abonnieren
 3, 6, 12 Monate.
(Die ersten zwei Nummern sind gratis.)

Meine Adresse:
Name: _____

Strasse: _____

Nähere Bezeichnung: _____

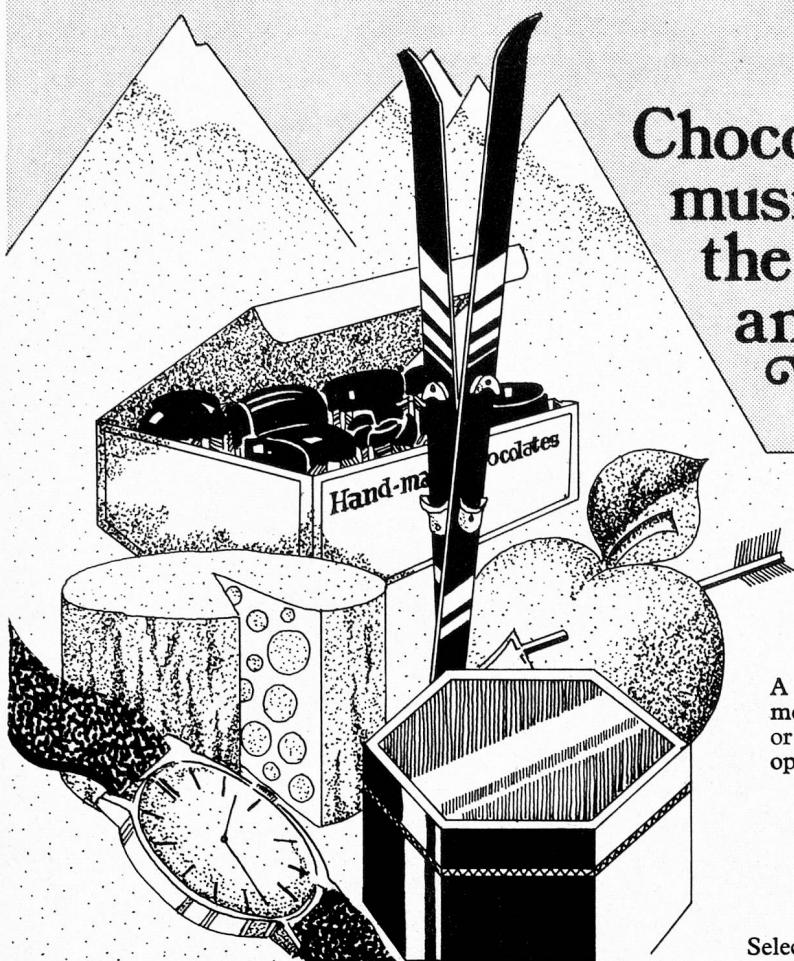
PLZ, Ort: _____

Land: _____ 9005

Bitte ausschneiden und einsenden an:
Tages-Anzeiger, Vertrieb,
Postfach, CH-8021 Zürich

Abonnementspreise der Tages-Anzeiger-Wochenausgabe für das Ausland in sFr.

	Gew. Postzustellung	3 Mt.	6 Mt.	12 Mt.		
Europa						
Bundesrepublik, Italien, Österreich	14.—	27.—	53.—			
Belgien, Frankreich, Luxemburg, Niederlande	16.—	31.—	60.—			
Europa						
Übrige europäische Länder sowie ganze UdSSR, Island, Grönland und Türkei	17.50	34.—	67.—	Luftpost-Zustellung		
				3 Mt.		
Afrika				6 Mt.		
Nordafrika: Algerien, Libyen, Marokko, Tunesien, Übrige Länder in Afrika	17.50	34.—	67.—	12 Mt.		
Amerika						
USA, Kanada und Zentral- amerika, Antillen, Costa Rica, Dominikanische Republik, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaika, Kuba, Mexiko, Nicaragua, Panama	20.—	39.—	77.—			
Südamerika						
Naher Osten: Libanon, Jordanien, Israel, Syrien Aden, Jemen, Irak, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi-Arabien, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Indien, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka	17.50	34.—	67.—	22.50	44.—	87.—
Ferner Osten						
Übrige asiatische Länder	20.—	39.—	77.—	22.50	44.—	87.—
Australien						
Neuseeland, Ozeanien	31.—	60.—	119.—			



Chocolates and cheeses,
musical boxes, watches,
the Alps
and yodelling,
William Tell and...

Velcro touch and close fastener.

A Swiss invention for housewives and handymen and motorists and manufacturers. Cut it to any length, sew it or staple it or tack it to virtually any material, for instant opening and secure closure.

VELCRO®

The practical fastener for practically anything.

Write for sample length to:
Selectus Limited, Biddulph, Stoke on Trent ST8 7RH

DWA 3241

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Incorporating "Fête Suisse"

Short Official Celebration:

18.30 – 19.30 (doors open at 18.00)
Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street,
Shaftesbury Avenue, London W.C.2

Programme

Welcome
Reading of the Swiss Pact
Prayer

Address by H. E. The Swiss Ambassador
Dr. Ernesto Thalmann

Trachtengruppe St. Moritz &
Umgebung (Swiss Folklore Group
from St. Moritz)

National Anthem

Admission free



Tuesday
1 August 1978

Discothèque

(with Licensed Bar and Refreshments)
20.00 – 23.00 (doors open at 19.30)
Swiss Youth Club, John Southworth
Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London
S.W.1

Admission by ticket only, on sale at
50p at the Swiss Embassy, the Swiss
Mercantile College and the Swiss
Youth Club.

Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



Youth Service, in retrospect

The main occupation of the Youth Service is no doubt the preparation and carrying out of the camp for young Swiss from abroad. This task requires considerable expenditure of work which, however, one always finds worthwhile during the camp; the many happy memories are more than adequate compensation. It is with pleasure that we look at them once more with you.

Les Crosets

A little-known name which, however, denotes a beautiful skiing area. The first camp took place shortly before Easter, from 29th March to 7th April 1977, and the second one immediately afterwards, from 12th to 21st April. A total of 34 girls and 38 boys took part. Although the camps were held comparatively late, all could enjoy good snow conditions. Under the direction of group leaders, the beginners gradually became acquainted with the narrow boards, whilst the advanced participants were able to learn new skiing techniques and happily crossed the frontier between Switzerland and France. The ski pistes of the two countries are so inter-connected that everybody could ski with the same season-ticket in the one or the other without ever having to produce a passport. Les Crosets filled all camp participants with enthusiasm.

Summer Camp

On 19th July, 3 female and 5 male leaders and the Youth Service team welcomed a happy band of 80 young people at Altdorf station. For the first two days, the Altdorf military huts served as accommodation. During that time, there were two excursions on the programme. One took the party to the Maderanertal, the other to the famous Tell's Chapel. On the fifth day, travel excitement again. Four groups each went to Goeschennen and Schwyz where one made arrangements for a stay of four days. Unfortunately, the Goeschennen billets were underground which did not agree with everybody. Fortunately, there was an indoor swimming pool which made the participants forget the dull and rainy days.

In Schwyz, though, there were no problems. Accommodation was ample and provided a beautiful view in the direction of Brunnen and the Lake of Lauerz. The programme was well filled. First day: Trip by train to the Rigi, descent to Vitznau and back to Brunnen by boat. The second day was devoted to history: Visit to the Federal Archives in Schwyz and an excursion to the Ruetli. The last day was used for a visit to the Transport Museum in Lucerne.

The programme at Goeschennen was much more «alpine». An excursion by train to

Disentis in the Grisons was planned as a first event. From there, one went to Cai-schavedra by cable-way. The father of two of the participants had given free travel vouchers for this trip. A big thank you for this generosity!

The following day, the Goeschennen Valley was explored. The goal of this excursion was a reservoir lake at the end of the valley. Unfortunately, the continuous rainfalls prevented the groups of Schwyz and Goeschennen from carrying out all the planned excursions.

Fortunately, though, one was not dependent on weather conditions everywhere. The rain could not spoil anything during the visit to the future Gotthard road tunnel. They all met again in Sarnen on 31st July, where they were invited to the television programme of the Swiss National Day. Accommodation was put at our disposal free of charge by the Commune. Once again the weather refused to cooperate, and the TV programme was literally drowned. Inspite of the mobile kitchens which served liberal helpings of risotto, and inspite of generous supplies of wine, the good spirits of the camp participants finally gave way under the ever-lasting rain.

On 2nd August, one returned to Altdorf where floods had created considerable damage during our absence. It was very lucky that nothing was damaged in our huts. At last the terrible rainfalls stopped and it began to clear. There was a chance for experts of a two-day mountain excursion. The night was spent at the SAC hut of Kroanten. The others had the choice between trips to the Eggberge, to Seedorf and a visit to the Flueelen beach. This small but pleasant bathing beach was also the venue of the farewell party on 5th August. Delicious chops were grilled, and there was much song and laughter under clear and starlit skies. What a pity one had to wait such a long time for good weather!

Film

«La Fête dont les Princes sont Vignerons»

This is the official film on the «Fête des Vignerons», the vinegrowers' festival at Vevey. It reproduces the unforgettable spectacle which managed to fill with enthusiasm hundreds of thousands of onlookers. Magnificent and stirring colourful scenes allow everyone to recognize and relive the most beautiful moments of this great festival. Anyone who would like to see this film should get in touch with the president of the competent organisation, so that a performance may be arranged. Agency: Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad in Berne. It is a 16mm colour film, optical sound. It lasts 90 minutes, and the commentary is in French. There is music for nearly 80 minutes. The film producer is Pierre Bovey.

Reading Service of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad

This branch of our activities allows our compatriots abroad who are not in a position to subscribe to a paper or magazine from Switzerland, to keep in touch with the homeland and to be informed about what happens in Switzerland.

If you are one of those compatriots, please fill in the form below and send it back. We shall then send you the address of a compatriot in

Switzerland who is willing to send you his papers after perusal. We shall try and consider your personal wishes as far as possible.

Our address:

Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad
Reading Service
Alpenstrasse 26
Post Box
3000 Berne 16
Switzerland

Name:

First name(s):

Street:

Place and postal code:

Country:

Place of origin:

Date of birth:

Preference for papers, magazines etc.:

Special interest:

Date:

Signature:

Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



The Swiss School for Physical Education and Sport of Magglingen

The SSPES is a unique school in our country (and abroad). It is «federal» in the traditional sense of this word and also because of its internal administration (even in sport, some bureaucracy is necessary).

Although it is rather far from the cantons of Tessin and Graubünden it is pretty well situated geographically as it is placed near the linguistic boundary, between the German and the French part of Switzerland, on a hill overlooking the Midlands and the Alps, on a marvellous terrace of the Jura. Furthermore who says Magglingen means the SSPES and vice versa.

The SSPES is a polyvalent school: it is a center for the instruction of physical education teachers, of trainers and of instructors of the youth and sport movement; it is a training center and a teaching center for the several sports federations; it is a center of research and application in the field of sports sciences; it maintains a technical and documentary office for the construction of sports grounds; it maintains a federal office dealing with all questions

concerning sport and physical education. Finally two sections complete its activities: the service of information and the administration section.

The position of the SSPES

The SSPES is a service of the Confederation but the Swiss Confederation is not the only proprietor of the SSPES. The main part of the sports facilities is situated on territory belonging to the municipality of Biel placed at the disposal of the Swiss Federation by this city. The SAPE, the parent organisation of the national sports associations, and completely independent of the state, financed several buildings such as gymnasiums, dormitories, tracks and the Research Institute with funds from the Football Pools. The SGA built accommodations for top athletes and a sportsclub union of the Canton of Berne established a house for youth organisations.

The legal status of the sport

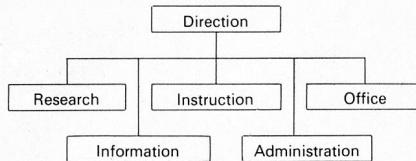
Actually the SSPES is placed under the authority of the Swiss Military Department. It was realised at a time of a national crisis.

The School was developed between 1939 and 1945, i.e. during the Second World War. However, it will probably be placed under the authority of the Department of Interior Affairs.

If there was a period during which sports had to make good soldiers, by now sports has to be promoted mainly for reasons of the health of the population and for its well-being. The legal texts say that the SSPES is an instrument of the Confederation in order to encourage physical education and sports at all levels:

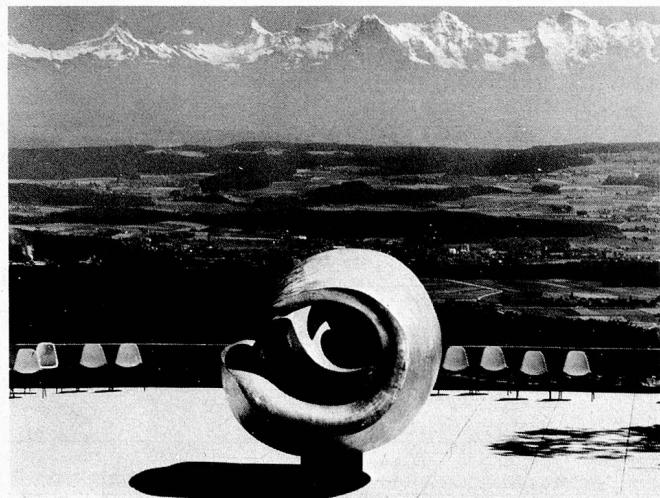
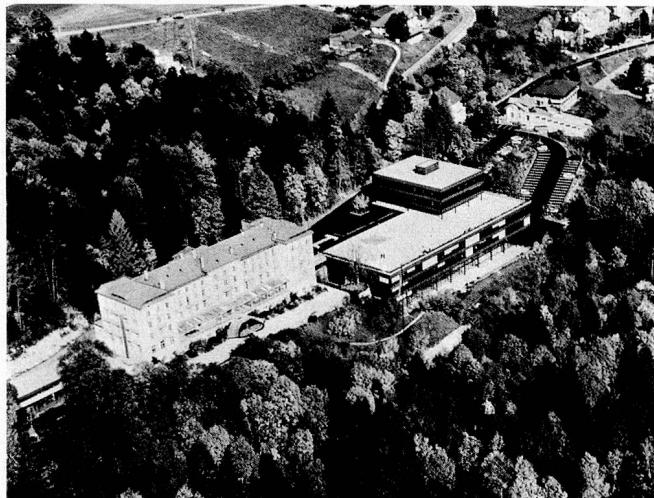
- = public health
- = education
- Sport = free time activity
- = national interest

The structure of the SSPES



Some numbers giving an idea of the extent of the work and tasks to be done by the school of Magg-

View of buildings from the main terrace



Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad



lingen shall complete the organization:

The SSPES

- has a staff of 150 persons, foreign seasonal staff included. It consists of physical education teachers, both male and female, medical doctors, scientists, administration and management staff, door keepers, mechanics, workmen, cooks and other kitchen- and office personnel;
- accommodates about 13000 participants of courses organized by the SSPES (about 3000) and by associations (about 10000) a year;
- offers board and lodging to top athletes during 9000 days a year free of charge;
- supplies about 60000 daily rations and 45000 lodgings per year;
- provides medical care to participants of courses and top athletes in about 1200 medical consultations a year;
- provides physiotherapeutic treatment to participants of courses and top athletes in about 4000 sessions;

- manages a library with about 30000 titles;
- lends out about 25000 books, pamphlets and periodicals in and out of the SSPES;
- manages a film office which lends out about 3500 films per year.

Instruction center

Within the different courses organized at the SSPES physical education teachers are formed as well as monitors and experts for the youth and sport movement, coaches and army sports teachers. In addition to these courses there are complementary courses for the physical education teacher students enrolled at the universities. The certificate of a sports teacher of Magglingen is obtained after a two years' course.

Admission conditions: minimum age of 18 years, good general education and knowledge of the German and French languages. (The theories are given in one or the other language), having got through a severe examination. In addition to these courses or-

ganized by the SSPES over 300 courses and camps are organized by several federations. The SSPES places its didactic material at the disposal of these courses and guarantees board and lodging for the participants.

In February 1976 the School inaugurated a 44 m by 88 m indoor stadium which enlarges the possibilities of the SSPES.

Arnoldo Dell'Avo

(Continuation and end in a next issue)

