

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 4 (1977)
Heft: 4

Rubrik: Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad

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Reflections on the 55th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in Lausanne from 19th to 21st August 1977

Apart from the plenary session which took place at the «Théâtre Municipal» on 20th August in the presence of Federal Councillor Georges-André Chevallaz, the Organization of the Swiss Abroad had convened meetings of the Commission on Information, of the Co-ordinating Commission on Information, of the Solidarity Fund as well as the Association of Friends of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad – meetings in which Swiss participants from abroad show lively interest in their umbrella organization year after year.

The Commission of the Swiss Abroad, chaired by the former Councillor of States Dr. Louis Guisan, gathered in the Chamber of the Vaudois Grand Council for its ordinary meeting. It would be boring to enumerate all the matters treated. Suffice it that the delegates took note with great interest of new regulations in the field of social welfare, amongst them the 9th revision of the OAI/DI at present subject to a Referendum. We shall come back to this at the right time. The nationality of children of Swiss mothers abroad married to foreigners gave rise to a satisfactory exchange of views, and a mandate was given to the special committee to carry on its work. One should mention, too, the unemployment insurance for Swiss abroad returning to Switzerland and for borderers, as well as the law concerning foreigners in Switzerland and the evacuation of Swiss residents in countries with political unrest.

A topical subject, technical development aid, was the main theme



St-Martin church in Vevey (W. Steiner)

of the 55th Assembly. It was not the aim to define Helvetic policy in this field, but on the contrary to demonstrate concrete aspects and achievements by Swiss abroad who have become residents in various parts of the world.

After an introduction by the President of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad and a message from the Central Committee of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique given by Me Michel Renaud, President of the Lausanne Group of the NSH, we had the pleasure of hearing Mr Jean-René Bory, President of the Foundation for the History of the Swiss Abroad. An inspiring speaker who captivated our attention by telling us of technical development in the past and of the manner Swiss went abroad to collect ideas which they

put to good use on returning home, whilst today we try to use our own ideas for the benefit of other countries. Mr Marcel Ney, Director of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, introduced in a humorous way the relationship existing between the Swiss abroad and technical development. Subsequently, he chaired a round table discussion of compatriots abroad who told us of their experiences. We heard the following speakers:

- Mr A. Scherer, agronomist, Puerto Esperanza, Argentina
- Miss Christa Buergi, laboratory assistant, near Pondichéry, India
- Mr J. A. Marendaz, arboriculturist, formerly in Pakistan
- Mrs E. Preiswerk, teacher, Tabora, Tanzania
- Mr H.-R. Schuerch, representative of a Swiss firm, recently in Singapore, Indonesia and Japan.

After a film on the alphabetisation in Bénin, the Delegate for Technical Co-operation, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Marcel Heimo gave a survey of projects in the course of being realized and those being prepared in his Department. He showed the difficulties, but also the need for such an undertaking. It was followed by a report by Mr Rudolf Högger, head of the section Evaluation of Technical Co-operation. It was illustrated by interesting slides.

Monsieur le Ministre Jaccard, in charge of the Service for the Swiss Abroad at the Federal Political Department, gave a short sum-

mary of the problems facing the Swiss abroad at the moment. Federal Councillor Georges-André Chevallaz, Minister of Finance and Customs, gave a detailed talk on Swiss politics, including the attitude of the Swiss people towards technical aid to developing countries.

We should not like to omit our thanks to all those who contributed towards the success of the 55th Assembly, notably the Commune of Lausanne and its Mayor, Monsieur Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, who honoured us by addressing the gathering at the official opening, and also the President of the Vaudois Council of State, Monsieur Marc-Henri Ravussin. In a previous issue of this periodical, you had a chance of admiring the caricatures of these personalities, made by the artist André Paul.

The Swiss abroad may be considered very good ambassadeurs, may be even too good for helvetic realities. This implies on one hand that the Swiss people take note of their activities, which may and should go as far as recognition. On the other hand, it means that the Swiss have to justify the good image which the Swiss abroad have created of Switzerland, an image incidentally which has been marked by a number of plebiscite decisions.

Social events of great variety allowed everybody to experience a typically helvetic atmosphere and above all to make valuable contacts. On Saturday evening, we danced at the Abbey of Monthéron, and the singer Michel Bühler, a true Vaudois as his name tells! entertained an appreciative audience. On the following day, we had the pleasure of visiting Chillon Castle.

The Congress of 1977 is past – long live the Congress of 1978 which will take place at Einsiedeln/Schwyz from 25th to 27th August. We shall be happy to welcome you there, too.

Important

A brochure containing the talks given by the various personalities at the plenary session of the 55th Assembly has been published and may be obtained from the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpen-

strasse 16, 3000 Berne 16, as long as stocks last. Price Fr.10.—. In order to facilitate administrative work, please enclose remittance with the order. The brochure is available in German and French.

Lucien Paillard

Skiing Camps

«Les Crosets»

First camp:

14.3.78–23.3.78

Second camp:

28.3.78–6.4.78

The spring, forerunner of fine summer days, is the most suitable time for skiing. In case you are fond of this sport or wish to improve your skill, do come with us. The Youth Service of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad is organizing two skiing camps on the above dates. Both will take place at «Les Crosets», a charming small place in the Valais. If you are between 15 and 25 years old, please send for an application



form to: Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Youth Service, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne 16, Switzerland.



A great opportunity to get a year-long souvenir of the «Fête des vigneron» in Vevey!



1978 Calendar

numbered from 1 to 5000 – Practical size: 23x21 cm (8,5" x 9")

The twelve designs by Pierre Bataillard taken from the banners which brightened Vevey.

Printed in 2 colours by silk-screen process on first-class Canson paper.

Cut out and post to-day to: Sérigraphie Denis Ebbutt, Communaux 35, CH-1800 Vevey

I, the undersigned, order _____ numbers of the Winegrowers' Festival Calendar for 1978. Price: SFr.12.— + SFr.2.— for packaging and postage costs, (Pro Juventute stamps). I enclose an International Postal Cheque to Account no. 18-4357 Sérigraphie Denis Ebutt, Communaux 35, CH-1800 Vevey or one of my Bank cheques.

Name: _____ Surname: _____

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Country: _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____

Book Review

«CH 76»

On 272 pages, this book reproduces all the events in Switzerland in 1976. 300 black-and-white and coloured photos, graphs, drawings, tables, statistics and comments give short and clear information on Swiss national life. German text. Format 21 x 22,5 cm. Price 45 Swiss Francs. «CH 75» and «CH 77» may be had at the same price. Editions André Eiselé, case postale 19, 1008 Prilly, Switzerland.

«Made in Switzerland»

This work is an economic portrait which offers the Swiss abroad a comprehensive show of what Switzerland produces today. Format 28x28 cm, 336 pages with 324 illustrations of which 188 in four colours, 11 full-page illustrations by Hans Erni, finest art paper, matt, linen cover. Price ready-packed for posting: 144 Swiss Francs. Verlag A.Vetter, Schifflande 22, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland.

«Official Souvenir Book Fête des Vignerons 1977»

This beautiful book will provide you with an opportunity of living or reliving the joy and emotion which 4000 unknown actors were able to pass on to hundred-thousands of spectators. 160 pages illustrated with nearly 200 photos, mostly in colour. Format 24 x 26 cm. Photos by Marcel Imsand. Text by Jacques Clavel. Price: 46 Swiss Francs. German edition: Hallwag Verlag, 3000 Berne, Switzerland.

(see page 22)

The Swiss Army Band plays for new «echo» readers!

Would you like to be well informed on Swiss events?

In our monthly periodical «echo» you will find an excellent variety of reports on politics, economics, culture and sport in Switzerland, and in three languages: German, French and Italian.

According to where you live, the «echo» costs only SFr. 26.— or 30.— per annum. Yet the colourful magazine published by the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad in Berne includes many photographs and a full-size front-page colour picture.

And now the great news for new subscribers: By taking out a subscription for at least **two years**, you are entitled to a free long-playing record or a cassette, whichever you prefer, with stimulating Swiss music played by the band of the Swiss Army under its conductor Adjutant Walter Spieler. The present will arrive in your home as soon as your remittance for a two-year subscription has been received.

And one other thing: the one amongst you who finds the largest number of new subscribers, will be presented with a fine Omega watch. (In case several Swiss abroad send in the same number of new subscribers, a draw will decide the winner.)

And now we are looking forward to large numbers of new «echo» readers.

echo



The undersigned orders: (Please put a cross in the space provided)

One annual subscription to the «echo» for him/herself (without taking up the offer of a free record or cassette) or as a gift subscription for

One subscription for the «echo» for two years for him/herself or as a gift subscription for

and will be sent on receipt of remittance the record or the cassette with Swiss music

encloses a list of _____ new subscribers

would like three specimen numbers for the time being and will perhaps take up the offer in the course of 1978 on the same conditions

Our address: Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, «echo» Editors, P.O. Box, 3000 Berne 16, Switzerland

Your name and address: (Please use block letters)

Date:

Signature:

«Schweizer Uniformen / Uniformes suisses 1700-1850»

A work which traces the development of uniformes of the confederate troops and their allies in the 17th century and from 1700 to 1798, and of the cantonal militia men from 1803 to 1850. 160 pages of coloured pictures beautifully reproduced. Introduction and comments on military history are in German and French. Format 18 x 25 cm. This book may be ordered at 260 Swiss Francs (plus postage) from the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne 16, Switzerland.

«Le Quart d'Heure Vaudois»

This book retraces the history of a radio programme which, by its popular character, found warm reception with the listeners to

Radio Suisse Romande for some 30 years. Told in Vaudois dialect, the stories in this book paint a congenial portrait of the Vaudois people. Text in french. 179 pages with photos and drawings in black-and-white. Price: SFr. 73.50 including three gramophone records. Published by Librairie Marguerat SA, 1002 Lausanne, Switzerland.

«Aux Urnes, citoyens!»

This work by a research group on posters offers for the first time a general inventory of themes on posters which were produced in Switzerland from the beginning of the century to 1976, on the occasion of federal and occasionally also cantonal plebiscites. Text in French, 300 illustrations of which 50 in colour. Format 25 x 23 cm. Price 75 Swiss Francs. Editions André Eiselé, case postale 19, 1008 Prilly, Switzerland.

tariat in Berne, and the Committee for Swiss Schools Abroad benefited.

In order that the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad can continue and possibly enlarge its manifold activities – either in the field of care, information and contact promotion, or in its youth service –, it is dependent now as ever on the support of the Swiss National Day Collection. This even more so, since the economy measures of the Confederation meant a drop in the federal subsidy towards the work of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad. In addition, the Swiss abroad are specially exposed in their countries of residence in recession and coercive measures campaigns. The Committee for Swiss Schools Abroad, too, still depends on financial support for the tasks entrusted to it by the respective federal law which came into force on 1st January 1976. Financial aid to school equipment, libraries etc. should be mentioned; considerable urgent improvements in this direction are indicated.

The Swiss National Day Fund is convinced that the collection earmarked for the Swiss abroad will be accepted favourably by the Swiss people, and it invites the Swiss abroad to support the campaign 1978 energetically by buying the National Day badges.



Swiss National Day Collection 1978 for the Swiss Abroad

Every first of August, the Swiss people celebrate the anniversary of the foundation of the Confederation. Nearly 700 years ago, the first confederates united and decided to assist one another in adversity and danger. With this act of solidarity, they achieved their common goal: independence and freedom. Thus they created the basis for our present State.

The thought of mutual aid prompted Albert Schuster of St. Gall to create a public-spirited work for the common good, and thus the Swiss National Day Collection came into being. He was convinced that the practical spirit so characteristic of our people, was not satisfied with celebrations alone. A national day should also find expression in common action. Every year ever since 1910, an appeal goes out to the Swiss people, to support an undertaking of public benefit and collective importance for the whole of the country.

According to a decision at this year's general meeting of the

Swiss National Day Collection in Lugano, the proceeds of the collection in 1978 will be for the benefit of the Swiss abroad. The first collection for this purpose took place in 1924; subsequent collections were allocated to them every six or seven years. So far, the Fund has paid out over 10,5 million francs towards financing tasks in aid of the Swiss abroad. Each time, the Commission of the Swiss Abroad of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, especially its secre-



The Solidarity Fund of the Swiss abroad brings good luck

by:

1. Assuring **mutual aid**
2. Accumulating **savings in Switzerland**
3. Assisting in the event of **loss of livelihood** as a result of political events
4. **Advising** in individual cases

Information from: Gutenbergstrasse 6 CH-3011 Berne