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Communications from the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad



«The Swiss Abroad, Youth and Sport»

Successful Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in Morges

The 64th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad took place from 5th to 7th September, 1986 in Morges, on the lake of Geneva, to the accompaniment of the finest weather and the co-operation of over 400 contented participants from all over the world.

The plenary assembly was on the subject of «The Swiss Abroad, Youth and Sport», which gave rise to interesting views and discussions. The presence of Pierre Fehlmann, this year's winner of the most important high-seas regatta, met with particular acclamation. The highlight of the meeting was the speech of Federal Councillor Jean-Pascal Delamuraz who delighted his audience with his

spontaneous and heartfelt observations.

The Commission for the Swiss Abroad dealt with proposals for the activation of the Commission's work. Further, it examined the provisions for another revision of the citizenship rights law (possible naturalization of the foreign marriage partner). A proposal of the Federal administration for the suspension of the obligation, for

Swiss living abroad, to register with the appropriate consulates in foreign countries, met with unanimous disapproval and was rejected. In the Commission's opinion, such a waiver would jeopardize the information system built up with so much effort for the Swiss abroad as well as the clarification it gave on their rights and duties. The members present took note with interest of the plan of the Solidarity Fund for a group sickness-fund insurance which could alleviate hardship in this field.

Next year's assembly will be held in Canton Thurgau (for the first time in the history of our organization); the prospective date is 21st to 23rd August. The main subject will be chosen from the field of social security. *M. N.* ●

On the 700th anniversary of the Confederation

A «Rütli of the Swiss Abroad»

The idea of creating a «Place of the Swiss Abroad» as a contribution by the Fifth Switzerland to CH91 met with enthusiastic approval at the meeting of the Swiss Abroad in Morges. CH91 is the name given to the 700th anniversary celebrations, combined with a National Exhibition, which will be held in Central Switzerland in 1991.

A tree-covered piece of land jutting into the bay of Brunnen, lying directly opposite the Rütli, presents itself as the ideal location for the Place for the Swiss Abroad. The place, incidentally, forms the termination of the planned Path of Switzerland round the lake of Uri. The Place will continue to exist beyond the jubilee of 1991 as a permanent symbol of the attachment and affection of the Swiss abroad for their old homeland, and as a meeting place. Just as, 128 years ago,



The «Place of the Swiss Abroad» will be created here: the little peninsular lying picturesquely in the bay of Brunnen (Photo: CH91)

when by means of a fund-raising campaign and house-to-house collections the schoolchildren of Switzerland saved the Rütli meadow from being built on, thus preserving it for future generations, so, today, the Swiss abroad are being called on to secure for themselves through a worldwide solidarity campaign a plot of native soil in the heart of Switzerland to serve as their own «Rütli of the Swiss Abroad».

With one voice, the Commission for the Swiss Abroad approved the plan on 5th September 1986 and charged a committee with the preparation of suggestions for the form and treatment of the project. A competition for ideas as well as a fund-raising drive will be launched shortly. *ASS* ●

Spring Skiing Camp 1987

In spring 1987, there will again be a skicamp taking place in Champéry (Canton of Valais). Do your father or mother have a Swiss passport? Are you between 15 and 25 years old? Do you like skiing and meeting people of your age? Then feel free to register for this camp:

Date: March 28 to April 10, 1987

Charges: Sfr. 470.- + skiing pass approx. Sfr. 200.-

Application:

Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Youth Service
Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Bern 16

Application deadline:

February 25, 1987

Unforgettable Holidays for your Child in Switzerland?

The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad and the Foundation Pro Juventute are offering this opportunity again in the **summer of 1987**.

All children aged from 7 to 15 years, who have Swiss nationality or whose mother is Swiss by birth, have the right to participate.

The following possibilities for holidays are available:

- Participation in one of the holiday camps organized by us (these take place in various beautiful spots in Switzerland).

Age: from 10 years on

- Holidays with a Swiss family

- Holidays in a Swiss children's home

Age: up to 10 years

The participation in the costs depends on the financial situation of the participant's family.

Registration forms and further information can be obtained from the Swiss representations abroad or direct from the Holiday Organization for Swiss Children Living Abroad.

Registration: up to the **end of March 1987**

Registration should be submitted through the Swiss representation in your area.

Perhaps **your child** will be one of the participants?

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