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The Fund – Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad

A name for unique insurances

The Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad – recently renamed ‘The Fund’ – is a concept for a great many of our compatriots living abroad. Today 9,760 Swiss abroad belong to this self-help organization which provides unrivalled benefits all over the world.

There are three letters which make every marketing expert and entrepreneur happy. They are USP, standing for ‘unique selling proposition’. This means that the supplier has no competition and that his product or services are therefore likely to be successful. The Fund, too, offers USP services. The latest unique offer is a sickness insurance which facilitates entry

constantly increasing. For The Fund, therefore, the health sector is also *the* field in which new benefits are being energetically sought.

To build bridges for Swiss abroad, to insure risks which no one else wants to insure and to aim its services at the constantly changing protection and security needs of the Swiss abroad – those will be The Fund’s most important goals in the future, too. Such dynamism and flexibility form the basis for a package of benefits which Swiss abroad are glad to take advantage of.

For detailed information about The Fund and the insurances please apply to: The Fund (Der Fonds), Gutenbergstr.6, 3011 Berne.

DER FONDS
LE FONDS
IL FONDO



With the introduction of a new logo and the catchy short name ‘The Fund’, the Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad is adapting externally to its enlarged range of services.

to the Swiss sickness insurance system for Swiss abroad who intend to return to their former homeland one day. The Fund also enables its members to accumulate savings in Switzerland on favourable terms and to protect themselves against risks endangering their livelihood.

Attractive sickness insurance

The great hit among the benefits offered by The Fund is the sickness insurance introduced in 1988. Last year alone it gained The Fund 900 new members. This success makes it clear that those running the organization have once again managed to close a gap in the social welfare field. The sickness insurance, which permits low-cost transfer to a Swiss fund, meets a real need felt by many Swiss abroad at a time when health costs are

A short word-picture of The Fund

Who are the people who make sure that our compatriots all over the world can cover themselves against their special risks in the best possible way? They are introduced to you in the following short word-picture.

Board and Committee

The Fund’s top management echelon is the Board, comprising 20 members, who must include two representatives of the Federal Administration designated by the Federal Council. The Committee set up by the Board is responsible for the current business. The Chairman of the Board and Committee is Dr Hans J. Halbheer from Zürich.

The Secretariat

The actual contact point for Swiss abroad is the Secretariat, with its nine members. The person with overall responsibility for the business is *Benito Invernizzi*, the Director. Personal contact with the Swiss communities abroad is among the functions of this amateur tennis-player, skier and marksman.

Ursula Baumann’s province is advice on sickness insurance matters. Her favourite recreations are reading and concert-and theatre-going.

Anyone who sends requests for compensation to Berne, or seeks information on matters of detail, falls into *Rosmarie Kaufmann’s* domain; sport in the open air and reading are the pastimes she enjoys.

In her part-time job *Renate Schenk* deals with resignations, deaths, alterations to insurance benefits etc. Renate Schenk, who corresponds with people all over the world, likes to look beyond the horizons of her homeland in her spare time, too, which makes it obvious what her hobby is: foreign countries and peoples.

Trudi Grob is an indispensable pillar of the Secretariat because she helps out wherever there is a problem. In private life Trudi Grob is well known for her passionate fondness for entertaining.

Monika Lyner’s job description is short and to the point: re-

sponsibility for the Secretariat. That covers receiving visitors operating the telephone, dealing with the incoming post, taking minutes, enrolling new members, correspondence and despatching all kinds of material. Her hobbies? Jazz dancing, jogging, swimming.

Up-to-date data are a fundamental part of the work of The Fund: as a data typist *Binia Gruber* is responsible for all amendments in electronic data

Announcement to the Beneficiaries of the Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad.

This year’s Annual General Meeting is to be held on 25 August 1989 during the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in Locarno. Statutory business, together with the Annual Report and Annual Budget for 1988, and elections, are on the agenda.

processing. Thanks to the fact that she is employed part-time, she has enough leisure for rambling and handicrafts.

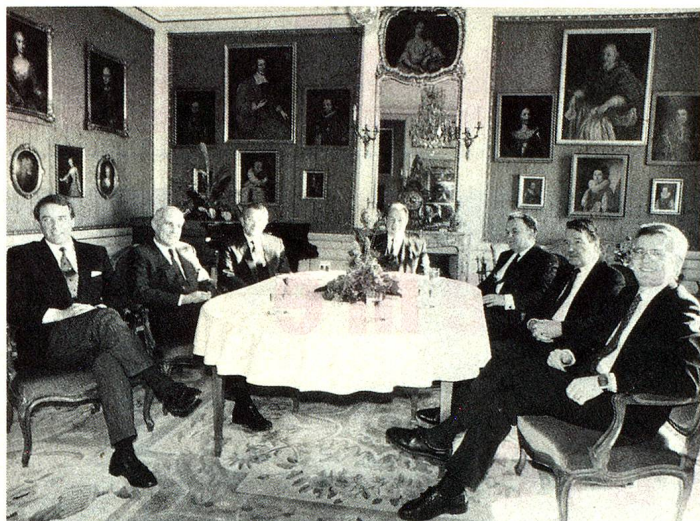
Finally, to ensure that everything is correct, the two bookkeepers, *Heinz Brand* – he will shortly be retiring – and *Dominique Metthez*, look after The Fund’s accounts and balance-sheets. Dominique Metthez’s hobbies are far removed from figures and electronic data processing, namely, gardening and cooking. *The Fund*



Back row, from left to right: Benito Invernizzi, Ursula Baumann, Rosmarie Kaufmann, Renate Schenk, Trudi Grob. Front row: Monika Lyner, Binia Gruber, Heinz Brand, Dominique Metthez.



The New Federal Government



Group photograph of the Federal Council: (from left to right; photo Key) Federal Councillors Adolf Ogi (Department of Transport, Communications and Energy), Flavio Cotti (Department of Home Affairs), Arnold Koller (Department of Justice and Police), Jean-Pascal Delamuraz (President of the Confederation, Department of Economic Affairs), Otto Stich (Department of Finance), René Felber (Department of Foreign Affairs) and Kaspar Villiger (Military Department).

From Berne to Washington – and vice versa



Former State Secretary Edouard Brunner was appointed as the new Swiss Ambassador to the United States at

the beginning of February, while his predecessor in Washington, Klaus Jacobi, became the new State Secretary in the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne. (In the picture, from left to right: E. Brunner; the Head of Department, Federal Councillor Felber; K. Jacobi; photo: Key).

Editor (Official Communications), Service for the Swiss Abroad, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

Egypt: Frozen Swiss assets

Notice

In 1988 the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs renewed for a further four years the agreements concluded with the Egyptian authorities in 1980 and 1984 respectively. The arrangement provides for the release of frozen assets in non-transferable bank accounts in the Arab Republic of Egypt held by non-resident Swiss citizens and by legal entities, registered in Switzerland, and in which Swiss nationals have a controlling interest.

Claimants are requested to apply as soon as possible to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Financial and Economic Service

(tel. 031 61 30 51), 3003 Berne, which will inform them as to the further procedure.

*Federal Department
of Foreign Affairs
Financial and Economic Service*

Federal Ballots:

4th June 1989

Small farmers initiative

24th September 1989

No ballots

26th November 1989

Initiative on the abolition of the Army

Possibly: Initiative on speed 130 and 100

Possibly: Energy article

Return of a Swiss Abroad

'An elderly distant relative of mine, who was born in Zurich, left in the Thirties for Italy where, by marriage, she acquired Italian nationality too. After the death of her husband she stayed on in Italy. Now, however, she is in hospital with a broken leg and, as she is already getting on for 90, she

QUESTION AND ANSWER

would like to move into a home in Switzerland after her discharge. She would prefer Canton Ticino. A suitable home has already been found, but because she is of very modest means it is not yet clear how this is to be paid for. What are the possible solutions?'

M.C.

The first thing that will have to be clarified is the possibility that your relative may have lost her Swiss citizenship through her marriage to an Italian national. If she is still – or has again be-

come – Swiss, it is open to her, under the Federal Act on Welfare Benefits for Swiss Abroad, to submit to the competent Swiss consulate a request for assistance and repatriation to Switzerland. If the legal conditions are fulfilled, her return home and her maintenance for the first three months might be financed by the Confederation, provided they cannot be paid for out of her own means, Swiss O.A.I. pensions and supplementary benefits. The authorities charged with this matter under cantonal law would be competent. The question of who should assume further living costs would have to be settled between the cantons of residence and origin in accordance with the Federal Act on Responsibility for Assisting Persons in Need.

However, not only the authorities in Switzerland but her relatives, too, are under an obligation to provide financial support. The competent welfare authority would, if necessary, undertake the appropriate clarification.

MZ