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The Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad (SSA)

## In the service of the Fifth Switzerland

**The Organisation for the Swiss Abroad and its head office, the SSA, has been working in the interests of the Fifth Switzerland since 1916. Here is a brief portrait.**

The Secretariat is a multi-service centre for assisting the Swiss Abroad. Its first task is to represent their interests here at home, but it also provides services extending from looking after and advising visitors to providing information.

Its legal service provides advice to Swiss citizens moving abroad or returning home – and on many aspects of their sojourn outside Switzerland. The information service publishes Swiss Review,

the information letter for Swiss Associations and promotes media contact within Switzerland. The youth service organises ski and summer camps (see Ping-Pong page) and youth exchange programmes.

Budget cuts resulting from a lower federal subsidy have forced the SSA to reduce some of the services it offers; but its team is busy working out creative solutions to the financial problems and will continue to meet demand in its most important fields of operation.

AJAS (see Ping-Pong page) and the Committee for Swiss Schools Abroad (CSSA) also operate under the aegis of the SSA.

RL



**The SSA team (from left to right):** Brigitte Müller (reception/secretariat), René Lenzin (press and information), Bernhard Kolly (caretaker), Rudolf Wyder (director), Eveline Hartung (AJAS secretariat), Karin Wyss (CSSA general manager), Catherine Prince (legal service), Nicole Feiersinger-Flury (secretariat), Ladina Berta (reception/secretariat), Attila Kiskéry (accounts), Sylvia Rossmann (secretariat), Edith Locher (youth service). **Absent:** Huguette Déchanetz (AJAS general manager) and Beatrice Häusler (secretariat). (Photo: SSA)

### ■ New SSA services

## Travel and property

The Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad is now able to answer questions, solve problems and provide support in the travel and property branches (see also Swiss Review 2/93). In both these areas the SSA acts as an intermediary, i.e. we are able to put you in contact with recognised and proven specialists.

If you are thinking of group travel to Switzerland, we will be very pleased to help you organise it. If you wish to buy or sell a building plot, a house or an apartment in Switzerland, we are there to assist you. Do make full use of this offer.

Property could now be a promising investment. High interest rates prevailing until recently and the recession have led to a drop in both purchases and building activity. This has brought costs down. Oversupply in office

and industrial space plus the trend towards low interest rates is now reviving investor interest in a number of property segments. If you are interested in buying, this may well be the right moment!

RL

### New telephone numbers

From September 25, 1993, Berne will go over to seven-digit telephone numbers. You will also be able to telephone the various SSA departments directly.

(International:	41 31)
SSA	351 61 00
Swiss Review	351 61 10
Youth Service	351 61 20
CSSA	351 61 30
AJAS	351 61 40
Fax	351 61 50

### Friends' Association

## Help the OSA!

The Friends' Association of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad (OSA) provides money for the latter's many fields of operation. Thanks to numerous members' contributions, dona-

tions and a special appeal, the Association contributed about Sfr. 24,000 in 1992. By becoming a member of the Friends' Association you too can help us to help the Swiss Abroad.

### Friends of the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad

- ☐ Please send me more information about the Friends of the OSA
- ☐ I would like to join the Friends of the OSA
- ☐ as an individual member (Sfr. 20.– per year)
- ☐ as a company member (Sfr. 100.– per year)
- ☐ as a life member (Sfr. 500.– as a lump-sum)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to: Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16, Fax: 41 31 44 21 58. Many thanks for your interest. Membership contributions may be made to our Swiss National Giro (postal cheque) account no. 30-10580-7 in Berne.