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Overcoming the past

"Burdens of the past" SR 2/2000



I am shocked at the letter from Roger Gaston Prognin in "Mailbag", Edition 4/2000. It is intolerable to claim that the Jews did not take up arms to defend their people. Has he never heard of the resistance movements in the ghettos of Warsaw, Vilna and other cities? Has no word of the bloody uprisings in various concentration camps reached his ears? Or of the French Resistance, in which the Israeli "Eclaireurs de France" movement was the first to go underground?

Bertin Ditesheim, France

Jews fought against Hitler in the Allied Forces. Jews fought virtually without weapons against the Nazis in the ghettos of Warsaw, Vilna and other cities as well as fighting as partisans in Eastern Europe. I got to know Jews who travelled with the Red Army from Moscow to Berlin on foot, with

machine guns on their shoulders. To whiningly compare such fates with the potatoes of the Swiss wartime agricultural campaign truly calls for gigantic blinkers.

Paul Uri Russak, Israel

To claim that the Jews did not take up arms shows an absolute ignorance of history!

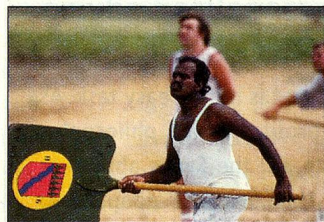
Roger Pugatsch, Israel

I welcome the article on the burdens of the past. It is therefore all the more depressing to see such readers' letters from "upstanding" Swiss citizens.

P. Schmalenbach, Germany

Naturalisation problems

"Not everywhere is like Emmen", SR 4/2000



Why do most of your articles sound like opinionated editorials instead of factual reports? Regardless the outcome of the vote, what is wrong if a community determines at the ballot box whom they want to incorporate as citizens? This is the

purest form of democracy. Instead, your writer calls it a "loophole in the naturalisation process". Judging from your headline, there are communities like Geneva that would gladly naturalize non-citizens. So why don't those applicants rejected by Emmen simply move to places where they are welcome? Then everybody would be happy. Even Federal Councillor Metzler might reconsider her dismay for Emmen and stand up for the rights of the Swiss people instead of subordinating their sovereignty to the bureaucrats in Brussels.

Ulrich Kaempf, USA

Swiss image promotion

"In need of a polish", SR 4/2000

A little modesty, if you please. If our image is slightly tarnished, then it is simply because it is no longer interesting. No matter how big the budget may be, even this outmoded advertising campaign focusing on our humanitarian tradition and sense of quality will do nothing to change the image.

The programmes launched by "Swiss Presence" are missing the point if their first target is the USA. After all, Switzerland

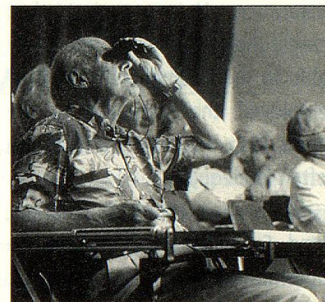


sits at the heart of a Europe which apparently is a forgotten continent. Our country would do well to concentrate once more on playing an active role in the restructuring process in its immediate vicinity, instead of conducting campaigns that indulge in introspection.

Jean-Blaise Hall, France

Further education

"Learning: a lifelong task" SR 4/2000



The complex issue of education deserves much more extensive coverage than one or two apparently hastily written articles as featured in the latest Review. We encourage you to develop a permanent forum, worthy of the topic of continuing education.

Walter Flueck, Canada

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