

Mailbag

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I don't vote

SR 04/2002, p. 3

I just wonder how many Swiss Abroad feel like me regarding voting in Switzerland.

As a naturalised British citizen I can vote in England, and I don't take up my right to vote in Switzerland, because I believe you should only vote in the country where you have to take the consequences of your vote

Ueli Lehmann

Kingston upon Thames (UK)

We care about it!

SR 03/2002, Focus

We read comments such as Sigmund Widmer's report about the greater number of Jews in Switzerland than the U.S. during the war. Mr Widmer should take the Swiss on a tour of American military cemeteries around Europe. He should count the white crosses of American soldier boys who are buried there forever young, to save your Swiss lives. No Swiss crosses? Your neutrality days were probably numbered, by the Nazi government.

So-called expert Klaus Stöhlker believes that nobody really cares. I have bad news for Klaus: we Americans do. You Swiss probably don't want to care, we can understand that. You can not believe the change in the "View of the American people, concerning the Swiss". Young and old comment on what all the Swiss, the government, and Swiss banks did during the Nazi era. I hear it and see the changes, having been married to a Swiss national for 20 years. Bergier said it: you profited from the Nazi government, then turned them away, then stole the poor victims' money...

Keep up the good work, Swiss Review. Tell it like it is, as Jean-Francois Bergier did.

Lloyd W. Doebler
New York City (USA)

Petty clowns in the diplomatic corps

SR 03/2002

I am convinced that Mr Borer is not only a highly intelligent person but is also endowed

with so much wit and humour that he took Berlin by storm. However, I do not think it is necessary for Swiss diplomats to behave abroad as if they had completed part of their education at the Dimitri school for clowns. I am very pleased that he has left the diplomatic service.

Regardless of the truth or otherwise of the allegations concerning a certain lady, the private life of an ambassador for our country should be commensurate with his public position. And even in this modern age, I believe this means observing a different, more rigor-

ous standard than the normal citizen.

Heinz C. Tock, Sechelt (Canada)

Poor Switzerland!

SR 03/2002

I have never felt so ashamed of being Swiss. An ambassador dares to step outside the narrow confines of diplomatic convention, and embodies a genuinely convincing ambassador for our country through his authentic emotionality. And Mr Deiss can do nothing better than throw him out following a churlish, choreographed smear campaign. Poor Switzerland!

Christian Theile
Neugnadenfeld (Germany)



Swiss Solidarity helps flood

First it was Austria, the Czech Republic and Rumania. Then came the most devastating pictures from East Germany. Two weeks later the South of France was hit by severe floods. Swiss Solidarity immediately responded by financing aid convoys for shipments of food, household utensils, woolen blankets, water pumps, sterilisation tablets, rubber boots, etc.

As part of the present reconstruction phase hundreds of drying machines are being procured, seeds and cattle stocks replaced in Eastern Europe, houses repaired, and a children's creche re-established in Dresden. New products are continually being considered.

The much more extensive flood disaster in Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam) has been overshadowed by the floods in Europe, but here too Swiss Solidarity's partner agencies have launched aid operations.

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) and Swiss Solidarity need your help: support the aid actions "European Floods" and "Asian Floods" with an on-line donation at www.swiss-solidarity.org

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