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## NEWS FROM THE SWISS EMBASSY IN WELLINGTON

### EIDGENÖSSISCHE VOLKSABSTIMMUNG VOM 26. SEPTEMBER 1993

Deutliche JA-Mehrheiten  
für all fünf Vorlagen von Volk  
und allen Ständen.

#### Abstimmungsergebnisse

##### **Waffenmissbrauch**

JA 1.539.394 86.3% - NEIN 245.114 13.7%

##### **Laufental**

JA 1.189.208 75.2% - NEIN 393.263 24.8%

##### **1. August Initiative**

JA 1.490.564 83.8% - NEIN 289.041 16.2%

##### **Krankenversicherung**

JA 1.414.543 80.6% - NEIN 342.521 19.4%

##### **Arbeitslosenversicherung**

JA 1.224.493 70.4% - NEIN 515.010 29.6%

Die Stimmbeteiligung betrug durchschnittlich  
37.9%



### 1ST AUGUST BECOMES HOLIDAY

Following the above voting result concerning the 1st of August, the Swiss National Day will at long last become throughout the country an official and paid holiday. The most remarkable feature in this move is that it took so many years and so much effort to eventually reach that result on a nationwide basis.

The Embassy wishes to advise all Swiss in New Zealand that it has a list of video cassettes available to Clubs, Societies and individual people. Requests to borrow any of these videos have to be made to the Embassy in writing.

### VIDEOS HELD BY THE EMBASSY:

*Ways to Switzerland:* The Walser 31min.  
*Ways to Switzerland:* On Roman Tracks  
in Switzerland 15min.  
*Ways to Switzerland* "Hiking the "Swiss  
Path" 9min.  
*La Confédération Suisse et son parlement*  
(English) 24min.  
*Visages Suisses* 100min.  
*Visages Suisses* (version courte) 46min.  
*The Albula Line - Chur to St Moritz* 50min.  
*Lötschbergbahn* (English) 8min.  
*Lugano-Luzern als Lokführer* 61min.  
*Simplon* (French) 25min.  
*Montreux Oberland Bernois* 28min.  
*Railorama SBB* 66min.  
*Red & White Colours of Switzerland* 52min

### SMOKING IN DOWNTURN

Since 1992 the number of smokers in Switzerland has sunken by 3% to around 31% of the population. The largest reduction came from amongst the 20-24 year olds, whilst the oldies (between the ages of 60-74) still cling steadfastly to their habits.

## MESSAGE FROM THE NEW AMBASSADOR

### Dear Fellow Swiss,

As my wife and I arrived in Wellington at the beginning of October I appreciate the opportunity of using this issue of "Helvetia" to introduce ourselves.

I am originally from Weinfelden/Thurgau and studied in Frauenfeld and at the University of St. Gall. Following further studies and practical experience in a Swiss company, I joined the Foreign Service in Bern in 1963. I served successively in Beirut, Cairo, Guatemala, Moscow, Kuala Lumpur, Bucharest and Cairo again, with two assignments in Switzerland in between.

My wife Marianne grew up in St. Gall. We have two daughters who are both studying in Switzerland.

This is the first time that we have been in this region and we are eager to get to know the country and its people. I must say, that our first impressions are extremely favourable.

We look forward to making personal contact with you in the near future. I particularly wish to foster and encourage the existing good relationship between the Swiss community in New Zealand and the Embassy.

Hoping to meet you soon,

**Ernst Thurnheer**

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

If you would like to receive your Helvetia magazine on a monthly basis again, please help us getting more advertisers.

#### Please contact:

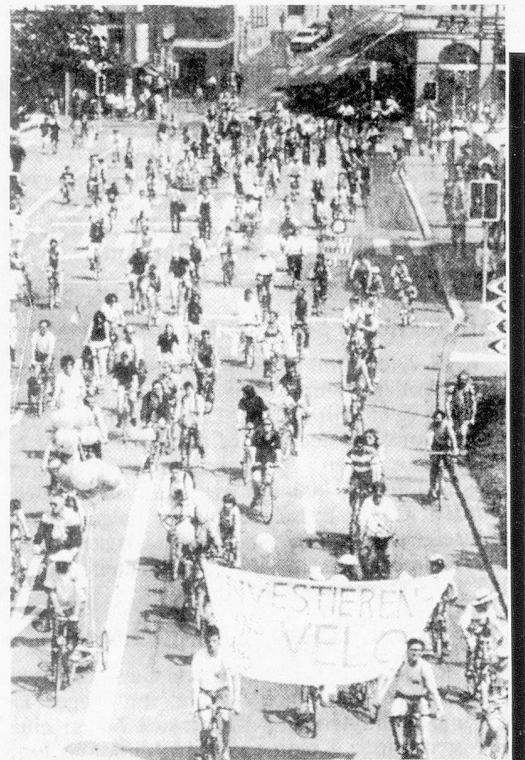
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### SPAIN PURCHASES THYSSEN'S COLLECTION

The Spanish Government has recently decided to acquire Baron Heinrich von Thyssen's complete collection of 775 paintings which until now was housed in one of the baron's villas in Lugano. The purchase price is said to be over 500 million SFR. This art collection had apparently been the second largest private collection in the world. One of the conditions of the sale was that no painting was to be taken out of the collection, that all paintings had to remain together at all times and that the whole collection must not be lent out to other Museums for more than 7 months at a time.

### CLUB SECRETARIES TAKE NOTE

There will be a **HELVETIA** issue in December. So all contributions to be sent to the Editor by November 15, please. After the December issue, the next one will be in February 1994.

### CAR-FREE HOUR

In many Swiss cities, a yearly peaceful demonstration takes place where, for a short hour, the streets are totally taken over by cyclists to the exclusion of any motorised vehicle. This "day of the bicycle" has been staged every year for the past 10 years but for some peculiar reason, it is attracting fewer participants than in the past.

### NEWS FOR ALL YOU RADIO FANS

If you are keen to listen to your Swiss Radio programmes on shortwaves, you may be interested in a new leaflet produced by Swiss Radio International giving you detailed information on frequencies and transmission times. A stock of leaflets is available free of charge from your Editor. Please forward a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request.