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A proposal to form special discussion groups on helvetic problems and civic and political questions was accepted.

Ordinary business of the ASK included the appointment of new representatives, some in countries where Colonies have only recently been organised under one co-ordinating body. It was decided to try and get a National Councillor and a Councillor of States as members of the Commission. Two members from Italy and France were elected to attend the meetings of the Executive Committee of the ASK, which so far had only consisted of members from within Switzerland.

One of the important items on the agenda was the organisation of the next Assembly of the Swiss Abroad, which will be held from 16th to 18th August at St. Moritz and to which all Swiss abroad are invited. The first day will be devoted to a meeting of the Commission, followed by a press conference. In the evening the first plenary meeting will take place followed by separate meetings on Solidarity Fund, Old Age Insurance and Military Tax and General Questions. On Saturday it is hoped to have the Federal Councillor open the plenary session, followed by discussion. A banquet would be held in the evening and an outing the next day.

The chief theme of the conference will be "Spiritual Defence of Switzerland in the World Today and Tomorrow" (Selbstbehauptung der Schweiz in der Welt von heute und morgen). It was felt that after four years of talking about what we *wanted* it was right and proper to state this time what we Swiss abroad were prepared *to do* for Switzerland. In this connection speakers from several Colonies were wanted who could tell something new of how Switzerland was looked at from outside. It was also decided that the theme for the following year's Assembly should already be chosen this coming summer so as to give plenty of time for studying.

Much serious and useful work was accomplished at the meeting, and it was stimulating to have an exchange of ideas at lunch and at a get-together following the meeting. Our interests are certainly well taken care of by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, to whom we owe all our support. This we can best give by subscribing to the "Echo", but above all by joining the Solidarity Fund.
Mariann.

RECORD OPERATING PROFIT FOR SWISSAIR £4,950,000 Surplus

Swissair's financial results for 1962, approved by the private-enterprise airline's board of directors in Zurich on 13th March, show a record operating profit of £4,950,000. This was achieved with an average load factor of 51.9 per cent.

The sum of £4,275,000 is being ploughed back to meet depreciations and write-offs, and a dividend of 5 per cent is recommended out of the net profit of £675,000.

The revenue for the year was £38,200,000, compared with £31,100,000 in 1961. Operating costs totalled £33,250,000, against £29,000,000 in the previous year. The board recommended allocations of £70,100 to the statutory reserve and £124,000 to the personnel pension fund.

Nine new jets

Swissair, who are completely unsubsidised, put nine new jets into operation during 1962 — five Convair 990 Coronados and four Caravelles. The 98-seater Coronados are being modified in Zurich to Convair 990A standard to make them the fastest airliners in service. An order for a new DC-8 series 53, to join Swissair's other DC-8s on the North Atlantic routes, was placed.

Swissair allows itself a basic 10-year period to cover the cost of its airliners, but in good years like 1962 extra money is set aside to shorten the period.

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