

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1971)
Heft: 1619

Rubrik: City Swiss Club

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The decision must of course be left to each potential participant. But the Meeting expressed its strong support in principle of a joint scheme by unanimously passing and signing a **JOINT DECLARATION** the text of which is enclosed herewith. The importance of the Declaration for the appeal to the **FORUM** donors and for the support of our authorities is self-evident. All the Presidents of member-societies who were unable to be present at the Meeting are invited to join in the Declaration by signing the form appended herewith and sending it to the Federation President.

Not content with these abstract decisions the Meeting spontaneously also decided on actually setting in motion the necessary **CONCRETE STEPS** to fully explore the feasibility of a joint scheme without delay.

- 1) The President was requested to proceed urgently with the elaboration of preliminary plans and cost estimates of the various possibilities of joining forces with the aid of a qualified architect and other experts as needed, and to search for suitable sites.
- 2) The President was authorised to incur the necessary expenses for above purposes up to a provisional amount of £600 on basis of various contributions offered at the Meeting.
- 3) The President was appointed sole negotiator and spokesman for the Joint Scheme in this purely exploratory stage for the sake of simplifying contacts and speeding progress.

All ultimate decisions on the realisation of one or another version of a Joint Scheme will have to be taken by each potential participant organisation at its own responsibility but based on precise concrete plans and estimates. The President would be happy to receive practical suggestions, comments and offers of help at his private address.

Dr. H. W. Egli, 17 Corringham Road, London, N.W.11. Telephone: 01-455 4923.

JOINT DECLARATION

of Presidents and representatives of Swiss societies and organisations in London convened on 30th June, 1971 at "Swiss House", 34/35 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.

In view of the possible abandonment of the main scheme for a cultural and social centre in the Swiss Centre building in London and

in view of the possibility of realising on a different basis at least that part of the original scheme providing a pied-à-terre for the thousands of young Swiss de passage in London as well as a social meeting place for our societies.

The undersigned Presidents and Representatives of Swiss societies and

organisations in London and the U.K. **DECLARE** that they attach great importance to the provision of such social facilities at the present time in the interest of our young compatriots and the cohesion of our so widely spread Colony;

PLEDGE their support for the efforts in hand towards that end and their willingness to seek to procure the agreement of the organisations to contribute to the realisation of a sound new scheme to be elaborated expeditiously the capital sums and other practical forms of support previously intended for the Forum of Switzerland; and

CALL UPON the donors of the Forum of Switzerland to leave the whole or part of their contributions or promises of such standing with a view to making them available for the realisation of such a limited scheme.

Signed by F. A. de Maria (Unione Ticinese); V. Berti (Swiss Benevolent Society); Mariann Meier (Nouvelle Société Helvétique); L. S. R. Asch (Schweizerbund); Paul Bossard (the Swiss Churches); W. Burren (London Swiss Philatelic Society); F. O. Haeusermann (Swiss Mercantile Society); M. Bucherer (Swiss Rifle Association); H. W. Egli (Federation of Swiss Societies).

Witnessed at the Meeting by F. Adams (Swiss Consul); F. Birrer (Swiss Cultural Attaché).

THE CITY SWISS CLUB SUMMER DANCE

The City Swiss Club held its annual summer dance in the "Thatched Barn" in Hertfordshire. From hearsay we have learnt that it was an exceptionally successful evening with good food and a happy atmosphere. There were 112 people present. A good Mexican-style band was very popular, judging from the happy dancing. Swiss wines were served. The place was not genuinely old, unlike Greatfosters, the usual venue for this event. It resembled a film set—as this is in fact is what it was, having been built for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, or some such film company—except for small parts which are genuinely old.

There were no speeches. The City Swiss Club's new President and the immediate past President, Mr. F. Kuhn opened the dancing with their wives. The Embassy was well represented by Dr. Iselin, First Counsellor, Dr. Birrer, Cultural Attaché, Dr. Jagmetti, Press Attaché and Mr. Dudli, Vice-Consul and their ladies. Some societies were represented by their presidents—such as the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, with Mrs. M. Meier present, and the German-speaking Parish Council, with its new Chairman, Mr. Glarner and Mrs. Glarner present. There were some very old members like Mr. and

Mrs. P. Bessire and Mr. and Mrs. W. Flory. There was also a great many young people who helped to keep the party in full swing until 1 a.m. A splendid job had been done as usual by Mr. L. Jobin in planning the tables and selling tickets. The consensus of opinion was that the 1971 Summer Dance was a great event enjoying an excellent choice of venue.

(PMB)

A NEW DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE

The division for protocol at the Political Department has vested the first counsellors of the more important Swiss Embassies with the title of "plenipotentiary ministers". Thus our Dr. Jurg Iselin, First Counsellor at the Embassy in London, has been awarded this honorary title. The Embassy explained that it will facilitate his movements in the Foreign Office and other distinguished areas. The diplomats of equivalent rank in the high commissions also enjoy the title of "Minister". We should like to extend our congratulations to Dr. Iselin.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION at 19.30 p.m. sharp at Wimbledon Town Hall on Saturday, 31st July.

SWISS CLUB MANCHESTER. 1st August Celebration at the Cottons Hotel, near Knutsford at 8 p.m. on Monday, 2nd August.

SECOURS MUTUELS, no meetings until October.

CITY SWISS CLUB, no meeting until 21st September.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY, no meeting until 8th September.

SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION, no meeting until 5th September.

SCWHEIZERBUND Dinner at Edgwarebury Country Club, Barnet Lane, Elstree, Herts. on Friday, 30th July at 7.30 p.m. For details phone the Secretary at 734 1921.

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE, Thursday, 22nd July at the Swiss Hostel for Girls. Open Meeting. Talk by Prof. Erich Gruner. "Die Schweiz seit 1945".

ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD. 27th-29th August at Brunnen.

CULTURAL EVENTS

16th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 28th July, 1st, 3rd August. Glyndebourne Festival Opera. The tenor *Hughes Cuenod* is soloist in *La Calisto*.

24th July to 7th August. Kettles Yard Gallery, Cambridge, paintings by *Cuno Amiet* (1868-1961) and *Giovanni Giacometti* (1868-1933).