

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: - (1981)
Heft: 1776

Rubrik: Quarterly Review

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 12.05.2025

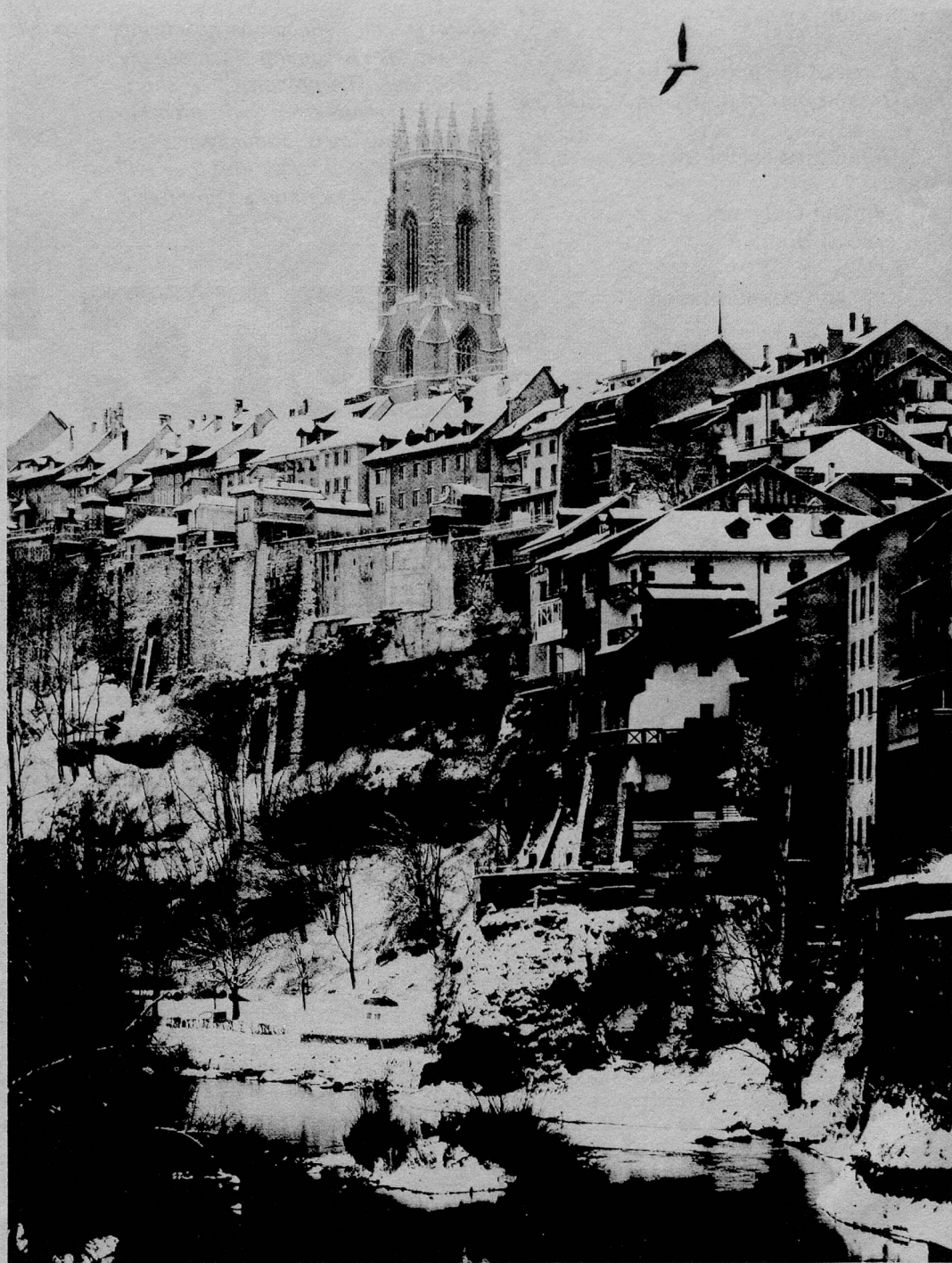
ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

SWISS Observer

QUARTERLY
REVIEW

No. 5 1981

*The town of
Fribourg, capital
of the Canton of the
same name, which
is celebrating
this year its
quinentenary of
joining the
Confederation.*



Contents

Editorial Dr. Weber	18
Information for the Swiss abroad	18
«Terres de Fribourg»	19
Association Joseph Bovet	21
Sedrun	21
Some of the activities of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad	22
Organization of the Swiss Abroad	22
Without comment – excerpt from ...	23
Official Communications	
– Excerpt	25
– The Federal Authorities 1981	26
– Right to vote of the Swiss abroad	27
Swiss abroad, be the exception to the rule!	28
Citizenship Campaign	29
Summer Camp	30
1980 in retrospect	31-34

Are you 50 this year?

You can join the voluntary AVS/AI not later than one year after your 50th birthday. This is **your last chance!** For further information please write to your Swiss representation.

Editorial Dr. Weber



(Photo Rodo)

Information of our compatriots living abroad is becoming increasingly important. The proportion of short-term emigrants from Switzerland to any community is gradually increasing. Those who know that they will return to Switzerland again after a

certain time, are specially interested in being kept abreast of affairs and happenings at home.

In addition, the possibility of being able to take part in federal plebiscites – even though for the moment they still require a stay in Switzerland – has awakened further need for information. The Swiss abroad now wish to be able to follow closely developments at home as fully responsible voting citizens.

The Organization of the Swiss Abroad is pleased to put its service increasingly towards such information by means of this quarterly publication.

Alfred Weber
President of the Organization
of the Swiss Abroad



Information for the Swiss abroad

At the end of 1980 and the beginning of the new year, a change has come in the service of information for the Swiss abroad. Their Secretariat in Berne was obliged to cease publication of the periodical «echo» with the December issue. This decision was not taken lightly. After all, this publication could look back over 61 full years and enjoyed great popularity with readers in Europe and overseas. The «echo», in three Swiss languages, with its richly illustrated articles, its carefully selected coloured covers and its topical summaries of internal problems and events, formed a welcome bridge to the home country; old and young subscribers affirmed this again and again. For us as publishers it was a valuable visiting card for the activities

and the existence of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad. At the same time, it represented serious involvement in the political life of the Swiss abroad and also a contribution to the presence of Switzerland abroad of which we were proud and – as we were assured from competent quarters again and again – had every reason to be so. Yet, the reasons which were the cause of ceasing publication of our monthly magazine were compelling:

Firstly, the increasing cost of production which could not be passed on to the rate of subscription due to the high exchange rate of the Swiss Franc, the deterioration of postal services near and far and the ever increasing administrative work

across the frontiers. Secondly, and above all, the concentration of forces.

For a number of years, we have had a quarterly publication which we have been able to produce in close co-operation with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs which has handsomely supported it financially. This quarterly we are able to send to all Swiss nationals registered at Swiss Embassies and Consulates abroad. This publication is now well established. We shall endeavour to instil something of the spirit of the «echo» into its columns. This is the reason why we have changed the name and have

now put it under the title «echo» which we shall keep for future issues. In view of the restricted space at our disposal, we shall have to make a specially attractive selection of our communications. On the other hand, we have the advantage that we reach all Swiss abroad with this publication four times a year, and amongst them also the loyal subscribers of the former «echo». This fact makes up for our loss and regret somewhat, and we are looking forward to the continuation of our contacts.

In addition it is pleasing for us to see that our quarterly provides a valuable supplement to the publi-

cations of their own in some of the Swiss communities abroad. We trust that this will remain the case also in the future.

We should like to take this opportunity of thanking sincerely the Service of the Swiss Abroad at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, led by Minister Maurice Jaccard, for their continued support. Our warm thanks go equally to the various personalities in Swiss communities abroad who look after the local and regional pages of the quarterly publication. *Marcel Ney*

«Terres de Fribourg»

A few Notes on the Drama

It is a kind of pageant representing the seven regions of the Canton. It has been created to celebrate in style the quincentenary of joining the Confederation. «A presentation of high artistic character, which includes folklore and recalls history, yet at the same time brings into view the present and even dares take a look into the future.» These were the main tasks put to the producer.

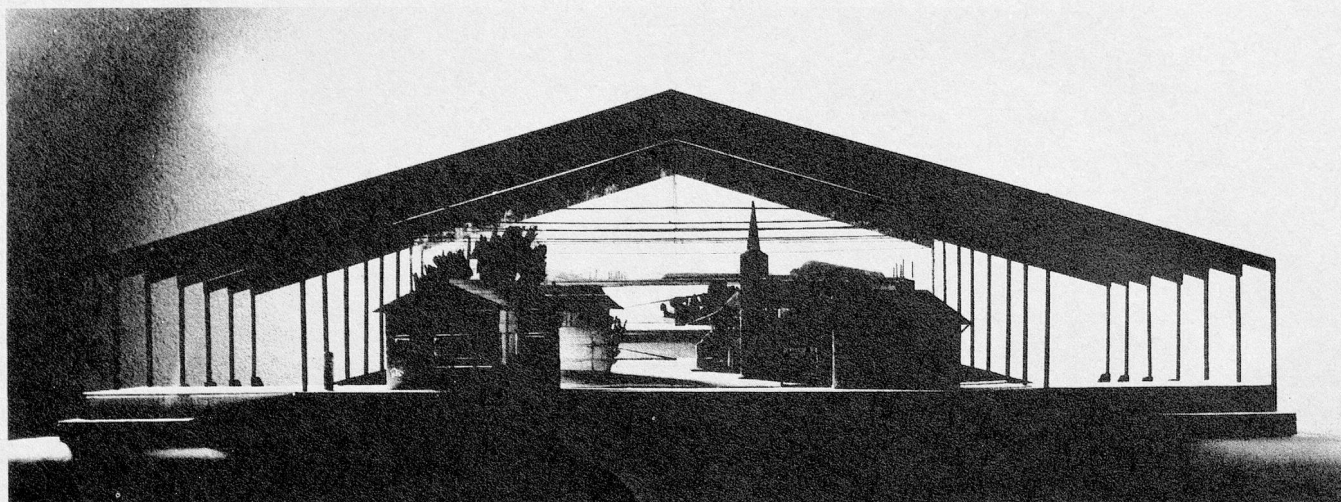
The Fribourgeois is an amateur; let us first look at singing: for every 1000 inhabitants there are 44 singers. He also loves play: his field is the comical aspect of his existence, possibly sometimes with a trace of the tragic. Comedy and tragedy, the main forms of occidental theatre; social and religious forms of expression. The «Terres de Fribourg» is a lyrical work with dramatic action, in the course of which the onlooker should recognize himself



Organizers from left to right:
clergyman Pierre Kaelin, Jean Winiger and Thierry Vernet

and be able to laugh, to become pensive and possibly find comfort. But the Fribourgeois is diverse. His

seven regions spread from the Pre-Alps over gentle hills to the lake. The daily light appears high above



Model of the scaffolding and the stage

and dies out down below in the plain and on the water. Each of these regions has a special voice and its own accent. And each wants to be heard it seems. Evidently, the Fribourgeois was told one day that «poor is only he who cannot be heard».

In these surroundings between the Alps and the lake, traversed by the Sarine, there is a village close to the linguistic frontier. Two opposing parts: Pierre and Michel. Pierre, Françoise's father, and Michel, her husband. Françoise embodies the town of Fribourg; Pierre, her father, the representative of the rural Cantons at the Diet of Stans, and Michel, her husband, the Cantonal President of Fribourg who endeavoured to have Fribourg in the Confederation. 1481 – the transition between two epochs and the basis for the creation of French-speaking Switzerland in the European game.

1981 – transition in the world's spirit – but into what kind of era? In life as in the play, Pierre and Michel become antagonists. A plan defended by Pierre and still kept secret would lead to the sale of part of the village. From this, material gain would be made by some. The others feel themselves outside this

transaction, although their lives, too, will be affected in the village by tomorrow.

This kind of drama within the play allows to keep awake the past and not only to display it. It permits presentation of customs and traditions (like «Bénichon», a kind of «Chilbi») with all their aura of yesterday. The object is to bring to light what has been hidden in darkness all too long. This drama about superstition and conspiracy is a play about darkness and light just like the black-and-white flag of Fribourg.

Jean Winiger

Notes on the Staging

The object was to find the framework for a dramatic and lyrical play in which, at each performance, 2000 spectators and over 350 participants unite (actors, choristers, musicians and technicians). After a long search, the best possible location was found, the «Neigles Meadow» at the foot of the Cathedral, a charming idyllic place in the centre of the town – exactly what was needed.

The story takes place in a country village in the Canton of Fribourg. In

a pleasing manner, the stage leads to the Alps by way of a wide flight of stairs. This produces the free space necessary for the production. Plenty of room is needed so that the spirit (and the music) may unfold freely. The whole picture rests on reality without heaviness, in a familiar manner through which, I hope, everyone can recognize himself.

Three kinds of costumes are being used for the performances. Firstly, everyday clothes, personal clothes belonging to the players, figures of 1981. Secondly, the folkloristic costumes of the seven regions of the Canton, those of the choristers in the production. Thirdly, the historical costumes which have been specially designed and made for this event, those of men and women of 1481.

In front of the stage there are rows of seats going up in a circle, their profile following that of the stage representing the countryside. Thus all players and spectators are united in the action, gathered round the orchestra in the centre of the theatre, conducted by Pierre Kaelin who also composed the music.

We may look forward with confidence to the gala evenings in June and July 1981.

Thierry Vernet



Abbé Joseph Bovet 1879-1951

Association Joseph Bovet

Chers amis fribourgeois de l'étranger,
L'Association Joseph Bovet, qui groupe 37 sociétés de Fribourgeois en Suisse et une société de Fribourgeois à l'étranger (membres individuels), fondée en 1978, vous invite à faire partie de la grande famille des Fribourgeois expatriés.

Lorsque vous parcourerez ces lignes, cette année 1981 sera déjà bien entamée, mais j'espère, malgré tout, qu'il vous sera encore possible de vous intéresser aux journées officielles des Fribourgeois de l'extérieur (Suisse et étranger) pour la commémoration du 500^e anniversaire de l'entrée de Fribourg dans la Confédération. Ces deux journées ont été fixées depuis plus d'un an aux samedi et dimanche 20 et 21 juin 1981.

Le programme (qui peut encore subir des modifications) est le suivant:

Samedi matin: Réception par les autorités fribourgeoises à Estavayer-le-Lac des descendants des émigrés au Brésil le siècle dernier. Nova Friburgo, ville fondée par ces émigrés, envoie une délégation de quelque 200 descendants qui seront reçus par leurs familles dans leur canton d'origine.

Nous serons présents à cette réception avec les drapeaux de nos sociétés.

Samedi après-midi: Assemblée des délégués des sociétés de l'extérieur dans la salle

du Grand Conseil, souper en commun au Restaurant de la Grenette.

Le soir nous assisterons au festival du 500^e anniversaire dans la grande halle des Neigles et pourrons participer à la fête populaire dans les quartiers de Fribourg.

Dimanche: 10 h Grand'Messe sur la place de l'Hôtel de Ville, Concélébration avec les prêtres fribourgeois de l'extérieur, participation des 37 sociétés de Suisse et des membres de l'étranger et des Grenadiers fribourgeois.

11 h Allocutions du président du Conseil d'Etat et du président de notre Association, et éventuellement d'une personnalité ecclésiastique.

11 h 30 Grand cortège folklorique sur le thème «Nos villes et régions d'adoption». Nous comptons beaucoup sur la participation de nos compatriotes de l'étranger. Si vous ne pouvez être présent tous, annoncez-vous tout de même pour que le drapeau de votre pays d'adoption participe au cortège et que vous soyez ainsi de cœur avec nous.

13 h Banquet dans la halle du Comptoir de Fribourg. Remise des insignes de fidélité aux membres ayant au moins 20 ans d'activité dans les sociétés, productions des chœurs mixtes, groupes de danse, etc., et fête populaire.

16 h 30 Fin officielle de la manifestation.

Nous espérons que la participation des Fribourgeois de l'étranger sera suffisante pour qu'une réception en votre honneur par les autorités fribourgeoises puisse être organisée. Pour le moment nous avons reçu 60 lettres de compatriotes du monde entier et nous espérons bien que vous serez encore nombreux à saisir la balle que nous vous envoyons pour participer à ces festivités et pour faire partie de la société des Fribourgeois de l'étranger.

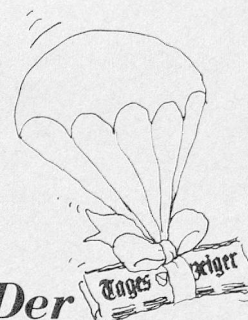
Annoncez-vous à votre président central qui se réjouit de vous répondre personnellement et vous fera parvenir tous les détails et le programme définitif.

Avec mes très amicales salutations
Raymond Perroud
Roggenburgstrasse 29
CH-4055 Bâle

Sedrun 1980/81

Brilliant sunshine, happy tempers, powdery snow and 7 hours of skiing every day. These are the most important points which made this winter's skiing camp such a success. In spite of intensive sports activities, there was not one single accident. Here I should like to praise

the group leaders who knew how to carry their responsibilities and not to expose the participants to too much stress and danger. One of the highlights of the camp was no doubt the torch descent after a *fondue* party. Nearly all the participants were most enthusiastic after



Der Tages-Anzeiger lässt Sie auch im Ausland nicht allein.

Tages-Anzeiger

FERNAUSGABE

Ich möchte die Tages-Anzeiger-Fernausgabe jetzt abonnieren für ☐ 3, ☐ 6, ☐ 12 Monate.
(Die ersten zwei Nummern sind gratis.)

Meine Adresse:
Name:

Strasse:

Nähere Bezeichnung:

PLZ, Ort:

Land:

9005

Bitte ausschneiden und einsenden an:
Tages-Anzeiger, Vertrieb,
Postfach, CH-8021 Zürich

Abonnementspreise der Tages-Anzeiger-Fernausgabe in Schweizer Franken:

Gewöhnliche Postzustellung 3 Mt. 6 Mt. 12 Mt.

Europa: Bundesrepublik, Italien, Österreich, Frankreich, Luxemburg, Finnland, Dänemark, Niederlande 16.10 31.70 62.30

Belgien 18. — 35.40 69.60

Grossbritannien, Schottland, Spanien, alle übrigen Länder inkl. Übersee 18.80 37.20 73.20

Luftpostzustellung 3 Mt. 6 Mt. 12 Mt.

alle Länder Europas, Nordafrika, Naher Osten, ganze UdSSR, Island, Grönland, Türkei 19.50 38.50 75.80

Afrika mit Ausnahme Nordafrika, USA, Kanada, Zentralamerika, Mittlerer Osten 22.10 43.70 86.20

Ferner Osten, Südamerika, übrige asiatische Länder 24.70 48.80 96.60

Australien, Neuseeland, Ozeanien 32.50 64.50 127.80

this night-time skiing event, and it was the main topic of conversation for a long time.

As this was my first camp for Swiss abroad as leader in charge of the whole venture, I realize that some mistakes happened both in the organization and in the running of it. These have to be eliminated in future camps. For this reason I shall be most grateful to the participants if they will write to me their positive as well as negative criticism.

The Address:

Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad
Camp Criticism Sedrun
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16
Switzerland.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

I am already looking forward to the coming camps with you, and in the meantime I am sending you best wishes and success.

Yours Beat Buerki

Some of the activities of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

At its meeting in Berne on 22nd November 1980, the Executive Committee of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad studied further the theme of the 57th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in Lugano, i.e. education and training of young Swiss abroad. According to the rules and regulations of the Nou-

Organization of the Swiss Abroad

7.3.1981

Commission of the Swiss Abroad in Berne

30.4.1981

Day of «Switzerland's Work abroad» at the Muba in Basle. Anyone interested should return the application form below by 28th March 1981.

21.-23.8.1981

Assembly of the Swiss Abroad

Main theme: «New Forms of Swiss Emigration».

Please keep this date free; application forms will be published in the next issue.

Please return this application form duly completed to Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3000 Berne 16, Switzerland.

Day of «Switzerland's Work abroad» at the Muba (Swiss Industries Fair). The undersigned would like to take part in the Day of the Swiss Abroad at the Muba on 30th April 1981. Would you kindly supply me with the necessary papers.

☐ I shall attend as private person and shall take part in the luncheon

☐ yes ☐ no

☐ I am the representative of the following Swiss Society

_____ and shall be pleased to receive the necessary papers

Approximate number of participants _____

How many wish to attend luncheon _____

☐ Should there be any seats left, I should like to attend the Gala Evening (approximate price Fr. 100.- to 120.-).

Please reserve _____ seats

☐ Please reserve hotel room(s) from 30. 4. to 1. 5.1981

Single room(s)

Double room(s)

Name / First name: _____

Exact address: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____



velle Société Helvétique's Organization of the Swiss Abroad, the Executive Committee looks after the running business and prepares the work of the Commission. The theme includes not only education and training as such, but also problems which may arise in the various countries, as well as the difficulties which may arise on return to Switzerland. In this connection, the future of the Swiss schools abroad was discussed and their special tasks. The need was stressed that the Swiss communities abroad should get involved more closely in the running of these schools.

The main theme of the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad which is taking place in Solothurn from 21st to 23rd August, will be «New Forms of Swiss Emigration». This will again give an opportunity to consider the most important aspects of education and training as these are of special significance for short-term emigrants.

Political rights of the Swiss abroad and the possibilities of a simplified manner of making use of them gave renewed cause for discussion. With the proposed more generous attitude towards foreigners resident in Switzerland, several objections held hitherto regarding postal vot-

ing from abroad might be reconsidered.

Regarding the question of citizenship of Swiss mothers and foreign fathers in the framework of equal rights between men and women, the Commission of the Swiss Abroad and its Executive Committee are awaiting with great interest the opinion of the Federal Council given to Parliament after the Initiative by the President of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad, former National Councillor Dr. Alfred Weber, Altdorf, had been accepted.

Without comment – excerpt from a letter written by a Swiss abroad

I would never have believed it . . . but it happened

In 1965 my family and I had been living for some time in a Latin American country, where we were getting on very well. Then one day I heard about the Solidarity Fund for the Swiss Abroad. Yes, of course, I too was a Swiss abroad, but we had no intention whatsoever of returning home for good.

All the same, I thought to myself, I ought to join for the sake of solidarity. For a small sum, an annual payment of 100 francs, for example, I could become a member of that cooperative society and help a good cause at the same time. I, together with thousands of other Swiss abroad, would be building up a fund to assist less fortunate people trying to make a fresh start in Switzerland. Fantastic! And what about me? What do I stand to lose? Nothing, because after a given period I can withdraw my contributions, they will have earned interest and will even be exempt from withholding tax. I shall also be able to claim a lump-sum as compensation if I lose my livelihood as a result of political events in my second home. But, of course, that will never happen to us.

Fifteen years later – in 1980 – I am on the run. As the representative of a foreign group of companies I am in danger of being abducted and held to ransom. Our world is in ruins. My wife is in despair. The children are disconsolate because, of course, they speak the language of our host country better than «Schwyzerdütsch» and they don't want to leave their friends and their schools . . . Things look black, but we shall get over it; I am full of confidence, and I'm a realist. That is to say, I try to be!

But there is worse to come. On returning to the old country I start to look for a flat – but that doesn't work; first I must have a job. I don't mind where, it can be anywhere in Switzerland, I'm so flexible! And I'm not petty-minded, so I'm prepared to accept a subordinate position. But alas, at 52 the possibilities are limited. The parent company promises me a new post – as soon as something suitable becomes vacant; but that may take years. Up to today I have written between 120 and 150 applications – all in vain. What shall I do? I am desperate. In the middle of this tough period I hear from the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad, in Berne, that I am entitled to the lump-sum compensation. The contributions I have paid annually will also be refunded to me. This is wonderful after all the disappointment I have had since I got back. It gives me fresh courage.

Swiss abroad – we live in dangerous times. I would never have believed it, but it happened . . . Thanks to my solidarity since 1965 I have become a beneficiary in 1980. The Solidarity Fund is fantastic. Why don't you join – who knows, one day it may turn out to your advantage – or to that of one of your friends. I shall stay in it, out of solidarity with all of you, all over the world. Perhaps I shall be one of you again one day!

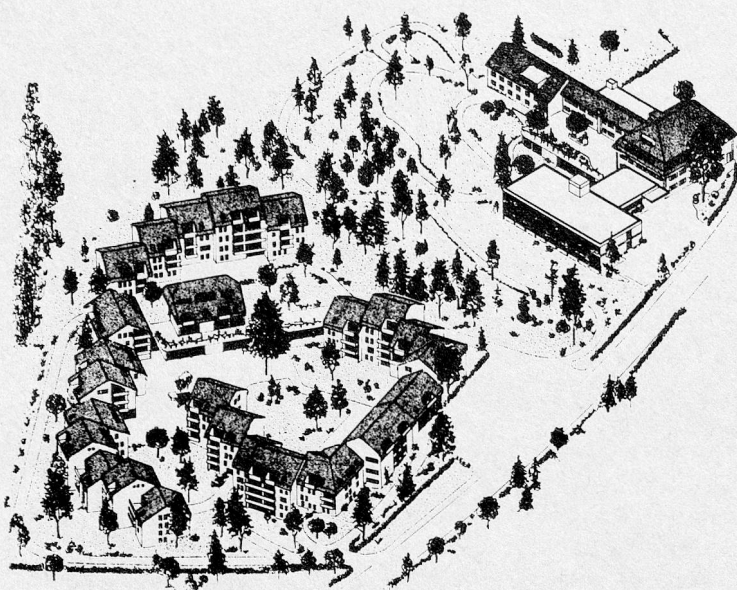
N.N.

(This letter reached the Solidarity Fund on 22th July 1980.)

Further information from:

Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad
Gutenbergstrasse 6, CH-3011 Berne

In Lausanne shortly: Get away from the worries of retirement



Les Séquoias

Project of a village whose result of an inquiry made among the first sixty interested persons.

**A revolutionary
idea of the manner
in which one should
live in retirement**

The Foundation Louis-Boissonnet which has been running a social-medical centre since 1874, will open a

COMMUNITY LIVING CENTRE

by the end of 1983; it is for all those who are preparing for a happy and care-free retirement. 130 studios and flats with a club house and a sick-ward near at hand, offer comfort and security and allow a full and rich life after leaving work.

With a **financial admission payment**, every resident acquires the right to live there for life. The amount is worked out according to age on admission.

Example: (65 years)

Studio of 42 m² from Fr. 47 000.-

Flat of 81 m² from Fr. 99 000.-

Flat of 109 m² from Fr. 133 000.-

In the **monthly rent** (from Fr. 1200.-) are included: three meals a day, electricity, hot water and heating, house staff, nursing staff at the sick-ward, upkeep of the flat and use of communal facilities as well as free use of leisure rooms.

Everything has been planned in such a way as to allow each individual to live according to his own habits and inclinations in the most pleasant way possible. Surrounded by gardens and not far from the centre of the town, every inhabitant may enjoy his own home in a quiet and pleasing atmosphere. In case of sickness, every possible help is given immediately.

Should you be interested and would you like to have some more information on the project, please apply to

Fondation Louis-Boissonnet
Chemin de Boissonnet 51
CH-1010 **Lausanne**
Switzerland
Telephone: 021 33 33 71



Official Communications

Excerpt

from an address given by Mr Frédéric Dubois, Director of the Federal Office for Cultural Affairs, at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad 1980

I have never before been called upon to deal with the question about which I am now going to speak to you: the Swiss schools abroad. Having only recently been appointed head of the Federal Office for Culture, I felt that your invitation gave me an occasion to look into the matter. Trying to make a virtue of necessity I approached it with an open mind, needless to say, but also in a spirit of constructive criticism.

The first discovery one makes is that it is possible for a Swiss diplomat to complete his career without ever coming into contact with a Swiss school abroad. Why? Well, because there are only 19 of them, eight being in Italy. The others are in Accra, Bangkok, Barcelona, Bogotá, Lima, Madrid, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, Sao Paulo and Singapore.

You can see at a glance that history and tradition were responsible for the way they are scattered around the world, parallel to Switzerland's economic expansion last century and in the early 1900s. They were originally created in a pragmatic fashion, with no overall plan, and the Confederation was not involved. They were the work of pioneers, the result of vigorous personal initiative. They bear witness to the ability and the will of Swiss colonies established in countries which were (and to some extent still are) behind Switzerland in certain respects. Quite a number of those colonies played an important role in their host countries. Their schools were tolerated. They were – and they remain – strictly private institutions.

The principal motive for the creation of those schools was to give Swiss children abroad an education in keeping with the spirit, the methods and the aims of Swiss education and to make it easier for them to continue their studies if they returned to Switzerland. The wish that the children should have a neutral education from the religious standpoint was also a big factor. Furthermore, the school system in many of the countries concerned was far from fulfilling Swiss criteria and requirements, though this situation has improved. Finally, the colonies wanted, to some extent, to «keep themselves to themselves» and avoid integrating as much as possible. But there, too, things have changed a great deal. With the passage of

time the purpose of the schools has been broadened to include the following goals: to make it easier for Swiss firms to recruit staff for their branches abroad, to strengthen the relations of the Swiss abroad among themselves and to play a central role in their communities. By their permanent presence these institutions also represented, albeit modestly, a certain Swiss cultural presence in their host countries. Lastly, they gave Swiss teachers a chance to acquire a more profound knowledge of other nations and cultures while extending their linguistic and professional proficiency.

Aid from the Confederation was rather a long time coming and was not put on a legal basis until 1947. Its fundamental character, now that it is based on a federal Act, has not changed: the Confederation has only undertaken to subsidize the schools if certain conditions are fulfilled. However, the figures show clearly that we have here a special case. The 14.3 million francs allotted this year represent about two-thirds of the schools' income. A critical threshold has thus been crossed, both materially and morally. The schools are now, without exception, dependent upon the Confederation, which is very undesirable because they are private institutions. It should also be noted that in many of the colonies financial resources and the willingness to make sacrifices for the sake of their schools have been diminishing appreciably for some time, especially since the Act came into force in 1976.

Now that I have sketched in the outlines, I must give you the figures. Nothing reveals the true position more plainly.

As we have seen, there are, in all, 19 Swiss schools abroad. Ten of them educate their pupils up to the matriculation examination; as to the rest, the majority start with nursery school and end with the completion of secondary school studies.

The schools cater for 6,100 pupils, of whom 2,100 have Swiss nationality or a Swiss mother; there are 220 Swiss teachers.

Aid from the Confederation amounted to 14.3 million francs in 1979, that is to say, more than 2,500 francs per pupil. If we count only the Swiss children, who are the sole justification for these schools, that represents 7,000 francs per pupil.

Federal aid constitutes two-thirds of these schools' income, the rest coming, for the most part, from school fees. So the Confederation provides considerable support, as you see, but has no influence on the educational principles of the schools which, in a strict legal sense, remain private institutions.

What I have just told you reveals a situation which poses not a few problems. May I outline it briefly for you:

Hitherto the Confederation's attitude to the schools has been apt to give rise to illusions. The Federal Council's «Message» of 21st December 1973 concerning the draft federal Act reflects this attitude: praise and generous promises were lavished on the schools but there was no critical consideration of their role. It is therefore not surprising that the Confederation's object in aiding these schools has not been made clear. Today the facts speak for themselves. People are questioning the reasons for sending children to the Swiss schools – reasons which should justify federal aid. Is it still appropriate to educate children in accordance with the so-called Swiss spirit when we know that they will never return to their country of origin? Would it not be more sensible for the second, third or fourth generation to integrate completely into their host country, as many Swiss families already do? Federal aid can only be justified today by the need to prepare children for transfer to schools in Switzerland.

In many countries it is no longer possible for private schools run by foreigners to lead a discreet existence secure from state intervention. Official controls have been strengthened. Will not the desired integration end by destroying our schools' *raison d'être*? Illegality, which is still frequent, cannot and must not be tolerated any longer. Some schools have structural difficulties. The concept behind the financing and management of the Swiss schools abroad was developed in the 19th century and is based on the existence of a strong colony with not only the financial means but also the necessary people for an institution run largely on an honorary basis. The Act makes the recognition of a school – and the continuance of that recognition – subject to clear conditions, whose effect is to accentuate the structural weaknesses of some schools. The Confederation's financial crisis does not permit of any increase in subsidies. This situation has forced the Federal Department of the Interior, and the Federal Council, to undertake a critical examination of the principles governing the support that is given. What mistakes have been made and what are the chances of attaining the objectives of federal aid?

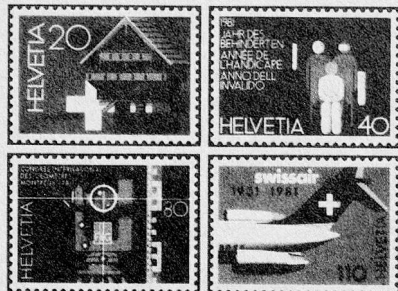
The Act and the Ordinance clearly state the conditions on which a subsidy will be granted. In several cases these conditions are either not being fulfilled at all or are only partially fulfilled. The main reason is almost

Schweiz Sonderpostmarken

Suisse Timbres-poste spéciaux | 1981

Svizzera Francobolli speciali

Ausgabetag
Jour d'émission
Giorno d'emissione
9.3.1981



20 c.
Freilichtmuseum Ballenberg
Musée en plein air du Ballenberg
Museo all'aperto di Ballenberg
Arnold Wittmer, Luzern

80 c.
Internationaler Kongress
der Vermessungsingenieure
Congrès international
des géomètres
Congresso internazionale
dei geometri
Montreux
Edi Haun, Basel

40 c.
Internationales Jahr des Behinderten
Année internationale de l'handicapé
Anno internazionale dell'invalide
Rolf Mosch, Reinach

110 c.
50 Jahre Swissair
Cinquantenaire de la Swissair
Cinquantenario della Swissair
Kurt Wirth, Bern



70 c.
150. Geburtstag von Albert Anker
150^e anniversaire de la naissance
d'Albert Anker
150^o anniversario della nascita
di Albert Anker
Hélio Courvoisier S.A.
La Chaux-de-Fonds

PRO AERO 1981



Taxwert
Valeur de taxe
Valore di tassa
2 Fr.

Zuschlag
Supplément
Sovrapprezzo
1 Fr.

Verkaufspreis
Prix de vente
Prezzo di vendita
3 Fr.

Entwerfer
Auteur
Progettista
Hans Emi, Meggen/Luzern

studies in our homeland. However, the statistics show a constant reduction in the number of pupils with this goal in view. Other aims, especially those covered by the vague phrase «cultural presence» (a task whose complexity should not be underestimated and for which we have other – more appropriate – instruments), cannot conceal this state of affairs. On the other hand, we know that in many places there are large numbers of Swiss children who have no opportunity to attend a Swiss school. This is true of nearly all the French-speaking children, a matter to be taken seriously in view of our federal state's linguistic and cultural mixture. One can rightly speak of legal inequality in federal aid to the Swiss abroad.

The Federal Council shares the opinion of the Federal Department of the Interior that the situation definitely calls for therapy. In some cases surgery is required; in others, the treatment, if I can put it that way, will be medical, since the aim will be to eradicate the disease.

First of all, we must thoroughly examine those schools which no longer fulfil the legal conditions for recognition or which only survive thanks to the federal subsidies. I should like to stress the fact that this examination – which has already started – will be carried out in close collaboration with those responsible for the schools and other interested circles.

always the same: the colonies concerned are no longer what they were. They are not vigorous enough to go on running their schools efficiently.

What can still be achieved in these circumstances? The object of the Act, at least from today's standpoint, is to enable children of the Fifth Switzerland to continue their

The Federal Authorities 1981:

President of the National Council:
Laurent Butty

President of the Council of States:
Peter Hefti

President of the Confederation:
Kurt Furgler

Vice-President of the Federal Council:
Fritz Honegger

Chancellor of the Confederation:
Karl Huber

President of the Federal Court:
Rolando Forni

President of the Federal Insurance Court:
Theodor Bratschi

Composition of the Federal Council and allocation of Departments:



Department of Foreign Affairs:
Pierre Aubert

Department of the Interior:
Hans Hürlimann

Department of Justice and Police:
Kurt Furgler (our photo: E. Rieben)

Military Department:
Georges-André Chevallaz

Department of Finance:
Willy Ritschard

Department of Public Economy:
Fritz Honegger

Department of Transport, Communications and Energy:
Léon Schlumpf

Federal Ballots 1981

5th April 27th September
14th June 29th November

QUARTERLY REVIEW

Right to vote of the Swiss abroad

As you know, the Swiss abroad entitled to vote, must be present in Switzerland in order to participate in federal voting and elections. Requests are repeatedly being made to allow voting by mail or at the offices of Swiss representations (Embassy, Consulate-General or Consulate). We are conducting a survey with the view of examining the various consequences that facilitating the vote in the above-mentioned manner might bring. It is important for you and the federal authorities that as many of the Swiss abroad as possible answer the following questions, irrespective of whether they are for or against the right to vote of the Swiss abroad.

We kindly request you to complete the questionnaire below and to mail it in a closed envelope as soon as possible, but not later than May 15th, 1981 to the Swiss representation where you are registered. Please be sure to give your surname, first names and full address. The questionnaires will be forwarded to us, with no mention of names.

Federal Department
of Foreign Affairs,
Service for the Swiss Abroad

Questionnaire

concerning the right to vote of the Swiss abroad
(please mark the correct answer ☒)

1. Were you born in Switzerland? 1 ☐ yes 2 ☐ no
2. Year of birth? 3
3. Were you ever placed on the voting-list of a Swiss commune, as a Swiss living abroad? 7 ☐ yes 8 ☐ no
4. Have you ever taken part in federal voting and elections as a Swiss living abroad? 9 ☐ yes 10 ☐ no
To be completed only if point 3 is answered in the affirmative
5. How often did this occur? 11 ☐ 3 times 12 ☐ 4-6 t. 13 ☐ 7 and more t.
6. Would you welcome voting from abroad? 14 ☐ yes 15 ☐ no
7. If «no», for what reasons?
on principle 16 ☐ because of dual-nationality 17 ☐
too involved 19 ☐
insufficient knowledge of Swiss problems 18 ☐ other reasons 20 ☐
8. If «yes», how would you prefer to vote: by mail 21 ☐
personally at the Swiss representation Embassy, Consulate-General, Consulate 22 ☐
no opinion 23 ☐
9. Where would you like your vote to be counted? 24 ☐
In one of your communes of origin? 25 ☐
In one of your previous communes of residence?
10. If such a facilitation would be instituted, to what extent would you participate in federal voting and elections? 26 ☐ often 27 ☐ occasionally 28 ☐ never

11. Remarks

Seal
of the
representation

Questionnaire

for spouse, if any, of Swiss nationality
concerning the right to vote of the Swiss abroad
(please mark the correct answer ☒)

1. Were you born in Switzerland? 1 ☐ yes 2 ☐ no
2. Year of birth? 3
3. Were you ever placed on the voting-list of a Swiss commune, as a Swiss living abroad? 7 ☐ yes 8 ☐ no
4. Have you ever taken part in federal voting and elections as a Swiss living abroad? 9 ☐ yes 10 ☐ no
To be completed only if point 3 is answered in the affirmative
5. How often did this occur? 11 ☐ 1-3 times 12 ☐ 4-6 t. 13 ☐ 7 and more t.
6. Would you welcome voting from abroad? 14 ☐ yes 15 ☐ no
7. If «no», for what reasons?
on principle 16 ☐ because of dual-nationality 17 ☐
too involved 19 ☐
insufficient knowledge of Swiss problems 18 ☐ other reasons 20 ☐
8. If yes, how would you prefer to vote: by mail 21 ☐
personally, at the Swiss representation Embassy, Consulate-General, Consulate 22 ☐
no opinion 23 ☐
9. Where would you like your vote to be counted? 24 ☐
in one of your communes of origin? 25 ☐
in one of your previous communes of residence?
10. If such a facilitation would be instituted, to what extent would you participate in federal voting and elections? 26 ☐ often 27 ☐ occasionally 28 ☐ never

11. Remarks

Seal
of the
representation

Swiss abroad, be the exception to the rule!

History proves that the important decisions for the future and the rights of a people are always made by a minority.

With respect to the political rights of the Swiss abroad, or more precisely the exercise of those rights, we have reached a point where we need the help of every single Swiss man and woman abroad.

The regulation valid until today requires your personal presence in Switzerland to vote in elections and referendums. For your benefit, however, we would like you to have the right to exercise your political rights by correspondence.

Therefore:

1) You should register in large numbers with your official Swiss representative, even if you know that you will not be able to take advantage of this right, since, for example, you do not come to Switzerland very often. Your registration will show your interest clearly.

Aim of your registration:

If one notices that a large number of Swiss living abroad have registered in Switzerland, but only a small number actually come to Switzerland to vote, then the necessary measures will undoubtedly be enacted to change the present voting procedure.

2) Every Swiss man and woman abroad should fill in the questionnaire on page 27 of this magazine, **and by doing so express his or her interest in the political life of Switzerland.** Anyway, who is not interested?

By registering with your representative, you do the Swiss abroad as a whole a service, and do justice to the principles stated at the beginning of this text.

Lucien Paillard, ASS

Citizenship Campaign

An endearing gesture

A campaign is under way that Swiss mothers married abroad to foreign fathers should be able to pass on Swiss citizenship to their children the same way as those mothers resident in Switzerland at the time of birth. In order to confirm their support, a group of Swiss women in Italy, led by Mrs. Margareth Bayard, Rome, decided to give a present to members of the Federal Parliament. It was a little cotton bag with some «Guetzli», nuts and tangerines and a drawing in each, made by the child of a Swiss mother and a foreign father.

With this symbolic gift, the children concerned wanted to demonstrate that they were willing to renounce their own Santa Claus bags in favour of the Swiss Members of Parliament and at the same time to draw attention to their own discrimination. The presentation under the cupola of the Federal Palace took place in co-operation with the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad and was made by a real Santa Claus. He recited a specially written poem in Swiss-German:

Samichlaus, du liebe Maa,
mach, dass au mir ds'Schwyzter Bürgerrächt
chönnt ha.

Au üsi Mamme isch vo der Schwyz,
au mir fühlet üs ganz vo der Schwyz,
au mir hänt Schwyzter Bluet
und sind euser Helvetia doch nid gnuég.

Mir chönnt doch nüt defür wägem Domizil,
d'Schwyz verlangt vo eus gar z'viel,
ds'Mammi söllt ir Schwyz gebäre,
und au de Papi söllt det ga läbe.
Hie eifach Arbeit, Hus, ds'ganz Zält
abbräche
da git's gar viel Chöscht und e Hufe z'mache.

Warum mit eus so ungerächt,
als ob me keini Lösing anebrächt,
allei e Satz müesst gänderet wärde
und scho chönnt au mir Schwyzter wärde.
Nur das, ds'Bürgerrächt, wei mer ha,
alles Süessi tüemer de National- und
Ständerät la.

Bring all die Säckli ins Bundeshuus ganz gli,
vo üs Uslandchindli, wie mir's i der Schwyz.
müend si.

Samichlaus, du liebe Maa,
gäll du tuesch üs nid verlah,
au mir hänt dich doch so gärn
wenn no so wit ewäg vo Bärn.

Nur eis blibt üs no jetzt,
Dir ds'danke vo ganzem Härz
im Chor rüefet mir ganz lut mitenand,
dass es über d'Bärge tönt is Schwyzterland!
All'Uslandchindli vo Schwyzter Muetter
sind derbj.
Härzliche Dank – grazie – thank you – merci.

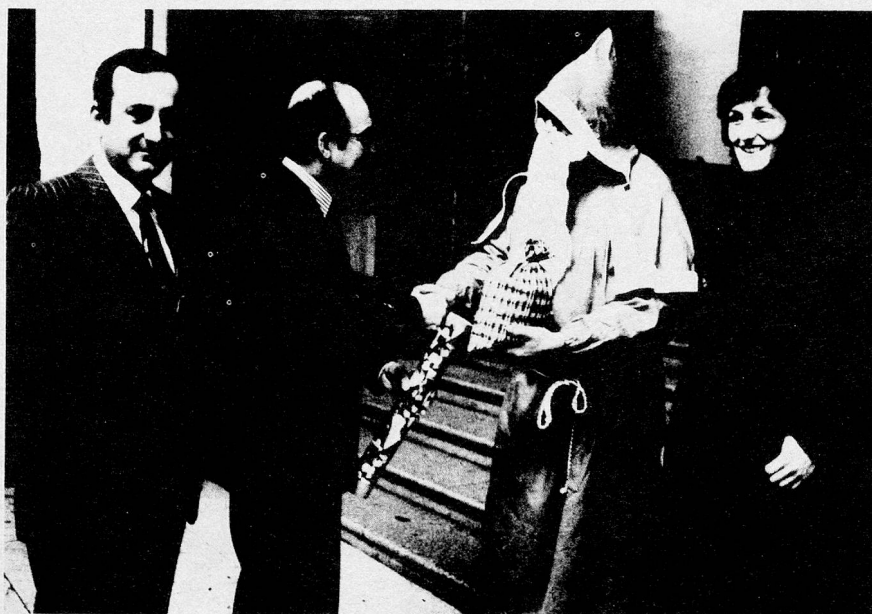
St. Nicolas, you dear old man,
Oh, will you please do all you can
that we, too, get Swiss citizenship.
Our mothers have it like the others,
and we ourselves feel really Swiss,
for we, too, have Swiss blood in us.
But for HELVETIA we're not good enough.

The place of residence is not our fault
as such;
in this dear Switzerland asks much too
much.
For mothers should have given birth
at home,
and fathers should have lived there, too.
To leave their work and homes for good
would mean upheaval, trouble and cost
too much.

Why should our treatment be unfair
as if there were no good solution?
A change of sentence only, and we're there,
and we could Swiss become at once.
On Swiss citizenship only we are bent –
The goodies we leave for the Members of
Parliament.

Take our bags quickly to the Chambers we
trust,
from us «foreign» children in Switzerland
be we must.
St. Nicolas, oh dear old man,
Please will you now do all you can.
Don't leave us. Love we do you as we may,
Although from Berne we are all far away.

Just one thing now that still remains:
To thank you warmly from our hearts.
In unison we sing refrains
so loud they sound in all Swiss parts:
From all foreign children and their mothers
Swiss
Dankschoen, grazie, merci and many thanks
it is.



The distribution of the presents by Santa Claus in the main hall of the Federal Palace took place in a friendly atmosphere. A number of Parliamentarians showed great interest in the problem; they will have to consider it in one of the coming parliamentary sessions. As was announced in one of the previous issues, the campaign is

From right to left:
Margareth Bayard, Father Christmas,
Mr. Kurt Furgler, Federal President for 1981,
Mr. Lucien Paillard, Deputy-Director of the
Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad.

At the same time, a poster was shown which drew everyone's attention to the discriminatory situation as it exists at the moment.

Discrimination in pictures

Resident in Switzerland or abroad



Swiss mother + Swiss father = Swiss child

Resident in Switzerland or abroad



Swiss father + foreign mother = Swiss child

Resident in Switzerland



Swiss mother + foreign father = the child has dual nationality since 1978 (Swiss and that of his/her father)

Resident abroad



Swiss mother + foreign father = foreign child

being deliberated by Parliament. This means that Swiss men and women abroad just have to await the Federal Council's opinion in the matter. This will be published within the next few weeks and is extremely important. We shall inform you as soon as possible so that you will be able to help us in the future work.

Lucien Paillard

Summer Camp

Dear Young Swiss Abroad
Once again, the Youth Service is organizing a summer camp. The dates are as follows:

27th July until 15th August 1981

Last date of applying: 15th June 1981.

And now a few details which should make it really attractive for you. On the first day, we shall meet at Airolo in the Canton of Ticino. From there we shall travel to Ambri-Quinto where we shall have our base camp. Then we shall spend 3 weeks together in the «Sun Parlour» of Switzerland, i.e. the Ticino. In the first week we shall get to know the Eastern side of the Leventina by walking from the Ritom Lake to the Lukmanier. In the second week we shall split up into sub-groups and devote our time to individual interests chosen by the participants themselves. The third week will again be spent walking. The tour will take us over the Cristallina Pass into the Bedretto Valley, and thus we shall get to know the Western part of the Leventina. In between we shall go sunbathing and swimming; we shall visit towns and admire monuments; altogether we shall be able to enjoy to the full the beautiful Ticino, on foot, by train, chair-lift and boat.

Only one thing is still missing – **your application.**

Write to:
Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad
Alpenstrasse 26
CH-3000 Berne 16
Switzerland

Dear Youth Service, I should like to apply for the summer youth camp from 27th July until 15th August 1981. Please let me have the necessary information and application form.

Name _____

First name: _____

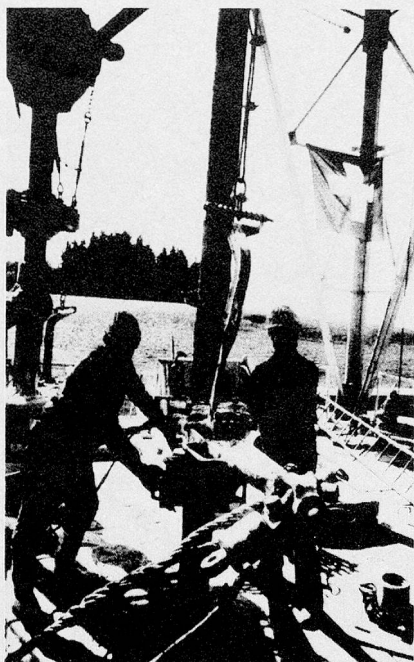
Road: _____

Town: _____

Country: _____

Date of birth: _____

1980 in retrospect



2



1 One of the 12 sites where drilling was effected in order to find out the most suitable earth structure for the deposit of radioactive waste. Some of the Communes concerned have put up opposition.

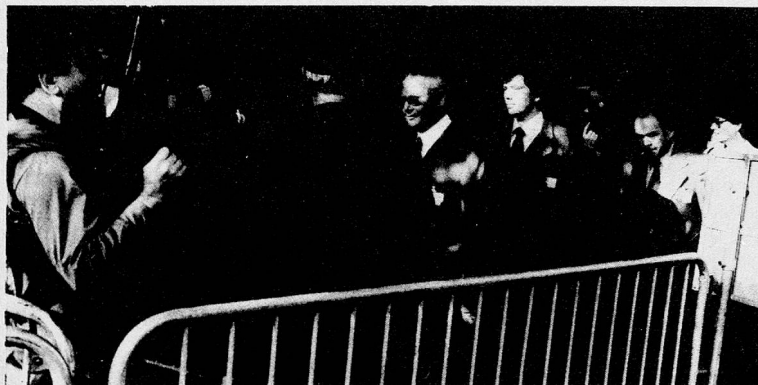
2 «Grün 80», the second Swiss exhibition for horticulture and landscape gardening.

3 Court case in Winterthur against Rolf Clemens Wagner, the alleged terrorist. He was arrested after an attempted bank robbery with ensuing shooting in Zurich.

4 «Hot» summer and autumn in Zurich and other Swiss towns. Youth demonstrations of which the demands are not yet quite evident.

5 Strikes by the hour in the printing and paper industry because of the negotiations regarding a new comprehensive agreement.

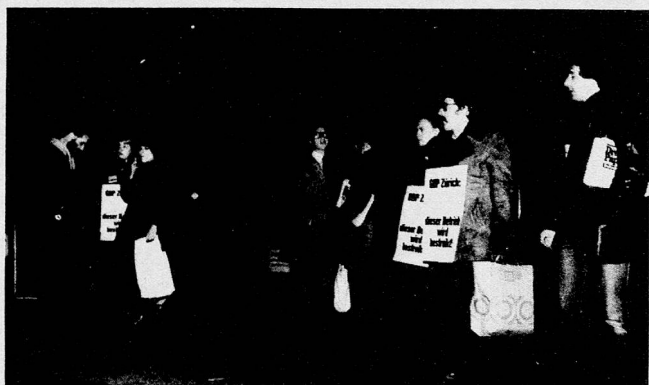
6 Demonstrations in Lucerne and other Swiss towns in favour of the theologian Hans Kueng, who lectures at Tuebingen in the German Federal Republic. His teaching permit has been withdrawn on account of his ideologies about the Roman Catholic Church.



3



4

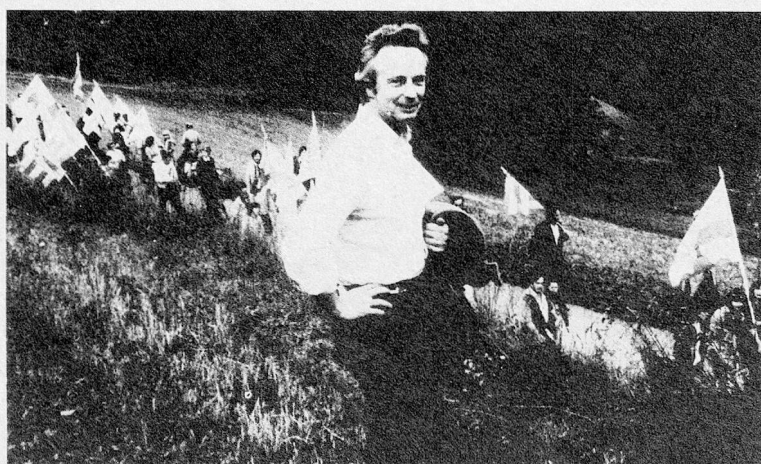


5



6

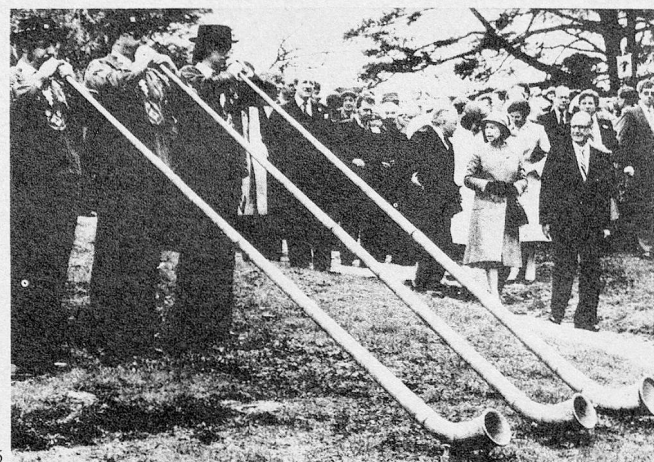
QUARTERLY REVIEW



1 The editors-in-chief of the two newspapers in the picture were sacked at almost the same time for various reasons concerning the freedom of the press and political convictions.

2 The Head of Radio-24, Roger Schawinski, and the Director of Programmes, Christian Heeb, visited Federal Councillor Schlumpf at the Federal Palace. The discussion had no results, as Mr. Schlumpf allowed them to continue transmitting, but only on Italian territory and up to the Swiss frontier. As pirate transmitter, however, Radio-24 would soon be compelled to close down.

3 The Commune Vellerat in the Bernese Jura considers itself as belonging to the Canton of Jura. In support of the Jura loyalists, the *Rassemblement jurassien* organized a march in which Roland Béguelin took part.



5

6



4 Approximately 20 000 young people from at home and abroad took part in the scout camp (Bula 80) which took place in the Bernese Oberland, the Gruyère region and Pre-Alps of the Vaud. Unfortunately, good weather was absent ...

5 A four-day State Visit to Switzerland of Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain. On the Ruetli Meadow, she was accompanied by Federal Councillor Hans Huerlimann and the President of the Confederation, Mr. André Chevallaz.

6 An Oscar was awarded to the Swiss Hansruedi Giger for scenery production of a science fiction film.

QUARTERLY REVIEW



1



2



1 A new Secretary of State at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Dr. Raymond Probst replaces Dr. Albert Weitnauer.

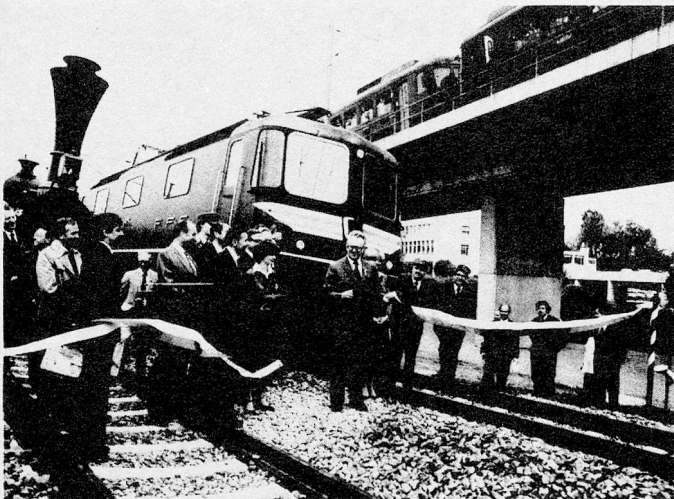
2 The Swiss Ambassador in Bogotá, Monsieur Jean Bourgeois, was kept hostage by a guerilla group for several weeks. Several other ambassadors suffered the same fate. After long negotiations, the victims were released.

3 Opening of the SBB line from Zurich to Kloten Airport by Federal Councillor Léon Schlumpf. The cost amounted to 300 million Francs.

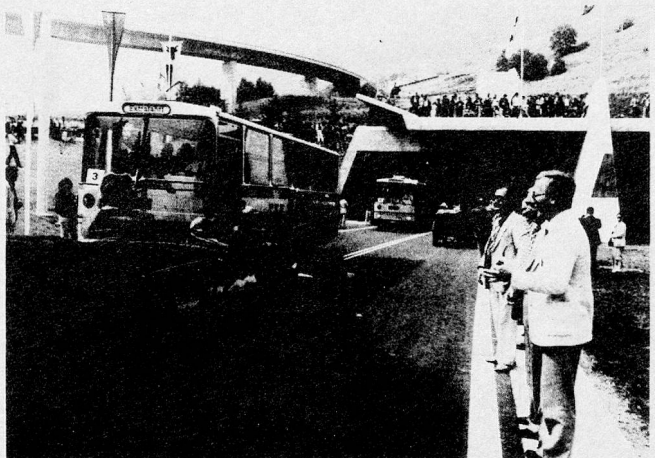
4 Inauguration of the Seelisberg Tunnel at 12.12 p.m. on 12.12.1980. The longest four-lane tunnel in the world. With this tunnel becoming operational, the motorway N2 is now complete on the Northern side of the Gotthard.

5 This makes it possible to reach the Gotthard Tunnel in a very short time; it was opened 3 months earlier than planned, i.e. on 9th September 1980.

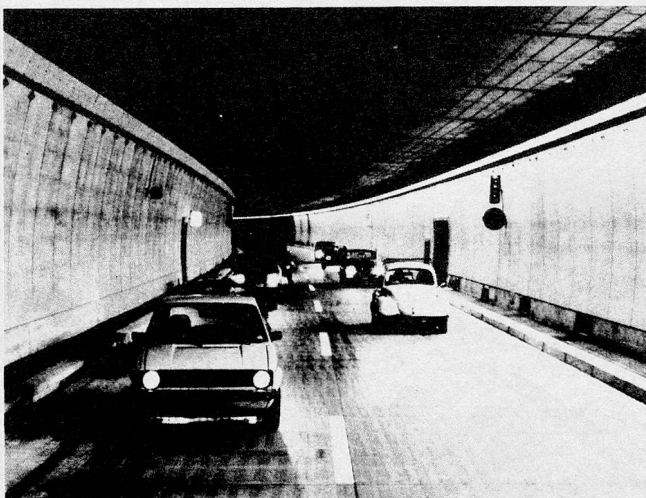
6 The Skiing World Cup 1980 became a family affair: Hanni and Andi Wenzel from Liechtenstein, who train with the Swiss national team, each had the best total.



3



5



4



6

QUARTERLY REVIEW



1



2

1 Two gold medals were won for Switzerland at the Olympic Games in Moscow, Robert Dill-Bundi in individual pursuit in cycling and Juerg Roethlisberger in judo (middleweight).

2 At the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid in USA, the Swiss sportsmen did not have the expected success.

3 The first federal «Schwingfest» for women took place at Aeschi near Thun. Eva Bleiker from Nesslau in the Toggenburg was awarded the title «Queen of the Schwinger».

4 Swiss personalities who died in the course of 1980:

- Raymond Broger, Councillor of States of Appenzell Innerrhoden
- Walter Allgoewer, National Councillor, Basle
- Fritz Buehler, founder of the Swiss Air Rescue Service
- Schaggi Streuli, actor
- Madame de Meuron, the last Bernese patrician
- Jean Piaget, child psychologist



3

4



QUARTERLY REVIEW

It doesn't say anything about lavish celebrations of company anniversaries:

16.1.1931

B Y - L A W S .

I. Name, Purpose and Duration of the Company.

Paragraph 1.

Under the name "Swissair", Swiss Air Traffic Company Limited ("Swissair" Schweizerische Luftverkehr Aktiengesellschaft, "Swissair" Société Anonyme Suisse pour la Navigation Aérienne, "Swissair" Società Anonima Svizzera per la Navigazione Aerea), there is incorporated a joint stock company with registered office in Zurich.

The objects of the company are to operate air services within Switzerland and abroad consisting in regular scheduled transport of passengers, goods and mail, to engage in any activity in connection with air transport, furthermore to produce aerial photographs and commercially to dispose of same, to effect special flights, aerial surveys, aerial advertising, to establish and operate airports as well as to participate in similar activities.

The company's duration is not limited.

We are turning 50. We aren't for a big celebration. What we want is to thank all our friends:

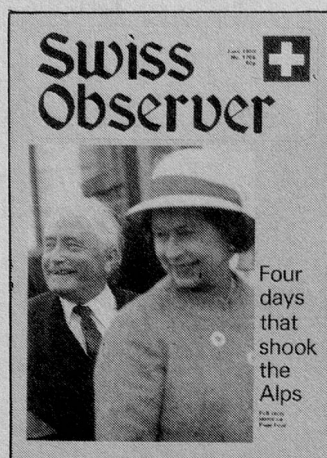
Our passengers for their confidence.
And our people for earning us the confidence of so many passengers.

Thank you very much.
And now back to work for the next 50 years of confidence.

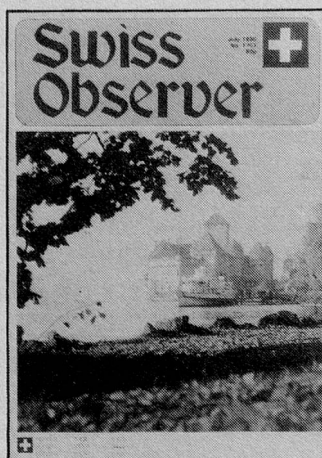
GGK

swissair  1931
1981

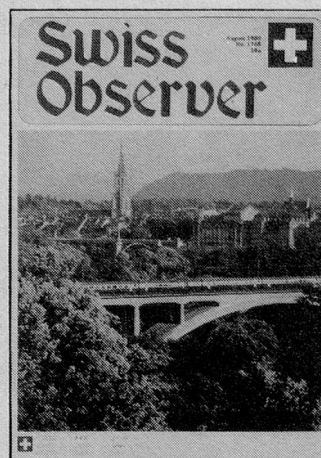
June . .



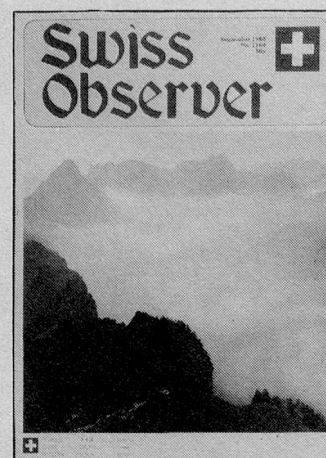
July . .



August . .



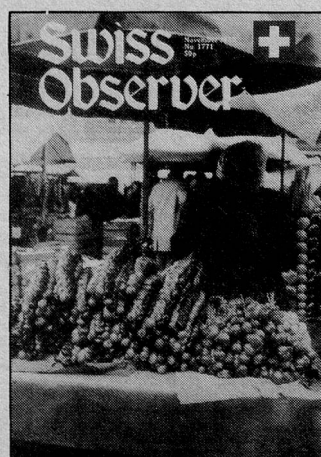
September . .



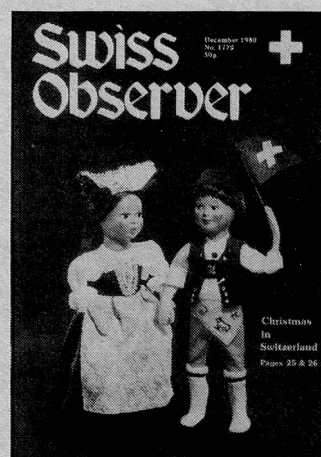
October . .



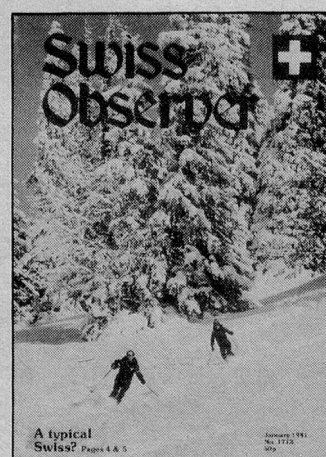
November . .



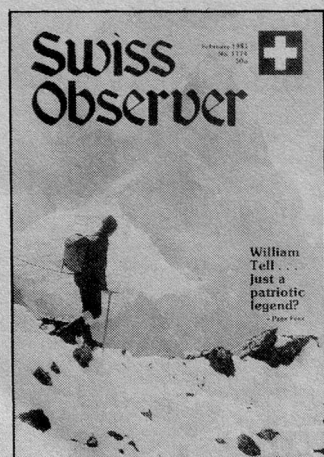
December . .



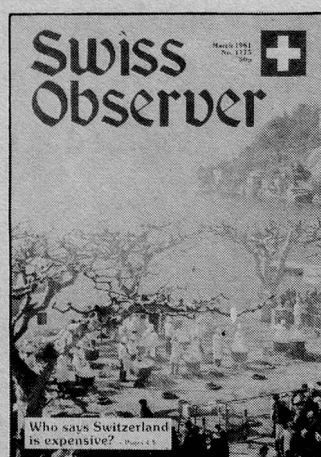
January . .



February . .



March . .



Month after month the Swiss Observer brings a breath of the homeland to Swiss people living in the United Kingdom. If you do not receive it regularly, or if you would like to send a gift subscription to a friend, send £6.90 for the next 12 issues to: Swiss Observer, Europa House, 68 Chester Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 5NY.