

Distinguished visitors in Switzerland

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Winterthur's births: in 1950, 13 foreign children were born in the first six months of the year and 520 Swiss babies; in 1965, 259 foreign children were born as against 562 of Swiss parents; figures which speak for themselves. More assimilation is urged, and special school classes are organized so that the foreign children can join their Swiss friends as soon as possible and are not kept in isolation. Housing, too, is a problem. Often, the homes of the foreign workers are of a higher standard than they would have in their own countries, but in some instances, accommodation is not satisfactory.

In December, a book was published "Siamo Italiani". It is based on the talks and discussions which were had with Italian workers in 1963 when the firm of the same name was prepared. Max Frisch wrote the preface. "Man hat Arbeitskraefte gerufen, und es kommen Menschen", he says, and that paints the true picture in a nutshell. The problem is a difficult one: it will require economists and sociologists to solve it and much goodwill and unselfish effort on all sides.

Based on information received by
Agence Telegraphique Suisse and
"Basler Nachrichten"

Distinguished Visitors in Switzerland

After the end of the year had seen Emperor Haile Selassie as a private visitor in Switzerland, January began well with the American scientist Dr R. B. Woodward, the latest Nobel Prize winner for Physics, and his family spending a holiday at Zermatt. An American study group of sixteen lectures and students from Illinois spent a fortnight in Switzerland, and three Ministers paid visits to the federal authorities, the Norwegian and Canadian Ministers of Trade and the Venezuelan Foreign Minister.

A Russian Trade Union delegation made a fortnight's study tour; they were members of the Russian Union of trade and commerce employees. The King of Burundi went for a holiday at Crans, and the Shah of Persia spent a few days privately in Zurich. The Swedish Minister of Trade visited Berne for talks on EFTA and European Integration, and Princess Grace of Monaco arrived in Geneva to take part in filming for Canadian Tv. on the work of the International Red Cross. The Prime Minister of British Guiana stayed with a friend of his at Unteraegeri, the Rabbi of Rumania was in Zurich where he gave a number of talks to the Jewish community, and at the end of the month, an Austrian military delegation visited Switzerland.

The Mayor of Montreal was the guest of the Swiss Watch Industry, and Germany's Foreign Minister spent his holidays at Pontresina and paid a courtesy visit to Berne. A group of young diplomats from developing countries of three continents have been

invited to Switzerland by the Foundation "Pro Helvetia", and later in the month, King Constantine of Greece and his younger sister landed at Kloten for a short stay after the Royal Wedding in Amsterdam. The American gas-turbine engineers held their annual meeting in Zurich from March 13th to 17th, and the European brewers (EFTA countries) met for three days in Lucerne. A week's study tour of Danish educationalists arranged by the Danish Institute in Zurich, ended with a meeting at the Philipp-Albert-Stapher-Haus at Castle Lenzburg.

The UNO High Commissioner for Refugees, Prince Sadruddin Khan, paid a visit to the federal authorities. The Archbishop of Canterbury spent a day in Geneva where he was officially received by Municipality and Canton and at the Cathedral, by the Church authorities; he visited the new building of the Ecumenical Council of Churches and led a Service at the Anglican Church in Geneva. Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, a keen skier, spent a holiday at Zermatt, and the Spanish Minister of Industry paid a week's visit to various parts of Switzerland.

The list of prominent visitors to Geneva's international organizations is too long to be published; from all parts of the world, politicians and representatives of various bodies come to permanent conferences and special meetings.

(ATS)

News of the Colony

Hamilton Swiss Club

This year has been termed the "Auslandschweizerjahr", and we all know that with this gesture Switzerland wishes to thank its compatriots abroad for being its "unofficial ambassadors" of good will.

How I wish "Mother Helvetia" could have sat next to me on August 22nd, in Hamilton's large and modern Founders Theatre. She could not have found better envoys than the twenty or so talented women and men who, for their allotted time of twenty minutes, held the stage during an international concert, which was one of the functions during the Maori Festival Week.

It was all there: sounds and sights we identify with "Home". A male jodel group, doing "natur jodel" with "grad hebe", mixed voices singing songs with "art jodel". Alphorn sounds, flag throwing, accordion duets, jodelling to the accompaniment of "Talerschwinger" with cowbells and folk dancing, not to forget the two ladies in particularly beautiful national costume, who sat on either side of the stage on real "Stabellen". The many different costumes greatly added to the colourful overall picture.