

Solidarity Fund of the Swiss abroad

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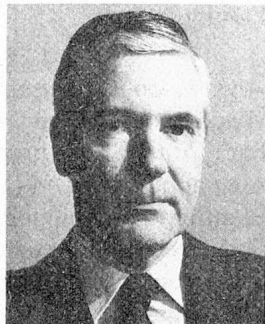
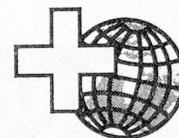
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At our last general meeting Mr. Alfred Matter was elected the new President of the Solidarity Fund. Alfred Matter spent 11 years in the Federal Political Department (at the Berlin and Stockholm Legations, among other places), then became Director of Overseas Business for the Basler Versicherungsgesellschaft (Basle Insurance Company). In 1968 he joined the Swiss Bank Corporation as a member of the Management and Head of the Economic, Publicity and Financial Analysis Section. After his retirement at the end of 1979 he continued to be actively engaged in banking and economic policy matters. Mr. Matter is an old friend of ours, having been on the Committee since 1967. He has played an energetic part in the development of the Fund and is now launching the following appeal.

Alfred Matter,
advocate, born in 1914

President's appeal to all compatriots abroad

Dear Swiss abroad,

Since its foundation in 1958 the Solidarity Fund has proved itself in more ways than one. Today there are 10 720 members in 126 different countries, and it is becoming increasingly common for whole families to join. In the course of not quite 23 years it has paid out 6.4 million francs in lump-sum compensation to 481 members who had lost their livelihood as a result of war or political coercion. During the same period approximately 10 250 members, including some recipients of lump-sum compensation, have drawn out their savings.

The Solidarity Fund is a **unique combination**: on the one hand, it represents mutual assistance among the Swiss abroad against the uninsurable **risk of loss of livelihood** as a result of political events; on the other hand, it provides an opportunity to accumulate **interest-bearing savings** in Switzerland.

It is not an insurance, however, because the contributions do not go into a common fund but are credited to our members individually and are therefore refundable. Nor is it a bank, since part of the «deposits», that is to say, of the contributions referred to above, or of the interest on them, is earmarked to cover risks. It is the combination of these two elements which enables the Fund to offer its members unique protection where they can never lose.

These benefits depend on two conditions:

- that the **Swiss Confederation guarantees** the lump-sum compensation (Article 56 of the Statutes)
- and, above all, that **as many Swiss abroad as possible** from all parts of the world **join the Fund** and thereby ensure its financial equilibrium.

And that is precisely our common goal, as I see it:

the Solidarity Fund must double its members.

In that way we shall keep it on a sound footing and retain the Confederation's guarantee, which is necessary in the event of disaster. In the present-day world our security is always more or less threatened – so the Fund must continue. I am therefore **appealing**

- to all Swiss abroad, all over the world
- to the Presidents of all Swiss societies and to their members
- to all representatives of Switzerland abroad and urging you to

join the Solidarity Fund.

Tell other people about it. Study its literature – it will be well worth the trouble.

The Solidarity Fund is not a welfare institution or a state organization but a private mutual aid scheme, based on solidarity, which is worth while for every member because the contributions earn interest and are refundable.

With kind regards

A. Matter

P. S. Our literature is available at all Swiss embassies and consulates; you can also obtain it directly from Berne by writing to the Secretariat of the *Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad*, Gutenbergstrasse 6, CH-3011 Berne.