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ASK meeting in Berne

The Commission for the Swiss Abroad (ASK) of the New Helvetic Society convened on 15th March in Berne for its ordinary spring session under the chairmanship of Professor Walther Hofer.

The delegates noted with satisfaction the positive outcome of the Citizenship Campaign, which put into effect equality of rights between husband and wife in the transference of nationality rights to the children.

In the area of voluntary OAI/DI (old age and disability pensions) for Swiss abroad, the ASK put forward the following prerequisites in respect of the 10th revision of the Swiss social security system:

– Independent entry of the wife if the husband does not wish to be insured.

– Possibility of remittance of premiums from abroad.

– Increase of part-benefits for returning emigrants who, in Switzerland, are still gainfully employed after reaching pensionable age.

In the field of sickness insurance, the ASK supports the initiative of the President of the Solidarity Fund, Dr. Hans Halbheer, who is endeavouring to arrive at a special solution in the shape of a group insurance scheme for returning emigrants. On the other hand, the Organization for the Swiss Abroad was able to obtain, through the good offices of the President of the Intercantonal Conference of Health Officers, confirmation of the agreement entered into with the public hospitals whereby Swiss abroad will not be in a worse position, as patients, than Swiss with residence outside the canton in question.

The Assembly of the Swiss Abroad for the year 1991 also came up for discussion. In this jubilee year of the Confederation, the Organization for the Swiss Abroad will also be able to celebrate a birthday – its 75th. The yearly meeting of the Swiss Abroad will be held in Central Switzerland on that occasion. As was made known at the ASK meeting in Berne, a prominent place will be given to the Swiss Abroad on the «Road of Switzerland» round the Urnersee (lake of Uri) planned within the framework of «CH 91» – the Swiss National Exhibition of 1991. ●

M. N.

This year in Morges

A registration form for participation in the 64th Assembly of the Swiss Abroad, from 5th to 7th September 1986 in Morges, was contained in the No 1/86 issue of our magazine. In the meantime, the preparations for this annual meeting have proceeded apace. The principal theme: «The Swiss Abroad, Youth and Sport», will certainly meet with widespread interest.

Our readers will not have cause for regret if, this year, they combine their summer stay in the homeland with a visit to us in Morges on the first week-end of September. ●

M. N.

The Secretariat's Voice:



«Usslandschwizersekretariat, Wächter...»

This is what you will hear when you dial the telephone number of the Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad, in Berne. It is, of course, Swiss-German for just that – the *Auslandschweizersekretariat* – and the pleasant voice belongs to Christine Wächter, a Bernese who can also answer you in German, French, Italian or English (and, if

need be, in a few other languages too).

Two years ago, after her final examinations at the Berne municipal business college, Mrs. Wächter joined the team of the Secretariat and she has been the «Voice of the Auslandschweizersekretariat» ever since. At the same time she looks after the Society of Friends of the organization for Swiss living abroad; supplies her compatriots in remote areas with Swiss magazines; and does a number of other jobs for the Secretariat. Only recently has she had the use of a modern word-processing system – which she affectionately calls «Nathan» (... the Wise) – to help her in her work.

Do you want to emigrate, to re-emigrate or come home? Would you like to take out a subscription to a Swiss newspaper? Do you need an address in Switzerland? Any other information? «Usslandschwizersekretariat, Wächter» is never at a loss for help and advice! ●

R. W.