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THE SWISS ABROAD AND THE SOLIDARITY FUND

The Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad was founded in 1958. Since then it has paid out compensation to 160 members who have lost their means of livelihood owing to war, political troubles or enforced measures. The compensations amounted to a round million and a half, of which in 1963 alone Fr.550,000.—. Consequently the Fund was compelled to ask the Confederation for the guarantee which the latter had promised by the decree of 22nd June 1962, and a sum of Fr.498,616.— was paid over to the Fund.

The new drive to recruit new members, which had been undertaken by the Swiss diplomatic representatives abroad, was successful, say the Federal Political Department. The number of members had risen from 4,600 to 7,500 by the end of 1963. Nevertheless, the fact remains that many compatriots have remained outside the Fund for reasons of indifference, although joining would be in their interest. More members are urgently needed, and it is hoped that a new drive amongst the Swiss Communities abroad will bring good results.

One must remember that it is not a charity; on the contrary, it is an insurance, but one which returns most or much of the premiums (according to the age at which one joins) on retirement.

At the end of 1962 157,877 Swiss citizens and 111,758 dual nationals registered with the Swiss Embassies and Consulates abroad. Compared with the previous year, the number of Swiss citizens went back by 1,504, that of dual nationals increased by 3,511. [A.T.S.]

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OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our next issue will be published on 12th June. We shall be grateful to receive reports and articles by the first post on Wednesday, 3rd June. Only short news items can be accepted later.

It will help us greatly if subscribers who are in arrears with their subscriptions will pay up promptly.

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The report of the **CITY SWISS CLUB** A.G.M. was received too late for this issue.

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