

Development and size of Swiss communities abroad

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Where private interests are concerned, diplomatic steps may only be undertaken when all legal means in a national court of law have failed. At that point, help must be given and advice of how to proceed to get a fair trial. Diplomatic intervention is only possible when international law has been violated, if justice has been denied, or if there are no more legal means available.

If a Swiss citizen is attacked, apprehended or arrested, the first duty of the federal representatives is to see that he is treated decently. They have to find out the reasons for the charge. If arrest is against the law they demand his release.

If a citizen suffers with regard to his property, efforts are made first to recover it. There is no possibility to oppose nationalisation or confiscation, because these are legal measures. In such cases, the Swiss authorities try to get adequate compensation. This may be subject to very tough negotiations between the two Governments. If a contractual agreement is arrived at, the Federal Department (EPD) sees to it that it is carried out.

Unfortunately, it happens that demands are not or only partly met in spite of all efforts by the Swiss Government's representatives. In such cases, the latter are often asked to take reprisals. But measures of this kind are dangerous weapons which could be turned against the user and could do more harm than good. Such steps must be well considered, and the federal authorities, for good reasons, take them only rarely.

Are there enough means at the disposal of the EPD to protect Swiss interests sufficiently? The answer is, generally, in the affirmative. The proposed Constitutional Article for the Swiss Abroad will allow the authorities to use such means to a larger extent.

Some Swiss communities abroad wish a better division of work between the Embassies and the Consulates, especially in large capitals. Consulates-General are desired side by side with Embassies. This is not a new question, but it has been found undesirable to establish Consulates-General, for instance, in Paris. There seem to be little advantage if an Embassy is relieved of consular work. The diplomatic and consular services form a unity, as has been said before. It would not be according to Swiss neutrality and tradition if the diplomats became representatives who were no longer interested in the affairs of the Swiss abroad. The relationship between an Ambassador and his fellow countrymen should not only be of an administrative nature; in fact, they form one of the finest fields of activity for him. It would not be normal if the leading personalities of the Swiss community had only loose contacts with the Embassy.

The argument that an Embassy could get less effective protection for a Swiss national because steps on its part would have to be more carefully considered in order not to damage interstate relationship was not valid, and, in fact, no such cases are known. Anyway, if diplomatic intervention is necessary, it cannot be carried out by the Consul who has access to local authorities only.

Another reason for not establishing Consulates-General in addition to Embassies is the question of finance. The Federal Parliament would hardly grant the necessary credits.

To end his address, Monsieur Micheli expressed thanks to the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and its Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad. He said that the Federal Political Department appreciated the ready collaboration and co-operation always accorded to the federal authorities.

DEVELOPMENT AND SIZE OF SWISS COMMUNITIES ABROAD

At the end of 1964 there were 275,648 Swiss registered with the consular representatives abroad, of which 155,980 were full Swiss citizens. Their number, compared with the previous year, has been reduced by 50 only. The number of dual nationals, for whom registration is not compulsory, has at the same time been increased by 3,549 to a total of 119,668.

The Federal Aliens Police refers to the fact that the position of the full Swiss citizens whose numbers showed a retrograde movement during the last few years, has improved, due chiefly to the increased contingents from the homeland, but also on account of the decline in the number of deaths and the less numerous change-over to dual nationality citizens. However, the number of full Swiss citizens cannot be maintained by their own strength, seeing that last year there were 1,945 deaths as against 1,199 births. Due to the higher death rate in the Swiss communities abroad, the number of deaths is notably higher than in Switzerland, viz: 12.5 against 9.1 per thousand.

In accordance with the recorded statistics from 127 countries, the number of the colonies increased in 68 countries and decreased in 54 states, whereas the number remained unchanged in 5 countries.

The largest Swiss colonies abroad registered the following numbers of full Swiss citizens: FRANCE: 38,385 (- 730), WEST GERMAN REPUBLIC: 21,134 (+ 196), U.S.A.: 14,456 (+ 454), ITALY: 13,570 (+ 142), GREAT BRITAIN: 8,105 (- 143), CANADA: 7,060 (- 136), ARGENTINA: 4,671 (- 242) and BRAZIL: 4,307 (- 138).

The number of full Swiss citizens in Europe has dropped since 1950 from 123,172 to 103,547, which is due chiefly to the separation of the Eastern European States and the lack of revival in France. 23% of our countrymen abroad live in American States. Their number (36,141) is roughly 7,000 above that of the year 1950. It is however getting gradually weaker, due to the unstable situation in Latin America.

The number of full Swiss citizens in Africa is 9,017 (1950: 8,734) or 6%; in Asia 4,199 (2,877) or 3% and in Australia/Oceania 2,076 (1,342) or 2%.

The registered dual nationals have increased since 1950 from 72,363 to 119,668, whereby a new highest number was reached. In 19 countries the number of dual nationals is already greater than that of full nationality Swiss, particularly in France, Argentina, Australia, Chile, Morocco and Algeria. The largest numbers of dual citizens are registered in France, i.e. 52,132, in the Federal German Republic 10,408, in U.S.A. 10,015, Canada 5,982, Argentina 5,480, Italy 5,233, Great Britain 5,220 and in Brazil 3,621.

68% of the dual nationals are resident in Europe and 25% in American States.

A true picture regarding the size and development of the "FIFTH SWITZERLAND" can only be obtained by adding the full Swiss citizens and the dual nationals. Today there are 275,648 or about 38,000 more Swiss registered abroad than 14 years ago. Since 1950 the number in Europe has increased by 4% to 184,488, in America by 54% to 66,215, in Africa by 16% to 13,218, in Australia/Oceania by 146% to 6,240 and in Asia by 79% to 5,487. The number of non-registered full Swiss (Swiss only) is estimated to be 4,079 (4,238), of which about two-thirds reside in Great Britain and the U.S.A.

During 1964, 17,295 Swiss emigrated, 4,013 changed their residence abroad to a third country, so that a total of 21,308 persons registered afresh abroad. Of these emigrants 62% or 13,149 were able to work, namely 9,032 or 69% men and 4,117 or 31% women. Of the newly registered there were 14,220 who returned to the homeland, 3,679 who emigrated to third countries, thus making a total of 17,899 of such returns.

The excess of emigrants has increased by 3,075 and doubled, compared with 1963. The greatest number of Swiss who returned home were from Great Britain (2,493), from France (1,860), from the West German Republic 1,623, from the U.S.A. 1,475, from Italy 1,072, and from Canada 515. Of the emigrant Swiss 11,352 went to European countries, to America 3,342, to Africa 1,316, to Asia 849 and Australia/Oceania 436.

[A.T.S.]

Translated by H.H.B.

STRANGER IN SCHAFFHAUSEN

Dear Mr. Graf,

Discovering your letter in this week's *Express* was a pleasant surprise — quite apart from the fact that it gives me a week's respite from the not always easy task of condensing my scattered impressions of Switzerland into an article!

I remain unconvinced that Schaffhausen could not afford both the best teachers *and* reasonably comfortable facilities at its Kantonsschule. With you I must deplore the American fascination with modern school buildings to the exclusion, all too often, of real concern for the quality of education which goes on in them. My lovely Spanish-style high school in California is to be torn down next year. It has reached the immense age of some 50 years — and to the California mind, such an antiquity might make an interesting museum of ancient history but certainly is not fit to live in or teach children in. No doubt it will be replaced by one of those ultra-modern steel and glass structures which, though sometimes tastefully designed, are usually sheer monstrosities resembling animal cages much more than comfortable quarters in which to explore the wide world of culture.

On the other hand I have never been of the romantic opinion that learning can only take place in dingy and ill-lighted surroundings. And being an enthusiast of distance running I have covered a good share of Schaffhausen's streets by foot, noticing in the process among other things that on almost every one of those streets one sooner or later finds an industrial building. Which suggests that, if the citizens of Schaffhausen really find their Kanton funds too limited to keep their school in good repair, the money the industry must make in one day would be more than sufficient to pay for a complete renovation. Perhaps it could be induced to contribute a day's profit to the glory of Kanton education?

With what I take to be your main point, however, I can only agree: that no foreigner can understand the Schaffhausen Kantonsschule after a one-day visit, or a new country after six weeks (or six months).

Having spent a year in France (attending a lycée and living with a family under the fine American Field Service exchange program) and a summer in Mexico, I am sharply aware of just how difficult it is to develop any genuine feeling for the spirit of a foreign country. I am always amazed when people ask me (and they often do), "Do you like Switzerland?" How can I answer that question? After seven weeks here with my still inadequate German

(and even less Schwyzerdütsch) I have only a very dim idea of what it means to be Swiss. And that which I do not understand I surely cannot allow myself to judge. The whole business of writing such a series of articles is ticklish, and I undertook it at first with reluctance. One feels rather as might an African pygmy who had never seen a white man and then was suddenly transported to the Empire State Building and told to describe it. How it functions, what it really is, he has no idea; he can only say what he sees and how he feels about that. From his description one would probably learn more about Pygmy mentality than about the Empire State Building.

And if my article about the Kanti gave the impression that I thought it "a little drab and not too much fun", I did not mean it to. I left out of the article a paragraph in which I commented that, compared to a French lycée, the Kanti seems a place of boisterous freedom and joy. To point out that there are few non-academic activities here compared with the surplus of them in American high schools was hardly a criticism. To the contrary, perhaps.

I suppose the two things which I (and perhaps most people?) have the greatest difficulty understanding in a foreign country are the spirit of the schools and relations between the sexes. Now, I am pretty sure that I shall avoid marrying a Schweizerin, or a Française, or a Mexicana. I'll take a good old American girl, thank you, who may try to wear the pants in the family but at least I shall have some vague notion as to why and what to do about it. But I think I would be very willing to send my children to the Kanti or to the Lycée de Deauville. They would certainly not learn as much about dating and sports and a thousand and one different kinds of clubs there as in an American high school. And I do not think they would learn a significantly greater number of facts. But here they would learn much better, I think, that subtle feeling for the breadth and depth of human thought which one calls "culture" and which is surely the basis of being "well-educated". My own country I am free to criticize as I am not free to criticize Switzerland, and for what it is worth I say openly that I believe our public high schools, precisely because of their failure to teach the cultural values, to be one of our greatest national weaknesses.

Which is simply to say that, even though the paint has been peeling off the walls of the Kanti for the last 20 years, I liked very much what I did see and understand of it.

Bob Cooley.

(By courtesy of "Wochen-Express,"
Schaffhausen.)

A NEW SWISS PHARMACEUTICAL UNDERTAKING IN EGYPT

At Imiriya, not far from Cairo, a new firm "Swiss Pharma S.A.", has come into being. This is a packaging centre for Swiss special pharmaceutical products, set up jointly by Ciba, Sandoz and Wander as part of the development plan for the Egyptian economy. Some ten million units of carefully selected specialities will be packed each year; at a later stage, the actual chemical process of production will also take place here. Egyptian interests are associated with Swiss Pharma, and local firms have contributed to bringing the plant into being. The special packaging machinery, however, was imported from Switzerland and other industrialized countries.

[O.S.E.C.]