

A question of conscience

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A QUESTION OF CONSCIENCE

of vital concern to all

Why should we make no provision now for uncertain times in the future; it may never happen. But are we sure? Are they pessimists, those who give more than a vague thought to what might happen in years to come? If we are honest, we must admit that they are really wise, for they won't run the risk of being taken unawares by misfortune.

Occasionally, one can see a poster in Switzerland, representing a globe hemmed in by two buffers. It is a warning issued by the federal delegate for economic wartime provisioning, which is to remind the public of the various tensions in the world and to encourage it to keep a well-stocked larder in preparation for an emergency.

To make provision is at all times long-term planning, and this is the reason why the *Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad* approaches in the first place all those whose livelihood seems in no way threatened at the moment. There is no question of doubting their security, but a sincere wish to strengthen it by helping them to carry risks.

We don't have to think of a world war as the only reason for losing one's livelihood. That would seem unrealistic and too extreme. But the administrators of the Fund can give innumerable examples of fellow countrymen and women who lost their means of earning a living through more or less concealed coercive political measures, rather than through any armed conflict. Let us think of protectionism in trade relationships, of the kind which is seriously being discussed in the USA at the moment. This, for example, could easily lead to loss of livelihood for an importer, if he is deprived of the import license in the wake of such restrictions. Let us also consider losses by mostly unconcerned and innocent people. Last, but not least, let us remember political kidnapping. All these are risks covered by the Solidarity Fund under the statutory provisions of war, internal upheaval and coercive political measures.

One's livelihood — and that goes for every single one of our compatriots

— is important enough, not to pursue a policy of wait and see, to hope for the best without preparing for the worst. Television, radio and newspapers tell us every day of events which make us sit up. States like, for instance, Canada, feel obliged to proclaim martial law. Who would have considered this even remotely possible a few years ago? The Solidarity Fund helps every Swiss living abroad to make provisions just in case . . . The saving deposits which one makes in good times may one day prove a godsend. They have thus a dual purpose and double value: On one hand, they entitle one to a one-time payment if one's livelihood is lost due to war, internal upheaval and coercive political measures. On the other hand, the deposits form a small nest-egg in the home country, which will always be available.

There is the additional aspect of solidarity, a moral obligation to give support to a scheme which was created by Swiss abroad for Swiss abroad, and to help in good times those who live already in uncertain or bad times. One for all, all for one.

Many are already members of the Solidarity Fund. They would do well to examine whether the category of compensation originally chosen is still adequate and in accordance with present economic circumstances. The compensatory sum should represent at least the annual income in order to be adequately insured. We are quoting the various categories once more as a reminder: 2,500, 5,000, 7,500, 10,000, 15,000, 20,000, 30,000, and 40,000 Swiss Francs.

This is also an invitation to members to try and encourage fellow countrymen to join. Personal efforts still bear fruit.

All of you who have not yet joined the Solidarity Fund are hereby invited to apply for information and application form by using the slip below. Please do not put off till tomorrow what is in your interest to do today.

(MM)

Please cut out and post to:

Mrs. Mariann Meier, (*Member of the Council of the Solidarity Fund*)

53 Priory Road, London NW6 3NE

Exact Address:

Surname and First Name (please use block letters)

.....

Registered at the Swiss Embassy or Consulate in

I am interested in the Solidarity Fund and shall be glad to receive all relevant information and application form.

I shall be obliged if you will kindly elucidate the following points:

.....

Date Signature

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following readers have just had or will be celebrating their birthdays shortly: Captain T. D. Richardson, O.B.E., 84 on 16th January, Mrs. Helene Tschuy, 70 on the same day. Mrs. Alice Chappuis and Mrs. Kathleen Grob will celebrate their birthdays on 24th January, and Mr. H. Reymond will be 85 on 25th. Mr. E. Luterbacher will be 84 on 26th January, and on 1st February Mr. A. Schmid (Norfolk Court Hotel) will be 85. Mr. A. Bleiker, who spends the winter in Spain, will be 74 on 11th February, and Mr. E. Weber, at the moment in California as far as we know, will be 79 on 12th February, Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Eusebio will celebrate their 31st wedding anniversary on 27th January.

Best wishes to all!

OBITUARY

We are very sorry to announce the passing away of no less than six readers and friends.

Miss Clara Streit, of 5 Holland Park, W.11, died suddenly at St. Mary Abbots Hospital on December 30th. Readers may remember that I wrote of her unfortunate adventure in the hands of a confidence trickster last October. Another member of the London Colony to disappear was *Miss Josephine Keller* of Danvers Road, Chelsea. She was, like Miss Streit, well known among the older parishioners of the Swiss Church.

We also have to mourn the death of *Mr. Leon Joseph Faivre*, who died in Porrentruy on December 13th. He was one time Vice-Consul in Liverpool and Manchester. He was born in Porrentruy in 1893 and first came to England to work in the Volksbank in 1916. He returned to Switzerland a few years later and joined the Foreign Service. He was first sent to the Legation in London and then to Glasgow and finally, in 1925, to Liverpool, where he eventually became Vice-Consul. He was at one time President of the Swiss Club in Liverpool. He left that city in 1954. After the death of his wife in 1956 and the death of his crippled daughter in 1965, he came to live in Malvern and then in Brighton. He kept a home in Porrentruy.

Also in the South of England, we deplore the death of Mr. J. A. Reiber, who died at his home at 1 Exeter Close, Westmeads, Bognor Regis, on 28th December.

He was born in 1888 and served an apprenticeship as a pastry cook. At the age of 20, the spirit of adventure drove him to Manchester and England, where he worked in the Swiss firm of confectioners Meng and Ecker. He lived in the towns of Leeds, Southport, Brighton and Margate until he left for Buenos Aires in 1912. He returned after a year to work in Edinburgh and Otan. He was called back to Switzerland at the outbreak of the war and