

Embassy personnel come and go so bring yourself up to date with the names

Autor(en): [s.n.]

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - (1977)

Heft 1726

PDF erstellt am: **26.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-688189>

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to name but very few of the well-known citizens of the Federal Republic who have found the revenue-climate in the Ticino much friendlier than the one in their own homeland. The same applies, of course, to the two multi-millionaire playboys Gunter and Wilhelm Sachs who have recently become citizens of the tiny Grisonais village of Surcuolm. Income-tax agreements have for long been an anomaly practised in certain cantons. They offer favourable treatment to certain rich foreigners — never to ordinary Swiss citizens — on condition that such selected owners of wealth will come and reside within their boundaries. It goes without saying that these tax agreements — which are now to be revised in the case of the Ticino — have always been a source of envy for the ordinary Swiss citizens. Another region which — to this day — allows special tax arrangements for rich foreigners is the Lake Geneva Riviera. Residing there, permanently or in some cases temporarily, are, for example: Saudi Arabia's Deputy Prime Minister Prince Fahd, the Emir of Qatar, Egmond de Rothschild, Ex-Queen Marie of Italy, Princess Ashraf (sister of Iran's Shah), Prince Sadruddin Khan, Richard Burton, Sophia Loren, Charles Boyer, Petula Clark, Jacky Stewart and Emerson Fittipaldi, Charlie Chaplin, Arthur Rubinstein, Oskar Kokoschka, Ex-King Michael of Rumania, as well as President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and Felix Houphouët-Boigny of the Ivory Coast. It goes without saying that most of these potentates, artists and other well heeled persons possess magnificent villas with beautiful gardens, swimming pools and every other amenity to make life pleasant.

A mass exodus from the sunny Ticino or from the Romandie could indeed leave the respective exchequers high and dry. What the authorities would gain on the swings, they would lose on the roundabouts.

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EMBASSY PERSONNEL COME AND GO SO BRING YOURSELF UP TO DATE WITH THE NAMES

During 1976 the following changes occurred among the staff of the Swiss Embassy in London.

Dr. Albert WEITNAUER returned to Berne to become Secretary-General of the Federal Political Department. The new Ambassador in London is Dr. Ernesto THALMANN, who arrived here on 2nd February.

Dr. Benedikt von TSCHARNER, Counsellor, who was in charge of the Economic and Labour Section, left on 26th January for Berne, where he was promoted Minister at the Division of Commerce of the Department of Public Economy; he was replaced in London by Mr. Jean-Pierre ZEHNDER, Counsellor.

Mr. René SEREX, Counsellor, joined Switzerland's Permanent Representative at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg at the beginning of September, and his place here was taken by Mr. Jacques RIAL, Counsellor, for-

merly Secretary-General of the Swiss National Commission for UNESCO in Berne.

Mr. Johann Friedrich LÜTHI, Counsellor (Commodities and Agriculture), retired, leaving London for Switzerland on 24th April. His successor is Mr. Hans BUCHMANN, Counsellor, who took up his appointment on 31st March.

Mr. Alfred BÄHLER, Vice-Consul, left London on 1st July for his new post at the Swiss Embassy in Moscow.

Mr. Robert REICH, a diplomatic trainee, arrived in this country on 30th March, having been assigned to the Embassy until September, when he started an intensive one-year course in Russian at a specialised school. He has been succeeded at the Embassy by another young diplomatic trainee, Mr. Andreas FRIEDRICH, who arrived on 25th October.



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