

Swiss Welfare Office

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SWISS WELFARE OFFICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Finance

After the worrying year of 1976 which ended with a deficit of £1,448.48, 1977 started with the good news that a federal subsidy of Sw.Fr.10,000 (= £2,293.58) had been granted to us. We knew that we could carry on our work but that there was no room for complacency. For this reason it was decided to try to raise money by means of an appeal, here as well as in Switzerland. We wish to thank all individuals and firms who so generously made donations or signed covenants. The total amount received represents one quarter of last year's income and helped to avert another loss. We sincerely hope this support will be forthcoming in 1978 and future years, as it is vital to our continued existence.

Another important reason for the more favourable picture of this year's accounts is the fact that for two months the Welfare Office had the free services of Mrs. Gunn who volunteered to work during the interim period between Mrs. McCarthy's departure and Mrs. Lyster's start. This valuable help is much appreciated.

Our generous landlords, the Swiss Benevolent Society, increased their contribution from £300 to £500 as well as putting an office at our disposal rent free.

Staff

Mrs. U. McCarthy, our social worker, had to leave us in August owing to her husband's posting abroad. Her time at the Welfare Office has been of great value to the young people who came in contact with her and we are grateful for her enthusiasm and wisdom. Her place was taken by Mrs. M. Lyster, a qualified social worker, who is married to an Englishman and lives in London. She joined the Committee in 1972 and became its Hon. Secretary in 1973. She has also acted as holiday relief for both the Welfare Office and the Swiss Benevolent Society for some years having thus gained valuable experience of the problems and difficulties young people encounter in this country.

Mrs. M. Lee, the secretary whom we share with the Swiss Benevolent Society, has been married this year and fortunately is still working for us. We offer her our best wishes for a happy future. A new member of our team is Mrs. E. Gunn, who is now working as holiday relief in place of Mrs. Lyster. Mrs. E. Gunn is Swiss, married to an Englishman.

Mrs. M. Lyster resigned as Hon. Secretary due to her new commitment as Social Worker. She was succeeded by Mrs. M. Käufeler, a former Hon. Treasurer and already a member of the committee.

<i>Casework</i>	1975	1976	1977
New cases	284	261	267
Receptions	628	418	356
Visits	76	40	68
Escorts	11	11	8

The 267 new cases, of which 26 were young Swiss men, consisted of:

218 German-speaking, of which 43 were Welfare Cases;
41 French-speaking, of which 7 were Welfare Cases;
8 Italian-speaking, of which 2 were Welfare Cases.

The variety of problems dealt with were:

Problems with Employers, Agencies and Landlords	10
Legal, Financial and Immigration Problems	9
Medical or Psychological Problems Illness, Pregnancy, Drugs	20
Moral Support Matrimonial and Boyfriend Problems	13

<i>Office and clerical work</i>	1975	1976	1977
Meetings attended	62	28	25
Letters written incl. circulars, appeal & annual report	774	681	535

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Statistics can only give the bare bones of the work done. It must never be forgotten that each "case" is a real person with a real problem of a varying degree of complexity and that none is the same as another. Some problems are caused by the trends of modern society and some by the nature of the girls or boys themselves. Some are dealt with in a few minutes by the giving of an address for instance, and some can take weeks to resolve.

Very little of this work could be satisfactorily achieved without the help and support, both financial and personal, of a wide variety of people. We are sincerely grateful to Mrs. A.-R. Sharp of the Swiss Benevolent Society who was always ready to help. We very much appreciate the excellent co-operation between her and our Social Worker.

We should also like to thank Miss Alder, the Warden of the Swiss Hostel, who has always been prepared to take in a troubled girl at short notice.

Most valuable help was granted to the Committee by H.E. the Swiss Ambassador in our efforts to obtain a higher subsidy, and the office has enjoyed the continued support of the staff of the Embassy, for which we are sincerely grateful.

The Ministers of the Swiss Church in London and the Swiss Catholic Mission as well as their helpers have assisted us and continued the good co-operation.

We also wish to express our sincere thanks to Freundinnen Junger Mädchen, Pro Filia, Swiss Benevolent Society, Evang. Verband Frauenhilfe and the Federation of the Swiss Churches for their financial assistance, the employment agencies here and in Switzerland, British Airways, Swissair and various other organisations and individuals for their help.

With their continued support and that of our many friends both here and in Switzerland we look forward to another year of service to our young compatriots.

The Committee

The members of the Committee were for 1977:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Mrs. E. Thalmann | Hon. President |
| Mrs. M. H. Ellis | Hon. Vice-President |
| Mrs. G. Gyssler | President |
| Mrs. E. R. Cottet | Vice-President |
| Mrs. M. Lyster | Hon. Secretary |
| Mrs. R. Rast | Hon. Treasurer |
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| Consul Ch. Glauser | |
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| Mr. B. Simon | |

BASLE – AUTUMN FAIR PACKAGE

The first-class Hotel International is offering special weekend packages on the occasion of the Basle Autumn Fair which takes place from 28th October to 12th November, 1978.

This package will also be very useful for visitors to the "SNOW 78" Exhibition taking place during the same period in the halls of the Swiss Industries Fair.

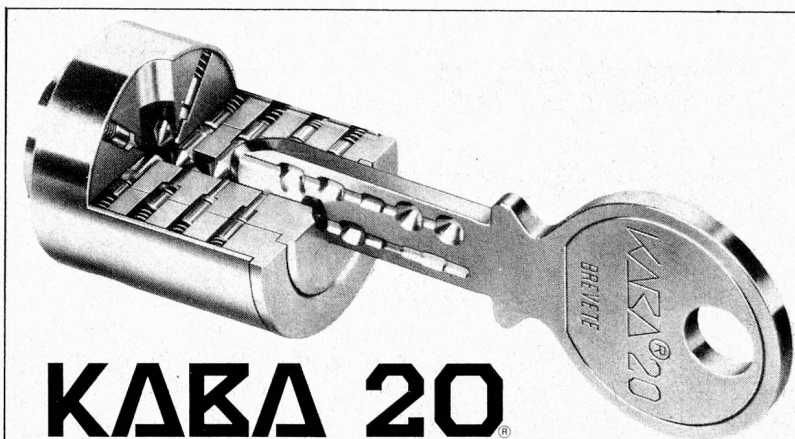
The price per person is Sw.Fr.83 for one night including breakfast buffet, one three-course lunch or dinner, a grilled veal sausage and a cheese flan at the fair, free use of the hotel's own indoor swimming pool and either a city sightseeing tour or free admission to

Basle's famous Zoo together with a one-day ticket for the public transport system.



VITZNAU – STEAM SPECIALS

Every first and third Sunday from June to September, the Vitznau-Rigi Railway, in collaboration with the Lake Lucerne Navigation Company, is offering special round-trips for steam enthusiasts. The price of Sw.Fr.29 includes lake steamer between Lucerne and Vitznau, special steam train between Vitznau and Rigi-Kaltbad, plus evening admission to the Swiss Transport Museum in Lucerne.



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