

The Organisation of the Swiss abroad and the Swiss Industries Fair

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THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD AND THE SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR

On 23rd April, 1966, both the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad and the Swiss Industries Fair celebrated their Golden Jubilee in Basle. The OSA held a special festive meeting at the Basle *Rathaus*, and those taking part, including representatives of the Federal Government, Parliament and the Cantons, were invited afterwards to a luncheon by the management of the *MUBA* at the Fair's largest dining hall. The connection has been kept up, and for some years now, there has been a special day at the Industries Fair for the Swiss Abroad, organised in conjunction with the OSA and its Secretariat in Berne.

This year, for the first time, the spring meeting of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, the CSA, was also held in Basle. This "Little Parliament" usually meets early in March and always in Berne. The change did not suit everybody, and the meeting decided that delegates should be circularised in due course and asked to put their preference. Many are of the opinion that the special day for Swiss Abroad at the *MUBA* should be continued, but that the CSA meeting should be held in Berne. One of the difficulties expressed was that of accommodation in Basle — some members were put up on boats on the Rhine due to a shortage of hotel rooms.

The luncheon was attended by some 120 people. Dr. F. P. Walt-hard, Director of the Fair, welcomed his compatriots from abroad, and the President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Dr. A. Weber, thanked the *MUBA* and the organisers of the event "The Work of Switzerland Abroad". This meeting took place in the afternoon and consisted of a panel discussion led by Secretary of State Dr. Paul R. Jolles, Director of the Federal Office for Export Trade. The subject was "Problems on the Export Front". Several industrialists and bankers took part in this very interesting discussion.

There was a Gala Evening at the Municipal Theatre, but the high price of admission including dinner, Sw.Fr. 100 prevented a number of people from attending.

THE WORK OF SWITZERLAND ABROAD

On Friday morning, 27th April, CSA members and other Swiss from abroad were received and given free admission tickets prior to a guided tour of part of the extensive fair area. The *Leitmotiv* for this year's *MUBA* was "Quality as the Reality of the Future". The fair was, as one of the leaflets in English said, "An impressive picture of the multifarious

productivity spectrum and the present developments in the Swiss Economy." The number of exhibitors had grown to over 3,000, and no fewer than eight trade partner countries of Switzerland introduced themselves with information shows (Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Norway, Poland, Spain and Zaire). Two special non-economic exhibits concerned "The future of youth" and "Switzerland and its Glaciers". The Watch, Clock and Jewellery Fair was held at the same time. It had 1,400 exhibitors from 13 countries. There was a silverware sector in which Great Britain showed some beautiful plate, as well as watches and clocks. It was certainly a most impressive show, and the only regret was that one did not have enough time to see it all.

In view of the fact that the CSA meeting took place in Basle, it was decided not to hold any meetings of the Council of the Solidarity Fund, nor of the Swiss Abroad at Porren-truy at the end of August.

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

This took place on Saturday morning, 28th April, at the *Rathaus* in Basle, one of the finest of all Council Chambers in Switzerland. The President welcomed delegates, over 50 of them, who included six women and two members from as far away



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