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Fund-Raising Deadline Extended

Provisional Results Satisfactory

Fund raising on an international level is no easy task. That is why, for the time being, the results are considered fairly satisfactory. But the moment of truth is drawing nearer: With the 1.5 million Swiss Francs purchase price for the Place of the Swiss Abroad being due at the end of 1988 the outstanding balance is still considerable.

The original settlement date for the payment of the purchase price had been set at the end of September. But things did not look too promising at that time. With another full million Swiss Francs to go the Place of the Swiss Abroad Foundation was forced to extend the deadline to the end of December 1988 and to ask the owners to postpone the settlement date accordingly. An inquiry into the accounts of regional fund-raising centres taken in mid-August – that is six months into the drive – yielded surprising results: Many of the smaller expatriate organizations

were heavily committed to the drive whereas the flow of money coming in from the larger ones was relatively moderate. Still, the Commission of the Swiss Abroad is optimistic as to the outcome of the campaign: On the occasion of the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad, which was held at Näfels in September, it was generally held that a successful conclusion of the drive is still within reach. After all, in some countries the fund-drive only got off the ground in August or even September, a fact which is reflected in a marked increase in donations made during those months.



The Place of the Swiss Abroad at Brunnen: A place of encounter and contemplation.

Reactions

«Are we not obliged to commit ourselves to the project of a Place of the Swiss Abroad? We, the Swiss who stayed at home, are given a unique opportunity to contribute to this project.» (Bote der Urschweiz)
The Place of the Swiss Abroad «is one of the most welcome projects planned for the Confederation's 700 Years Anniversary celebration. It deserves everyone's support.» (Walter Leu, Director of the Swiss National Tourist Office).

What to remember

The Place of the Swiss Abroad is the Swiss expatriates' contribution to the 700 Years anniversary

celebration of the Swiss Confederation, scheduled for 1991. A permanent symbol of the unity among Swiss citizens at home and abroad it will at a later date house a small information centre on the history and present situation of Swiss expatriates.

The 5569 square metres area is situated directly opposite the «Rütli», on a peninsula extending into the Bay of Brunnen, which is itself part of Lake Lucerne.

Financial support comes from a foundation consisting of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, the Swiss Federal Government, the District and Canton of Schwyz, the Commune of Brunnen and Schwyz Cantonal Bank.

Collecting account

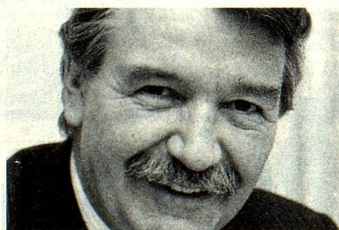
We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all donors. Contributions are still most welcome. The number of the central collecting account in Switzerland is

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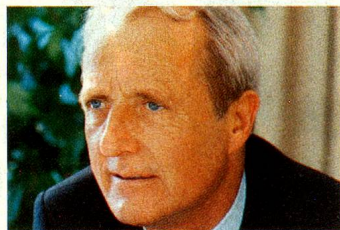
(The Place of the Swiss Abroad Foundation), Schwyz Cantonal Bank, CH-6430 Schwyz.

Generous Help from Switzerland Herself?

Meanwhile, interest in the project is growing within Switzerland. The National Council has recommended that the Government be invited to determine in which form and to what extent the Swiss Confederation might contribute towards the cost of the planned Place of the Swiss Abroad in Brunnen. Let this be an incentive to all of us to make the final effort!



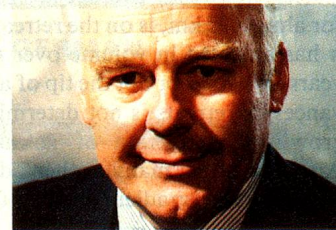
René Felber, Federal Councillor, Minister of Foreign Affairs: «The Place of the Swiss Abroad is also a symbol for our foreign policy.»



Klaus Jacobi, Ambassador: «The people living in Washington were enthusiastic about this idea from the start. On a single evening we collected 6000 Dollars.»



Monika Weber, Member of Parliament: «The Swiss living in Switzerland should help their compatriotes living abroad with the realization of this project.»



Ulrich Bremi, Member of Parliament: «This site is a good idea. Those who lived abroad for a time will feel a stronger attachment to their country.»