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1999 Federal Elections

In October we Swiss Abroad will be called to the polls to vote for National Council members. Perhaps we will finally see someone from abroad representing our interests in Berne. But because our votes are distributed among all the cantons in Switzerland, our chances of representation in parliament are very small. Given the strength of our numbers, I suggest that we form a single constituency so that our votes can be counted together as a "Swiss Abroad Canton".

Kaspar F. Wyss, Bulgaria ■

Post-doctoral fellowship abroad (SR 1/99)

I read with interest your article on research fellowships abroad for Swiss scientists but would like to point out the restrictive nature of the financial support available.

For several years I have been working as a research assistant at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich following completion of my degree in Zurich. To complete my thesis it is now imperative that I study in the USA.

However, since I am not a German national the German academic exchange service does not support me. Nor am I entitled to support from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) since my thesis is not being submitted to a Swiss university. It would appear, then, that for Swiss Abroad academic mobility is practically impossible, while those that stay at home enjoy the generosity of the SNF for their post-graduate studies abroad.

Flurin Condrau, Munich ■

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