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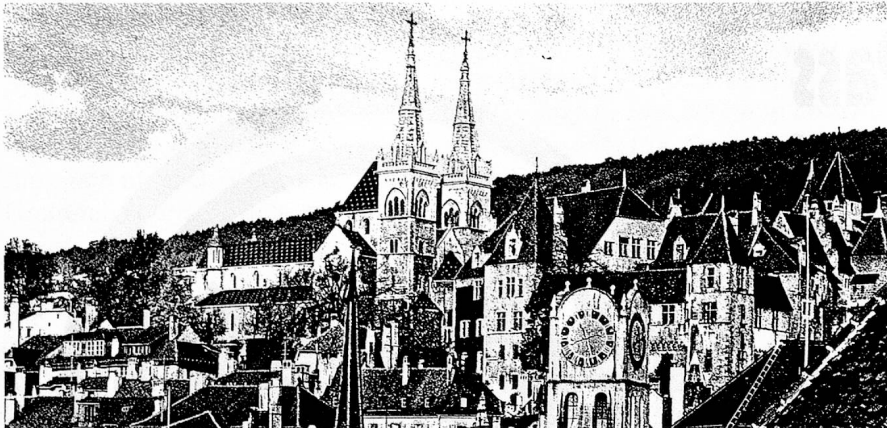
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Communications of the Secretariate of the Swiss Abroad



(photo Magnenat)

Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in Neuchâtel

The 52nd Assembly of the Swiss Abroad will be held in Neuchâtel from 23rd to 25th August. The first business meetings will already take place on Thursday, and members will once again have plenty of work to do. The main event is the plenary meeting on Saturday, when the whole complex problem of social insurance for Swiss abroad will be dealt with. Although social insurance for Swiss living outside their homeland is quite well organised, many problems and questions remain which the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad has to study. We are convinced that the main theme

of the Assembly "Swiss Abroad and Social Insurance" will be of the greatest interest at the gathering in Neuchâtel.

It goes without saying that this year, too, the entertainment side of the Assembly will be well taken care of, for there is much to see and experience in Neuchâtel itself as well as in its charming surroundings.

Detailed information regarding application, hotel accommodation and full programme may be had by way of the form below from *Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad of the NSH, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne 16.*

52nd Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in Neuchâtel

I am interested in attending the Assembly and shall be obliged if you will send me programme and application form.

(In block letters please)

Name and Christian name(s)

Address

Camping and rambling 1974

This year, the Youth Camp for young Swiss from abroad will "pitch its tents" in the Appenzell/Toggenburg. In a few words, the description is as follows:

Organisation

Youth Service of the NSH
Secretariat for the Swiss Abroad,
Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne 16

Date

22nd July to 10th August 1974

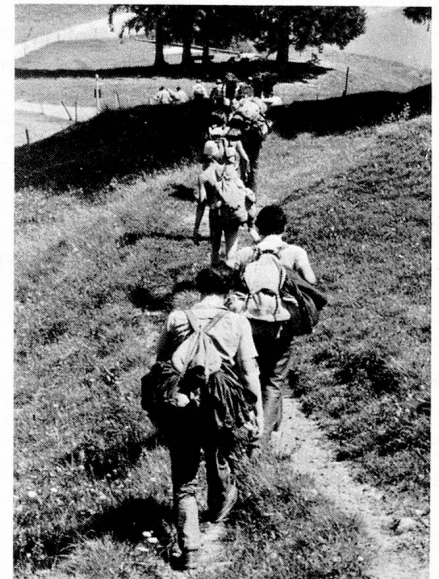
Rambling District

Appenzell/Toggenburg
(main activities: rambling in
small groups, taking rucksacks)

Speciality

Half-way through the camp, there
will be a week when participants

Too many kilometers and your feet will
hurt . . .



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have a chance to settle in hobby groups of their own choice (hikers, mountaineers, sportsmen, workers, artists)

Aims and Objects

To get to know the country and its people, companionship amongst young Swiss from many countries

Excursions

In between rambles, there will be trips by rail, motorbus and mountain railways

Overnight Stays

During the rambles, in huts and simple camps
Start and finish (Appenzell town), billets in comfortable multi-purpose building
During the hobby week, in simple billets

Meeting Place

St. Gall

Cost

SFr 210.— for hiking, sports and mountaineering groups
SFr 240.— for artists' group (folk dancing, photography, etc.)

SFr 170.— for workers' group (doing some work for a less well-off Commune)

A reduction is possible if application is made to the appropriate Swiss Embassy or Consulate

Participants

Young Swiss, men and women, from abroad between 15 and 24 years of age

Detailed Information

will be received by each participant

Application

by 30th June 1974 to:
NSH
Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad
Youth Service
Alpenstrasse 26
CH - 3000 Berne 16

Please indicate on postcard: name, exact address with mention of consular area, date of birth, place of origin in Switzerland and the group to which the participant would like to belong.

It is proposed to create *three risk categories*. Compensation by way of a lump sum will amount to 100, 50 or 25 times the annual savings deposit in case of loss of livelihood. Up to now, all compensation has been 100 times the annual savings deposit. A member will henceforth be able to evaluate his personal risk of loss of livelihood and choose one of the three categories. In category I (100-fold compensation) he will be entitled to a *full repayment of all savings deposits after 24 years*, in category II (50-fold compensation) after *10 years* and in category III (25-fold compensation) after *5 years*. If membership lasts longer than the stipulated minimum number of years, a member is paid back more than he has put in.

b) Single Savings Deposits:

Three risk categories will also be created for single savings deposits. In contrast to the present ruling, single deposits will carry *interest* so that a member is entitled to repayment of the single deposit together with compound interest.

2. Maximum Lump Sum Compensation

The highest lump sum payable as compensation will be increased from SFr 40 000.— to 50 000.—.

3. Admission of Minors

Young Swiss citizens, men and women, not yet of age will in future be able to join the Solidarity Fund.

The Council hopes for good attendance at the *General Assembly in Neuchâtel on 23rd August 1974*, when the new Constitution will have to be accepted.

What does it mean to play our part by saving with a sense of solidarity?

A single payment of between SFr 450.— and 7200.— or *annual savings deposits* of between SFr 25.— and 400.— produce.

Important news for members of the Solidarity Fund! (for Swiss abroad!)



On 23rd August 1974, the General Assembly of the Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad will take place in *Neuchâtel*, on the occasion of the annual gathering of Swiss living abroad. The Fund's Council will submit a new constitution for acceptance.

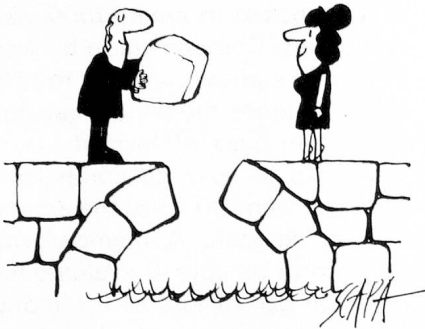
The most important features of the constitutional revision are:

1. Introduction of Risk Categories

a) Annual Savings Deposits.

The cooperative member, through his membership of the Fund, will be given the chance to make savings on more favourable terms than has been possible up to now.

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*A stone is missing, bless my heart!
Let's help at once and play our part.*

1) *Compensation* by way of a lump sum in the event of loss of livelihood abroad due to WAR,

CIVIL DISTURBANCES or GENERAL COERCIVE MEASURES of a POLITICAL NATURE of between SFr 2500.— and 40000.—.

2) *Repayment* in Switzerland of
a) the single savings deposit – 100%,
b) the annual savings deposits – 60 to 100% according to period of membership.

Who may join the Solidarity Fund?

All Swiss citizens, also dual nationals, who earn their own living. All female Swiss citizens, whether they are married to foreigners or Swiss nationals, or whether they

earn their own living or depend on their husbands.

Swiss married couples, also dual nationals, may *both* join and thus insure themselves *doubly*. Both would, in case of loss of livelihood by the husband receive a lump sum as *compensation*, provided the wife is dependent on the husband.

Please ask for an application form and further information at your Embassy or Consulate or direct from

*The Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad,
Gutenbergstrasse 6,
CH-3011 Berne.*

Youth and politics

Some time ago, a study group set up by the Federal Department of the Interior submitted its report on questions of a Swiss youth policy. The recommendations and proposals of this study group have come up for discussion more frequently of late.

What is a Youth Policy?

It is not the intention of the group to create a youth policy as something new, but to consider the needs and peculiarities of young people within the provisions already available. This regard for young people's concerns shall be made use of also in spheres where the younger generation is only marginally affected, such as the army, traffic, housing, finance and tax matters.

According to the opinion of the study group, such constant consideration should further the interest of young people in politics, State and society on a wide plane. In this way, young Swiss boys and girls would be stimulated to work on the development of their homeland in an active and constructive

manner instead of withdrawing – forcibly or voluntarily – into sterile isolation.

Two Models

In cooperation with representatives of youth organisations and of non-organised youth, with personalities concerned with youth work, as well as with scientists and politicians, the group evolved two models for a systematic youth policy.

One of the models emphasized the fact that a Swiss youth policy need not be created as something new, but that a large number of measures already exist. Accordingly, all that remains would be to formulate the aims of such a policy and to allow for it where it touches other fields of politics.

According to the second model, a youth policy could be used as an element in a fundamental change of society. Young people between 13 and 25 years of age would thus be given a possibility to decide for themselves vis-à-vis the authorities in comprehensive autonomy.

Concrete Measures

Although in principle it is the Cantons and Communes who are responsible for dealing with youth problems and whose competences must in no way be curtailed, the study group is of the opinion that the Confederation, too, should be concerned with these questions. It is proposed to create the post of a Federal Delegate for youth matters, who would have a commission working with him. This body would also include young members. It is also recommended that the Federal Assembly (Parliament) should be informed on the position of the young generation at periodic intervals. Great importance, finally, is put on research into youth and its concerns. The aim and object of all such measures would be to create a comprehensive and just youth policy in which the interests of young people are given more prominence and which will activate youth itself as a political force.

We would be very interested in the opinions of young Swiss abroad regarding this topic. Please address your comments to the Secretariate of Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, PO Box, CH-3000 Berne 16.

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Henri Dès

Chansons and poetry – in short, Henri Dès is a Swiss singer who had the will to reach the top. We were lucky enough to meet Henri Dès in Lausanne between two tours. With great modesty, he answered a few questions.

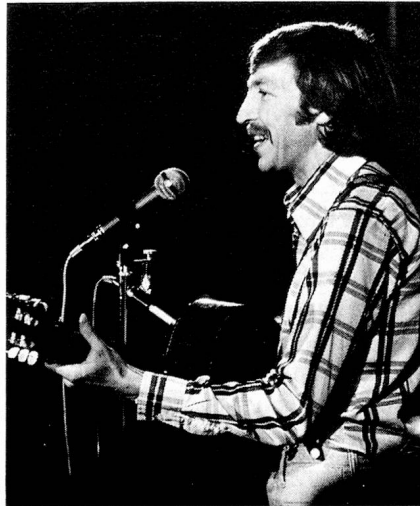
Firstly, Henri Dès, a formal question: where and when were you born?

I was born at Renens on 14th December 1940, to Swiss parents. Have you been playing an instrument for some time?

I began to play the guitar when I was 18 and played it as a hobby until I was 24.

How did you become interested in chansons?

Between 1962 and 1964 I worked with Radio Lausanne, first as operator, then as programme producer. During that time I got to know Roland Jay, director of "Coup d'essai", a vocal tuition school. Roland Jay taught the technique of the professional



Author-composer Henri Dès first writes the music and then the words for his songs.

(photo Gavillet)

singer, particularly stage appearance, sense for public relations, etc. He put the accent more especially on stage work. In this way I learned to sing, and one may really talk of being lucky – I do believe in it.

When did your career begin?

After I got married at 24, I went to Paris, as chances there are much greater than in Switzerland. The first months were anything but easy. I began in cabaret on the Rive Gauche, and after the first thirty days I had earned 27 francs! One day, I met Adamo who introduced me to the man responsible for his record company. That is how my first long-playing record was made, whose album title was "Le reveil-matin".

Do you write the text and music of your chansons yourself?

Right from the beginning, I have always written music and words myself. Usually I create the music first and then write a suitable text.

Have you appeared in Eurovision?

Yes, in 1970. Actually, that was a turning-point in my career, for the appearance contributed to making me known in Switzerland and also internationally. Since then, my records have appeared in thirteen countries and I have done them in five languages.

Do you work regularly in Switzerland?

Henri Dès, his wife Marie-José and their son Pierrick in their house at Cesson-La-Forêt (France).



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Yes, I work for television and, for example, I presented the programme "Tribord-Babord" for a fortnight. At the moment, I direct a programme with the name "Folklore – Folk song".

Is it difficult for a foreign singer to make his way in France?

The question of nationality is unimportant, but it is vital to establish contacts. Even with such contacts, it is difficult to make a name for oneself. I had difficulties to get known to a larger public. Until a short time ago, I only worked with small record companies. Last year, I made a contract with the big firm of Barclay in Paris. They issued my last record "Semez l'amour"; this record has also been available in Switzerland for the past six months.

Why do you prefer to live in the country rather than in Paris?

For me, Paris is a town of the semi-living, and it would be impossible for me to live all the time in this permanent whirlpool. I need quiet, and the peace of my house at Cesson-La-Forêt is indispensable to me. One can also say that I live in the country

because I do not need the town.

Do you often travel abroad?

Yes, frequently. I have been to Brazil, Cuba and Poland, and once a year I go to Canada for a month. Often I travel to Belgium, and I come to Switzerland three times a month on average.

What do you think of your future?

I am optimistic, for I see more and more possibilities in the field of *chanson*. But in fact, I think of the future but rarely. I live for the moment and try to make the best of the existing possibilities.

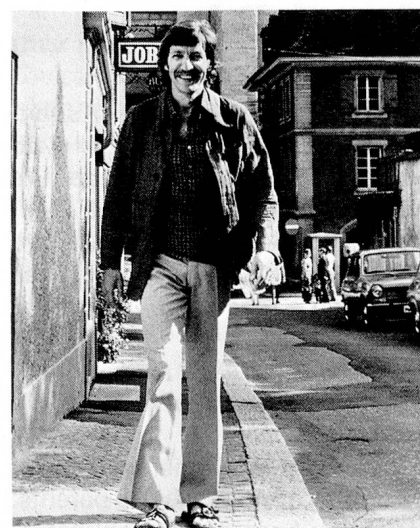
One often says the profession of a singer is reserved for the young.

What do you think of this?

This may be true in principle, but I still feel very young with my 34 years, and in addition, singers like Serge Reggiani have proved that in this profession age is not decisive for a career.

Do you follow an aim with your chansons?

I believe that a performance should enable the audience to relax, to forget the daily worries. I am sure that the *chanson* is an excellent therapy for the present changes in our society.



Henri Dès in the area of La Cité in Lausanne. (photo Gavillet)

This is where we say good-bye to our charming compatriot who, far from getting drunk with his success, still leads the life he pleases. It may possibly be risky to formulate a fundamental principle for Henri Dès, but we believe the following would apply in his case: "To profit from the positive aspects of modern society and to refuse at the same time to live in a mad world."

Good luck, Henri Dès!

The Secretariate of Swiss Abroad presents its magazine:

echo

...current affairs... politics... economics... culture... features...

Eleven times a year «echo» informs you briefly about current affairs in Switzerland and about all questions important to Swiss abroad. The features on the country and its population, on political, economic and cultural matters are indispensable for you.

- I wish to subscribe to «echo» for the price of SFR. 18.— a year
 I wish to receive 3 free samples of «echo»

Name and exact address:

Date:

Signature:

Age:

Please send this slip to «echo», Secretariate of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, PO Box, CH-3000 Berne 16.

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Switzerland from Day to Day

12th January

On the first day of the ski-championships at Le Brassus, the Swiss cross-country skiers Alfred Kälin and Edy Hauser manage first and second places in front of the Swedes in the 15 km run.

20th January

A terrible traffic accident above Sainte-Croix in the Jura Vaudois costs the lives of eight people, while 24 are injured.



F-5 E Tiger II

(photo Keystone)

23rd January

The Swiss Office for the Development of Trade and the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry sign an agreement in Berne on cooperation between the two organisations.

25th January

In accordance with proposals by the Military Department, the Federal Council decides to concentrate its evaluations of fighter aircraft on the US F-5E Tiger II.

27th January

The Valaisan Roland Collombin wins the men's downhill at Kitzbühel, counting in the World Cup, after having already won the events at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Avoriaz-Morzine and Lauberhorn.

The Federal Council announces that the special arrangement for acceptance of refugees from Chile

has been completed. Switzerland gave asylum to 255 Chilean refugees.

28th January

For the first time this winter, a Vaudois and a Czech succeed in ascending the Matterhorn through the Gogna in seven days.

31st January

The Federal Council lifts the restrictions on foreign investments in Switzerland.

1st February

PTT announce the increase of international postage rates in July 1974 and telephone rates as from 1975.

2nd February

Federal President Ernst Brugger opens the World Skiing Championships at St. Moritz.

5th February

A Swissair Jumbo Jet flies from New York to Geneva in the extraordinarily short time of 5 hours 56 minutes.

6th February

Federal President Brugger meets the Shah of Iran during his stay in Switzerland. They have various discussions.

10th February

The only medal Switzerland is able to get at the World Skiing



Lise-Marie Morerod, the skier from Diablerets. (photo Ringier)

Championships at St. Moritz is a bronze by Lise-Marie Morerod from Les Diablerets.

15th February

The Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn arrives in Switzerland.

24th February

At the Nordic World Skiing Championships at Falun, the Swiss long-distance skier Alfred Kälin arrives seventh in the 50 km run.

28th February

In the quarter-finals of the Europa Cup, FC Basle beats the Scottish champion Celtic Glasgow 3:2.

4th March

The Federal Council decides to establish a Consulate in Malaga, Costa del Sol.

The great humanist and European, Carl Jakob Burckhardt, formerly Minister Plenipotentiary, dies in Geneva at the age of 82.

5th March

At the International Rowing Championships in New Zealand, Leibundgut and Peter (both from Basle) are placed third in double sculls.

10th March

In Gotheburg, Meta Antenen gains

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her first European title with a jump of 6.69 m. It is at the same time the best world performance of the year.

12th March

The Federal Council decides to fix the speed limit on motorways at 130 km/h as from 14th March. On other roads, the limit will remain at 100 km/h.

13th March

The wife of the Federal Vice-President, Mrs. Pierrette Graber, dies unexpectedly in a Bernese hospital after an operation.

14th March

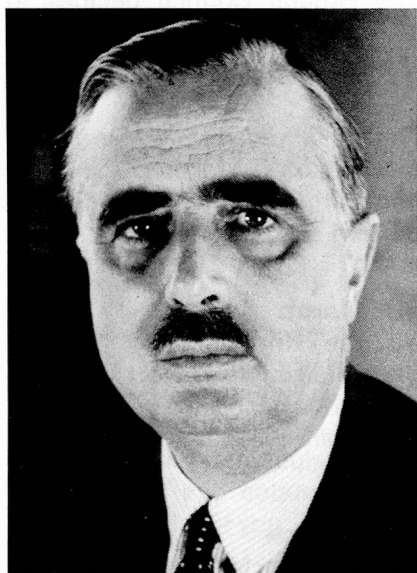
The Motor Show in Geneva is opened.

The corner stone is laid for the new Hotel Management College Lausanne at Chalet-à-Gobet.

15th March

The top price for petrol is increased once again, i.e. 93 cents per litre for normal grade and 97 cents for super grade. Thus the price of petrol has gone up by 23 cents a litre since September 1973.

† Carl Jakob Burckhardt. (photo Ringier)



The team of Dübendorf Curling Club having won the bronze medal (photo Keystone)

25th March

At the World Curling Championships held in Berne, Switzerland wins a bronze medal.

26th March

The fast train Geneva-Hamburg runs off the rails at switch points between Moutier and Delémont. The accident causes three dead and twenty injured.

In the Swiss army, a new concept is introduced in recruiting. In future, more weight will be put upon information about the army for the recruit and about the recruits' background for the recruiting officers.

29th March

Alexander Solzhenitsyn family – his wife, four children and his mother-in-law – arrives in Switzerland.

1st April

The first Swiss College for Journalists is opened at Zofingen.

2nd April

Another train accident near Neuchâtel causes the death of two people while eight are injured.

3rd April

The Swiss company "Swiss Timing" is charged with the official timekeeping at the Olympic Games 1976 in Montreal.

4th April

The National Bank announces that a new hundred-franc note will be issued in 1976; it will be dedicated to the Ticino architect Francesco Borromini.

5th April

Federal President Ernst Brugger attends the official memorial service for the late President of France, Georges Pompidou, in Paris.

Some 200 Swiss abroad meet at the Basler Mustermesse. This Meeting was organised by the Secretariate of the Swiss Abroad in collaboration with the Fairs Authorities.