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The regional Leader of the International Farm Youth Exchange, Kathleen Flom, to the Swiss Ambassador in Washington, Henry de Torrenté¹

Washington, D. C., 21 November 1958

During the last ten years we have had the privilege of cooperating with Switzerland in the International Farm Youth Exchange.² As we observe the tenth anniversary of this exchange program we note that Switzerland is one of the countries with which we have had a continuous exchange. In this connection we note also the interest and support given to the program over the years by various members of your Embassy staff. For this we are most grateful.

You may be interested in some of the statistics regarding the exchange with Switzerland. In ten years 46 rural young people from your country have visited the United States and have each lived for five or six months with farm families in a total of 40 states. In turn, farm families of Switzerland have been hosts to 44 young people from the United States. All the participants have learned to better understand the life of the host country by actually living it. In addition, they have influenced many other people through talks, newspaper reports, and radio and television appearances. The United States delegates on their return to their home states have given a total of 3500 talks to an estimated audience of 260 000 besides making 1500 news reports and 325 radio and television appearances. If we had the total of the talks and interviews given by the Swiss young people in this country that total would also be impressive.

It gives us pleasure to share this tenth year summary with you and to express to you our thanks to the Swiss Embassy for their part in the continuation of this important exchange.³

¹ Letter: CH-BAR#E2200.36-09#1972/18#556* (K.35.71.3.4). Written and signed by Kathleen Flom, dodis.ch/P58520, regional Leader of the International Farm Youth Exchange.

² For further information about this program, see dossier CH-BAR#E2200.112-01#1980/157#59* (Q.53.06), containing a letter from Felix Schnyder, the Swiss Ambassador in Washington, to the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York and the Consulates of Switzerland in Boston, Cleveland, St. Louis, Seattle of 11 May 1967, describing the two Swiss participants of that year as «excellent representatives of our peasantry» [ausgezeichnete Vertreter unseres Bauernstandes]. For a case study of the Farm Youth Exchange between the USA and Finland, with a remarkably skeptical assessment, cf. Peter Simons: «Grassroots Diplomacy. Fighting the Cold War on the Family Farm with the International Farm Youth Exchange», in: Ludovic Tournès and Giles Scott-Smith (eds): *Global Exchanges. Scholarships and Transnational Circulations in the Modern World*, New York 2018, p. 188–201.

³ For a survey of numerous other programs in the vocational training, cf. dossier CH-BAR#E2200.36-09#1972/18#547* (K.35.71.1).