

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC  
Form N-30D  
September 05, 2002

A SWISS  
INVESTMENTS  
FUND

THE SWISS

-----  
HELVETIA  
-----

FUND, INC.  
-----

www.swz.com

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.  
EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
The Swiss Helvetia Fund, Inc.  
1270 Avenue of the Americas  
Suite 400  
New York, NY 10020  
1-888-SWISS-00  
(212) 332-2760  
<http://www.swz.com>

SEMI-ANNUAL  
REPORT  
FOR THE  
SIX MONTHS ENDED  
JUNE 30, 2002

-----  
THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.  
-----

Directors and Officers

Paul Hottinguer  
Chairman and  
Chief Executive Officer

Eric R. Gabus  
Vice Chairman (Non officer)

Alexandre de Takacsy  
Director

Claude Frey  
Director

Baron Hottinger  
Director

Claude Mosseri-Marlio  
Director

Didier Pineau-Valencienne\*  
Director

Stephen K. West, Esq.\*  
Director

Samuel B. Witt III, Esq.\*\*

Rodolphe E. Hottinger  
President and  
Chief Operating Officer

Rudolf Millisits  
Senior Vice President

Philippe Comby  
Vice President

Edward J. Veilleux  
Vice President and  
Treasurer

Paul R. Brenner, Esq.  
Secretary

Leslie K. Klenk  
Assistant Vice President

Frederick Skillin  
Assistant Treasurer

Dawn L. Taylor  
Assistant Treasurer

The Investment Advisor

The Swiss Helvetia Fund, Inc. (t  
Hottinger Capital Corp., which  
Hottinger Group.

The Hottinger Group dates back to Ba  
was formed in Paris in 1786 and is  
private banking firms. The Hotti  
under the control of the Hottinger  
generations. It has offices in New Y  
Geneva, Vienna, London, and the Baha

EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
The Swiss Helvetia Fund, Inc.  
1270 Avenue of the Americas  
Suite 400  
New York, New York 10020  
1-888-SWISS-00 (1-888-794-7700)  
(212) 332-2760

FOR INQUIRIES AND REPORTS:  
1-888-SWISS-00 (1-888-794-7700)  
Fax (212) 332-7931  
email: [swz@swz.com](mailto:swz@swz.com)

WEBSITE ADDRESS  
<http://www.swz.com>

# Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

Director

-----  
\* Audit Committee member  
\*\* Audit Committee chairman

INVESTMENT ADVISOR  
Hottinger Capital Corp.  
1270 Avenue of the Americas  
Suite 400  
New York, New York 10020  
(212) 332-7930

ADMINISTRATOR  
Forum Administrative Services, LLC

CUSTODIAN  
Swiss American Securities Inc.

TRANSFER AGENT  
PFPC Inc.  
P.O. Box 43027  
Providence, RI 02940-3027  
(800) 331-1710

LEGAL COUNSEL  
Paul R. Brenner, Esq. and  
Salans Hertzfeld Heilbronn  
Christy & Viener

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS  
Deloitte & Touche LLP

The Fund

The Swiss Helvetia Fund, Inc. closed-end investment company whose long-term capital appreciation through equity-linked securities of Swiss listed on the New York Stock Exchange "SWZ," is managed by Hottinger Capital

Net Asset Value is calculated daily (Time). The most recent calculation 1-888-SWISS-00 or by accessing our Website. Value is also published in Barron's The Wall Street Journal and the New York Times.

1

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

-----  
LETTER TO STOCKHOLDERS

REVIEW OF MACRO-ECONOMY AND FINANCIAL MARKET CONDITIONS

The currency outlook presented in the last quarterly report was quite prescient. Increasing deficits, low interest rates, rising consumer debt, and accounting scandals have culminated in a lower U.S. dollar exchange rate against the Swiss franc. From the beginning of January through the end of May, the exchange rate fell 5.2% to 1.56 francs per dollar, below even mid-September levels. The dollar's decline accelerated in June, falling another 5.4% in just one month to 1.48 (see chart on the following page). In addition to the factors cited above, concerns over the possibility of further terrorism and additional military campaigns continue to hang over the U.S. currency.

-----  
PEER GROUP PERFORMANCE IN SWISS FRANCS\*

-----  
TOTAL RETURN

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

|  | YEAR TO DATE<br>AS OF<br>6/30/02 | TOTAL RETURN<br>2001 | TOTAL RETURN<br>2000 | TOTAL RETURN<br>1999 | TOTAL RET<br>1998 |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| SWISS HELVETIA FUND  | (2.93)%                          | (22.91)%             | 14.06%               | 14.70%               | 15.89%            |
| Swiss Performance Index<br>(SPI)                               | (5.38)%                          | (22.03)%             | 11.91%               | 11.69%               | 15.36%            |
| Swiss Market Index (SMI)<br>(29 companies)                     | (6.83)%                          | (21.11)%             | 7.47%                | 5.71%                | 14.28%            |
| Switzerland iShares**<br>(Formerly called Webs<br>Switzerland) | (4.63)%                          | (23.39)%             | 7.47%                | 12.52%               | 12.28%            |
| CS Equity Swiss Blue<br>Chips                                  | (7.84)%                          | (22.12)%             | 10.97%               | 7.57%                | 14.24%            |
| UBS Equity Inv.<br>Switzerland                                 | (5.00)%                          | (22.00)%             | 7.40%                | 6.40%                | 12.80%            |
| Pictet Valsuisse   | (6.30)%                          | (22.49)%             | 7.34%                | 9.36%                | 11.02%            |
| Saraswiss (Bank Sarasin)                                       | (6.50)%                          | (24.45)%             | 9.72%                | 6.87%                | 12.75%            |

SOURCES: BLOOMBERG, MANAGEMENT COMPANIES' WEBSITES, AND INVESTMENT COMPANY CAPITAL CORP. ("ICCC")

\*PERFORMANCE OF A FUND IS BASED ON CHANGES IN THE FUND'S NAV OVER A SPECIFIED PERIOD. IN EACH CASE EXCEPT FOR SARASWISS, TOTAL RETURN IS CALCULATED ASSUMING REINVESTMENT OF ALL DISTRIBUTIONS. FUNDS LISTED, OTHER THAN SWITZERLAND ISHARES, ARE NOT REGISTERED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION. PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FROM SUCH FUNDS IS DERIVED FROM THEIR PUBLISHED INVESTOR REPORTS AND WEBSITES.

\*\*SWITZERLAND ISHARES ARE TRADED ON THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE AND INVEST IN MOST OF THE SAME STOCKS LISTED IN THE MORGAN STANLEY CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL (SWITZERLAND) INDEX. THESE STOCKS REPRESENT SWITZERLAND'S LARGEST AND MOST ESTABLISHED PUBLIC COMPANIES, ACCOUNTING FOR APPROXIMATELY 85% OF THE MARKET CAPITALIZATION OF ALL OF SWITZERLAND'S PUBLICLY TRADED STOCKS. PERFORMANCE OF ISHARES IS CALCULATED BASED UPON THE DECEMBER 31 CLOSING PRICES EACH YEAR USING THE SWISS FRANC/U.S. DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE AS OF THE CLOSE OF EACH SUCH DATE, AS REPORTED BY BLOOMBERG. SUCH EXCHANGE RATES WERE AS FOLLOWS: 12/31/96 CHF/USD = 1.339, 12/31/97 CHF/USD = 1.462, 12/31/98 CHF/USD = 1.3737, 12/31/99 CHF/USD = 1.59, 12/31/00 CHF/ USD = 1.6149, 12/31/01 CHF/USD = 1.660, 6/30/02 CHF/USD = 1.4810.

2

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

LETTER TO STOCKHOLDERS (CONTINUED)

CURRENCY EXCHANGE MOVEMENTS --  
YEAR TO DATE AS OF 6/28/02

(Performance Graph)

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

|         | SWISSFRANC/EURO 0.3% | USD/EURO 14.3% |
|---------|----------------------|----------------|
|         | -----                | -----          |
| 3/28/02 | 0.00                 | 0.00           |
| 4/2/02  | -0.31                | 0.71           |
| 4/3/02  | -0.29                | 0.91           |
| 4/4/02  | -0.36                | 1.08           |
| 4/5/02  | -0.08                | 0.71           |
| 4/8/02  | -0.22                | 0.62           |
| 4/9/02  | -0.03                | 0.45           |
| 4/10/02 | -0.03                | 0.85           |
| 4/11/02 | 0.03                 | 0.80           |
| 4/12/02 | -0.10                | 0.91           |
| 4/15/02 | 0.03                 | 0.89           |
| 4/16/02 | 0.17                 | 0.91           |
| 4/17/02 | 0.25                 | 1.79           |
| 4/18/02 | 0.10                 | 1.96           |
| 4/19/02 | 0.02                 | 1.86           |
| 4/22/02 | -0.02                | 1.81           |
| 4/23/02 | 0.10                 | 1.70           |
| 4/24/02 | -0.10                | 1.93           |
| 4/25/02 | -0.16                | 2.81           |
| 4/26/02 | -0.18                | 2.83           |
| 4/29/02 | -0.22                | 3.60           |
| 4/30/02 | -0.33                | 3.26           |
| 5/2/02  | -0.72                | 3.53           |
| 5/3/02  | -0.83                | 4.12           |
| 5/6/02  | -0.73                | 4.81           |
| 5/7/02  | -0.53                | 4.60           |
| 5/8/02  | -0.73                | 4.17           |
| 5/9/02  | -0.84                | 3.86           |
| 5/10/02 | -0.84                | 4.52           |
| 5/13/02 | -0.87                | 4.52           |
| 5/14/02 | -0.80                | 3.87           |
| 5/15/02 | -0.74                | 3.51           |
| 5/16/02 | -0.79                | 4.59           |
| 5/17/02 | -0.70                | 4.91           |
| 5/20/02 | -0.90                | 5.48           |
| 5/21/02 | -0.99                | 5.81           |
| 5/22/02 | -0.98                | 6.14           |
| 5/23/02 | -0.91                | 5.61           |
| 5/24/02 | -0.61                | 5.32           |
| 5/27/02 | -0.55                | 5.34           |
| 5/28/02 | -0.29                | 6.09           |
| 5/29/02 | -0.08                | 6.83           |
| 5/30/02 | -0.09                | 7.46           |
| 5/31/02 | -0.18                | 7.60           |
| 6/3/02  | 0.02                 | 6.75           |
| 6/4/02  | 0.08                 | 8.15           |
| 6/5/02  | 0.23                 | 7.42           |
| 6/6/02  | 0.50                 | 7.59           |
| 6/7/02  | 0.27                 | 8.34           |
| 6/10/02 | 0.37                 | 8.43           |
| 6/11/02 | 0.56                 | 7.94           |
| 6/12/02 | 0.71                 | 8.34           |
| 6/13/02 | 0.63                 | 7.94           |
| 6/14/02 | 0.57                 | 8.54           |
| 6/17/02 | 0.65                 | 8.05           |
| 6/18/02 | 0.63                 | 8.71           |
| 6/19/02 | 0.48                 | 9.59           |

## Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

|         |      |       |
|---------|------|-------|
| 6/20/02 | 0.02 | 9.95  |
| 6/21/02 | 0.16 | 10.45 |
| 6/24/02 | 0.18 | 12.12 |
| 6/25/02 | 0.12 | 11.33 |
| 6/26/02 | 0.08 | 13.67 |
| 6/27/02 | 0.35 | 12.61 |
| 6/28/02 | 0.35 | 14.34 |

However, relative to other major economies, the economic activity in the U.S. was robust in the quarter. Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at an annualized rate of 5.6% in the first quarter of this year and continued an upward, though more subdued, trajectory in the second quarter. While a significant portion of this growth stemmed from the slowdown in inventory reductions, the overall picture was still quite positive. U.S. exports grew considerably and may well continue to grow to take advantage of more competitive exchange rates.

The European Union (EU) did not fare quite as well in the first quarter. Real GDP growth was at an anemic, though still positive 0.9% annualized rate. Surveys cited by the Swiss National Bank indicated that the sentiment among European producers and consumers will likely improve, and the European economic revival is "likely to pick up steam as the year goes on".

Without clear signals of any major turning point in the major economies, the dominant story of the past quarter has been the outbreak of accounting scandals and the developing response by investors, regulators, executives, and other stakeholders. While initially limited to U.S. markets, recent events at Vivendi suggest that these problems may extend beyond national borders in this increasingly global business climate.

Over a longer horizon, investor confidence will likely be restored. Executives, directors and auditors have a renewed sense of urgency. Any discovery of misstated financials could stir a public outcry, damage brands, depress stock prices, and perhaps even create personal criminal and civil liability. Future annual reports should provide a better window into each company's financial health. Between now and then, investors will slowly learn how much has been hidden from their view.

Fund Management is hopeful that prudent legislation will strengthen equity markets in the medium and long term. However, hope is not an adequate basis for an investment strategy. Management will monitor global legislative developments closely to determine the impact on international money flows, equity price levels, and the relative competitiveness of international markets.

### REVIEW OF SWISS EQUITY MARKETS

The Swiss equity market stood out among the world's major stock indexes with its strong year-to-date performance through the end of May. The SPI and SMI had gained

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

-----  
LETTER TO STOCKHOLDERS (CONTINUED)

3.7% and 2.4% respectively while the S&P 500 fell 7.1% and the European Stoxx 50 lost 9.4%. However, corresponding to the slide in the U.S. dollar and U.S. equity markets, the SPI fell sharply in June, down 8.8% for the month, dragging

## Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

year-to-date performance down to negative 5.4% in Swiss franc terms. However, after adjusting for the sharp movement in the exchange rate, the SPI gained 5.5% year-to-date in U.S. dollar terms.

As illustrated on the accompanying graph, Swiss small caps held their valuation and have outperformed larger companies. Management believes a key factor has been the small caps' low relative exposure to U.S. currency movements. Also contributing to small cap performance was the crisis of confidence in large caps. Overseas scandals have eroded the perception of blue chips as safe investments.

SPI LARGE, MID AND SMALL CAPS -- NORMALIZED FROM 3/28/02

(Performance Graph)

|           | SPI SMALL COMPANIES:<br>(1.2%) | SPI MIDDLE COMPANIES:<br>(6.7%) |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|           | -----                          | -----                           |
| 3/28/2002 | 0.00                           | 0.00                            |
| 4/2/2002  | -1.23                          | 0.44                            |
| 4/3/2002  | -0.72                          | 1.36                            |
| 4/4/2002  | -0.61                          | 0.77                            |
| 4/5/2002  | 0.33                           | 1.19                            |
| 4/8/2002  | -0.18                          | 0.39                            |
| 4/9/2002  | 0.03                           | 0.88                            |
| 4/10/2002 | 0.27                           | 1.23                            |
| 4/11/2002 | 0.28                           | 0.92                            |
| 4/12/2002 | -0.12                          | 0.59                            |
| 4/15/2002 | -0.64                          | 0.57                            |
| 4/16/2002 | -0.04                          | 1.21                            |
| 4/17/2002 | 0.63                           | 1.98                            |
| 4/18/2002 | 0.80                           | 1.74                            |
| 4/19/2002 | 1.21                           | 1.76                            |
| 4/22/2002 | 1.17                           | 1.11                            |
| 4/23/2002 | 1.30                           | 0.95                            |
| 4/24/2002 | 1.23                           | 0.86                            |
| 4/25/2002 | 1.03                           | -0.37                           |
| 4/26/2002 | 1.28                           | -0.42                           |
| 4/29/2002 | 0.57                           | -0.21                           |
| 4/30/2002 | 0.75                           | -0.20                           |
| 5/2/2002  | 0.70                           | -0.25                           |
| 5/3/2002  | 0.93                           | -0.09                           |
| 5/6/2002  | 0.41                           | -0.15                           |
| 5/7/2002  | -0.23                          | -1.26                           |
| 5/8/2002  | 0.19                           | 0.12                            |
| 5/9/2002  | -0.33                          | 0.21                            |
| 5/10/2002 | 0.37                           | 0.05                            |
| 5/13/2002 | 0.27                           | -0.10                           |
| 5/14/2002 | 0.96                           | 0.60                            |
| 5/15/2002 | 1.10                           | 1.34                            |
| 5/16/2002 | 1.81                           | 1.81                            |
| 5/17/2002 | 2.44                           | 1.94                            |
| 5/20/2002 | 2.17                           | 1.90                            |
| 5/21/2002 | 2.56                           | 1.44                            |
| 5/22/2002 | 2.51                           | 0.83                            |
| 5/23/2002 | 2.72                           | 0.12                            |
| 5/24/2002 | 2.84                           | 0.13                            |
| 5/27/2002 | 3.30                           | 0.49                            |
| 5/28/2002 | 3.15                           | 0.16                            |

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

|           |       |       |
|-----------|-------|-------|
| 5/29/2002 | 3.07  | 0.05  |
| 5/30/2002 | 2.90  | -0.33 |
| 5/31/2002 | 3.94  | 0.40  |
| 6/3/2002  | 3.36  | -0.08 |
| 6/4/2002  | 2.25  | -1.03 |
| 6/5/2002  | 2.41  | -0.46 |
| 6/6/2002  | 2.36  | -0.88 |
| 6/7/2002  | 1.38  | -2.03 |
| 6/10/2002 | 1.36  | -1.80 |
| 6/11/2002 | 1.46  | -1.06 |
| 6/12/2002 | 0.95  | -2.63 |
| 6/13/2002 | 0.62  | -3.44 |
| 6/14/2002 | -0.51 | -5.34 |
| 6/17/2002 | -0.22 | -4.56 |
| 6/18/2002 | -0.80 | -4.85 |
| 6/19/2002 | -0.91 | -5.55 |
| 6/20/2002 | -1.64 | -7.38 |
| 6/21/2002 | -1.92 | -7.67 |
| 6/24/2002 | -3.22 | -9.14 |
| 6/25/2002 | -1.42 | -7.31 |
| 6/26/2002 | -3.16 | -9.42 |
| 6/27/2002 | -2.22 | -8.25 |
| 6/28/2002 | -1.25 | -6.72 |

The market punished financial services firms severely in the quarter. Credit Suisse and Zurich Financial dragged down the sector, falling nearly 26% and 23% respectively on concerns of capital adequacy. The performance of the banking sector (distinct from the financial services sector) was dominated by UBS, which lost nearly 10% in the quarter. Revenues are driven by security prices and trading volume in both the financial services and banking sectors. The broad decline in global indexes directly impact top line performance in these sectors.

The insurance sector had been among the poorest performers of this year's first quarter. The slide continued into the second quarter, driven down by a confluence of several factors. The primary reason for this underperformance was the concern over capital adequacy. Many investors in the sector shifted their focus from earnings multiples to balance sheet solvency and integrity. Large portions of insurance reserves are held in equities. As the equity markets declined, insurance companies were forced to shore up their reserves with additional capital.

Adding to the insurers' "capital strain" was the need for new business capital and an increase in EU solvency requirements in 2002. Credit Suisse Group provided the quarter's clearest example of capital strain. The firm announced a 600 million Swiss franc (Sfr) capital injection into its Winterthur insurance unit during the quarter, following a 1,130 million Sfr subordinated loan provided earlier in the year. Even after providing Winter-

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

-----  
LETTER TO STOCKHOLDERS (CONTINUED)

thur with nearly 1.75 billion Sfr in the first half of 2002, it is unclear if the unit's capital will prove adequate.

Moreover, a large and growing proportion of the capital carried by insurers

## Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

consists of intangibles, such as capitalized software costs and "acquired intangible assets", also known as goodwill. As recent history has shown, the valuation of intangibles is precarious. Capital structures dependent upon intangibles are more fragile than equity consisting of old-fashioned cash. In the post-Enron environment, investors sharply discount intangible assets for their inherent risk. The combination of declining capital quality and increasing capital needs has proven unpalatable for investors, and the insurance sector fell 16.5% for the first half of 2002.

Insurance companies were largely responsible for the June decline in Swiss equity prices. Much of the massive selling on the Swiss market was led by insurance companies in need of liquidity. The reserve levels of many insurers were far too low to sustain high allocations of equities within their portfolios. As the insurers extensively reduced their equity positions, the short-term supply of securities outstripped demand, pushing prices down. This "technical selling" brought large portions of the Swiss market into undervalued territory.

-----  
 SWISS PERFORMANCE INDEX (12/31/01 - 6/30/02)  
 PERFORMANCE IN SWISS FRANCS  
 -----

|                               | YEAR TO DATE<br>(12/31/01 -<br>6/30/02) | FOR THE<br>QUARTER<br>(4/01/02 -<br>6/30/02) | PREVIOUS<br>QUARTER<br>(12/31/01 -<br>3/31/02) |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| SWISS PERFORMANCE INDEX (SPI) | (5.4)%                                  | (9.1)%                                       | 4.1%   |
| Non Cyclical Goods & Services | 22.2                                    | 12.4   | 8.7  |
| Auto                          | 22.1                                    | 10.8   | 10.2   |
| Utility Suppliers             | 14.0                                    | 8.7  | 4.9  |
| Chemicals                     | 9.6                                     | (5.9)  | 16.1   |
| Media                         | 3.9                                     | (3.6)  | 7.9  |
| Healthcare                    | 3.6                                     | (6.1)  | 10.3   |
| Cyclical Goods & Services     | 1.2                                     | 15.6   | 19.8   |
| Construction                  | 0.4                                     | (5.3)  | 6.0  |
| Food and Beverages            | (0.3)                                   | (5.5)  | 5.5  |
| Telecommunications            | (1.8)                                   | (12.7)                                       | 12.4   |
| Industrial Goods & Services   | (1.9)                                   | (5.2)  | 3.4  |
| Basic Resources               | (7.7)                                   | (16.9)                                       | 11.1   |
| Banks                         | (10.5)                                  | (9.4)  | (1.2)  |

-----



## Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

|                    |        |        |       |
|--------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Technology         | (16.2) | (20.2) | 4.9   |
| -----              |        |        |       |
| Insurance          | (16.5) | (8.1)  | (9.1) |
| -----              |        |        |       |
| Retail             | (18.3) | (11.1) | (8.1) |
| -----              |        |        |       |
| Financial Services | (28.3) | (23.3) | (6.6) |

SOURCE: SWX SWISS EXCHANGE

Technology stocks were also hit hard in the quarter. Kudelski accelerated its slide since the beginning of the year, losing nearly 40% in the most recent quarter. Logitech, while still up somewhat for the year to date, slid more than 13% for the quarter. Technology is inherently risky. Companies must stay

5

### THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

-----  
LETTER TO STOCKHOLDERS (CONTINUED)

ahead of the technology curve, and their technology must be adopted by paying customers.

Cyclical stocks gave back most of their impressive gains of the previous quarter. Exchange rates and concerns over trade policy have eroded near-term profits and may weaken long-term outlook. Consensus opinions seem to indicate that the business cycle will not favor Swiss cyclicals as early as previously expected. Among the largest cyclicals, Richemont declined nearly 13% and Swatch gave back nearly 23%.

Non-cyclicals gained considerably in the quarter. Led by the more than 11% gain of Givaudan, the consistent profitability of these firms made them more attractive than companies that have too often failed to meet expectations. Givaudan and its non-cyclical peers benefit from being a "bird in the hand".

Several of the Fund's largest positions outperformed the Swiss market in the quarter. Nestle dropped just over 7%. During the quarter, Nestle acquired American ice-cream powerhouse Breyers, giving Nestle a large lead in the U.S. ice cream market. Nestle and L'Oreal announced a joint venture to enter the market for cosmetic nutritional supplements.

Novartis weathered the storm well, losing only 1% in the quarter. Relative to other stocks, the markets rewarded Novartis for its predictable earnings stream and robust pipeline.

#### SWISS ECONOMY

The KOF economic barometer held steady during the quarter, opening the quarter in April at minus 0.72 and ending the quarter with a June value of minus 0.71. (The KOF, consisting of six leading economic indicators published by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), signals the growth trend of the gross domestic product of Switzerland, including growth acceleration or growth slowdown). While still below the baseline value of zero, the current KOF reading is well above November's low of minus 1.28. On balance, the Swiss economy was stagnant, neither escaping an economic slowdown nor slipping towards recession. The ETH does expect further growth in the second half of 2002, though at a subdued pace.

## Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

Economic data for the quarter confirms the stability suggested by the KOF indicator. Unemployment held steady at 2.5% throughout the quarter, only slightly higher than December's 2.4%. The Swiss National Bank expects average annual inflation to hover between 0.9% and 1.6% for the next three years. For 2002, the National Bank still anticipates a growth rate of around 1% and stronger growth in 2003.

A major influence on the Swiss economy throughout the quarter has been the appreciation of the Swiss franc. Exports are a major driver of the Swiss economy, and a strong franc impairs the competitiveness of Swiss products. The Swiss National Bank expects an economic upswing to be triggered by

6

### THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

#### LETTER TO STOCKHOLDERS (CONTINUED)

exports and these, in turn, will depend on improved economic conditions worldwide.

#### FUND PERFORMANCE

The Second Quarter was a difficult one in both Swiss and U.S. equity markets. The Fund outperformed both Swiss and U.S. indexes in terms of Net Asset Value (NAV), gaining 5.1% in U.S. dollars during the quarter. The benchmark Swiss Performance Index (SPI) gained only 2.9% in U.S. dollar terms in the same period. To put those gains in perspective, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 11%, or nearly 1,165 points during the quarter. The chart on the preceding page illustrates the performance of the Swiss equity markets by industry sector in Swiss francs.

In the second quarter alone, the U.S. dollar depreciated 11.6% against the Swiss franc. The marked drop in the Swiss franc/U.S. dollar exchange rate had a considerably positive impact on the U.S. dollar performance of the Fund. In Swiss franc terms, the Fund had a net loss, though considerably smaller than the decline in the SPI. The exchange rate movement underscores the importance of currency diversification, and the Fund provides one means by which investors can achieve such diversification.

The Fund grew in both market price and net asset value in the first two quarters of 2002 in U.S. dollar terms. In contrast, the major U.S. equity indexes declined precipitously.

#### SWISS EQUITY INDEX COMPARISON (12/31/01 - 06/30/02)

|                             | LOCAL<br>CURRENCY | U.S.\$<br>TERMS |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| SWISS PERFORMANCE INDEX     | (5.38)%           | 5.52%           |
| SWISS HELVETIA NAV          | (2.93)%           | 8.25%           |
| SWISS HELVETIA MARKET PRICE | (5.97)%           | 4.86%           |

## Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

The Fund's discount increased during the quarter, as the growth in net assets outpaced market price gains. While this development impaired Fund performance for the quarter, it increases the potential for market price appreciation in the future due to a potential narrowing of the discount.

### STRATEGY

Going forward, concern regarding the capital adequacy of many large firms should continue to be a major theme. This concern is reinforced by the increasing difficulty of raising capital in the current market. Corporate bond spreads over treasuries are very high, cash flows are under pressure, and banks are reluctant to provide much needed short term financing.

In addition, lingering over-capacity and high debt levels should constrain the expected economic recovery, leading to lackluster growth. In that context, and mindful of potential problems in the financial system, Management will continue to focus on low risk stocks with strong cash flow generation and a high percentage of tangible equity relative to debt. Such companies will be able to sustain continuing difficulties in the economy and in the capital markets. These enduring

7

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

---

### LETTER TO STOCKHOLDERS (CONCLUDED)

firms can then take advantage of the depressed valuations of their competitors to gain market share by acquisitions.

Occasionally, the markets offer very attractive valuations for leading companies as a result of forced or "technical" selling by insurance companies, institutional investors, and mutual funds (due to redemptions). Management took advantage of depressed valuations during the June decline in equity prices, and looks to do so again as future buying opportunities present themselves.

Management's stock selection will focus on companies with long term competitive advantages, such as lower cost of capital, superior business models, dominant market share and operational excellence (cost cutting and reduction of debt). In the current markets, and as far as we can see in this cycle, capital is not as readily available a commodity as it was in the late 90's. A solid base of equity capital should prove to be a critical advantage going forward. In addition, we expect in the medium-term that regulators will increase equity requirements and minimum solvency ratios for conducting business in the banking industry. This turbulent period should demonstrate how risks can accumulate as negative events occur in series. Many firms based their "optimal capital structures" on high 2001 equity values. As markets decline, many firms find their capital structures precariously laden with debt. Firms carrying a large cushion of equity capital should provide investors with a valuable measure of security.

Sincerely,

/s/ Paul Hottinguer

Paul Hottinguer  
CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ Rodolphe Hottinger

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

Rodolphe Hottinger  
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

June 30, 2002

8

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

---

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Trading Activity for the six months ended June 30, 2002 involved changes in the following positions:

NEW INVESTMENTS BY THE FUND

---

ABB Ltd.  
Clariant AG  
Givaudan  
SGS Societe Generale de Surveillance Holding SA  
Syngenta AG  
Sulzer AG  
Zurich Financial Services

---

ADDITIONS TO EXISTING INVESTMENTS

---

Adecco SA  
Converium Holding AG  
Schindler Holding AG  
Sika AG  
Swiss Reinsurance Company

---

SECURITIES DISPOSED OF

---

Disetronic Holding Ltd.  
Huber & Suhner AG  
Jelmoli Holding AG  
Julius Baer Holdings AG  
Kudelski SA  
Phonak Holding Ltd.  
Schaffner Holding Ltd.  
Tecan Group, Ltd.  
Vontobel Holding AG

---

REDUCTIONS IN EXISTING INVESTMENTS

---

Bank Sarasin & Co.  
Berna Biotech AG  
Credit Suisse Group  
Holcim Ltd.  
Kaba Holding AG  
Logitech International SA  
Lonza Group AG  
Serona SA

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

Swisscom AG

9

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (UNAUDITED)

June 30, 2002

| No. of<br>Shares        | Security  | Value      | Percent<br>of Net<br>Assets |
|-------------------------|---|------------|-----------------------------|
| COMMON STOCKS -- 95.22% |   |            |                             |
| BANKS -- 6.78%          |   |            |                             |
| 500                     | BANK SARASIN & CO.<br>Registered Shares<br>Specializes in investment<br>advisor services and portfolio<br>management for private and<br>institutional customers in<br>Europe.<br>(Cost \$327,724) | \$ 895,989 | 0.27%                       |
| 435,000                 | UBS AG<br>Registered Shares<br>Global bank with three core<br>business units: UBS<br>Switzerland, UBS Asset<br>Management and UBS Warburg. (2)<br>(Cost \$8,162,640)                              | 21,877,142 | 6.51                        |
|                         |   | -----      | -----                       |
|                         |   | 22,773,131 | 6.78                        |
| BIOTECHNOLOGY -- 1.03%  |   |            |                             |
| 104,940                 | BERNA BIOTECH AG(1)<br>Registered Shares<br>Produces vaccines for<br>influenza, hepatitis, travel<br>and general immunization.<br>(Cost \$1,621,187)  | 1,346,741  | 0.40                        |
| 3,200                   | SERONO SA<br>Bearer Shares<br>Develops and markets<br>biotechnology products.<br>(Cost \$1,286,721)   | 2,109,252  | 0.63                        |
|                         |   | -----      | -----                       |
|                         |   | 3,455,993  | 1.03                        |
| No. of<br>Shares        | Security  | Value      | Percent<br>of Net<br>Assets |

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

-----  
 BUILDING CONTRACTORS AND MATERIALS -- 3.01%

|        |   |               |       |
|--------|---|---------------|-------|
| 44,000 | HOLCIM LTD.<br>Bearer Shares  | \$ 10,096,083 | 3.01% |
|        | Produces and markets various building materials, in addition to providing consulting and engineering services in all areas of the cement manufacturing process. (2)<br>(Cost \$8,518,239) |               |       |
|        |   | -----         | ----- |
|        |   | 10,096,083    | 3.01  |

CHEMICALS -- 11.17%

|         |   |            |      |
|---------|---|------------|------|
| 210,000 | CLARIANT AG<br>Registered Shares  | 4,994,961  | 1.49 |
|         | Specializes in color chemistry and manufactures a range of dyestuffs, pigments, chemicals, additives and master batches for the textile, paper, leather, plastics, synthetic fibers and paint industries.<br>(Cost \$4,515,837) |            |      |
| 37,200  | GIVAUDAN<br>Registered Shares   | 14,996,976 | 4.46 |
|         | Manufactures and markets fragrances and flavors from natural and synthetic ingredients. (2)<br>(Cost \$12,335,646)  |            |      |
| 2,250   | GURIT-HEBERLEIN AG<br>Bearer Shares   | 1,738,561  | 0.52 |
|         | European market leader for wind screen bonding systems, ski based and optically pure thermoplastic sheeting for the auto industry.<br>(Cost \$2,223,639)  |            |      |

10

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

-----  
 SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (UNAUDITED) (CONTINUED)

June 30, 2002

| No. of<br>Shares | Security | Value | Percent<br>of Net<br>Assets |
|------------------|----------|-------|-----------------------------|
|------------------|----------|-------|-----------------------------|

-----

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

COMMON STOCKS -- (CONTINUED)

CHEMICALS -- (CONTINUED)

|         |   |              |       |
|---------|---|--------------|-------|
| 101,000 | LONZA GROUP AG<br>Registered Shares   | \$ 7,804,206 | 2.32% |
|         | The leading supplier of active chemical ingredients, intermediates, and biotechnology solutions to the pharmaceutical and agrochemical industries.(2)<br>(Cost \$5,885,212) |              |       |
| 16,783  | SIKA AG<br>Bearer Shares  | 4,499,373    | 1.34  |
|         | Leading producer of construction chemicals.<br>(Cost \$4,237,473)   |              |       |
| 58,000  | SYNGENTA AG<br>Registered Shares  | 3,485,924    | 1.04  |
|         | Produces herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides, and seeds for field crops, vegetables, and flowers.<br>(Cost \$3,330,557)  |              |       |
|         |   | -----        | ----- |
|         |   | 37,520,001   | 11.17 |

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING & ELECTRONICS -- 3.53%

|         |  |           |      |
|---------|--|-----------|------|
| 320,000 | ABB LTD.<br>Registered Shares  | 2,848,888 | 0.85 |
|         | The holding company for ABB Group which is one of the largest electrical engineering firms in the world.<br>(Cost \$2,714,189)   |           |      |
| 4,055   | BELIMO HOLDING AG<br>Registered Shares   | 1,514,869 | 0.45 |
|         | World market leader in damper and volume control actuators for ventilation and air conditioning equipment.<br>(Cost \$1,259,329) |           |      |

| No. of<br>Shares | Security | Value | Percent<br>of Net<br>Assets |
|------------------|----------|-------|-----------------------------|
|------------------|----------|-------|-----------------------------|

-----

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING & ELECTRONICS -- (CONTINUED)

|       |  |              |       |
|-------|--|--------------|-------|
| 4,800 | KABA HOLDING AG<br>Registered Shares                                       | \$ 1,032,050 | 0.31% |
|       | Provides mechanical and electronic security systems.<br>(Cost \$1,095,718) |              |       |

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

|                             |  |            |       |
|-----------------------------|--|------------|-------|
| 79,000                      | LOGITECH INTERNATIONAL SA(1)<br>Registered Shares  | 3,673,184  | 1.10  |
|                             | Manufactures personal computer<br>input devices, as well as<br>producing trackballs, desktop<br>publishing programs and<br>related software.<br>(Cost \$958,655)   |            |       |
| 5,400                       | SAIA-BURGESS ELECTRONICS HOLDING AG<br>Registered Shares   | 1,796,009  | 0.53  |
|                             | Develops and produces<br>switches, motors and<br>programmable control devices.<br>The company's products are<br>mainly used in the automobile,<br>heating & air conditioning and<br>telecommunications industries.<br>(Cost \$1,485,298) |            |       |
| 11,000                      | THE SWATCH GROUP, LTD.<br>Bearer Shares  | 979,305    | 0.29  |
|                             | Manufactures watches, watch<br>components and<br>microelectronics. Produces<br>machine tools for scientific,<br>medical and industrial use.<br>(Cost \$673,362)  |            |       |
|                             |  | -----      | ----- |
|                             |  | 11,844,305 | 3.53  |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES -- 3.12% |  |            |       |
| 330,000                     | CREDIT SUISSE GROUP<br>Registered Shares   | 10,476,718 | 3.12  |
|                             | A global operating financial<br>group. (2)<br>(Cost \$5,811,639)   |            |       |
|                             |  | -----      | ----- |
|                             |  | 10,476,718 | 3.12  |

11

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

-----  
SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (UNAUDITED) (CONTINUED) June 30, 2002

| No. of<br>Shares              | Security                                 | Value        | Percent<br>of Net<br>Assets |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|-----------------------------|
| -----                         |  |              |                             |
| COMMON STOCKS -- (CONTINUED)  |  |              |                             |
| FOOD & LUXURY GOODS -- 14.93% |  |              |                             |
| 300                           | LINDT & SPRUNGLI AG<br>Registered Shares | \$ 1,894,779 | 0.56%                       |





Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

leading Swiss machinery  
enterprise.  
(Cost \$5,760,264)

|        |   |            |       |
|--------|---|------------|-------|
| 14,900 | SULZER AG<br>Registered Shares<br>Manufactures and sells<br>industrial equipment,<br>machinery, and medical<br>devices.<br>(Cost \$3,207,586) | 3,163,609  | 0.94  |
|        |   | -----      | ----- |
|        |   | 10,238,795 | 3.05  |

MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES -- 0.54%

|     |   |           |      |
|-----|---|-----------|------|
| 750 | DAETWYLER HOLDING AG<br>Bearer Shares<br>Manufactures cable, rubber and<br>plastic products, steel<br>tubing, pharmaceutical<br>packaging and industrial<br>components.<br>(Cost \$1,249,175) | 1,169,119 | 0.35 |
|-----|---|-----------|------|

12

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (UNAUDITED) (CONTINUED)

June 30, 2002

| No. of<br>Shares                        | Security  | Value      | Percent<br>of Net<br>Assets |
|---|---|------------|-----------------------------|
| COMMON STOCKS -- (CONTINUED)            |   |            |                             |
| MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES -- (CONTINUED) |   |            |                             |
| 11,025                                  | KOMAX HOLDING AG<br>Registered Shares<br>Seller of wire processing<br>machines. Most important<br>markets are the car, household<br>appliances, telecommunications<br>and electronics industries.<br>(Cost \$415,378) | \$ 622,254 | 0.19%                       |
|   |   | -----      | -----                       |
|   |   | 1,791,373  | 0.54                        |

MISCELLANEOUS MEDICAL SERVICES -- 0.52%

|     |   |         |      |
|-----|---|---------|------|
| 546 | GALENICA HOLDING<br>Registered Shares<br>Manufactures and distributes<br>prescription and<br>over-the-counter drugs,<br>toiletries and hygiene<br>products. | 509,938 | 0.15 |
|-----|---|---------|------|

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

(Cost \$490,462)

| No. of<br>Shares                      | Security   | Value        | Percent<br>of Net<br>Assets |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 14,500                                | STRAUMANN HOLDING AG<br>Registered Shares<br>Develops, produces and sells<br>surgical implants and<br>instruments for dental<br>medicine, jaw and face surgery<br>worldwide.<br>(Cost \$1,075,486)                   | 1,247,060    | 0.37                        |
|                                       |  | -----        | -----                       |
|                                       |  | 1,756,998    | 0.52                        |
| MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES -- 6.34%       |  |              |                             |
| 76,500                                | ADECCO SA<br>Registered Shares<br>Leading personnel and<br>temporary employment company.<br>(Cost \$3,100,790)   | 4,543,842    | 1.35                        |
| MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES -- (CONTINUED) |  |              |                             |
| 270,000                               | COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE RICHEMONT AG(1)<br>Bearer Shares<br>Investment company with<br>principal interests in luxury<br>goods and tobacco.<br>(Cost \$3,309,623)  | \$ 6,140,899 | 1.83%                       |
| 33,200                                | SGS SOCIETE GENERALE DE<br>SURVEILLANCE HOLDING SA<br>Registered Shares<br>Provides a variety of<br>industrial inspection,<br>analysis, testing and<br>verification services<br>worldwide. (2)<br>(Cost \$9,507,695) | 10,595,982   | 3.16                        |
|                                       |  | -----        | -----                       |
|                                       |  | 21,280,723   | 6.34                        |
| PHARMACEUTICALS -- 31.27%             |  |              |                             |
| 1,580,000                             | NOVARTIS AG<br>Registered Shares<br>One of the leading<br>manufacturers of<br>pharmaceutical and nutrition<br>products. (2)<br>(Cost \$21,636,240)   | 69,482,632   | 20.69                       |
| 470,000                               | ROCHE HOLDINGS LTD.<br>Dividend Rights Certificates<br>Worldwide pharmaceutical  | 35,527,112   | 10.58                       |

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

company. (2)  
(Cost \$10,193,328)

|                       |   |             |       |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|-------|
|                       |   | -----       | ----- |
|                       |   | 105,009,744 | 31.27 |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS -- | 0.17%   |             |       |
| 2,000                 | SWISSCOM AG   |             |       |
|                       | Registered Shares   | 581,872     | 0.17  |
|                       | Operates public telecommunication networks and offers network application services. |             |       |
|                       | (Cost \$517,471)  |             |       |
|                       |   | -----       | ----- |
|                       |   | 581,872     | 0.17  |

13

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS (UNAUDITED) (CONCLUDED) June 30, 2002

| No. of<br>Shares             | Security   | Value         | Percent<br>of Net<br>Assets |
|------------------------------|--|---------------|-----------------------------|
| -----                        |  |               |                             |
| COMMON STOCKS -- (CONCLUDED) |  |               |                             |
| TRANSPORTATION -- 1.46%      |  |               |                             |
| 66,200                       | KUEHNE & NAGEL INTERNATIONAL<br>AG   |               |                             |
|                              | Registered Shares  | \$ 4,892,831  | 1.46%                       |
|                              | Operates sea freight, land and rail transportation businesses and warehousing and distribution facilities. |               |                             |
|                              | (Cost \$3,446,629)   |               |                             |
|                              |  | -----         | -----                       |
|                              |  | 4,892,831     | 1.46                        |
|                              | TOTAL COMMON STOCKS<br>(Cost \$161,011,155)  | \$319,746,786 | 95.22%                      |
|                              | OTHER ASSETS IN EXCESS OF<br>LIABILITIES   | 16,046,112    | 4.78                        |
|                              |  | -----         | -----                       |
|                              | NET ASSETS   | \$335,792,898 | 100.00%                     |
|                              |  | =====         | =====                       |

-----  
(1) NON-INCOME PRODUCING SECURITY.  
(2) ONE OF THE TEN LARGEST PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS.  
SEE NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

14

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (UNAUDITED) June 30, 2002

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| ASSETS:   |               |
| Investments, at value (cost \$161,011,155).....                           | \$319,746,786 |
| Cash.....   | 346,383       |
| Foreign currency (cost \$12,104,706).....                                 | 13,087,336    |
| Receivable for securities sold.....                                       | 1,771,182     |
| Tax reclaims receivable.....  | 1,308,618     |
| Prepaid expenses and other.....   | 475           |
|   | -----         |
| Total assets.....   | 336,260,780   |
|   | -----         |
| LIABILITIES:  |               |
| Advisory fees payable.....  | 206,883       |
| Accrued audit and legal fees.....   | 110,432       |
| Custody fees payable.....   | 74,755        |
| Administration fees payable.....  | 40,784        |
| Transfer agent fees payable.....  | 16,476        |
| Accounting fees payable.....  | 15,617        |
| Accrued expenses and other.....   | 2,935         |
|   | -----         |
| Total liabilities.....  | 467,882       |
|   | -----         |
| Net assets.....   | \$335,792,898 |
|   | -----         |
| COMPOSITION OF NET ASSETS:  |               |
| Paid in capital.....  | 170,513,929   |
| Undistributed net investment income.....                                  | 1,011,622     |
| Accumulated net realized gain from investment<br>transactions.....        | 4,399,608     |
| Net unrealized appreciation on investments and foreign<br>currencies..... | 159,867,739   |
|   | -----         |
| Net assets.....   | \$335,792,898 |
|   | -----         |
| NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE:  |               |
| (\$335,792,898 / 23,773,009 shares outstanding).....                      | \$ 14.12      |
|   | =====         |

SEE NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

15

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (UNAUDITED)

For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2002

---

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| INVESTMENT INCOME:  |              |
| Dividends (less foreign taxes withheld of \$545,103).....                                       | \$ 3,121,008 |
| Interest.....   | 106,138      |
|   | -----        |
| Total Income.....   | 3,227,146    |
|   | -----        |
| EXPENSES:   |              |
| Investment advisory fees.....   | 1,284,443    |
| Professional fees.....  | 173,586      |
| Directors' fees.....  | 136,298      |
| Administration fees.....  | 136,446      |
| Custody fees.....   | 82,532       |
| Printing and shareholder reports.....   | 71,785       |
| Accounting fees.....  | 51,941       |
| Franchise taxes.....  | 32,586       |
| Transfer agent fees.....  | 31,574       |
| Miscellaneous.....  | 35,535       |
|   | -----        |
| Total expenses.....   | 2,036,726    |
|   | -----        |
| Net investment income.....  | 1,190,420    |
|   | -----        |
| REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS AND FOREIGN CURRENCIES:                             |              |
| Net realized gain from:   |              |
| Investment transactions.....  | 4,357,182    |
| Foreign currency transactions.....  | 375,610      |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments and foreign currencies..... | 18,914,998   |
|   | -----        |
| Net Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments and foreign currencies.....                     | 23,647,790   |
|   | -----        |
| NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS.....   | \$24,838,210 |
|   | =====        |

---

SEE NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

16

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

---

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

|  |                   |                   |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | FOR THE           | FOR THE           |
|  | SIX MONTHS ENDED  | YEAR ENDED        |
|  | JUNE 30, 2002 (1) | DECEMBER 31, 2001 |

---

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS:

OPERATIONS:

|   |              |               |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| Net investment (expenses in excess of) income.....  | \$ 1,190,420 | \$ (793,778)  |
| Net realized gain from investment and foreign currency transactions.....                        | 4,732,792    | 6,224,569     |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments and foreign currencies..... | 18,914,998   | (109,534,341) |
|   | -----        | -----         |
| Net increase (decrease) in net assets from operations.....                                      | 24,838,210   | (104,103,550) |
|   | -----        | -----         |

DISTRIBUTIONS TO STOCKHOLDERS FROM:

|  |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Net investment income.....               | (1,711,657) | --          |
| Net realized capital gains.....          | (356,595)   | (7,360,963) |
|  | -----       | -----       |
| Total distributions to stockholders..... | (2,068,252) | (7,360,963) |
|  | -----       | -----       |

CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS:

|  |             |               |
|--|-------------|---------------|
| Value of shares issued in reinvestment of dividends....        | --          | 16,795,124    |
| Value of shares repurchased through stock buyback.....         | (1,412,886) | (6,209,492)   |
|  | -----       | -----         |
| Total increase (decrease) from capital share transactions..... | (1,412,886) | 10,585,632    |
|  | -----       | -----         |
| Total increase (decrease) in net assets.....                   | 21,357,072  | (100,878,881) |

NET ASSETS:

|   |               |                |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| Beginning of period.....  | 314,435,826   | 415,314,707    |
|   | -----         | -----          |
| End of period (including undistributed net investment income of \$1,011,622 and \$1,532,859, respectively)..... | \$335,792,898 | \$ 314,435,826 |
|   | =====         | =====          |

(1) UNAUDITED.

SEE NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

17

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

|   | For the<br>Six Months<br>Ended<br>June 30,<br>2002 (1) | For the Years Ended Decem |          |          |
|---|--|---------------------------|----------|----------|
|   |  | 2001                      | 2000     | 1999     |
|   |  | -----                     | -----    | -----    |
| PER SHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE:          |  |                           |          |          |
| Net asset value, beginning of period..... | \$ 13.16   | \$ 17.92                  | \$ 17.52 | \$ 19.07 |
|   | -----  | -----                     | -----    | -----    |

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

INCOME FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS:

|  |       |        |          |        |
|--|-------|--------|----------|--------|
| Net investment income (expenses in excess of income).....      | 0.05  | (0.03) | 0.00 (3) | 0.01   |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments(4)..... | 0.99  | (4.34) | 1.68     | (0.60) |
|  | ----- | -----  | -----    | -----  |
| Total from investment operations.....                          | 1.04  | (4.37) | 1.68     | (0.59) |
|  | ----- | -----  | -----    | -----  |
| Gain from capital share repurchases.....                       | 0.01  | 0.06   | 0.21     | 0.12   |
| Capital change resulting from the issuance of fund shares..... | --    | (0.14) | (0.12)   | --     |
|  | ----- | -----  | -----    | -----  |

LESS DISTRIBUTIONS:

|  |          |          |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Dividends from net investment income.....          | (0.07)   | --       | --       | (0.03)   |
| Distributions from net realized capital gains..... | (0.02)   | (0.31)   | (1.37)   | (1.05)   |
|  | -----    | -----    | -----    | -----    |
| Total distributions.....                           | (0.09)   | (0.31)   | (1.37)   | (1.08)   |
|  | -----    | -----    | -----    | -----    |
| Net asset value, end of period.....                | \$ 14.12 | \$ 13.16 | \$ 17.92 | \$ 17.52 |
|  | =====    | =====    | =====    | =====    |
| Market value per share, end of period.....         | \$ 11.45 | \$ 11.00 | \$ 14.50 | \$ 13.81 |
|  | =====    | =====    | =====    | =====    |

TOTAL INVESTMENT RETURN: (5)

|   |       |          |        |         |
|---|-------|----------|--------|---------|
| Based on market value per share.....    | 4.86% | (22.10)% | 15.06% | (7.06)% |
| Based on net asset value per share..... | 8.25% | (24.94)% | 12.11% | (1.09)% |

RATIOS TO AVERAGE NET ASSETS:

|   |           |           |       |       |
|---|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| Expenses.....   | 1.27% (6) | 1.39% (7) | 1.16% | 1.11% |
| Net investment income (expenses in excess of income)..... | 0.37% (6) | (0.23)%   | 0.01% | 0.05% |

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

|   |           |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Net assets, end of period (000's).....        | \$335,793 | \$314,436 | \$415,315 | \$416,599 |
| Average net assets during period (000's)..... | \$322,345 | \$341,806 | \$422,426 | \$428,072 |
| Stockholders of record(8).....                | 1,036     | 1,067     | 1,125     | 1,230     |
| Portfolio turnover rate.....                  | 21%       | 32%       | 25%       | 14%       |

(1) UNAUDITED.

(2) PER SHARE AMOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997 HAVE BEEN RESTATED TO REFLECT 2:1 STOCK SPLIT EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 16, 1998.

(3) LESS THAN \$.01 PER SHARE

(4) INCLUDES NET REALIZED CURRENCY GAIN (LOSS).

(5) TOTAL INVESTMENT RETURN BASED ON MARKET VALUE DIFFERS FROM TOTAL INVESTMENT RETURN BASED ON NET ASSET VALUE DUE TO CHANGES IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FUND'S MARKET PRICE AND ITS NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE. RETURNS FROM 1998 AND 1997 HAVE BEEN RESTATED TO REFLECT SUBSEQUENT CHANGES TO DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT CALCULATIONS.

(6) ANNUALIZED

(7) THE INCREASE IN THE FUND'S EXPENSE RATIO WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH A STOCKHOLDER'S PROXY CONTEST FOR THE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND TERMINATION OF THE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT AND DEFENSE AGAINST A LAWSUIT AGAINST THE FUND AND ITS DIRECTORS PLUS THE IMPACT OF A DECLINE IN THE FUND'S NET ASSETS.

(8) NOT AUDITED BY DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP.

SEE NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.



# Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

---

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

### NOTE 1 -- ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### A. ORGANIZATION

The Swiss Helvetia Fund, Inc. (the "Fund") is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act"), as amended, as a non-diversified, closed-end investment management company. The Fund is organized as a corporation under the laws of the State of Delaware.

The investment objective of the Fund is to seek long-term growth of capital through investment in equity and equity-linked securities of Swiss companies.

#### B. VALUATION OF SECURITIES

The Fund values its investments at market value.

When valuing listed equity securities, the Fund uses the last sale price prior to the calculation of the Fund's net asset value. When valuing equity securities that are not listed or that are listed but have not traded, the Fund uses the mean between the bid and asked prices for that day.

When valuing fixed income securities, the Fund uses the last bid price prior to the calculation of the Fund's net asset value. If a current bid price is not available, the Fund uses the mean between the latest quoted bid and asked prices. When valuing fixed income securities that mature within sixty days, the Fund uses amortized cost.

When valuing securities for which market quotations are not readily available or for which the market quotations that are available are considered unreliable, the Fund determines a fair value in good faith under procedures established by and under the general supervision of the Fund's Board of Directors. The Fund may use these procedures to establish the fair value of securities when, for example, a significant event occurs between the time the market closes and the time the Fund values its investments. After consideration of various factors, the Fund may value the securities at their last reported price or at some other value. On June 30, 2002, there were no fair valued securities.

#### C. SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS AND INVESTMENT INCOME

Securities transactions are recorded on the trade date. Realized gains and losses are determined by comparing the proceeds of a sale or the cost of a purchase with a specific offsetting transaction.

Dividend income, net of any foreign taxes withheld, is recorded on the ex-dividend date. Interest income, including amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts, is accrued daily. Estimated expenses are also accrued daily.

The Fund records Swiss withholding tax as an expense, net of any amount receivable from Swiss tax authorities in accordance with the tax treaty between the United States and Switzerland.

#### D. DISTRIBUTIONS

The Fund pays annual dividends from its net investment income and makes annual distributions of any net realized capital gains to the extent they exceed any

## Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

capital loss carryforwards. The Fund records dividends and distributions on its books on the ex-dividend date.

### E. FEDERAL INCOME TAXES

The Fund's policy is to continue to comply with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code that are applicable to regulated investment companies and to distribute all its taxable income to its shareholders. Therefore, no federal income tax provision is required.

### F. SECURITIES LENDING

The Fund may lend securities to financial institutions. The Fund retains beneficial ownership of the securities it has loaned and continues to receive amounts equivalent to the dividends paid on these securities and to participate in any changes in their market value. The Fund requires the borrowers of the securities to maintain collateral with the Fund in the form of cash and/or government securities equal to 102% of the value of the securities loaned. The Fund receives fees as compensation for lending its securities. Either the Fund or the borrower may terminate the securities loan.

### G. FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

The Fund maintains its accounting records in U.S. dollars. The Fund determines the U.S. dollar value of foreign currency denominated assets, liabilities and transactions by using prevailing exchange rates. In valuing assets and liabilities, the Fund uses the prevailing exchange rate on the valuation date.

19

## THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) (CONTINUED)

In valuing securities transactions, the receipt of income and the payment of expenses, the Fund uses the prevailing exchange rate on the transaction date.

Net realized and unrealized gains and losses on foreign currency translation shown on the Fund's financial statements result from the sale of foreign currencies, currency gains or losses realized between the trade and settlement dates on securities transactions, and the difference between the amounts of dividends, interest, and foreign withholding taxes recorded on the Fund's books and the U.S. dollar equivalent of the amounts actually received or paid.

When calculating realized and unrealized gains or losses on investments in equity securities, the Fund does not separate the gain or loss attributable to changes in the foreign currency price of the security from the gain or loss attributable to the change in the U.S. dollar value of the foreign currency.

### H. ESTIMATES

In preparing its financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, management makes estimates and assumptions. Actual results may be different.

### NOTE 2 -- FEES AND TRANSACTIONS WITH AFFILIATES

Hottinger Capital Corp. ("HCC"), which is owned jointly by Hottinger U.S., Inc. and Hottinger & Cie (Zurich), is the Fund's Advisor. The Fund pays the Advisor

## Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

an annual fee based on its month-end net assets which is calculated and paid monthly at the following annual rates: 1.00% of the first \$60 million, 0.90% of the next \$40 million, 0.80% of the next \$100 million, 0.70% of the next \$100 million, 0.65% of the next \$100 million, 0.60% of the next \$100 million, 0.55% of the next \$100 million, and 0.50% of the amount in excess of \$600 million. The Fund paid Hottinger & Cie \$27,604 in brokerage commissions for the period ended June 30, 2002.

The Fund and the Advisor have agreed to share certain common expenses subject to review and allocation by the Audit Committee of the Fund's board of directors. The Committee's allocations are based on its determination of the relative benefits the Fund and the Advisor derive from the expenditures. During the period ending June 30, 2002, the Committee allocated \$5,780 of expenses incurred in connection with publicizing the Fund as follows: \$2,890 to the Fund and \$2,890 to the Advisor.

Forum Administrative Services, LLC ("FAdS") is the Fund's Administrator. FAdS receives, for its services, an annual fee based on the Fund's average daily net assets which is calculated daily and paid monthly at the following annual rates: .08% on the first \$250 million, .05% on the next \$250 million, and .03% on assets in excess of \$500 million. Prior to May 24, 2002, Investment Company Capital Corp. ("ICCC"), an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Deutsche Bank AG, served as the Fund's Administrator. For the period ended June 30, 2002, the Fund paid, \$22,437 to FAdS and \$114,009 to ICCC.

Forum Accounting Services, LLC ("FACs") is the Fund's accountant. FACs receives, for its services, a monthly fee of \$5,000 plus an annual fee based on the Fund's average daily net assets which is calculated daily and paid monthly at the following annual rates: .01% of the first \$500 million and .005% on assets in excess of \$500 million. FACs also receives reimbursement for certain, reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. Prior to May 24, 2002, ICCC served as the Fund's accountant. For the period ended June 30, 2002, the Fund paid, \$8,735 to FACs and \$43,206 to ICCC.

Certain officers and directors of the Fund are also officers or directors of HCC, Hottinger U.S. Inc., Hottinger & Cie (Zurich) and/or FAdS or FACs. These persons are not paid by the Fund for serving in these capacities.

### NOTE 3 -- OTHER FEES

Swiss American Securities Inc. is the Fund's U.S. custodian. Credit Suisse First Boston is the Fund's Swiss sub-custodian. The Fund pays the custodian and sub-custodian an annual fee.

PFPC Inc. is the Fund's transfer agent. The Fund pays the transfer agent a per account fee which is accrued daily and paid monthly.

The Fund pays each director who is not affiliated with the Fund, its investment advisor or administrator approximately \$15,000 per annum in compensation, except for the Chairman of the Audit Committee, who the Fund pays an annual fee of approximately \$16,500. In addition, the Fund pays each unaffiliated director \$750 for each directors' meeting attended and \$750 for each committee meeting attended, if it is held sepa-

## Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

rately, and reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses in conjunction with attendance at meetings.

### NOTE 4 -- CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS

The Fund is authorized to issue up to 50 million shares of capital stock. HCC owned 107,946 of the 23,773,009 shares outstanding on June 30, 2002. Transactions in capital shares were as follows:

|                            | For the Period Ended<br>June 30, 2002 |               | For the Year Ended<br>December 31, 2001 |              |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|---|--------------|
|                            | Shares                                | Amount        | Shares                                  | Amount       |
| Dividend                   |                                       |               |   |              |
| Reinvestments              | --                                    | --            | 1,177,572                               | \$16,795,124 |
| Repurchased                | (119,700)                             | (1,412,886)   | (463,600)                               | (6,209,492)  |
| Net increase<br>(decrease) | (119,700)                             | \$(1,412,886) | 713,972                                 | \$10,585,632 |

### NOTE 5 -- INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS

The aggregate cost of purchases and proceeds from sales of investments, other than short-term obligations, for the period ended June 30, 2002, were \$63,687,393 and \$70,113,499, respectively.

On June 30, 2002 aggregate gross unrealized appreciation for all securities in which there was an excess of value over tax cost was \$159,682,855 and aggregate gross unrealized depreciation of all securities in which there was an excess of tax cost over value was \$947,224.

### NOTE 6 -- STOCK REPURCHASE PROGRAM

Pursuant to authorization by the Board of Directors, the Fund began open market purchases of its common stock on the New York Stock Exchange in 1999 and continued purchases in 2000 and 2001. The Board has authorized the purchase of up to one million shares in 2002. During the period ended June 30, 2002 the Fund repurchased and retired 119,700 shares at an average price of \$11.80 per share (including brokerage commissions) and a weighted average discount of 16.67%. The total cost of these repurchases was \$1,412,886.

### NOTE 7 -- LITIGATION

On April 2, 2001 and May 8, 2001 two complaints were filed in purported class actions on behalf of stockholders of the Fund in the Court of Chancery of the state of Delaware by individuals claiming to be Fund stockholders against the Fund, each of its Directors and Hottinger Capital Corp., the Fund's Investment Advisor (collectively, the "defendants"). The complaints in these cases, entitled Kimberly Kahn vs. Paul Hottinguer et al. and Charles Miller vs. Paul Hottinguer et al., allege that the defendants have: (A) breached fiduciary duties to stockholders and violated Section 109(a) of the Delaware General Corporation Law by adopting amendments to the Fund's Bylaws requiring a vote of 75% of the Fund's outstanding shares to alter, amend or repeal the Bylaws or to adopt other bylaws; (B) breached fiduciary duties to stockholders by adopting amendments to the Fund's Bylaws requiring nominees for election as directors to

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

satisfy certain qualifications; and (C) breached fiduciary and contractual duties through the manner in which the Fund effected a capital gains distribution in December 2000. The complaints seek as relief among other things: (i) a declaration that the defendants have breached their fiduciary duties to stockholders and that the amendments to the Bylaws are null and void; (ii) an injunction in connection with any meeting of stockholders preventing the defendants from enforcing the Bylaw amendments; and (iii) certain unspecified damages. The claims relating to the Bylaws were dismissed as moot by stipulation of the parties to the litigation. In addition, the defendants have moved to dismiss the capital gains distribution claims because the defendants believe that the plaintiffs fail to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

21

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

-----  
 PROXY RESULTS

At the Annual Meeting of Stockholders, held on May 23, 2002 shares were voted as follows on the five proposals presented to the Stockholders:

1. To elect three Class II Directors to serve for a three year term and until their successors are elected and qualified.

|                           | For<br>----- | Withheld<br>----- |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| The Baron Hottinger       | 17,407,675   | 3,271,700         |
| Didier Pineau-Valencienne | 17,369,780   | 3,309,595         |
| Samuel B. Witt, III       | 17,398,173   | 3,281,202         |

In connection with the election of directors, there were no abstentions. Brokers were not permitted to cast "broker non-votes" and no such votes were included in the above totals.

2. To approve the continuation of an amendment of the Fund's By-Laws specifying minimum director qualifications.

|                  |           | % of Votes<br>For/Against<br>----- |
|------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| For              | 7,842,089 | (59.3%)                            |
| Against          | 5,388,159 | (40.7%)                            |
| Broker Non-Votes | 7,268,623 |                                    |
| Abstentions      | 180,504   |                                    |

3. To approve the continuation of an amendment of the Fund's By-Law's providing that stockholders seeking to act under the Fund's advance notice By-Law indicate whether they will solicit proxies.

Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

|                  |           | % of Votes<br>For/Against<br>----- |
|------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| For              | 7,648,667 | (58.0%)                            |
| Against          | 5,537,458 | (42.0%)                            |
| Broker Non-Votes | 7,268,619 |                                    |
| Abstentions      | 224,631   |                                    |

4. To approve the continuation of an amendment of the Fund's By-Law's providing that only stockholders of record may submit proposals under the Fund's advance notice By-Law.

|                  |           | % of Votes<br>For/Against<br>----- |
|------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| For              | 8,016,598 | (60.4%)                            |
| Against          | 5,246,060 | (39.6%)                            |
| Broker Non-Votes | 7,268,621 |                                    |
| Abstentions      | 148,095   |                                    |

5. To approve the continuation of an amendment of the By-Laws increasing to 75 percent from a majority the percentage of outstanding shares required to amend the By-Laws.

|                  |           | % of Votes<br>For/Against<br>----- |
|------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| For              | 6,733,482 | (50.9%)                            |
| Against          | 6,486,327 | (49.1%)                            |
| Broker Non-Votes | 7,268,621 |                                    |
| Abstentions      | 190,945   |                                    |

THE SWISS HELVETIA FUND, INC.

---

PRIVACY POLICY

The Swiss Helvetia Fund, Inc. believes that the privacy of its stockholders is extremely important. We are firmly committed to protecting any personal and financial information you provide to us. When you provide us personal information, we use it only to develop and deliver products and services that you request. For example, we may disclose information to affiliates and service providers who work with us. We will also use or disclose your personal information if required by or in conformity with legal or regulatory requirements. We require our officers, affiliates and service providers to maintain appropriate safeguards to ensure the security of your non-public

## Edgar Filing: SWISS HELVETIA FUND INC - Form N-30D

personal information. Otherwise, we do not disclose any information about current or former stockholders.

### LIMITS OF USE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

We limit the use, collection and retention of stockholder information to what we believe is necessary to provide personal financial service and related products. We collect information about our stockholders from sources such as applications and other required forms as well as from account and website and other communications. Access to this information is limited to only those people who require that information to service your account.

### ACCURACY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

We strive to keep your personal and financial information accurate. If our records are incorrect or out-of-date, please notify us immediately by contacting the Fund at 1-888-794-7700.

### CHANGES TO OUR POLICIES

If you have any questions about our privacy policy, please contact Mr. Rudolf Millisits at 1-888-794-7700. We may, in our discretion, change this Privacy Policy at any time. If we make material changes we will provide you with notice of these changes.

Sincerely,

The Swiss Helvetia Fund, Inc.