

## International Voluntary Service for Peace

Vice-Presidents: T. Edmund Harvey, Laurence Housman, Gilbert Murray  
Edwin D. H. Rowntree, Lilian Stevenson, George Sutherland

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FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICE:  
34 BROADWAY  
LONDON, S.W.1

Telephone: WHItchall 1461

D. L. Sainty  
Relief Section 109  
British Red Cross  
B.A.O.R.

Pastor Wilhelm Mensching,  
Petzen  
bei Bückeberg

27th January 1946

Dear Pastor Mensching,

Percy Bartlett of the F.O.R. in England has suggested that we get in touch with you, and I had thought that it might be possible for one of us to visit you if Grete Sumpf has come from the American Zone by road, for then she would have come to us near Göttingen. The FAU at Vlotho have now however told me that Grete Sumpf has been able to get to you by train, and accordingly I am approaching you by letter.

You may have heard of this Movement, which was founded by Pierre Ceresole (who has recently died), a Swiss F.O.R. member, shortly after the first war. Its aim is to contribute to international understanding by bringing together for shorter or longer periods people of different nationalities to work together in simple work for the good of the community, in an organisation which is an attempt to replace military conscription by a voluntary "Peace Army" which can show the same sense of discipline and can be mobilise as easily as a military force when some need arises. At least, that was the original ideal of the movement, and I think the same fundamentals remain. I enclose for fuller information an English leaflet explaining the Movement.

If you can help us, by suggesting people who might be interested in our work, to help you in your work for the F.O.R. by providing something practical in which groups can engage from time to time, we should be very grateful. That last sentence may give rather a wrong impression, and I should make clear that our Movement is not confined to pacifists, and I do not suggest that the F.O.R. and the S.C.I. should merge: only that, their aims being similar, they might well work together. The S.C.I. arose from the second I.F.O.R. Conference in Holland after the first war, and possibly German friends of the F.O.R. will be glad to know of our existence. If, when a Conference is possible and you call one, you should like to have a representative from us we should be very happy to send one. One fact which I have not so far mentioned is that we now have three teams under CBSRA on German Welfare or Refugee work.

With all good wishes from us to you in your work,

Yours sincerely,