

# INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE FOR PEACE

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17.4. 1946

SRG 9.

Dear David,

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Re application for permanent German IVSP Branch.

(Fresh from two meetings with the Italian provisional Branch this was very interesting to me to find the other end of the axis following suit.)

At the Committee it was striking that in January none, even Donald, knew that there ever had been an organised branch of IVSP. I always without hesitation at meetings say that we have had individual members in Germany but never an organisation.

We felt that if you felt it was a good tactic that it was most encouraging that things had got as far as trying to get permission for it to be re-started. We felt that we ought to try and make absolutely sure of the credentials and references of any Germans taking the initiative, as obviously a slip-up at this stage would have serious repercussions. Don't imagine from the above that we assumed that precautions had not been taken - it just was discussed and I would add a personal opinion that it is to be hoped that the moving spirits contain some good organisers who will built up slowly but surely, as it seemed to be that most of the 'new' Continental branches were having trouble in one form or can there because they were taking on too many commitments.

Name.

We noticed that the " I " had been left out in the application. We were not quite sure whether this was tactic in order to give the application more chance, or because you thought that the 'international' Committee had not approved and therefore, it had to be.

Since then we have had a chance of a brief talk with Betty and Arthur and they thought it was chiefly the latter. The FSC felt that while it was true that the International Committee had not approved it was still better to have the full title from the start but to call it a 'provisional Branch'. We felt that where there are responsible members of IVSP sponsoring the thing no harm can come from this and it is less confusing in the long run. Anyhow this is what we did at short notice in Italy and they all know that they have to be recognised by the International Committee before they are fully ledged. Whether or not you feel it is worth altering now in light of above, we wanted you to feel free to do so if the 'domestic' issue was the chief one.

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All best wishes.  
Yours ever,

Derek