

**DRAFT**

R E P O R T  
OF MEETING HELD AT 34, BROADWAY, WESTMINSTER S.W.1  
ON APRIL 24th 1946

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Present : Major Andrews, Robert Rayne, W.D. Hogarth, Donald Bentley and Derek Edwards

Major Andrews outlined the present situation with regard to the recognition of I.V.S.P. in Germany. The points he made were

- 1) The Friedland scheme was organised largely on the initiative of the I.V.S.P. team and was regarded as an experimental scheme.
- 2) Hearing of this from David Sainty he became interested in these possibilities of work-camps run by I.V.S.P. in connection with his own particular field, which was the German Youth Group 14-18. He saw in these camps the possibility of obtaining young Germans who having served with I.V.S.P. would be interested and partly trained to do voluntary youth club work. Apparently there is a great shortage of youth club leaders which is holding up its development.
- 3) Robert Rayne was concerned with the age group 18-25 and was interested
  - (a) because of his interest in I.V.S.P. as an old volunteer,
  - (b) because he saw in the work-camp technique a valuable educational weapon for Germany.
- 4) The memorandum which David Sainty had sent to Major Andrews, together with the amendments suggested by the National Executive, had received the support of the Educational Branch.
- 5) To develop I.V.S.P. beyond the experimental Friedland service would, however, require further recognition from the highest policy level i.e. General Belfort in Germany and Mr. Hynd in England. Major Andrew said that his department would be pushing the idea in Germany, but he expected that on the way up there would be prolonged discussion, particularly in the Man-Power Division.
- 6) The main difficulty that he foresaw was the question of obtaining approval from the Trade Unions, which would be the concern of the Man-Power Division. Nevertheless, he expected that sanction would be obtained, although it might take three months.
- 7) He felt that efforts would be made to speed this up in order that work could start this summer. He had, however, advised David Sainty to prepare in a minor way services based upon the initial Friedland scheme and wished us in England to do our best to press higher levels to sanction the project and if possible to put pressure on the German end. He said that to do this Hynd would have to give his consent and he could be contacted at the Control Commission Headquarters, Norfolk House.

Hogarth raised the question of whether such work-camps would be a serious danger to the Trade Unions.

The question of numbers was then discussed and it was generally felt that there were various limiting factors, such as availability of leaders and other experienced volunteers who would be required to work on each service. This point was quite apart from the policy of building slowly and thus avoiding

the danger of large numbers of people flocking to a new movement without firmly grasping its principles.

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It was agreed that six work-camps would be the maximum for this summer. It was roughly estimated that these six camps would not involve more than 500 German volunteers being recruited.

In view of this Hogarth suggested that in any approach to higher levels the comparative smallness of numbers should be stressed and that it should be pointed out at the same time that I.V.S.P. do not undertake work in competition with paid labour and it never had any serious disagreement with Trade Unions on this score.

He suggested that Major Andrews' point about the help it would give to Youth Club work should be stressed and that the general line to be taken was that it was an educational experiment rather than the beginning of a large-scale work-camp movement which would attract thousands of members. He suggested that the Friedland scheme and the lessons from it should also be quoted and that negotiations were going on in Germany between the I.V.S.P. representative and the Educational Department, who were giving sympathetic support to the project.

#### Personnel.

Major Andrews thought that the Red Cross would be prepared to allow four members of the existing Relief teams to be seconded for the purpose of leading schemes. It was suggested that if the projects were granted these facilities it would be necessary for the British Branch to send out say six experienced volunteers to help this for. Later in the discussion the possibility of Swiss members going out was discussed. The suggestion was welcomed by Major Andrews, who felt however that it would be easier for them to get their facilities through CBSRA rather than the Allied Control. It was agreed that this should be looked into.

Major Andrews and Rayne emphasised that the group which caused the most concern were the non-University students, who had no facilities for discussion or social development. It was emphasised on the side of IVSP that this was the group which we were most anxious to introduce into IVSP, but there seemed to be various difficulties in getting them on to service for a longer period than 14 days (the extent of their leave of absence from work). Nevertheless, it was felt that this period would be useful and there could be a more permanent residue of students on the scheme and the non-students going at fortnightly intervals.

The possibility of the German Branch being recognised as such was discussed and it appeared that Major Andrews did not know exactly what steps have been taken in this direction, but saw in it the possibility of such a group providing valuable support for the work camps provided the officers were carefully screened. He stressed also the desirability of organisation arising from the work camps when there would be a nucleus of tested volunteers who had already served on them. It was felt by Derek Edwards and Donald Bentley that there might be a case for suggesting to David Sainty that he should soft-pedal any application for recognition until later on. Major Andrews agreed that it would be very useful for David to attend the International Committee so that he could report back to interested Germans the main points of the meeting, particularly with regard to future I.V.S.P. work in Germany. The question of a possible visit to Germany by Willy Begert was mentioned and Major Andrews said that it would be valuable, but again advised us to arrange facilities through CBSRA. He welcomed the suggestion that John Harvey should try to meet him when he goes to visit Germany.

Major Andrews mentioned that there was a great need for German literature of almost any sort and asked if we could keep our eyes open for any sources of supplies, especially in Switzerland where there was a hold-up in getting supplies to Germany. He mentioned that a collecting-centre was being opened in London at the HQ of the National Association of Boys' Clubs.

#### The future with regard to the next step.

It was decided that there should be further consultations with Hogarth, who suggested that he might try to get Richard Law to support the approach to Hynd, and at the same time it was suggested that John Harvey might try to obtain a personal introduction to him, possibly through the good offices of Corder Catchpool, who was a friend of his.

